



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Page 32

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION
WINDJAMMER ROOM
TREASURER ISLAND, LONDON, ONTARIO

April 30 -- May 2
1965

HOST CLUB -- London Numismatic Society.

AUCTION -- 700 Lots (mail and floor) -- Louie Biro.

ANNUAL MEDAL -- Middlesex County Court House.

COURT OF HONOUR -- Non-competitive Displays.

COMPETITIVE DISPLAYS -- 9 Categories.

GRAND AWARD -- Best all over Display.

TROPHIES -- First Place Winners.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

DELEGATES' MEETINGS.

BOURSE -- 40 Tables.

AWARD OF MERIT.

BANQUET -- Saturday Evening.

GUEST SPEAKER -- Rev. Orlo Miller.

Admission -- \$3.50

* * *

General Chairman -- Wm. N. Clarke,
167 Delaware St.,
London, Ont.

Display Chairman -- Sam Smith,
92 Elworthy Ave.,
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Bourse Chairman -- Percy Elgie,
Thamesford, Ont.

* * *

NICKEL AND COINAGE

by Dr. S. H. Ward

Nickel has a special significance to all Canadians -- for if there is a metal which can be truly identified with Canada or which can be called a Canadian metal, it is nickel. Of the approximate 640 million pounds of nickel consumed last year throughout the free world, some 535 million pounds, or about 85 per cent of the total, was produced by Canadian companies; and some 444 million pounds, or approximately 70 per cent of the total, was produced by The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited. Such has been the case for many years -- Canada has far outstripped other areas of the world in the production of this valuable commodity; and in so doing has added much to the Canadian economy.

Nickel is one of the more familiar words of many languages, undoubtedly due in large measure to its widespread use in coinage. Each year, for example, the nations of the world mint the staggering total of some 2,500,000,000 coins which contain nickel in amounts varying from 1 per cent to 100 per cent.

Nickel is also a very versatile metal. Its toughness, strength, durability, corrosion resistance, malleability and ductility, and the ability of nickel to impart these qualities when alloyed with other metals, have resulted in its use in a multitude of applications.

Research and development activities have undoubtedly played an outstanding role in finding new markets for nickel. Until the beginning of the twentieth century, nickel markets were limited to its use in plating, coinage and nickel silver alloy. Through the intervening years, the uses of nickel have been expanded in a phenomenal manner and for example, there are not over 3,000 different alloys in current use containing nickel in proportions ranging from 99.0 per cent in malleable nickel to 0.02 per cent in hardenable silver alloys.

Actual and products fabricated from nickel alloys, extend all the way from the familiar stainless steel sinks, pots and pans, to the new high-strength nickel-maraging steels which are expected to find important use in the U. S. space programme. Products incorporating pure nickel are equally diversified, ranging all the way from rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, electronic tubes and depth-sounding equipment to coinage.

At the present time, the principal fields of application for nickel are in stainless steels, constructional alloy steels, iron and steel castings and electroplating. During 1964, 470 million pounds, or 73.5 per cent of the free world's nickel consumption was used for these purposes.

For comparison and although final figures are not yet available, free-world consumption of nickel in coinage during 1964 was in the neighbourhood of 2 per cent of total consumption. This amount may appear relatively small when comparison is made with the quantity of nickel consumed in the larger markets; however, use of nickel in coinage is a very important segment of the nickel business. It is a segment which has greatly increased in significance in recent months because of the growing silver crisis; a crisis resulting from the limited supplies of silver available for rapidly expanding requirements for coinage and industrial applications.

It is certainly not my intention to argue the case for the abandonment of silver in coinage. The pros and cons have been discussed by those expert in the subject and their opinions have been published at considerable length. However, if the facts favour discontinuing the use of silver, the ideal metal to replace it is nickel. Most

experts are convinced of this, as shown by the increasing number of countries which are abandoning silver coinage for nickel or cupro-nickel of the composition 75 per cent copper - 25 per cent nickel. The switch is being made because of nickel's remarkable properties and the resemblance that nickel coins bear to the finest silver denominations.

A study of the history of coin making shows the great importance of nickel's contribution to the development of the numismatic arts. Its use in coinage can be traced back to about 170 B. C. to the ancient Kingdom of Bactria, now part of north-eastern Afghanistan. Experts believe that a natural alloy of copper and nickel made it possible for the Bactrians to fashion coins which contained up to 22 percent nickel. This early use of nickel was over nineteen centuries before the metal was actually separated and identified as a new element by the Swedish chemist Cronstedt in 1751.

For twenty-five hundred years, from the birth of the art of coinage in Lydia around 700 B. C. until the middle of the nineteenth century, copper, gold, silver and iron were the chief metals used for this purpose. Except for improvements in metallurgical techniques and in methods for striking coins, little progress was made until 1850 when the Swiss began experimenting with coins struck from alloys containing copper, nickel, zinc and silver. Although these coins did not prove satisfactory, the work led to the minting of the first pure nickel coin by the Swiss in 1881. This innovation revolutionized the art and since that time another 152 denominations of this type have been issued by 44 other countries. In addition, South Africa is presently in the process of converting four of her coin denominations to pure nickel.

The pioneering efforts of the Swiss stimulated other nations to experiment with nickel-containing alloys for coinage. For example, in 1857 the United States issued a one-cent piece which contained 88 per cent copper and 12 per cent nickel. Belgium soon followed in 1860 with coins of 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel, the alloy which has subsequently been used widely for this purpose. In fact, 75-25 cupro-nickel has now been used by 131 countries to mint 857 denominations; and it is the alloy which Australia will use to replace three silver denominations in 1966. Furthermore, many minor coin denominations have been minted over the years with relatively low percentages of nickel.

Nickel is unique in that it is the only metal in the pure state that has proved satisfactory for coinage, possessing as it does the many desirable attributes required for this purpose. Its excellent resistance to wear, corrosion or tarnishing; its silvery-white and lustrous appearance, pleasing feel, hygienic nature, adequate weight and authoritative "ring" are all desirable properties sought for a good coinage metal. In addition, nickel is relatively difficult to counterfeit because of its magnetic properties and high melting point; it is also in plentiful supply at a comparatively low price so that intrinsic values are in line with the coin denominations for which employed; and finally and very important, nickel is sufficiently malleable and ductile so as to take an accurate imprint, in accordance with the highest standards of the art, while causing minimum wear of the dies during striking. Examination of the fine whisker and hair lines of the beaver on the Canadian 5-cent piece offers ample proof of the exacting detail obtainable in nickel coinage.

In addition to use in coinage, nickel and nickel alloys are of growing interest in the closely related field of commemorative medallions; and it is to be expected that an increasing number of issues will be made available in nickel, nickel-silver or cupro-nickel by medallists.

In summary, nickel is an exceptionally versatile metal which has found and continues to find wide acceptance in the numismatic arts. This fact is of importance not only to numismatists but to all Canadians because of nickel's particular significance to this country.

Editor's Note: Dr. S. H. Ward was the guest speaker for the March meeting of the Oakville Coin Club. Dr. Ward is a distinguished engineer and scientist with the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited, and has been associated with his company's educational aid programme since 1956. During this time the company has spent some \$7,500,000 on scholarships and other educational projects. Dr. Ward chose as his subject for the March meeting of the Oakville Coin Club "Nickel and Coinage" which we are pleased to reproduce in this publication.

Members are reminded that the Association's Library has available copies of a report entitled "Nickel In Coinage" published by the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited; and the fascinating book entitled "Nickel for Coinage" by H. G. Stride, formerly of the Royal Mint. Books may be borrowed from the Association's Library and make interesting reading with respect to nickel in coinage.

NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the March issue of the Ontario Numismatist were accepted. The following applications were received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the May issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 484. Robert J. Taylor, 1207 Dundas Street W., Toronto 3, Ont.
- 485. Mrs. Robert J. Taylor, 1207 Dundas Street W., Toronto 3, Ont.
- 486. K. Jack Plate, 33 Diana Ave., Grimsby, Ont.
- 487. Ralph Kuster Jr., 7 Sparks Dr., Chatham, Ont.
- 488. K. W. Wilmot, 47 Birmingham St., Apt. #1, Stratford, Ont.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 120. Kenneth B. Prophet, c/o Camp Borden Station Hospital, Camp Borden, Ont.
- 246. Robert Graham, 67 Alexandra Ave., Waterloo, Ont.
- 371. Fred Fox, 1920 Crystal Cres., London, Ont.
- 372. Mrs. Fred Fox, 1920 Crystal Cres., London, Ont.
- 483. Gerald B. Parker, c/o Hobin Investments, 1091 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont.
- C25 ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, c/o James A. Davidson, 10 Third Ave.,
St. Thomas, Ont.
- C37 OTTAWA COIN CLUB, c/o G. R. L. Potter, 151 Stanley Ave., Ottawa, Ont.

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 -- \$1 yearly (up to 18 years of age); Husband and wife (One copy) -- \$3 yearly; club -- \$10 yearly.

Remittances (plus bank exchange if paid by cheque) payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, P. O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

COMING EVENTS

- April 30, May 1, 2 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Third Annual Convention, London, Ontario. Host club: London Numismatic Society. General Chairman: William Clarke, 167 Delaware St., London, Ontario. Bourse Chairman: Percy Elgie, Thamesford, Ont.
- May 2 BLUEWATER INTERNATIONAL Spring Show, Harrington Hotel, Port Huron.
- May 16 STRATFORD COIN CLUB Third Annual Banquet, St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Guest Speaker - David Ashe, Oakville.
- May 29 ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Second Annual Banquet and Auction, Grace United Church Auditorium, Balaclava St., St. Thomas, Ont.
- August 12, 13, 14 CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 12th Annual Convention. Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec. Host club: Montreal Coin Club. General Chairman: Louis Goldsmith, 5251 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec.

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CANADIAN TYPE COLLECTORS

Anyone interested in forming an Association of Canadian Type Collectors, open to anyone who seriously collects Canadian coins in this manner, please contact Mr. Cecil Paul, 3 Ramsay Street, Trenton, Ontario.

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LIBRARY DONATIONS

The O. N. A. is pleased to receive the following donations to the library which are available to our members:

"A GUIDE FOR THE GRADING OF CANADIAN COINS" by Cecil Paul

"THE COINS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT" -- A study of Biblical Numismatics by Pastor J. F. Rowlands, F. R. N. A.

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CLUB NEWS

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION had fifty members and guests present at the February meeting. Plans were discussed for the banquet to be held on April 3. Two new members each month are trying their hand at auctioneering ... a good way to be ready for any future emergencies. Out of town guests were from Orangeville, Owen Sound, Bradford, and Orillia.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION featured a "Fifty-Cent Night" at the February 18 meeting. Mr. Cecil Paul, speaker of the evening, talked on the history of the "Canadian Half Dollar". Mr. Paul had a display of all the types of 50 cent pieces to illustrate his informative talk.

BRANTFORD COIN CLUB held a miscellaneous night for its March meeting. Displays included tokens, rock specimens, badges, medals and curious money. The featured speaker

was the first President of the Brantford Club, Mr. Walter Griggs, whose topic was "Where Are We Going in This World of Numismatics."

OAKVILLE COIN CLUB had as guest speaker in February, Mr. Ed. Denby, who gave a most informative talk on medals and their distinction from medallions. The March meeting featured Dr. S. H. Ward, distinguished engineer and scientist of the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited. Dr. Ward spoke on, "Nickel and Coinage", the transcript of which may be found in this bulletin.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY featured an O. N. A. Audio-Visual Service set, "What's My Coin?". With Jim Moore acting as moderator, several different panels of members matched their numismatic knowledge against the clues of the unidentified coins with surprising results. An excellent collection of Canadian durrency was on display, courtesy of Bernie Desjardin of Montreal, a guest at the meeting in January. Another of the O. N. A. Audio-Visual Service sets, "Canadian Fractional Currency, by Bill English, was presented at the February meeting.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB presented an O. N. A. Audio-Visual Service set, "Canadian Silver Dollars", by Bill English, at the meeting held March 4. A discussion period was held on ways and means of increasing club membership with several interesting and novel ideas being presented.

TORONTO COIN CLUB featured Dr. Henry Fenigstein as guest speaker. His topic was "The Coins of Poland". In order that the audience might follow his remarks he passed around illustrations of the coins. Many excellent displays were exhibited at the January meeting including: engraved tokens, proof sets, historical medals, medical medals, an original volume of Boswell's Antiquities. Mr. J. J. Pittman won the monthly award with his rare Scottish and Polish coins. The Levine Trophy, awarded for the best display of the year, was presented to Mr. Alex Munro for his "Seafaring" display.

KITCHENER COIN CLUB A record 82 members and guests turned out for the "Gold Rush Night". They viewed the film on the Yukon gold rush and the minting of coins. Donations are coming in rapidly for their Doon Pioneer Village numismatic collection.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY welcomed 80 members and guests to the February meeting. Mr. Sam Smith was the special speaker for the evening and from his previous experience as Display Chairman, was able to present an interesting and enlightening talk on the various requirements for good displays. Several methods of displaying were prepared and exhibited by Messrs. Wm. Clarke, F. H. Whitfield, Percy Elgie and L. T. Smith. The March meeting featured two O. N. A. Audio-Visual Service sets by David Ashe, "Military Honours" and "The Eddystone Lighthouse".

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY held its Sixth Annual Banquet, March 13 and 14, at the Walper Hotel, Kitchener. Many excellent displays were exhibited in each of the ten categories. Head judge, Lloyd T. Smith; relief judge, Frank Uttley; and the three judges, Mrs. Winifred Mather, Victor Snell and Kenneth Prophet, did an excellent job in selecting the winning displays. Junior: 1st. - John English; 2nd. - Barrie Prophet; 3rd. - Sherry English. Canadian Decimal: 1st. - Cecil Paul; 2nd. - Peter Schoss; 3rd. - Claudia Pelkey. Canadian Tokens: 1st. - Don Flick; 2nd. - Ross Irwin; United States: 1st. - John Regitko; 2nd. - Bill English; 3rd. - Albert Fuller. Paper: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. - Kenneth Hart. Medals: 1st. - Ross Irwin; 2nd. - Bill Lavell; 3rd. - Albert Fuller. Miscellaneous: 1st. - John Regitko; 2nd. - Ken Prophet; 3rd. - Ross Irwin. Foreign: 1st. and 2nd. - Shirley English; 3rd. - Claudia Pelkey. Grand Award - Percy Elgie with his excellent display of the British Commonwealth coinage. Members from over seventeen clubs were represented at the annual dinner, highlighted by the awarding of trophies to the first-place winners. The Edward Stahley Award of W. C. S. for total displays during the year, went to Mrs. Shirley English. The Albert Fuller Junior trophy for displaying during the year was awarded to Miss Sherry English. The

presidential plaque was presented to Past President, Edward Stahley, by the current president, Philip Mueller. "A Stamp Collector Looks At Coins" was the subject of the talk given by Mr. John Stratton, Stratford, Ontario, guest speaker.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION has something to brag about: 4 members travel 30 miles; 2 members travel 60 miles; 4 members travel 130 miles, and 1 member travels 235 miles (and only missed one meeting), all to attend a coin meeting. Jim Davidson has taken over the office of secretary on resignation of Mrs. Barbara Meyer.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB featured a Panel Discussion at the February meeting. Panelists Mrs. Ethel Sentes, Karl Orgel and Stan Butt participated in the discussion which was capably led by Bob Low. The definition "proof-like" was carefully scrutinized as well as the developments in the Royal Canadian Mint ordering practices. Mr. Alex Munro, President of the Toronto Coin Club, narrated his well-known set of slides on "Seafaring", as pertaining to coins.

GUELPH COIN CLUB presented the O. N. A. Audio-Visual Service slides, "Canadian Silver Dollars", by Bill English.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB held a special Valentine draw, prepared by Mrs. Ritchie. Following is the list of new officers for the coming year: Past President - Victor Snell; President - Robert Cassidy; Vice-president - Stanley Aaroe; Treasurer - Fred Barley; Secretary - Mrs. P. Lambert; Membership Secretary - Patrick Lambert; Librarian and Registration - Mrs. M. L. Ritchie; Directors - Bernard Cook, Dr. Earl Hunt, Frank Kiley, Robert Prince, William Panko and Charles Robertson.

CONVENTION TIME IS HERE

Treasure Island, London, Ontario - April 30, May 1, 2

A treasure trove of numismatic wealth and fellowship awaits the numismatist at the Third Annual Ontario Numismatic Association Convention.

The London Numismatic Society, our 1965 hosts, have everything prepared for your pleasure. The many tidbits to tease your appetite include Competitive Displays, 2-session Auction, Commemorative Medal, 40 Bourse Dealers, Bus Tour, Banquet, Guest Speaker, Audio Visual Presentations and the installation of the new executive.

All who attend are invited to compete for beautiful trophies in nine categories. The Auction will include a B. U. - 1921 five cent silver, 1964 Proof Dollar, 1862 replica of a British Columbia \$20.00 gold piece plus a variety of items for all collectors. Orlo Miller, a noted historian, author, and TV producer will be the guest speaker. The Audio Visuals will include at least two new subjects. All this, plus a medal depicting the London Court House will make your visit complete.

Plan now to participate in the numismatic highlight of the season.

Banquet Tickets \$3.50 General Admission 50 cents

Direct all enquiries to Mr. Bill Clarke, 167 Delaware Street, London, Ontario

DO IT NOW !! DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!!

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Milled coins were introduced to England in 1561-1571 by Eloye Mestrelle, a French engraver and moneyer.

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The slang term, "shell out", meaning to pay up, is a reference to the wide-spread use of cowry shells for many years, even until modern times, in Africa and other parts of the world.