



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Vol. III--No. 1

January, 1964

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Too many bourse and auction nights constitutes a sure road to oblivion for a coin club. The club should devote its energies to making a numismatist out of a collector. The president of the London Numismatic Society discusses activities for the club.

A NUMISMATIC PROGRAM

By William N. Clarke

The officers and directors of our many coin clubs and of The Ontario Numismatic Association have viewed, with great pleasure, the increasing interest in coin collecting and the rise in memberships during the past few years. This keen interest and the constant endeavour to promote a degree of numismatic knowledge that would raise our members above the collector status to that of true numismatist has resulted in a need for more educational and interesting programs for our monthly meetings.

This need for a numismatic program has posed a serious problem to both the well established and newer coin clubs. We find that the established clubs have already called upon the numismatists in the membership for speeches and articles and now have to turn to new fields. The newer clubs do, however, have the advantage of being able to contact speakers from the established clubs to assist them in their programming.

If we survey all the possibilities for good numismatic programming, we soon learn that, although we can call upon the splendid services of the Ontario Numismatic Association's Speakers' Circuit and Audio-visual Department from time to time, we must also develop the majority of our programs from within our own organizations.

Aside from our annual banquets, meetings could take the form of either panel discussions, special display nights, the reading of numismatic papers by other writers or short talks on finds or coins of particular interest to the membership with several club members participating. Meetings of this type can be both interesting and educational. Although a total auction night, all bourse night or a social evening may prove satisfactory for the occasional meeting, attendance will begin to decrease if this type of meeting becomes the rule.

As we enter the year 1964, the officers and directors of each club will be giving consideration to the problems

of varied programming. There are, of course, a few things to keep in mind. Speakers should be given plenty of advance notice whether they are chosen from the ONA circuit, or from outside or inside our own club. Popular speakers are very busy people and must also organize their own schedules. Audio-visual presentations are much in demand and should be reserved at least two months in advance of a particular date. A good program can be arranged by calling upon the services of guest speakers during the nice weather and using the facilities of the Audio-visual Department during the winter months when travelling is often poor. Aside from these outside aids, we should also consider that our plans will include a fair amount of club participation.

As president of the London Numismatic Society, it was my pleasure one year ago to propose a program that would be both numismatic in its theme and involve a number of members in its fulfilment. The plan was to present a series of talks under the heading of "Coins of the British Empire and Commonwealth". With the enthusiastic approval of the entire executive committee, we began by deciding which areas of the British Empire and Commonwealth could be handled by the various executive members or others, how we could assist each other in the research and display for each separate topic and when they would be presented.

In setting up the talks for the series it was decided that the same basic steps should be taken. First, a brief outline as to the areas, population, discovery and local history and secondly, an outline of the period under discussion, breaking down the coinage under the kings and queens in order as much as possible. This outline, of course, left plenty of leeway for each speaker in his particular topic. It is, of course, not possible to present every area of the British Empire in the same sequence. In some areas you will find it more convenient to present the coinage history by dividing it into two sections; token and trade coins and regal coins.

For example, by dividing the British Empire and Commonwealth into various sections, we have, thus far, enjoyed talks on "Coinage of the Austral-Asian Area" by W. N. Clarke, "The West Indies" by L. Branton, "The Coins of British Africa" by A. M. Sweeton and the "Coinage of British India and Ceylon" by F. H. Whitfield. For future meetings, we are looking forward to "Coinage of British North America" and "The Coinage of Great Britain". Because of the vast amount of material available relative to the last two topics, it was decided to subdivide these again, into sections. At the November meeting a talk on "The Coinage of Hanoverian England" was presented by W. N. Clarke.

By spacing the talks in the series at about three-month intervals, we have been able to include other features in the intervening months and we feel that we have presented to the members of the London Numismatic Society a full and varied program for the entire year.

To further enhance the presentation of the British Empire series, each talk has been announced in the bulletin preceding the meeting and members are asked to participate by displaying their coins relating to the particular topic. As many as four and five cases have been required to display all the coins brought in by the members, which proves that many collectors wish to participate even though they may not wish to present the actual talk.

Again, it was decided that the text of each talk should be published in our monthly bulletin. This too has a number of advantages, for it enables members, not able to attend the meetings, to receive full advantage from all sections of the series. The publication also gives greater prominence to those whose efforts have made the project a success, and adds prestige to our top ranking bulletin. Also, by keeping the

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with memberships of one of the following categories: Adult -- \$2 yearly; junior (up to 18 years of age) -- \$1 yearly; husband and wife (one copy) -- \$3 yearly; club -- \$10 yearly. All payments are to be made to Bruce Raszmann, ONA Treasurer, 230 Herbert St., Waterloo, Ont.

club bulletins on file, an excellent reference book may be compiled.

On the completion of our British Empire and Commonwealth series, we plan to extent our studies to other fields. There is no reason why other empires or areas of the world, and eras prominent in numismatic history can not be studied and presented in the same manner. There is no set pattern that must be followed and other clubs can choose topics that are more popular with the general membership of their particular club.

This program, "Coins of the British Empire and Commonwealth", was accepted and tried by a well-established club, the London Numismatic Society, and with the continued support of the membership, we are looking forward to many successful years of numismatic growth.

TWO CLUBS FORMED

The ONA had a hand in the formation of two new clubs, the Kitchener Coin Club and the Guelph Coin Club.

The Kitchener club got under way last September. William English of the ONA conducted the club's first election. Elected then were H. B. (Bud) Schell, president; John Craig, vice-president; Mrs. Gloria Strome, secretary, and Raymond Hughes, treasurer. All are of Kitchener.

Directors were Laurie Armstrong, Arthur Kauk and Victor Montag, all of Kitchener, and Alfred Berger, Waterloo. Bill Motz, Kitchener, Numismatist assistant editor, is club bulletin editor.

Three executive changes were made recently in the 67-member club. Mrs. Strome resigned as secretary for health reasons and has filled the director vacancy left by Mr. Armstrong, whose job cut into his executive duties. By the same token Mr. Hughes had to give up his treasurer's position. Claude Marquis and Ted Turanski, both of Kitchener, are not secretary and treasurer respectively.

The club meets every first Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Kitchener Public Library art gallery.

The Guelph club got off to an enthusiastic start a few weeks ago with the help of ONA president Rod Rekofski and Mr. English. Twenty-one people showed up for the initial meeting and, at this writing, the club has 14 members. For a city previously without a coin club, the present effort has a bright future with such a large numismatic vacuum to fill.

The club's charter officers are Anthony Small, president; John A. Axman, vice-president; Ross Irwin, secretary and bulletin editor; and George Whyte, treasurer.

Directors are Samuel Embro, R. James Dunn, Michael Wronka and Mrs. Jean Biggs. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. every second Wednesday at the Guelph Recreation Centre.

NOW A MONTHLY

If The Numismatist seems a little soon to you, it's just that it comes out once a month starting Now. As a result, we have a special request for all contributors: PLEASE SEND IN ALL MATERIAL TO THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN THE 15th OF THE MONTH PREVIOUS TO PUBLICATION.

This is important, so that all news will be fresh. Also, if you have any bright ideas, don't keep them to yourself. Your editor would like to know about them.

The North West Company paid about 300 livres each for canoes for their fur trade.

RECOMMENDATIONS WANTED

All ONA members and participating clubs are requested to submit recommendations for the ONA Award of Merit. All submissions are to be in the hands of the chairman of the Award of Merit committee not later than March 1, 1964. Please use extreme caution in your selections and adhere to the rules governing this distinctive and highest of ONA awards.

RULES OF THE AWARD OF MERIT

(revised Dec. 8, 1963)

- (a) The committee shall consist of the chairman, appointed by the president of the ONA, as well as two other members chosen by the chairman.
- (b) The Award of Merit shall be limited to residents of the Province of Ontario, of either sex.
- (c) The committee will make its recommendations to the executive, and the Award of Merit shall be made to the person, in the opinion of the executive as a whole, who has contributed the most to the understanding, research, writings and advancement of numismatics in general.
- (d) The Award of Merit shall not necessarily be awarded each year, unless someone in Ontario has made a significant contribution to the advancement of numismatics.
- (e) This award shall not be made more than once to the same individual, unless his (or her) second contribution be considerably different from the first.
- (f) The request for submission of eligible names for this award, shall be published in the last issue each year of The Ontario Numismatist.
- (g) The final date on which names will be accepted for consideration shall be March 1st following each year, to the secretary of the ONA.
- (h) The committee shall then meet and make recommendations and summaries to the executive of the ONA. The chairman shall submit his secret ballot in a sealed envelope to the secretary of the ONA.
- (i) The decision by secret ballot of the executive and chairman shall then be final and remain confidential.
- (j) The secretary shall submit a sealed envelope to the supplier of the medals, so that the recipient's name and year may be engraved thereon.
- (k) A written summary of the achievement of the recipient shall be provided to the secretary of the ONA for our records and a copy to the person making the presentation.
- (l) The medal, when possible, shall be presented at the annual general meeting of the Ontario Numismatic Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Ruth Mueller,
Secretary.

AUDIO-VISUAL

Slides and tapes may be returned to the librarian by insured parcel post. This method is cheaper and as effective as insuring and registering.

A new set of slides, Canadian Coat-of-Arms, has been made available. This set comes with either mono or stereo tape and is a complete analysis of the Canadian coat-of-arms. Musical background and excellent narration by David Ash, of Oakville.

CONVENTION SPONSORS

Applications for sponsoring the Ontario Numismatic Association convention for either 1965 or 1966 are now being accepted. Please write the ONA secretary, giving location of proposed convention site and qualifications of the sponsoring club.

ONA MEDALS GOING ... GOING

Only a few 1963 medals are still available. If you do not have yours, or if wish another, write to Bill English, 71 Columbia St. W., Waterloo, Ont. Only the remaining medals will be sold. No further strikings will be made.

ONA CONVENTION AUCTION

Edward Knight Auctions Ltd., to conduct auction, at Ottawa convention

President R. R. Rekofski, is pleased to announce the decision of the executive to award the auction sessions to Ed Knight. Mr. Knight's bid, the only one submitted, was accepted at the last executive meeting. The three-session auction promises to be full of desirable numismatic material that will be open to both mail and floor bidding. Auction lists will be available as soon as the material has been compiled.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

- 374 Ivan Bonfonte, 76 Devon St., Stratford, Ont.
- 375 John Partridge, 80 Elizabeth St., Stratford, Ont.
- 376 Mrs. Helen P. Miles, 656 King St. East, Hamilton, Ont.
- 377 Douglas McGill, 37 Clarke St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 378 Mrs. Bob Fisher, 179 Ann St., London, Ont.
- 379 Albert F. Freiburger, 96 Pandora Ave. North, Kitchener, Ont.
- 380 Fred Steele, 1480 Montreal St., RR 5, Kingston, Ont.
- 381 James Richard Simpson, Box 19, Group 4, RR 2, Stoney Creek, Ont.
- C-26 BROCKVILLE COIN CLUB, c/o Mrs. Beatrice Lord, 68 Bethune St., Brockville, Ont.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 18 James E. Charlton, 49 Queen St. East, Toronto 1, Ont.
- 31 Ralph C. Maltby, 2074 South Park Ave., Buffalo 14220, New York, U. S. A.
- 44 Major Sheldon S. Carroll, Curator, Numismatic Collection, Bank of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.
- 50 Leon Safer, 153 Kennard Ave., Downsview, Ont.
- 74 Mrs. Winifred Mather, 12 Upjohn Rd., Don Mills, Ont.
- 128 Carl Kusch, RR 1, Paris, Ont.
- 179 Robert Armstrong, 48 First Ave., Stittsville, Ont.
- 181 Carl Edward Dunker, 187 Lincoln Rd., Waterloo, Ont.
- 207 John Albert Miller, 1231 Pinegrove Rd., Oakville, Ont.
- 254 Alan May, 1535 Elm Ave., Windsor, Ont.
- 333 Gerald L. Knapp, 1165 Meadowlands Dr., Apt. 15, Ottawa, Ont.
- 342 W. W. Lindamood, 6 Forest Hill Dr., Guelph, Ont.
- 354 Dr. Josef Samson, 415 Winona Dr., Toronto 10, Ont.
- C-4 PRESTON COIN CLUB, c/o Wm. Wellsman, 11 Crombie St., Galt, Ont.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 72 James K. Moore, Box 118, Bright's Grove, Ont.
243 Joseph Wm. Sim, 1358 Transley Dr., Oakville, Ont.

CORRECTIONS

- 120 Kenneth B. Prophet, 7 Newton St., Barrie, Ont.
309 William Charles Waite, 60 Kensington Ave., Brantford, Ont.
323 Mrs. Lois M. Hollinshead, 9 Bondhead Pl. Thistletown, Ont.

THE FIRST WAMPUM

From Indian Legends of Canada, by Ella Elizabeth Clark

Wampum beads, made of certain kinds of shells in some unknown way, were used as money, necklaces, bracelets, ornaments on clothing and on weapons. Strings of wampum and belts of wampum were important in ceremonies, in councils and as public records. The making of treaties and alliances were concluded by the presentation of one or more wampum belts, and these were carefully preserved.

By means of designs and colour symbolism, the beads could be arranged to communicate ideas. White wampum, when used ceremonially, expressed peace, health, prosperity; purple wampum indicated hostility, death, sorrow. Wampum belts and wampum strings were an approach to writing; they preserved the history, the laws and the rituals of several tribes.

The Iroquois and the Huron-Wyandots related almost identical myths about the origin of wampum. The Iroquois said also that Hiawatha made the first wampum from the plumage of a flock of ducks that frained a lake he needed to cross.

Long ago, in the days of our first grandfathers, the villages of the Wyandots stood beside a beautiful lake in the north country. Near one of the villages was a marsh where cranberries grew.

One day when a girl went out to the marsh to gather cranberries, she was surprised by a giant bird. It was half a tree tall, and was frighteningly fierce in appearance. When the girl saw the bird, it was eating cranberries, and it seemed unable to rise and fly away.

The girl was alarmed. "It is a gook-keh bird!" said she. Then she ran back to the village and told the chief what she had seen. Sounding the great shell, he called the council and reported to them what the girl had seen. All the people were frightened.

The council asked the medicine men to make their medicine and to find out what the bird was and what it meant. Through their medicine, their wise men learned that the bird in the marsh was the wampum bird, the first wampum bird ever seen in this lower world. "We must kill the bird and obtain the wampum," the council decided.

So the chief and all his warriors went to the marsh to slay the wampum bird. There it was, still eating cranberries. So fierce and desperate was the bird that the warriors could not get near it with their clubs.

"We shall have to use our arrows", the chief decided. "The one who kills the wampum bird with an arrow shall have my daughter for his wife".

The chief's daughter was a beautiful girl, much desired by the warriors of the tribe. They shot their arrows at the bird. When the first arrow struck it, the bird stood up to its full height, half the height of a tree, and shook off all the wampum with which it was covered. The precious stuff fell in showers, like rain, all around the warriors. In an instant the bird was again covered with wampum, its only plumage. Purple wampum covered its wings; white wampum covered its body.

Again and again the warriors shot the bird. Each time an arrow struck it, it stood up to its full height and shook off all the purple wampum and all the white wampum. While the warriors gathered the precious stuff, the bird was again covered.

Not a bow-shot could kill it. And still they could not get near enough to strike it with their clubs.

While they were wondering what to do next, a young man came through the woods to the place where they were standing. He was a stranger to them, from another tribe. The warriors wanted to kill him and scalp him, because he was a stranger, but the chief said: "Let him first shoot at the wampum bird".

The youth cut a slender willow from the marsh and with it fashioned a bow. No one saw the arrow leave his bow; no one saw it strike. But all saw the wampum bird drop, and they found an arrow piercing its head. Gathering the wampum that had dropped, the people returned to the village. Not even their largest lodge would hold all the wampum they found.

The warriors carried with them the youth who had killed the bird. They still wanted to kill him and scalp him, for he had done what they had not been able to do. But again the chief interfered for him. "My son, tell me where you come from?"

"I am a Delaware", said the youth. "My people live in a village not far away from your village".

The chief and his council sent the young man to bring his people to a great council. At the great council the Wyandots recognized the Delawares as their nephews, and the two peoples made a treaty that has never been broken even unto this day.

The young man was adopted by the Wyandots, and he was given the chief's daughter as a reward for killing the wampum bird.

To confirm the treaty between the two tribes and make it binding, they passed back and forth strings of wampum secured from the bird that the young Delaware had slain. Since that day, the Wyandots have never concluded a treaty without passing the wampum belt.

The Wyandots and their nephews the Delawares lived side by side for a long time. Then the Wyandots came from the north country to live on the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(continued from December)

Article 3 - Members - Eligibility and Privileges

Section 1 - The membership of the association shall consist of honorary members, regular members, family members, junior, corporate members, life members, and affiliate members.

Section 2 - Honorary members shall be those persons who, for outstanding services to the association or the science of numismatics, or of distinguished reputation or learning, have been nominated in writing by at least three members of the association, recommended by the executive committee and approved by a majority vote at a general meeting on the recommendation of the executive.

- Section 3 - Any person of good reputation, 18 years of age or over, shall be eligible to apply for regular membership.
- Section 4 - Any club, society, association, corporation, museum, archives, public library or institution of learning, interested in numismatics and whose officers are of good reputation, shall be eligible to apply for corporate membership.
- Section 5 - Any honorary or regular member of the association who has been a member in good standing for three years or longer shall be eligible to apply for Life Membership. The membership number given to a life member shall be preceded by the letters "LM".
- Section 6 - Memberships are not transferable from one person or organization to another.
- Section 7 - Honorary, regular and life members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association, including the right to vote, hold office, and receive the official publications of the association, except such services as outlined in the by-laws, and that honorary members shall not be eligible to hold office unless they were regular or life members at the time that honorary membership was conferred upon them.
- Section 8 - Corporate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the association, except that each such organization shall have only one vote, shall not be eligible to hold office, shall not be eligible for life membership and shall receive only one copy of the association's official publication.

The word Ontario is of Iroquois origin, and signifies 'beautiful lake'. The lake was called Ontario as early as 1646 when the French missionary, Father Isaac Jogues, used the term in addressing a large gathering of Indians in the Iroquois town of Osserion, about 30 miles from the Dutch settlement Ressel-aersqyck, now known as Albany. "We have three paths to reach you", he said in the course of his speech, "one by the Mohawk valley, the other by the great lake which you call Ontario, the third by the Huron country".

The old Iroquois name for the lake has now been extended to denote a vast province, in area more than four times the size of Great Britain. It forms a wedge in Eastern Canada extending to the borders of Quebec and Manitoba, with the Great Lakes and United States frontier to the south, and Hudson Bay to the north.

Nickel - The story began in Germany when the early miners, trying to mine copper ore, found a reactionary element producing only a worthless alloy. They called it Old Nick, the very devil himself, who used his mischievous gnomes to bewitch the ore, and this ore, turning into a scientific conundrum, was isolated by Richter, a German scientist.

The Chinese took up the tale, by combining zinc with copper and nickel to make their Paktong, which brought a flood of white metal products, nickel-plating and nickel-clad steel. Then the whole world was combed for supplies of the raw material - - Norway, and the little South Sea Island of New Caledonia, and then the Sudbury basin.

Champlain described Lake Ontario as a "lake involving 15 days travel by Indian canoe".