

Official Publication

of

The Ontario Numismatic Association

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EDITORIAL

Numismatics takes the form of a series of separate itineraries, dividing up the phases into large study regions; the values are carefully studied and in many instances the exact mintage figures are known. The numismatist is thus left free to combine various lines of thought, according to his whim and the extent of his interest. We are, therefore dealing with numismatics that is "organized", but again organized to suit the individual taste.

The itineraries take in phases and events that one "has to study" before one can claim to know any particular numismatic item. Here lies the main interest amongst numismatists; it does not say everything, but what it does say merits your attention. Numismatics chooses you. It chooses the best road, the most interesting approach, and the most fascinating method in the way you decipher a particular numismatic item. It goes even further. If we take coin collecting as the nucleus, its numismatic peripheries will take in anthropology, etymology, economy, and above all, bibliography and heraldry.

So that we may completely understand these realms in numismatics we must have at all times complete access to positive facts, and this includes the fringe of technical information about a country's economic and historical status. These realms alone are self explanatory when we are confronted with the familiar question, --"What does this numismatic item tell you?"

It may also be pointed out that numismatists are assisted in these various phases by clubs, and associations who specialize in the medium. True numismatics is like a giant jig-saw puzzle --there are many pieces to be joined together before a picture is visible.

But these phases are only a part of the whole work. The books of practical information contains all kinds of detailed explanations and advice about currency, their metals, and their mintage figures. That is why, figures alone are powerless -although they merit attention- to express the soul of numismatics. Numismatics offers a series of national and international importance bringing together many of these phases, -past and present- which in some way or another contribute to the greatness and the cultural wealth of numismatics as a whole.

In reminiscence, your editor well appreciates the various line of thought and interest in today's numismatics. Nevertheless, there are, certain phases in numismatics that are worthy of future attention and admiration. Don't you agree?

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Any O.N.A. member desiring to submit numismatic articles for publication are asked to send their contributions to the Editor.

Editor

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163 Lancaster Street East,
Kitchener, Ontario.

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239 Lancaster Street West,
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The 'Ontario Numismatist' is pleased to publish the following information to all concerned.

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

F I R S T A N N U A L C O N V E N T I O N

at

Prudhomme's Garden Centre Motel
Queen Elizabeth Highway - 7 miles west of St. Catharines
Friday - Saturday - Sunday
April 26, 27, 28, 1963

Registration - \$3.50 - Includes Banquet and all activities
General Admission - 50 cents each day or \$1.00 for three days.

Open * 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Daily - Banquet Saturday
Closes at 6:00 p.m. April 28, 1963

The forthcoming First Annual Convention of the newly-formed Ontario Numismatic Association, will be the highlight of the year in Eastern Canada.

The St. Catharines Coin Club with twelve committee Chairmen have been organizing and working on a programme which every numismatist will thoroughly enjoy.

To stage a successful event is no easy task, and with this view in mind, they started early to plan a well-rounded programme that will please all phases of the numismatic hobby. The Executive of the Ontario Numismatic Association have worked closely with the host club over the past months of planning.

Highlights of the general activities feature, Exhibits, Bourse, Discussion Groups, Audio Vision Speakers, Ladies activities, Medals, Auction, Prizes, Awards, Banquet, in the excellent setting of the Prudhomme's Garden Centre Motel. The location is close to Niagara Falls, Hamilton, Toronto, and only seven miles from St. Catharines.

Chairman - Mr. R.D. Prince - 5 Rosemount Avenue - St. Catharines, Ont.
Assistant Chairman - Mr. E. Victor Snell - 6 Rosemount Avenue
St. Catharines, Ont.

Exhibits - Mr. Fred Barley - 162 Lake Street, St. Catharines, Ont.
1. Competative - These displays will be divided into eight categories as follows:
(1) Junior (2) Canadian (3) United States (4) British Commonwealth and Empire (5) Classical (6) Paper (7) Foreign (8) Miscellaneous. A 'Best of Show' award will be made for the best exhibit in the compet-

ative exhibits. Awards and ribbons will be presented to all winners.

(2) Court of Honour - Non-competative displays exhibited by collectors, industry, and clubs, to name a few. Complete information on the catagories and judging points may be obtained from Mr. Barley.

Bourse - Mr. C.E. Dillon - 52 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines Ont.

Space for over 60 dealers - 6 feet cloth-covered table. Extra lights and cases available. Space is being taken very fast. Fee is \$40.00. --\$20.00 immediately will reserve your table with the balance payable by March 31, 1963.

Auction - Edward Knight Auctions - Box 186, Adelaide Street Post Office,
Toronto, Ontario.

Auction lists will be mailed to all interested parties.

Registration - Mr. & Mrs. S.L. Aaroe - 7 Rivercrest Drive, St. Catharines
Banquet Ticket \$3.50 - includes general admission, draws and all activities.

Medals - Mr. Bill English, Box 4, Waterloo, Ontario.

The medals will be of the same high quality and workmanship as last years medal. The one side will have the design of the Ontario Numismatic Association and the other side will show the St. Catharines Coin Club's design. This is a beautiful and desirable medal to mark the event. It will be available in Solid Gold, 10K Gold Filled, Sterling Silver, and Bronze. All medals will be available in plastic holders. The holders will be gold lettered to mark the event for which the medals were struck. There will be a limit on the number of sets of four medals encased in plastic holders.

Accommodations - Mr. R. Cassidy & Mrs. Ritchie.

Mr. Cassidy - 79 Pine Street North, Thorold, Ontario.

A beautiful coloured brochure on the accommodations that are available will be mailed on request. The Motel has such facilities as swimming, curling, etc. Special rates are available for convention guests. Convention weekend special \$45.00 per couple. This includes a room for two for Friday and Saturday nights and five meals each. The Banquet may be substituted for the Saturday evening dinner on payment of \$1.00 to cover the General Admission which is included in the Banquet Ticket. Any person desiring to make reservations please write, enclosing the \$10.00 deposit required by the motel. If some other type of accommodation is desired the Committee will look after that request as well.

Security & Publicity - Mr. Pat Lambert - 57 Emmett Road, St. Catharines.

Guards will be on duty at all times to adequately protect all material. Security will be provided from Thursday evening until Monday.

Award of Merit - Mr. W. Griggs, 56 Dublin Street, Brantford, Ontario.

This award may be awarded in any year, that in the opinion of the Award Committee, a worthy recipient can be recognized. Names and information of worthy Ontario Contributors will be accepted by the Chairman up to March 1, 1963.

Treasurer - Mr. F. Kiley

Secretary - Rose Thompson

Ontario Numismatic Association Executive form the balance of the Banquet Committee Advisory members.

President - Mr. R.R.Rekofski, 163 Lancaster St. E, Kitchener, Ontario.

Liaison - Mr. R. Sauro, 130 Cameron Street South, Hamilton, Ontario.

Publicity - Mr. Bill English, Box 4, Waterloo, Ontario.

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.

ONTARIO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Any Ontario coin club who is planning a major activity for 1963 are asked to forward details of their event to the Editor of the O.N.A.

 March 9th & 10th WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY 4th Annual Banquet
 Saturday & Sunday Walper Hotel, Kitchener, Ontario.

Further information: c/o Mrs. Ruth Mueller, 239 Lancaster Street West,
 Kitchener, Ontario.

March 16th METROPOLITAN NUMISMATIC CLUB Annual Banquet
 Saturday Oak Room, Union Station, Toronto, Ontario.

Further information: c/o Box 841 Adelaide Street Postal Station, Toronto

March 30th NORTH YORK COIN CLUB SHOW & AUCTION (No Banquet)
 Saturday North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street,
 Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario.

Further information: c/o Mrs. May Bunnett, 785 Willowdale Avenue,
 Willowdale, Ontario.

April 6th HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 2nd Annual Banquet
 Saturday Rob-Ray Restaurant, Barrie Shopping Plaza, Barrie.

Further information: c/o P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario.

April 26th, 27th, & 28th ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
 Fri. Sat. & Sun. Prudhomme's Motel, Vineland, Ontario.

October 19th SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Annual Banquet
 Saturday Further information when plans are finalized.

October 26th LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Annual Banquet
 Saturday Further information when plans are finalized.

Individual O.N.A. members including Clubs are requested to submit names of nominees for the 'Award of Merit.' All eligible names are to be residents of Ontario will be accepted for consideration. All names of nominees in writing are to be sent direct to the O.N.A. Secretary not later than March 1st, 1963.

by Bill English

Has Canada ever issued any matt proof-like coins in the past? Most proof or proof-like coins have always been issued from the mint with a mirror polished field and frosted head.

To my surprize on checking one order of proof-like sets received from the Canadian Mint in 1962, I noticed the cent was not lustrous. A closer check with a magnifying glass revealed a matt finish on the obverse and reverse of the cent.

Since I just discovered this change in striking I have not had a chance to check the percentage or number of sets issued. In my case only part of my small order were of the matt variety.

If this is a true variety this will give the collectors a chance to check their sets before they sell or trade their duplicate sets.

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CANADIAN NUMISMATICS No.2

The Fleur-de-lis

The fleur-de-lis, or the flower of the lily, is one of the more important emblems; and yet, it is almost, one of the forgotten historic links in Canadian history.

The fleur-de-lis represents very imperfectly three flowers of the white lily (*Lilium*) joined together, the central one erect, and each of the other two curving outwards. Although it is widespread in armoural bearing of many countries, it is more particularly associated with the royal house of France.

In earlier times the fleur-de-lis was a common decoration, notably in India and Egypt, where it was the symbol of life and resurrection, and attributed to the god Horus. In Roman and early Gothic architecture the fleur-de-lis was a frequent sculptured ornament. There were, however uncertainties whether the conventional fleur-de-lis was originally meant to represent the lily or white iris. Historians acclaimed an arrow-head, a spear-head, or an amulent fasten on date-palms "to ward off the evil eye."

Tradition of the fleur-de-lis has been attributed to Clovis (466-511 A.D.), king of the Salian Franks, and who was also the founder of the Frankish monarchy. On Christmas day 496 A.D. King Clovis went to Reims where he was baptised by St. Remigius together with 30,000 other Franks. The baptism of Clovis was an event of very great importance, as he explained that the lily (fleur-de-lis) was given to him by an angel at his baptism.

As early as the year 1120 three fleur-de-lis were sculptured on the capitals of the Chapelle Saint Aignan in Paris, and they were first definitely connected with the French monarchy in an ordonnance of Louis le Jeune in 1147, and first figured on a seal of Philip Augustus in 1180.

The use of the fleur-de-lis in heraldry also dates from the 12th century, soon after which it became a very common charge in France,

England, and Germany, and thereafter loyal gentlemen in coat armour adorned their shields with a loan from the shield of France. At first, the French shield was blue, interspersed with gold lilies. In February, 1376 Charles V of France reduced the number of lilies to three in honour of the Trinity and the kings of France thereafter bore blue, with three gold lilies. The Christian doctrine of Trinity can be best expressed in the following words, "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God, and yet they are not three Gods but one God."

In order to understand the importance of the fleur-de-lis and its connection with Canada, one must study the Tri-colour flag as displayed by the present Republic in France. There are many widely differing explanations of its origin.

One story of its origin is, that it represented those of three flags which has been carried in succession in the early centuries of the nation. The early kings of France carried the plain blue banner of St. Martin. To this succeeded, in 1124 A.D. the flaming red flag, or Oriflamme of St. Denis, to be afterwards superseded, in the fifteenth century by the white "Cornette Blanche," the personal banner of the heroic Joan of Arc (1412-1431 A.D.).

It was under this royal white banner bearing upon it the lilies of ancient France, that Jacques Cartier, a seaman from St. Malo, in 1534, sailed up the St. Lawrence, and Champlain, in 1608, founded Quebec. Under this banner Canada was colonized; to it belonged the glories of the Jesuit Fathers and Dollard; and with it followed La Salle and Marquette who explored the far west, and planted the three fleur-de-lis banner as the sign of their discoveries. Under it Frontenac, Montcalm and Levis achieved their renown, and all the annuals of early Canada are contained under its regime until after the assault by Wolfe in 1759.

Today, on our present Canadian 50 cent coin the fleur-de-lis may be seen in the coat-of-arms, and reminds all fellow Canadians of their past glories and their future affections and allegiances.

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INVITATION FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Members of the Summerside Coin Club, P.E.I., have informed the Director of the O.N.A. Speakers' Circuit that, with particular mention to Guest Speakers, they would be very pleased to welcome any Ontarions to visit their regular meetings while visiting in their Province.

The Summerside Coin Club, is the only coin club in P.E.I., and meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:45 P.M. expresses an enthusiasm to learn more about numismatics from us.

We appreciate their confidence in us and we recommend that any Ontario collectors who may be planning a visit eastward in that vicinity should contact them in advance to let them know that they will be dropping in on their fellow-numismatists for a friendly "Hi" and exchange of views.

Contact: Summerside Coin Club
c/o Mr. Wallace Moase -Treasurer,
239 Water Street,
Summerside, P.E.I.

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SPECIAL NOTE:

The O.N.A. Executive would like to draw attention to any member who has not renewed their O.N.A. 1963 dues. Please look after this necessary matter to insure the continuance of your copy of the 'Ontario Numismatist'.

THE TOMBAC NICKELS

by R.W. Irwin

The Currency, Mint and Exchange Fund Act fixes the composition of the Canadian five-cent piece to be pure nickel and of a standard weight of 70 grains. In an effort to conserve nickel for urgent war purposes Order-in-Council 6935 dated August 5, 1942 authorized the substitution of a mixed metal of copper and zinc for this five-cent coin. It also provided that the coin be dodecagonal in shape. The first issues of 1942 were of the old round pattern and of nickel.

Tombac is a brass, in this case, an alloy of 88 per cent copper and 12 per cent zinc. The term "tombac" is derived from Tombaga, the Malay name for a popular alloy used for gold coloured jewelry in the East Indies and China. A touch of arsenic or lead gives it a brilliant tone. This red brass takes a high polish and is corrosion resistant. Other names for similiar metal are Finchbeck and Guinea gold. The alloy has not been used before in Canada but was chosen by the Mint as it would be easy to convert into bronze coin at a later date by the addition of tin and copper.

The change of metal imposed a strain on the limited plant and equipment of the Mint. Pure nickel coinage blanks had been purchased since May 1922 ready for immediate striking on the coining presses. Tombac blanks were not available so the Mint was forced to cast, roll and cut their own blanks. The coin was struck of the same weight and thickness as the old five-cent piece. So it would not be confused with 25 cent pieces it was decided to adopt the 12 sided pattern as devised by the Royal Mint for the Imperial Coinage 3d of 1937. The corners were rounded so the coins would work efficiently in automatic coin-operated machines and the inner edging was made slightly different.

The coin had a short life as it was issued late in the year, however, there were 3,396,234 tombac five-cent pieces struck using 93 obverse and 90 reverse dies. The obverse and reverse designs had not been changed from the previous issues.

Late in 1942 a decision was made to change the reverse design of the coin to commemorate the war effort of Canada. The design was authorized by Order-in-Council 10428 of November 17, 1942 and may be described as follows:

The character V and Torch conjoined, emblematic of Sacrifice and Victory made so popular by Sir Winston Churchill and symbolizes the fact that Victory comes with sacrifice, between two small Maple Leafs, and dividing the date of the year; of mintage; words Canada above, and Cents below the date; and the character V also designates the denomination "five" in Roman numerals for the value of five cents. The internal milling was replaced by dots and dashes which in International Morse code symbols read "We win when we work willingly". The effective date of the Order-in-Council was January 2, 1943.

The model for the reverse die was prepared by Thomas Shingles, the engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint. He also cut the master die in late 1942. This was the first time the original matrix and punch for a new coin had been engraved at Ottawa. During the year 24,760,256 coins were passed for issue using 352 obverse and 323 reverse dies.

The tombac coins tarnished rapidly and turned dark in colour which caused confusion with the one-cent piece in making change. The Mint also found they had serious production problems and were instrumental in having Order-in-Council 9364 of December 7, 1943 passed which stated in substance that while the Act still required nickel coinage it was still necessary to conserve it but that as it was then impossible to buy tombac coinage blanks ready for immediate striking on coinage presses, and that the intermediate processes of casting, rolling, and cutting placed a strain on the limited plant and equipment so the Mint was unable to keep up with the demand. The Proclamation discontinued the minting of tombac coins in the public interest and authorized a new coin of steel as a substitute.

During 1944 there were some \$400.00 in tombac coinage released at the Ottawa Bank of Canada agency, however, the tombac coinage was replaced effective January 1, 1944 by chromium plated mild steel. This eliminated the casting of bars and rolling as the Mint bought the material in strip form. The 1944 design of the coin remained unchanged in form.

The tombac coins of Canada have been an object of curiosity and general misconception. There were 28,156,490 tombac coins minted. An effort was made to withdraw these from circulation beginning in 1946 but as of December 31, 1961 there are still 10,942,423 in circulation. If we use the same ratio as the original issue this would mean there are still over 1,300,000 dated 1942 largely in hoards or collectors stock. In January 1951 the Canadian Numismatic Association found it expedient to publish for the record their opinion that:

1. The minting was a reasonably large number.
2. The coin has been hoarded in large numbers and will never become
3. A top price of 30¢ in B.U. (1951) is reasonable. /scarce.
4. The so called varieties are nothing more than imperfect strikes.

The purpose of this opinion was to counteract an exaggerated scarcity of the coin. The following table shows the above to be a true opinion regarding hoarding since it is usual for the better class of coins to appreciate faster than the lower grades. This table shows the appreciation in value in 10 years as quoted in Charlton's 1953 and 1963 catalogues.

| Year | Appreciation Ratio | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-----|------|------|
| | F | VF | EF | UNC |
| 1942 | 3.0 | 6.6 | 10.0 | 13.3 |
| 1942T | 10.0 | 8.0 | 6.8 | 6.0 |
| 1943T | 7.5 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 5.0 |
| 1944 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |

It would appear that the demand for uncirculated tombac coins over the past ten years has not been as great as that for circulated coins. The latter demand is no doubt due to uninformed collectors.

The general public was glad to see the last of the tombac coins. Their presence has entertained the numismatist, left their record of the nations struggle for future generations and has influenced the shape of following issues. The tombac or "black-out" nickels were a transition and served their purpose well.

1963 renewal memberships are now due. Individual membership is one dollar (\$1.00) per calendar year, plus bank exchange if paid by cheque, made payable to the ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION and sent direct to: Mr. Bruce H. Raszmann, O.N.A. Treasurer, 24 Mary Street, Kitchener, Ont. Please see special note on Page 7 of this publication.

Membership

Numbers 282 - 305 inclusive as published in 'The Ontario Numismatist' December 1962 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 for membership are subject to the approval of the O.N.A. Executive, and if there are no written objections filed prior to March 8, 1963, these applicants will become members in good standing, and notice to this effect will be published in 'The Ontario Numismatist' for April 1963. The following members are tentative and are also subject to the approval of the O.N.A. Executive.

306 Mr. Harold W. Harris, 82 Maple Drive, R.C.A.F., Camp Borden, Ont.
 307 Mr. Michael Woronka, 17 Mercer Street, Guelph, Ontario.
 308 Mr. Paul Swartz, 394 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto 12, Ontario.

Change of Address

49 Mr. Charles Kirk, 136 Jane Street, Toronto 9, Ontario.
 56 Mr. Melvin C. Garside, Apt. 304, 45 Westmount Road, Waterloo, Ont.
 65 Mrs. Rosalys Simpson, 15 Bond Street, Oakville, Ontario.
 66 Mr. Thomas J. Simpson, 15 Bond Street, Oakville, Ontario.
 106 Mr. Albert F. Ray, 3031 Dorchester Road South, Niagara Falls, Ont.
 241 Mr. William Pachkowski, 332 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario.

C. 5. LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
 c/o Mr. Graham Esler, 56 Glass Avenue, London, Ontario.
 C. 6. OAKVILLE COIN CLUB
 c/o Mr. David Ash, 1069 Lakeshore Highway East, Oakville, Ont.
 C.10. NICKEL BELT COIN CLUB
 c/o Mr. Lawrence Stevenson, 1572 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury, Ont.

Name and Address Corrections

257 Mr. Charles Slade III, 388 No. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.
 302 Mr. Hastings Elliott Jephson, 658-6th Street East, Owen Sound, Ont.

O.N.A. LIBRARY DONATION

Our sincere thanks to the following person for their most generous donation.

SEABY'S MONTHLY BULLETINS (complete issues of 1960 through 1962)
 Donated by:- Mr. R.C. Willey, Espanola, Ontario.

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Next Publication: April 1963 - Ontario Club Edition
