

Official Publication

of

The Ontario Numismatic Association

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Kitchener, Ontario.

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239 Lancaster Street West,  
Kitchener, Ontario.

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1069 Lakeshore Highway East,  
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O.N.A. NEWS REPORT

Mr Rudy Sauro of Hamilton, the O.N.A. Central Director has been appointed Liaison-officer in connection with the forthcoming O.N.A. 1963 Convention. St. Catharines Coin Club is to be the host club.

Mr. Walter Griggs of Brantford, the Western Director has been appointed Chairman of the "Award of Merit" committee. A sub-committee of three will study the qualifications required in order to be a recipient of the "Award of Merit."

A Semi-annual General Meeting of the Ontario Numismatic Association is scheduled for 3 to 4 o'clock during the afternoon of the Annual Banquet of the LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY to be held on Saturday October 13th, 1962, at the Westown Plaza, London, Ontario. Reports will be presented at this meeting by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairmen of the various committees. Moreover, a report on this Semi-annual General Meeting will be reported in the December publication of the 'Ontario Numismatist.'

Through the generosity of the LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY an O.N.A. Reception Desk will be made available during their Annual Banquet on Saturday October 13th, 1962. Any numismatist who has not signed as an O.N.A. member may make application in the Association on this day at \$1.00 (one dollar) and new members will be required to pay 1963 dues only.

Mr. Edward Knight has kindly donated 1000 O.N.A. membership cards. Our gratitude on this noble gesture is beyond words. However, on behalf of the Association our gracious thanks.

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The O.N.A. Executive will entertain applications from Ontario clubs in consideration for the 1964 and 1965 O.N.A. CONVENTIONS. These applications are to be made in writing with full data on accommodation available, locale, etc. Please direct all applications to the O.N.A. Executive: c/o Ruth Mueller (Mrs.) Secretary, 239 Lancaster Street West, Kitchener, Ontario.

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SPEAKERS' CIRCUIT

The 'Speakers' Circuit,' sponsored by the Ontario Numismatic Association, is a free service available to all numismatic societies in the Province of Ontario.

It was originated for the purpose of promoting the study of the various and associated phases of numismatics through lectures volunteered by competent speakers.

The 'Speakers' Circuit' brochure, at the beginning of its service, was distributed to over thirty known Ontario coin clubs; with this distribution increasing as new clubs made themselves known. It contains the names of 13 eminent numismatists who have gratuitously offered a totle of 17 topics from which club could choose.

There is no doubt that clubs and their members will greatly benefit from the lectures as the 'Speakers' are authorities in their field.

Potential uses of the 'Speakers' Circuit' are as broad as the sun; and it is the hope of the Ontario Numismatic Association to develop these potentials; that clubs and Speakers will put the service to a good use; and that they will express their opinions and offer suggestions to aid in its developement and efficiency.

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Mr. Frank Uttley, Director of the 'Speakers' Circuit' will endeavour to answer any question submitted by any coin club or society in regards the 'Speakers' Circuit. Furthermore, coin club editors are asked to mail a copy of their monthly 'Newsletter' to: 'Speakers' Circuit' c/o Frank Uttley -Director, 35 Chestnut Street, Kitchener, Ontario.

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AUCTION TENDERS

Tenders will be considered by the undersigned in connection with the Ontario Numismatic Association's 1963 Convention to be held at Prudhomme's Motel, on the Queen Elizabeth Way, at Vineland, Ontario, on April 26, 27, and 28, 1963.

All tenders to be postmarked not later than 12:00 P.M. October 31, 1962.

Dated:  
June 30 1962

Signed:  
Ontario Numismatic Association  
c/o Ruth Mueller (Mrs.) Secretary  
239 Lancaster Street West,  
Kitchener, Ontario.

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AROUND ONTARIO CLUB NEWS

During the summer vacation several coin clubs in Ontario held informal club meetings, while other organizations took a summer recess. There were, however, a large number of Ontario clubs who simply would not yield to the momentary summer at any cost.

Nevertheless, we are all faced with the long cold winter months ahead and, an ideal opportunity for numismatics. Mr. William Jarvis, Editor of WINDSOR COIN CLUB records the perfect answer --- 'these evenings can be

## Around Ontario Club News ...cont'd

educational, interesting, lively, and profitable. So don't delay or hesitate when these evenings roll around. Forget the weeds in the garden, the hubb'y night out---come out and lose yourself in the wonderful world of coins. \*

The OAKVILLE COIN CLUB has announced they will not hold an annual banquet in the year 1963. However, they will hold an anniversary supper on one of their regular May meeting nights.

Whenever we hear from any coin club who strike club medallions we naturally attest the future valuation of those pieces. It is of notable interest during the June meeting of the OAKVILLE COIN CLUB a pair of bronze and silver 1961 O.C.C. medallions came up for auction. The price realized was \$15.75. The pair originally sold for \$6.50 in their year of issue.

While on the subject of club medals and medallions, the medal struck by the NORTH YORK COIN CLUB has been listed in the 'American Numismatic Society's' quarterly "Numismatic Literature" No. 60, July 1962.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB held their 4th Annual Banquet and Auction at the Hotel Leonard, St. Catharines, last Saturday, September 15th. Twenty displays were a feature of attraction in which Lloyd T. Smith of London, Ontario, gained "The Best in Show" award, with four cases, one display, on "Gold Coins of the World." Furthermore, over ninety club members and guests sat down at the Banquet and, later enjoyed a talk by Guest Speaker John J. Pittman of Rochester, New York.

Mr. Pittman related the progress of the English mill coinage from 1553 in Elizabeth I's reign, through a period of thirty years, and again after 1662 in the reign of Charles II when the mill coinage formed continuity.

The ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB 4th Annual Banquet concluded with a final auction of 100 lots. Edward Knight was the auctioneer.

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#### COMING EVENTS

THE BLUE WATER INTERNATIONAL COIN SHOW under the joint sponsorship of SARNIA (ONT.) NUMISMATIC SOCIETY and PORT HURON (MICH.) COIN CLUB will be held on Saturday, 20th October, 1962, at Kenwick Terrace, Christina Street, (Downtown) Sarnia. Furthermore, there will be adequate parking facilities in public lots across the street, and one block west.

The 'Blue Water' show will open 12 noon until 10:00 P.M. General admission will be 25¢ per person, and refreshments will be available on the premises. (This is not a banquet as previously publicize. ED.)

Approximately twenty U.S. and Canadian dealers are expected to be in attendance, and the necessary security will prevail. Six display categories are open to resident club members only, and one class is open for non-members. Display awards will be given in each class, and a "Best in Show" trophy will be awarded by Spiers Limited, Sarnia.

According to reports the BLUE WATER INTERNATIONAL COIN SHOW will be another outstanding numismatic event.

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## THE ENGLISH FARTHING (956 A.D.-1956 A.D.)

by David Ash

King Eadgar (959-975 A.D.) who finally conquered the Danelaw was really the first king of all England, and during his time the silver pennies were known to be cut in half; although pennies cut in half are sometimes found among other kings.

In the 10th century the long cross of varying design, often voided, were in frequent use, and this feature was continued for several hundred years as it facilitated the cutting of a coin into halves and quarters for use as halfpennies and farthings if they were needed. Thus, the silver penny broken once along the angle of the cross formed two halfpennies, whereas, broken twice along the remainder formed a quarter penny. Hence the Anglo-Saxon term 'feortha,' or 'feothing,' or fourth part.

The English silver penny continued to be broken in this manner, and this method for obtaining modules were condemned by monarchs and subjects alike. There were many instances when the moneyers deliberately debased the metal contents to satisfy their own financial lust. Furthermore, in the reign of Henry I the general public often refused to accept the silver pennies unless they were cut to see if they were made of good metal all the way through. In order to remedy this practice, Henry ordered his moneyers to cut all new coins that were issued. Needless to say, the moneyers struck base coins, cut them, and silver plated the pieces before they were placed in circulation. Henceforth Henry summoned his moneyers to Winchester on Christmas 1124 and according to historical reports ninety-four moneyers had their right hand severed.

In 1279 Edward I issued the first round farthing. At the time the silver penny was 22 grains and rather than issue the silver farthing at 5.5 grains a small proportion of base metal was added. This heavy farthing was 6.85 grains, however, in 1280 the farthing was reduced to its correct weight and fineness.

The silver farthing continued to be issued with a monarch's head on the obverse until in the Tudor period when the portcullis badge was placed on the obverse, and these farthings are known as the portcullis type.

During the reign of James I numerous shop-keepers issued lead and pewter farthing tokens. Obviously these were illegal and in many cases the trademen themselves had no intention for any redemption on a later date. Though James did not issue any base metal coins from the Royal Mint, he did in fact grant a Royal licence to a Lord Harrington of Exton in the year 1613 with full authority permitting him to strike copper farthings privately. A clause in this licence stipulated that all profits were to be equally divided between the crown and moneyer.

The "Harrington" farthings, as they were called, were so small they were tinned so as to make them look more like silver coins. Needless to say the elements caused havoc with these small tin plated coins and, today, it is practically impossible to locate any of these earlier pieces without finding them pitted with corrosion. These small farthings were soon superseded by larger copper farthings untinned. On the obverse of these pieces is a crown over two sceptres in saltire, and on the reverse; the Irish harp, crowned.

## English Farthing ...cont'd

On the death of Lord Harrington the Royal licence was bought by the Duke of Lennex and all farthings struck by him were called "Lennex" farthings. Their designs are the same and the only notable difference is the positioning of the legend. The Harrington obverse legend commences at "11 o'clock," and on the Lennex at "1 o'clock," whereas, on the Lennex oval farthing the obverse legend commences at "7 o'clock."

In the year 1624 the Duke of Lennex died and the Royal licence for striking copper farthings was inherited by his widow, the Duchess of Richmond. It will be remembered Charles I succeeded James I in 1625, and the "Richmond" farthings are easily distinguishable in that the obverse legend is changed from IACO to CARO and commences at "1 o'clock," and on the "Richmond" oval at "7 o'clock."

Ten years later in 1634 the Duchess of Richmond relinquished the Royal licence and it was bought by Lord Maltravers.

On the "Maltravers" farthings the king's name is extended to CAROLVS and the obverse legend commences at "1 o'clock," and on the oval type at "7 o'clock." It is of notable interest since the earlier copper farthings many forgeries did exist and in order to counteract forging Lord Maltravers changed the reverse design. Instead of the crowned Irish harp, a crowned rose was introduced; and these pieces were known as "Rose" farthings. While their general inscription remains the same they were thicker, and smaller, and many of them have a brass plug set through them.

After the commencement of the Civil War, Parliament withdrew the Royal licence in 1644 and stopped the issue of the Maltravers "Rose" farthings

Oliver Cromwell struck many beautiful coins and many of these are said to be only pattern pieces. Cromwell did in fact strike copper farthings and these small pieces carry Cromwell's draped bust on the obverse and Saint George's shield on the reverse. There are of course other known reverse types; but the copper farthings were not placed in general circulation.

In the reign of Charles II copper farthings were again minted between 1672 and 1679. They were made from Swedish soft copper and have a laurated and cuirassed bust on the obverse. On the reverse there is a figure of Britannia seated with a shield bearing the Union Jack on her left and a spear cradled in her left arm. Furthermore, she holds aloft in her right hand a sprig of olive, the symbol of peace. In viewing Britannia it will be noted she is shown with one leg bare to the knee; and thus she was known as "Vulgar Britannia." In those days it was considered immodest for any lady to exhibit this part of her anatomy, and on a later date Britannia appears with both legs clothed.

Between 1684 and 1685 an issue of tin farthings were made. It was during this period that the Cornish tin mines in the West Country was faced with an economic crisis and in order to ease their situation these tin farthings were minted. However, it was realized that these small coins could easily be counterfeited, therefore the blanks were made with a copper plug through the centre. Strange though it may sound they were still extensively counterfeited in lead.

During the short reign of James II the tin farthings with its copper plug were struck between 1685 and 1687, and again in the earlier part

## English Farthing ...cont'd

of William and Mary's reign. Though they had a copper plug through them this did not prevent them being extensively forged in lead, and in 1694 the tin farthing was abandoned in favour of English copper.

In 1694 the copper farthing was again re-introduced. This was the first time that English copper obtained from the Welsh copper mines was used as it is harder and more difficult to strike than Swedish copper, so in order to soften-up the metal before striking, the coin-blanks were cast in moulds. After the 'cooling' process had taken place the coin-blanks were broken from their counterparts, and usually the edge often shows signs of shearing.

In the reign of Queen Anne the farthing appears to be a little controversial in that there were no copper coins issued for general circulation, yet a number of pattern pieces were designed. Queen Anne died, however, in the earlier part of 1714, and the copper farthings dated 1714 were not issued for general circulation. For many years these farthings were thought to be rare, nevertheless they are quite scarce, but obtainable. Previously, I mentioned Britannia was shown with one leg bare; on the 1714 farthing she is engraved in the likeness of Anne herself; and Britannia's leg is clothed to the ankle.

Two copper farthing issues were made in George I's reign. In the year 1717, on thick blanks, known as "dumps," and again between 1719 and 1724 on larger blanks.

The farthing was again struck in George II's reign, and were made in two issues. The 'young head' farthings were minted during 1730 and 1737, and again in 1739. The second, or the 'old head' farthings were minted in 1741, 1744, 1746, 1749, 1750, and 1754. No copper farthings were struck after 1754, or if they were they were not given a new date.

During the sixty year reign of George III a considerable gap appears in the regal copper farthings. Owing to the high price of copper farthings were not struck until 1770, and were again issued in 1771, 1773, 1774, and 1775. However, there were three other copper farthing issues made in 1799, 1806, and 1807 struck at the Boulton and Watt's Soho Mint, in Handsworth, Birmingham.

Copper became more readily available in George IV's reign and copper farthings were once again issued between 1821 and 1823, and 1825 and 1830, with a change in design being made in 1826. On the farthing's reverse, Britannia is shown seated facing right wearing a plumed helmet for the first time, and her olive sprig that she had carried since the days of Charles II has been replaced with a trident like the later issues of George III.

William IV also struck copper farthings in 1831, and 1834 to 1837 inclusive. Their reverse designs are similar to those of the previous reign.

In Queen Victoria's reign there are many fine and beautiful farthings. Copper farthings were in fact minted between the years 1838 and 1860, but because of their requirement and high relief they did not last long in circulation. In 1860 a bronze farthing was introduced to replace the copper, and this bronze coin was found more durable.

From 1860 until 1956 the story on the English farthing is well known

## English Farthing ...cont'd

among all numismatists. However, as late as World War II this small English coin did form a media of exchange. During the long war years it proved its usefulness in the rationing system.

In later years owing to rising prices the farthing became virtually worthless; and they were demonetized on the 1st of January, 1961.

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Membership

Numbers 237 - 244 inclusive as published in 'The Ontario Numismatist' August issue are accepted as O.N.A. members in good standing.

New Members

The following applications for membership in the O.N.A. have been received. These applications are subject to the approval of the O.N.A. Executive, and if there are no written objections filed prior to October 31, 1962, these applicants will become members in good standing, and notice to this effect will be published in 'The Ontario Numismatist' for December, 1962. The following numbers are tentative and is also subject to the approval of the O.N.A. Executive.

- 245 Mr. Ross Allan Hunt, 68 Samuel Road, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 246 Mr. Robert Graham, Kimberley, Ontario.
- 247 Mr. Peter Soroka, 1063 Shepherd Drive, Burlington, Ontario.
- 248 Mrs. Josephine B. Champagne, 309 Prado Place, Riverside, Ontario.
- 249 Mr. Ray Janisse, 884 Wellington Street, Windsor, Ontario.
- 250 Mr. James S. Askin, 3872 Montcalm Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.
- 251 Mr. W.M. Sponarski, 2885 Everts Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.
- 252 Mr. Ronald Rewakoski, 1494 Benjamin Street, Windsor, Ontario.
- 253 Mr. T. Dave Veighey, 424 Reaume Street, LaSalle, Ontario.
- 254 Mr. Alan May, 568 Elm Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.
- 255 Mr. Rick E Lavell, 2245 Queen Street East, Toronto 13, Ontario.
- 256 Mr. Dane W. MacShara, 16615 Pierson Street, Detroit 19, Michigan  
U.S.A.
- 257 Mr. Charles Slade III, 388 No. Orange Street, Orlando Florida,  
U.S.A.
- 258 Mr. William T. Jense, 1273 Dundas Street, London, Ontario.
- 259 Mr. Kenneth J. Ferguson, 2706 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland 13, Ohio,  
U.S.A.
- 260 Mr. Brian Thrupp, 156 Delaware Street, London, Ontario.
- 261 Mr. Bob Fisher, 179 Ann Street, London, Ontario.
- 262 Mr. Slavko Zarkovich, 433 Waterloo Street, London, Ontario.
- 263 Mr. C.R. Lumley, 88 Curtis Street, St. Thomas, Ontario.
- 264 Mr. William Ernest West, 55 Paddington Avenue, London, Ontario.
- 265 Mr. Wm. T. McHugh, 105 Regent Street, London, Ontario.
- 266 Mr. Donald Whetstone, 65 Glass Avenue, London, Ontario.
- 267 Mr. Ted Rogers, 3933 Main Avenue, Norwood 12, Ohio, U.S.A.
- 268 Mr. Dick Krotz, 1482 East 133 Street East, Cleveland 12, Ohio,  
U.S.A.
- 269 Mr. Ramon A. Sayer, 98 Wood Row Street, Sharon, P.A. U.S.A.
- 270 Mr. T.L. Clarke, 69 Breton Park Crescent, London, Ontario.
- 271 Mr. Jack Gofton, Plattsville, Ontario.
- 272 Mr. Ralph Fleuelling, R.R.#2, Ingersoll, Ontario.
- 273 Mr. Hubert Purdy, 139 Reynolds Street North, Oakville, Ontario.
- 274 Mr. John Stanley McGill, 3205 Streetsville Road, Erindale, Ont.

New Members ... cont'd

- 275 Mr. Donald H. Flick, 1523 Constance Drive, Oakville, Ontario.  
 276 Mr. Charles M. Manners, 51 Herald Street, Oakville, Ontario.  
 277 Mr. Martin Stocker, 45 Elm Street East, #401, Sudbury, Ontario.  
 278 Mr. Donald E. McClure, R.R.#2, King, Ontario.  
 279 Mr. Mac Richardson, 321 Ellor Street, Strathroy, Ontario.  
 280 Mr. Forrest Kent, R.R.#3, St. Catharines, Ontario.  
 281 Sergeant Patrick K. Melligan, R.C.A.F. Station, Clinton, Ontario.

Change of Address

- 89 Mr. Frank Rose, 3234 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Toronto 14, Ontario.  
 139 Mr. Harold Rose, 3234 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Toronto 14, Ontario.

Resignation

- 21 Mr. Walter Holmes, 494 Ridout Street North, London, Ontario.

Coming Events ...cont'd

The OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB extends a cordial invitation to all numismatists to attend their SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET to be held on Saturday, 3rd of November, 1962, at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Owen Sound, Ontario. The doors will open at 1:00 P.M., with bourse and displays during the afternoon. The Banquet will be held 6:00 P.M., followed by a Guest Speaker and floor auction.

Banquet tickets are by reservation only at \$2.50 per person. Further information may be acquired by writing direct to: OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB c/o Wm. H. Reid -Sec.-treasurer, 1221-4th Avenue West, Owen Sound, Ont.

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The GREATER TORONTO COIN & STAMP EXHIBITION will be held on November 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1962, at the Club Kinsway 100 the Queensway, Toronto 18, Ontario.

Any numismatist interested in obtaining literature on this Exhibition may write direct to: GREATER TORONTO COIN & STAMP EXHIBITION LTD. 3234 Lakeshore Boulevard, West, Toronto 14, Ontario.

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O.N.A. LIBRARY

O.N.A. members may borrow numismatic literature for a period of two weeks. Books may be renewed for a further two week period, if there are no other requests on hand. Postage both ways to be paid by the borrower. Kindly address all O.N.A. library correspondence to: Claudia Pelkey (Mrs.), O.N.A. Librarian, 35 Brant Street South, Oakville, Ontario.

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DID YOU KNOW... A well-known household appliance manufacturer in London, England, is buying large stocks of English farthings at face value. Why? They profess they are 'blanks' until a neat little hole is placed in the centre of these obsolete coins; then they are assembled as 'washers' in their products.

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