



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1967 - 1969

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Volume 7 February, 1968

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EX LIBRIS

Hazel Munro.

The following article by F. Bell is taken from the March 1966 issue of Seaby's Coin & Medal Bulletin, and is a reminder that although some collectors deplore the present content of our coinage, it could be a great deal worse.

"Tin, pewter and lead constitute a trio unbeloved by the numismatist. All three are soft and easily marked and all lack the art of growing old gracefully.

Tin has been employed only once in the English coinage. In 1676 there was a sharp fall in the price of Cornish tin and it was in the nature of a relief measure that in 1684 an order was made for a coinage of halfpence and farthings in tin. Farthings alone were struck in the reign of Charles II but not without a considerable profit to the crown, for a pound of tin, value eightpence, was at a cost of fourpence converted into coins with a face value of twenty pence. Both farthings and halfpence were struck in the reign of James II and William and Mary. The issues were unpopular and lent themselves to wholesale forgery and no more coins were produced after 1692. By that time over £65,000 had been issued and with a profit of at least one third of the amount. In 1693 the copper coinage was resumed and the contractors for this were required to accept in exchange up to £200 a week of tin coins.

The earliest tin farthing bears on the obverse a bust of Charles II and the legend Carolvs A Carolo and on the reverse Britannia. The edge bears the inscription NVMMORVM FAMVLVS (the servant of the coinage), and date. In the centre of the coin is a copper plug which was said to minimize the danger of forgery but that this was the actual reason is doubtful as many tin medals of the period are similarly plugged. Certainly it was a most unfortunate feature since the atmospheric oxidation of tin, which is normally negligible is greatly accelerated by contact with the much less electropositive copper (householders who have had a galvanized tank connected to a water supply by copper piping will be aware how serious electrochemical corrosion can be).

In a very short time most of the coins had assumed a sorry appearance and there has been no temptation to repeat the experiment of a tin coinage.

Tin medals are subject to an additional hazard. The compact metal with which everyone is familiar, so-called white tin, becomes unstable below 18 degrees C. and tends to go over to another modification, grey tin, which occupies about 25% greater bulk, and forms a grey powder. Normally the transformation is excessively slow but the velocity is increased by lowering the temperature. In the severe winter of 1867-68 the blocks of tin stored in the customs house at Petrograd disintegrated completely into this grey powder. The "tin plague" is infectious and can be communicated from a stricken article to a sound one. Medals smitten by tin plague are well illustrated in an article on "Die Museumkrankheit" by Ernst Cohen in a journal rarely consulted by numismatists (Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie, 1908, 63, 625).

Reference to "Medallic Illustrations" shows that lead medals have a long history, certainly going back as far as James IV, 1513 and Henry VIII, 1542. Lead has two attractive qualities - its cheapness and low melting point (325 C.) Both have doubtless determined its use on many occasions. One cannot help but be struck by the fact that many of the most vivid portrait medals of Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII and Edward VI, tend to be without a reverse and to exist as single specimens only. It is tempting to assume that in such cases the "medal" represents a cast from some object not primarily designed as a die. Other lead medals may represent proofs of unfinished dies, or to be intended for use as tokens or advertisements. The cheapness of the metal also allowed for a wide circulation of a medal, such as that of the Seven Bishops, 1688, prepared for propaganda purposes. Lead medals exist in both cast and struck forms.

Pewter from the middle ages until the nineteenth century was a tin-rich alloy of tin and lead. When lead is added to tin the melting point is depressed from 232 C to a minimum value of 182 C when 37% has been added. This eases the trouble of casting and at the same time lowers the

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The ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with memberships of one of the following categories: Life memberships \$50.00; Regular members -- \$2 yearly; Juniors -- \$1 yearly (up to 18 years of age); Husband and Wife (One journal -- \$3 yearly; Club -- \$10 yearly. Special O.N.A. Sterling Silver Lapel Pins (screw back or pin back only \$2.50).

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

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

Ex Libris (cont'd)

cost, increases the strength, and diminishes the liability to tin-plague. Standard English pewter contained 80% of tin. Dutch medallists were using pewter at an early date. The medals Subservience of France and Spain, 1655, and Michael de Ruyter 1666, were issued in gold, silver, and pewter. The Dutch example was followed by others and Smelting used it for some of the medals he made in England, e.g. the opening of the Scottish Parliament, 1635.

Pewter appeared as a coinage metal in the Irish campaign of the dethroned James II. In 1690, James issued a pewter crown with an inscribed edge, and also, pewter pennies and halfpence.

Pewter as a medium for the mass production of medals was completely eclipsed by the much better wearing bronze as soon as powerful machines became available for its manipulation. Perhaps, however, some will remember with pleasure the lead medals which were presented in 1911 to almost all school children to mark the coronation of George V.

NEW MEMBERS

OMITTED FROM Applications published in the December issue of the
JANUARY ISSUE Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted.

The following applications have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the March issue of the Ontario Numismatist:

- 632 O. W. Sutor, 41 Waterloo Street, Brantford, Ont.
633 Mrs. Betty Lou Bellows, 212 Riverview Blvd.,
St. Catharines, Ontario.

NEWS FROM AROUND ONTARIO

From Toronto-----

Central Coin Club - Carriage House Motor Hotel-306 Jarvis St., Toronto,
Ontario
Meets every Monday night ...all year round.

At the last meeting of the Central Coin Club Ricky Morse was presented with the Silver Dollars Prize as the winner of the SPLAKER CONTEST for 1967. The club's new quarters were necessary to accommodate the members due to a renewed interest in numismatics Canadian Collectors.

NEWFOUNDLAND JOKES

W. W. King, coin collector from Fortune, Newfoundland, and member of three of Toronto's coin clubs reports a book on the market containing a collection of wit and humor from Newfoundland by H. J. Reader. This book sells for \$2.00 and the profits will go towards the rehabilitation of blind persons in both Newfoundland and Labrador. Sounds like a good chance for us coin collectors to have a hearty laugh, and help somebody at the same time.

HELPING IS HAPPINESS

C.N.V.C.A.NEWS

Dr. Charles A. Herbin, founder of the Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association, has permanently retired from practice due to 100% disability. He plans to move to the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia where the climate will be better for his health, but will continue to collect variety and error coins. Dr. Herbin holds Life Membership #1 in the C. N. V. C. A.

Bicky Morse - C. N. V. C. A.
Director of Publicity

BRANTFORD COIN CLUB

January Newsletter

Next Meeting - January 21, 1968.

To mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Mint, a special souvenir booklet in colour describing the Mint and an embossed box for the dollar coin is available. Congratulations are in order for our Secretary, George Wagner, who is a recipient of the Canada Centennial Medal for service to the nation. George has been with the militia for many years. The Canada Centennial Medal will be on display for membership viewing at the January meeting. Coin clubs in the area interested in exchanging bulletins are requested to send them to the Editor, and ours will follow. It would be nice to know what other clubs are doing to further members' numismatic interests. Inter-city get-together anybody?

1968 Proof Like sets may be obtained from Coins Uncirculated, P. O. Box 470, Ottawa 2. Set of six coins (1¢, 5¢, 10¢ 25¢ 50¢, \$1) in transparent film \$4.00 per set. Orders may be for one, three or five sets, no limit as to number of sets one can order, multiples of five on five sets. Dollars sealed in plastic at \$1. 5 each, minimum five sets per order.

"The hardest thing to live down is the time spent in living it up."

Executive Officers for 1968 are:

President	- O. W. (Bill) Sutor	Directors	- Philip Baker
Vice-president	- Fred Huiser		Ernie Baker
Past President	- John Barchino	Advisory	- Walter W. Griggs
Secretary	- George Wagner	Historian	- Mrs. Mary Hilborn
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Treasurer	- Thomas Savory	Editor	- John Barchino

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Nouvelle annee mille Souhails

Prospero Ano Nuevo

Editor - John Barchino

HAMILTON COIN CLUB

Meets monthly - second Sunday in Wentworth Arms Hotel

DECEMBER MEETING - In spite of sleet and freezing rain, it was gratifying to welcome 12 members and 9 guests to the last meeting of 1967. The guests were Misses Elizabeth and Magdalena Barabulea, Merri Meade, Mr. and Mrs. Villemaire (Oakville), Messrs. S. O'Hoskie, J. Sentes, J. Szeker, and H. Repedius. After the reading of the minutes of the

audio-visual presentation "Canadian Economy and Currency", produced, photographed and taped by Lloyd T. Smith. Though prepared for presentation to educational groups outside of coin clubs, it should be very interesting for our members, particularly those who have joined in recent years. The draw will be for a set of 1967 coins, donated by Bud Measor who received it from the Royal Trust Assurance Co. There will also be the regular auction, supply table and several good dealers. Resolve to learn more about your coins in 1968, through attendance at meetings, purchase of numismatic books or by borrowing books from our club library. A gentle reminder from your editor: Please pay your dues for 1968 as soon as possible so that we can make up the new address labels for sending out your bulletins. It helps a lot if we can keep the list in alphabetical order, especially for checking purposes. You will also note that we are using a heavier grade of paper for our bulletins now and we are printing on both sides. This will enable us to keep to the lowest postal rate and yet give you a good bulletin for less money than in previous years.

Editor - Lloyd T. Smith

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB

Date to Remember-Tuesday, January 16
Regular Club Meeting

Our last meeting was held on Tuesday, December 19th (of last year) with members 34 in number and 12 guests availing themselves of our gathering. As mentioned in the last bulletin, this also doubled our annual Christmas Party which was most successful...so successful to the point that we ended up the Party by auctioning off the remaining food and canned soft drinks. A hearty Thank You goes out from the executive to all members who contributed in any way to make this party a success and especially to the four or five ladies who worked so hard to prepare the plates, telephone members and all the other things that had to be done. Here is an item of business omitted previously: yours truly was elected to serve as Editor and June Clarke, Treasurer for another two year term. Member David Little was elected bourse chairman, representing dealers at executive meetings. Larry Steadman, who held the post previously, has been inactive in coins for a number of months. Hope your Holiday Season was pleasant and accident free, and that the New Year will be filled with prosperity. We'll see you all on the 16th, first meeting in '68.

Your Editor - Ivan Coles.

THISTLETOWN COIN CLUB

TRADER'S NIGHT

Greetings to all fellow numismatists -- may 1968 be a successful and rewarding year, and may your new coin finds be "rare finds". Judging by the way our Canadian Mint has started the year off with a bang - different sizes and such, just about anything goes, "Red tape and all" To this end, the Thistletown Coin Club proposes to acquaint all members and would-be members. This coming year your executive will endeavour to introduce various programs, with the above in mind. We have a central meeting place to attract all north-west end Toronto, and only ask that you attend to help to make our club a success.

The 1968 Executive is:

President - John Jefferies
Past President - Bryan Mitchell
Vice-President - Stan Ella
Secretary - Norm Belsten
Treasurer - Lillian Meek

Board of Directors - Dennis Newman,
Al. Mandel, Fred Gledhill, Ricky
Morse, Jim Petrie.

Next Meeting-Tuesday, January 9th, Thistletown Public School-7.30 p.m.

NEWS FROM OTHER PROVINCESHALIFAX COIN CLUBEstablished December 1958JANUARY NEWS LETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR - The President, Editor and your Executive would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. Great things are in store for numismatists in 1968. As we look forward with anticipation to the new Canadian coins (new metals and new sizes for some) we know that these new coins will certainly help the collecting interest in Canada to again show an increase in 1968 as did the Centennial coins for 1967. We hope all collectors will show restraint and that the speculative fury of the early 60s will not return. Let us all enjoy collecting coins but most of all, study and learn all there is to know about our coins, and determine to spend more of your collecting dollar on numismatic literature this coming year. The January meeting of the Halifax Coin Club will be held on Wednesday evening, January 10th at the Nova Scotian Hotel. This will be the Annual Meeting and was the reason for delaying our club meeting one week so as to be able to have a complete financial report presented that would be to the end of December. This is also election night for officers to serve for the year 1968. The Nominating Committee will bring their report and elections will be held if there are any other nominations from the floor. There will also be an auction, let's all bring some numismatic goodies and make this a humdinger of an auction for the first of the year. The February meeting will be February 7th at the Nova Scotian Hotel. The program will be decided by the new executive after the elections at the January 10th meeting.

Atlantic Provinces Numismatic AssociationDecember Newsletter

A. P. N. A. Spring Rally- The Halifax Coin Club has appointed Fernald Allen as General Chairman of the A.P.N.A. Spring Rally to be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax on Saturday, May 11th. The hotel is very central, at the corners of Spring Garden Rd. and South Park St. This is a very busy section of the city and should contribute greatly to a much larger attendance than was experienced last spring. The ballroom being used is also a very good location in the hotel, just a few steps up, right off the main lobby. The Halifax Coin Club is already making plans to make the 1968 Spring Rally the best ever to be held in the Maritimes. This will be an all day event, with bourse tables and exhibit tables to spare, lots of room. Collectors interested in exhibiting, and dealers wishing to set up bourse tables are asked to contact Fernald Allen at 1333 South Park St., Suite 307, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB

The St. Catharines Coin Club had 117 members and guests at their meeting January 21, 1968. Guests were present from Vineland Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Ont. and Niagara Falls, N.Y. The guest speaker was Gerry O'Donnell of the St. Catharines Police Department who spoke on the protection of our coins. One tip Gerry gave was not to keep coins in the bedroom as this is the first place a thief looks. Twelve prospective members applied to join our club and these will be passed on at the next executive meeting. Pat Lambert showed a paperweight the shape of a cube, with a centennial cent, nickel, quarter and St. Catharines Coin Club Medallion. Orders will be taken for these with special rates to members. Vic Snell conducted an interesting quiz on Numismatic Terms and an interesting auction conducted by Lloyd Dorse, assisted by Norm Belows and Don Steele closed the meeting.

R. N. Voaden

ENGLAND'S SPADE GUINEA

One of the longest reigns in history was that of England's King George III, who reigned from 1760 to 1820, a period of considerable significance to the student of numismatics.

When George III ascended the throne, silver was already in short supply and by 1797, there was such a scarcity that the Bank of England bought up Spanish "pieces of eight". These pieces bore the head of Charles III or IV of Spain, but were made official for use in England by countermarking them with the portrait of George III.

It has been said in jest, "The Bank to make their Spanish dollar pass, stamped the head of a fool on the head of an ass." Another saying, "The first half pence presents such a face as human beings never wore, putting out something in the likeness of a macaw," was also a reflection on the poor quality of the first half pence issue for George III, dated 1770.

Gold was also very scarce during the reign of George III, so we see that no two or five guinea pieces were minted. These would not be missed too much though as they were of such high value that they were not circulated much. The guinea was used much more and 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ guinea values were minted for various dates of this reign.

In 1787, the well-known "spade Guinea" was issued. The reverse of this coin, consisting of a spade-shaped crowned shield is considered a work of art and has been most popular with coin collectors in both the British coinage and World Gold coinage fields.

Unfortunately, the counterfeiters also admired this beautiful coin and brought out their own version, in brass. Many of the bright brass imitations were passed for gold.

The odd thing about these counterfeits is that many carry a date of 1701, many years before the beginning of the reign of George III. It has been explained that the counterfeiters thought they could not be charged with forgery, as they had not made an exact copy. Counterfeiting of gold or silver coins was a serious crime in those days, punishable by death. The severity of the penalty probably accounts for the fact that few counterfeits of most coins of higher values are to be found, plus the fact that all counterfeit coins would be destroyed immediately if discovered by government or mint authorities.

Fielding once said "Make money your God, and it will plague you like the devil". This seemed to be true in the case of George III. He made a disastrous decision trying to tax the American colonies. The colonies secured their independence on July 4, 1776, which was a great blow to the king. In 1811 he was declared insane and the Prince of Wales was appointed Regent. (A few 2 and 5 guinea pieces were struck but never circulated.)

"Thanks to London Numismatic Society"

COMING EVENTS

- February 24, 1968 Toronto Coin Club and the Canadian Paper Money Society are to hold a joint meeting -- the C.P.M.S. will hold their annual meeting and the Toronto Coin Club will hold their regular meeting at the Royal York Hotel, Front Street, Toronto, promptly at 2.00 p.m. All are welcome.
- April 27, 1968 The Huronia Numismatic Association (C.17) will be holding their Seventh Annual Coin Show on Saturday, April 27, 1968 at The Continental Inn, at the junction of Highway 400 and Dunlop St. East, Barrie, Ontario, from 12.00 noon until 11.00 p.m. All enquiries may be addressed to the Chairman, Box 243, Barrie, Ontario.
- October 19, 1968 The St. Catharines Coin Club will hold their annual coin show and banquet. Further details to follow.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS -

To Ex Libris - am now out of material, please rush for March issue.

To Hamilton - Member Arthur Honour is to be commended for his suggested "Project Unfortunates" - may I suggest you tie-in with Jack Wallace's "Project Brenda". Maybe, I hope, to mutual benefit- if we at "O.N.A. Bulletin" can help, drop us a line.

To Those of you who are awaiting your 1968 memberships cards - they are being processed, but bear with Bruce - he's swamped these days and asks your forbearance

Here we are again --another bulletin ready for "beddy-bye". By the time members receive this, Spring is just around the corner--so on this comforting thought I leave you with---

"Spring is sprung
The grass is riz
I wonder where
The birdies is?

"with apologies to the original author..

"Ye Ed".