



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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Page 39

## CANADIAN VOYAGEUR DOLLAR

by Claudia Pelkey

NUMISMATICS is the science of coins, medals, tokens, paper money, etc. And SCIENCE is the knowledge, comprehension or understanding of the truths or facts of any given subject. Therefore, a NUMISMATIST is one who seeks an understanding of the truths or facts of his coins, tokens, etc. A coin collector is not necessarily a numismatist, nor is a numismatist necessarily a coin collector.

I would like to take just one coin, the 1963 Canadian silver dollar, by no means rare and readily obtainable for study, and analyse its very existence in order that I may show you that there is no such thing as an "ordinary" coin.

Let us suppose that twenty centuries from now an archaeologist should find a 1963 Canadian silver dollar. From this coin alone, he could reconstruct a great deal of the Canadian civilization of today. From the Hardness, he would know something of our mastery of technology. It would be obvious that our engineers understood metal alloys. By its very composition of silver (800 fine), he would know that Canada was rich in minerals. Otherwise, our means of trade could still be beads, leather or even cattle.

By its shape, he would know ours had been an industrial nation. Only the finest of machinery could stamp out the precision circles of the silver dollar. We appreciate this precision today when we stack twenty such coins and roll them into nice neat packages for easier counting and handling. When the Greek and Roman coins were prevalent in the world, this would have been a juggler's feat, as they were odd shapes, sizes and thicknesses.

By the bas relief, the archaeologist would know

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Editor's Note: Because of the frequent requests, we are publishing the text of the Ontario Numismatic Association's Audio-Visual service set, "Canadian Voyageur Dollar". Due to the length of the article, it will be published as a series.

ours was a nation of artists. The Queen's likeness is not bad for a machine reproduction. And, not like the Greek and Roman coins of 2,000 years ago, all the coins of one denomination are distinctively the same. There is no variation from one coin to another, except of course, when the dies become worn or defected.

By its lettering, the archaeologist would know that we were a nation of scholars. After all, several languages appear on our silver dollar. Most of the English words are derived from another language. The word "DOLLAR" is from the German "taler or thaler" which was shortened from "Joachim's Tale or Dale" in Bohemia, where the silver was obtained, from which these coins were made. DOLLAR also indicates a knowledge of the metric system. And the numerals are in Arabic.

"CANADA" is apparently from the Huron-Iroquois "Kanata", meaning village or town. It first appeared in a narrative of Jacques Cartier in 1534, where it seemed to refer to the Indian community of Stadacona (Quebec City); then applied to the St. Lawrence River, and from there to the countryside; became a popular distinction for the colony of New France. Canada remained so popular a reference that it became official in the Canada Act, or Constitutional Act, in 1791, which divided the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. In 1867, with the passage of the British North America Act, the term applied to the federation of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which adopted the name, Dominion of Canada.

Latin appears on the coin in the word "REGINA", meaning Queen, and in the phrase "DEI GRATIA", meaning "God Willing" or "By the Grace of God".

Some of the nation's theology is indicated in the Latin phrase, "Dei Gratia". This indicates ONE GOD and not many Gods. And so, an archaeologist would know that Canadians were monotheistic. This Latin phrase also links Canada to Great Britain; for this phrase appeared on all the Great Seals of William the Conqueror. But, it was not until Edward I introduced it on the groat, in 1279, that it became a feature of the legend of English coins. It has appeared on all English coinage since, except for the Godless florin of 1849.

The bust of the Queen, Elizabeth II, appearing on the obverse of this coin, would indicate to the archaeologist that Canada was a monarchy, or a part thereof. If he were to read any history book of either England or France, he would find that England did acquire such a Dominion in a Peace Treaty with France in 1763.

Because of the reverse design, this type of silver dollar is often referred to as the "Voyageur" dollar. A few years ago, I began to wonder why this particular design was selected to represent Canada. After many months of reading and research among the books from the local library, I traced the canoe as far as the Iroquois. In the process, I learned a great deal about Canada and the way of life of the early settlers. Here was romance and intrigue that I didn't know existed in connection with coin collecting. I had to go on and find the story of the "Voyageur" dollar.

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I turned to Miss Elizabeth Wynn Wood, wife of the late Emmanuel Hahn, who designed the Voyageur dollar. Miss Elizabeth Wynn Wood very graciously passed on to me what information she had, as well as consulting Dr. Barbeau, who was advisor to the Mint at the time when the coin was first made (1935). It was Dr. Barbeau who gathered most of the information on the Indian material for the National Museum of Canada.

Emmanuel Hahn designed the coin from a painting by Mrs. F. A. Hopkins, a secretary to Sir George Simpson. This is now the property of the National Archives.

In 1935 the first Canadian silver dollar was struck to commemorate the 25th year of the reign of King George V of England. The reverse was designed in accordance with the Royal Proclamation which called for: a canoe, manned by an Indian and a voyageur; Canada, dollar and the date to be included.

The "Voyageur" design has appeared on all the Canadian silver dollars since that first issue of 1935, except for the four commemoratives ... the 1939 showing the centre block of the Parliament buildings, Ottawa, commemorates the visit to Canada of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The 1949 depicts the "MATHHEW", the ship of John Cabot, to commemorate the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. The 1958 showing the totem pole, celebrates the centennial of the establishment of British Columbia as a crown colony. The 1964 honours the Confederation conferences held at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec City, Quebec. The central design depicts the early influences .... the French fleur-de-lis, the Irish shamrock, the Scottish thistle and the English rose.

To be continued in June.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the April 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 June issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 489. Steven King, 160 Sydenham St., Gananoque, Ont.
- 490. J. H. Luxton, 254 Claremont Blvd., Kitchener, Ont.
- 491. Gerald I. Levy, 75 Toby Cres., Hamilton, Ont.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 241. William Pachkowski, 486 Karen Dr., Burlington, Ont.
- 342. W. W. Lindamood, P. O. Box 428, Guelph, Ont.

#### CLUB NEWS

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB have made plans to hold their June meeting jointly with the Kiwanis Club. Special feature of the March meeting was the O. N. A. Audio-visual "Seafaring", by Alex Munro. Mr. Wm. Lavell, president of the Metropolitan (Toronto) Coin Club, talked to the club in April on "Canadian Indian Chief Medals", displaying medals from his collection.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION had forty-five members and guests present at the March meeting. A very successful banquet was held in Barrie, April 3rd, but due to lack of information, results cannot be passed on to interested readers. The club expresses their regrets that president, Jack Martin, has been transferred out of the Barrie district.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB had fifty members and guests out to their March meeting to hear Mr. Alex Munro narrate the commentary for his O. N. A. Audio-visual, "Seafaring". Mr. Bob Low was awarded the Albert Roach Memorial Trophy for the year 1964.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY featured the O. N. A. Audio-visual, "Wampum to Decimal", by Lloyd T. Smith. Forty-seven members turned up to enjoy the presentation. Mr. Dave Price will present a Coin Quiz at the April meeting and a Do-It Yourself Auction will be featured.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY welcomed sixty members and guests out to the March meeting which featured two sets from the O. N. A. Audio-visual by David Ashe ... "The Eddystone Lighthouse" and "Famous Orders". The Society is hard at work as host to the Ontario Numismatic Association's Annual Convention.

TORONTO COIN CLUB members were privileged, in February, to hear a fine and detailed discourse on the coinage of the British Isles by David Ashe of Oakville. Mr. John Curtis displayed three cases of Canadian paper discount currency: Handy Andy, Dufferin Motors, Hercules Sales, Towers, House of Scagram, etc. The guest speaker for March was Mr. Donald Flick, past president of the Oakville coin club.

KITCHENER COIN CLUB announces that the Doon Pioneer Village numismatic collection is growing rapidly. The April meeting featured DOLLAR NIGHT. An illustrated talk was presented by Mr. R. R. Rekofski, and Mr. Wm. English. Plans for the second bandquet of K. C. C. was announced for October 2, 1965.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB featured the O. N. A. Audio-visual, "Canadian Silver Dollars" by Wm. English. The April meeting presented the O. N. A. Audio-visual, "Canadian Coinage" by Lloyd T. Smith. Out of town visitors came from Owen Sound, Gravenhurst, Barrie and Orillia.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION presented Don Desaulniers with the Treasure Chest (valued at \$65) as the person obtaining the most memberships throughout the past year. Feature of the March 18 meeting was the presentation of the O. N. A. Audio-visual, "The Eddystone Lighthouse" and "World Famed Orders" by David Ashe.

OAKVILLE COIN CLUB held Membership Night in April. All members presented their cards or paid the guest fee of fifty cents. Delinquent members were allowed to renew their memberships. This was also Variety Night for speakers ... Dirk Becker, Bill Lavell, Jack McLean and Edward Schroeder all spoke briefly on their own particular interest in coin collecting and illustrated with material from their private collections.

OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB was addressed by W. Morris at the March meeting, who spoke on proof coins. The April meeting saw the conclusion of the Canadian Decimal series lectures with a talk on silver dollars and grading by Del Curtis.

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Due to the fact that the Ontario Numismatist goes to press before the Convention dates (April 30, May 1, and 2) the results of the three-day gathering of numismatists, from all over Ontario and adjoining provinces and states, will appear in the June issue.

#### C. O. I. N.

Here is a news release that will be of interest to many of our collectors: The Convention Of Internation Numismatics (COIN) presents its second annual convention June 18, 19, and 20, 1965, at the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel. This convention is unique in that it features foreign and ancient coins, medals, tokens and paper money

exclusively. No numismatic item produced in the U. S. A. for domestic use will be allowed in the C.O.I.N. bourse, auction or exhibits. General Chairman, Harvey L. Rose, P. O. Box 577, La Mesa, California 92043. Exhibit Chairman, Hal Bavaird, 695 Las Casas, Pacific Palisades, California 90272. Closing date for entry blanks is June 1, 1965.

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#### COMING EVENTS

Your club activities are of interest. Please send us information on or before the 15th of the month preceding publication. Equally as interesting is the results of your banquets, shows, or special features.

- May 16                    STRATFORD COIN CLUB Third Annual Banquet, St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall, Guest Speaker, David Ashe of Oakville.
- May 29                    ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Second Annual Banquet and Auction, Grace United Church Auditorium, BalACLava St., St. Thomas, Ontario.
- July 25                   OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB Fifth Annual Show, Sauble Beach Pavilion. General information available from the club at Box 94, Owen Sound, Ontario.
- 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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LESSLIE TOKENS: Early in the 1820's, John Lesslie and his family left Scotland and came to Dundas, Ontario, where John formed a partnership with the famous William Lyon MacKenzie. The firm dealt in drugs, hardware, jewellery, toys, groceries and dry goods, and also operated a lending library. The firm of Lesslie and Sons was established several years later and stores were opened in York and Kingston to sell drugs and books. The firm was noted numismatically for its two penny and half penny tokens (Breton Nos. 717 and 718). The dies were engraved by Thomas Wells Ingram at the Soho mint, Birmingham, England. These tokens are on display at the Dundas Historical Society Museum.

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The 1939 Canadian silver dollar was struck to commemorate the visit to Canada of the King and Queen just prior to the war. Emmanuel Hahn, the artist for the reverse, chose the Parliament Buildings. His initials were on the design in the plaster cast but these were removed from the steel die in London on instructions from the Master of the Mint who objected to artists' initials on coinage. Also in the gothic tracery above the entrance to the peace tower, Mr. Hahn minutely inscribed the initials J. P. as a tribute to his friend John Pearson, the architect of the structure. Although they were not deleted by the mint, they cannot be detected on any coins even with a sharp glass. It seems that the initials disappeared when the pantograph reduced the model to die size. If proof coins of this issue had been struck this delicate compliment might have been preserved, but proofs were only struck for the initial issue and they were not segregated from normal coinage.

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"Un Dollar" and "One Dollar", while practical on bank notes, is not practical on coinage where space is at a premium. This is why "I Dollar" is used. Space conservation also explains the use of Latin inscriptions instead of French and English.