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THE CASTING COUNTER

by

Rev. Lloyd D. Smith, B.A., B.D.

"Sing a song of six pence, a pocket full of rye", begins a familiar nursery rhyme. The second verse tells us, "The king was in his counting house counting out his money." I do not know which king this tale refers to. It is a fact of history, though, that Charles the Bold of Burgundy was often present in his Chambers des Finances checking his accounts. In the diary of Olivier de la Marche, 1474, we read. "Luy mesme siet au bureau (reckoning-table) a ung bout, jecte et calcule comme les autres; et n'y a difference en eulx en iceluy exercite sinon que le duc jecte de jectoires d'or, et les autres d'argent."

What, then, are these "jectoires", or "jettons"? And how were they used?

The term jetton is often misunderstood and misapplied. Numismatic items that are neither medal nor money have all at various times been called jettons. But this is not correct.

Jetton is connected with the French verb "jeter" which, in the 13th century meant "to push". (Only in more recent years has it come to mean "to throw, toss".) Jettons, then, were metal discs used in a system of calculation which consisted of shifting these counters from one position to another on the counting-board.

Charles the Bold had jettons of gold and silver. But far more commonly they were struck in copper, bronze, latten (an alloy of about 60 parts copper, 30 parts zinc and 10 parts lead), brass and, occasionally, lead. They are

almost always round; but in the 18th century there appeared some struck from octagonal flans and fewer from hexagonal flans. In size they ranged from our 1¢ piece to our 50¢ piece, the majority being of the larger size. Generally speaking they were thinner than coins, but there was much variation.

However, characteristically jettons are "medal-struck" and struck in low relief. The former shows their close relations with medals. The latter is a practical matter -- in order that they might easily be shifted on the cloth or table.

The terms describing these pieces are as varied as the types. But most common are: "jetton" (English), "jeton" (modern French), "getz" (middle French), "Worpghelt" (casting-coin" in Low German), "recken-pennig" (also German) and "legpennig" ("laid-penny" in Frisian). In England they are commonly called by the misleading name of "abbey-pieces". Without a doubt they were used for casting accounts in religious houses, as elsewhere, but the great majority of those found in England are of the type imported from Nuremburg at the end of the 16th century -- a time when English abbeys no longer existed.

(to be concluded in July issue)

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NEWS FROM THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD COIN CLUB

The May meeting was again a great success with many members out to hear our guest speaker, Mr. George Takaca of Scotland, Ontario. He showed his movie taken last summer enroute to his native Hungary. Along with his movie Mr. Takaca displayed many pieces of art, paintings, coins, stamps, swords and relics that he brought out of Hungary. After adjournment Mr. Takaca related the history of the articles on display. At a recent directors meeting new regulations were made regarding the bourse table. Any member in good standing may

ADDITIONAL O. N. A. SERVICES

Display Case Chairman

Mr. Walter Holst,
4 Maple Court,
Waterloo, Ont. Tel. #743-2331

Speakers' Circuit Service

Mrs. Ruth Mueller,
239 Lancaster St. West,
Kitchener, Ontario

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set up a table free of charge; all additional tables will be charged \$1.00 each. Our June meeting will have as its theme "Indian Artifacts" and our guest speaker will be Mr. Elliot Moses, well known Indian historian and lecturer and he will speak on Indian folklore and cultural customs of the Indians in early Canada. He will also bring a display of numerous Indian artifacts and tools used by the Indians years ago. We will host the Hamilton Coin Club and we have also invited the Norfolk and Woodstock Clubs.

Editor - John Barchino.

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HAMILTON COIN CLUB -

Our May meeting was attended by nineteen members and thirty guests. The President also welcomed Club groups from Brantford and St. Catharines. We were told by Bruce Brace that the club's storage cabinet had been broken into recently and although there was slight damage to one door, nothing was taken. President Honour drew attention to the publicity given the Club by Claude Kewley in his Spectator coin colum. Members were asked to support the column by submitting questions and comments. An auction was carried on and provided much fun and spirited bidding. The June meeting will take the form of a panel who will examine the "Care and Housing of Coins".

Editor - Bruce Brace.

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HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The May meeting is on May 16th at 7.30 in the evening. The Seventh Annual Coin Show turned out to be one of the best ever except for the public support. We had approximately 300 people attend the Show to view thirty displays, taking up seventy display cases. The material in the displays were excellent and they were well set up. The judges had a very difficult time as all displays were of a very high calibre. Winner of the 1967 Gold Presentation Set was Mr. A. Zeigler, Barrie, and he sold himself the winning ticket.

Editor - Norm Howeroft.

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KINGSTON COIN CLUB

It has been decided to try two meetings a month if we can get enough turn-out to warrant it. The June 17th meeting will be display night so get busy on your displays. First prize will be a 1967 Proof-like set, a worthwhile prize. After a discussion it was decided to host the CNVCA Convention along with our coin show this fall. Our show will be Oct. 19, with CNVCA on Sunday, Oct. 20th, with a double banquet Saturday night. Len Merrick is donating a Silver Trophy to be awarded annually to best display at our fall show with a small Trophy to the winner to keep. Nate Boomhour is also donating a Trophy.

DID YOU KNOW:

- That pure Gold is the most malleable of all metals and can be worked over and over.
- That Gold is unaffected by air - heat - moisture and ordinary solvents.
- That it can be dissolved by a 3/1 mixture of hydrochloric acid and nitric acid.
- That very finely divided Gold is black.
- That one ounce of Gold can be beaten into 100 sq. ft. of Gold leaf with a thickness of five millionth of an inch.

That an ounce of Gold can be beaten into a fine wire 60 miles long.

That alloyed with silver as coinage it is pale yellow copper tones is rose - copper and silver together will colour it green. Zinc and nickle will turn it white.

That the largest gold object in the world to-day is King Tutankhamen's coffin in Egypt. It is 6 ft. 2ins. long, weighing 2,450 lbs. of solid gold. At to-day's prices it is worth over one million dollars.

Editor - Fred Steele

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CHAMPLAIN ORILLIA COIN CLUB

We had a very good attendance at our last meeting with 16 members and 8 visitors present. Mr. Robert Lee has generously donated a centennial 1867-1967 paper dollar bill brought to this meeting to be given as a door prize at our next meeting. He has also promised eleven more of these bills for our next eleven meetings. More news next meeting

Editor - Gordon Horne.

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PORT CREDIT COIN CLUB

We are to have a strawberry festival and it is to be held June 26th and we hope all our members will come and bring a friend. Our June 11th meeting will have an audi-visual presentation. Canada's Commemorative 1958 Dollar by R. D. Lockwood.

The Totem Pole - a religious and tribal emblem of North American Indians, especially peculiar to the Indians of the coastal regions of British Columbia - was selected to mark the 100th anniversary of the creation of British Columbia as a Crown Colony and of the 1858 gold rush. Stephen Trenka, designer of the 1958 dollar, by pure coincidence, selected a particular type of totem described as a "mortuary" pole. This pole is usually quite plain, sometimes painted, and has a box containing ashes of the dead on top of it. Unfortunately, the Indians, immediately recognizing the mortuary pole, labelled the coins "death money". It seems as if the "potlatch", also called the "celebration" pole would have suited the purpose better because on this pole the central figure concerned gave away all his worldly possessions, and a pole of this kind seems to memorialize the occasion.

Director-Editor - D. A. Gordon.

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ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB

Pat Lambert our Vice-President was Chairman for this meeting which was held May 19th. President Betty Lou Bellows was able to mingle with the members and visit the bourse tables. There were 67 members and 15 guests present. We were honoured to have Bruce Brace come and speak to us about Ancient Roman Coins. Bruce showed us some very interesting slides, and explained the symbols on the various coins. Most of the coins are in the price range of ten to twenty dollars. Bruce said the collecting of Biblical coins can run into quite a bit of money. In April when Vic Snell had charge of the Juniors, he asked them to do some research and write an essay on a 1871 Prince Edward Island penny. At the next meeting Mark Thompson will receive a memento for interest and efforts that he took in the research for this coin. Lloyd Dorsey and Howard Hill were in charge of the Juniors and Howard gave them a very interesting talk on tokens. Our next meeting is our 100th meeting

and we are holding open house. We extend a warm welcome to our Numismatic friends of other clubs, who would like to join us, and help us make this a memorable occasion.

Editor - R. Voaden.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The special feature of our June meeting is a talk by Detective Sergeant D. Alsop of the Ontario Provincial Police on Counterfeit Money. He will have a display of Counterfeit money and it promises to be an interesting evening. We regret to announce the passing of our devoted Executive member and Past President William R. Pressey. Bill served the club in many capacities and will be missed by all members. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

Secretary - A. ONeil.

STRATHROY COIN CLUB

May 19th was our last meeting at 2.p.m. at the Scout House on Hwy. 81. Mr. Howard Whitfield, one of our members from London gave a short talk on coin collecting. Mr. Whitfield is well qualified for this and his talk was interesting and helpful. A 1921 Canada 5¢ silver was on display.

THINSTLETOWN COIN CLUB

At our May meeting, Stan Ella, our Vice-President, showed films on Ontario "Roads to Recreation"- 'twice like", also a few on fire prevention, courtesy of Etobicoke Fire Department. Ricky Morse conducted an auction and made a very lively and interesting time of it. At the June meeting, our last until September, we will have an O.N.A. Slide Presentation on "Coins of the Bible" by Rev. Lloyd Smith. While on holidays during the summer be on the look-out for "finds", in small towns and villages around the country. See you in September.

WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB

At the meeting held May 9th the special speaker was Mr. Walter Griggs of Brantford and he gave us a talk on "The Coinage of Newfoundland" and had several of his collection on display. Another interesting item was a Dutch Auction for a 1967 Proof-like set. Cost was 25¢ per bid with all the proceeds for the Rotary Fund for crippled children. It was a very pleasant meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Omitted from March/68

- 638 Brian Miller, 167 Ahrens St. W., Kitchener, Ontario, Applications published in the April issue of the 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 July issue of the Ontario Numismatist.
- 652 Ernest G. Gribble, Box 822, Stouffville; Ontario.
- 653 Don R. Robb, c/o Mutual Life Assce Co. of Can., Waterloo, Ont.
- 654 Paul L. Sullivan, P.O. Box 2353, Station "D", Ottawa 4, Ont.
- 655 Nathan L. Boomhour, Box 234, R.R.#1, Kingston, Ontario.
- 656 Norman Gray, 52 Ball Ave., Galt, Ontario.

- 657 Michael L. McGowan, Box 215, Erin, Ontario.
- 658 Wilfred Becker, 386 Albert St., Stratford, Ontario
- 659 Mrs. Catherine Bull, 40 Britannia St., Stratford, Ont.
- 660 Thomas Masters, 323 Van Street, London, Ontario.
- 661 Gerald E. Glasser, 116 Sanford Ave. W., Hamilton, Ont.
- 662 J. G. Tardif, 100 Cobourg Street, Stratford, Ontario.
- 663 Mrs. J. G. Tardif, 100 Cobourg Street, Stratford, Ontario.

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MAN'S PEDIGREE

(copied)

Three monkeys sat on a cocconut tree
 Discussing things as they're said to be.
 Said one to the others, "Now listen, you too,
 There's a certain rumour that can't be true,
 That man descended from our noble race--
 The very idea is sure a disgrace;

No monkey ever deserted his wife,
 Starved her babies and ruined her life;
 And you've never known another monk
 To leave her babies with others to bunk,
 Or pass them on from one to another,
 Till they hardly knew which one is their mother.

And another thing you never will see --
 A monk build a fence round a cocconut tree,
 And let the cocconuts go to waste
 Forbidding all other monks a taste.
 Why, if I build a fence around this tree
 Starvation would force you to steal from me.

And here's somethingelse a monk won't do
 Go out at night and get on a stew--
 Or use a gun, or club or knife,
 To take some other poor monkey's life.
 Yes, man descended -- the ornery cuss --
 But Brother, he didn't descend from us."

Thanks to Howard Browning.

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DO YOU KNOW

Answer to last month's question is

- (c) A Photograph.

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QUESTION 3 -

On the contents of the Canoe design of the Silver dollar are the initials H. B., what do they stand for?

- (a) Hahn Brass (b) Hudson Bay (c) Hahn Browne (d) Heading Beaver.

QUESTION 4 -

Only one of the Canadian Five and Ten dollars gold coins can be legally imported in U.S.A., which one is it?

- (a) 1914 Five Dollars (b) 1914 Ten Dollars (c) 1913 Five Dollars (d) 1912 Ten Dollars.

(Answers in July issue).

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

To help clubs decide upon a coin show date that will not conflict with another club in its area we are listing proposed show dates. If a show has been previously confirmed for the same date please contact the listed club(s) within seven days so they may know how to proceed with their plans.

- June 15 - Victoria-Simcoe Numismatic Association Ninth Annual Banquet and Coin Show in Woodville Town Hall. Guest speaker Mr. William English.
- July 15-16-17 - Canadian Numismatic Association Annual Convention at Calgary, Alberta. Come and see the stampede at the same time.
- Sept. 14 Proposed Annual Banquet of London Numismatic Society. For further information contact the Chairman, Percy Elgie, Thamesford, Ontario.
- Oct. 5 & 6- O.N.A. Convention - Host Club - Kitchener Coin Club at the Granite Club, Kitchener.
- Oct. 6 - Bluewater International Annual Coin Show and Banquet, in association with Sarnia Numismatic Society.
- Oct. 19 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Coin Show and Banquet in Welland Avenue United Church Parish Hall.
- Oct 12 - Bay of Quinte Numismatic Association - "Coin-Arama", Saturday - "Hotel Quinte"-Belleville, Ont. Exhibits -- Bourse --Auction-- 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
- Oct. 27 - Tillsonburg Numismatic Society annual Coin Show at the Orange Hall, Brock Street, Tillsonburg.
- Nov. 16 - Hamilton Coin Club proposed show and auction.
- Nov. 16-17 - Windsor Coin Club Annual Show at North Palmer. Enquiries re exhibits, etc., to Guy Jamieson, 3199 Dominion Blvd., Windsor, Ontario.

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HOT OFF THE WIREThanks to our good friend, Vic Snell, editor C.N.A. Journal.

News Release from Department of Finance

NEW NICKEL COINAGE

June 3, 1968

The Royal Canadian Mint will begin in early August to issue pure nickel coins in place of the present silver alloy coins, it was announced today by the Honourable E. J. Benson, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board. The change was approved by Parliament earlier this year. It will not affect the bronze one-cent coin or nickel five-cent coin, and current coin designs will remain unchanged.

The Minister noted that in recent years Canada has been one of the few countries in the world which continued to issue a silver coinage. Because of growing industrial demand for the metal, silver had become too scarce and costly to be used as coinage.

"I am confident that the public will find the new coins both attractive and durable," Mr. Benson said. "The suitability of nickel has been shown by its use in our five-cent coin since 1922 and, as Canada is the world's chief source of nickel, its general use in our coinage is most appropriate."

The Minister recalled that the Government's decision to change to a nickel coinage during the course of 1968 was made and announced well in advance, in December, 1966, in order to provide sufficient time for new coin selector mechanisms, capable of handling both new and old coins concurrently, to be designed, manufactured and installed by the automatic vending machine industry. Suitable new coin selectors now are available from Canadian manufacturers. The new and old coins are expected to circulate side and side.

The Minister said that he has received representations from the automatic vending industry for the payment of compensation for part of the industry's costs of changeovers made necessary by the change in coinage. The Government recognized these costs are a financial burden that is not shared by competing retailers, while on the other hand the Government will make a substantial saving on costs from the change to nickel.

He said that in view of these circumstances, the Government intends to recommend to Parliament the payment, out of the increased Mint seigniorage revenues, of compensation to vending machine operators for part of the costs of purchasing new coin selectors that are required to replace selectors in existing vending machines during the next 12 months.

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Here we are once again --- hot weather---holiday time---- time to relax and time for us to say "so long" until our next bulletin in July ---after our return from holiday in Europe--- If we talk with a -- Limey --- Scotch --- Welsh --- or Irish--- accent please bear with us ---'tis Europe brushing off on us---- So once again we say-- "so long-- cheerio ---auld lang syne -- and the top-o-the-evenin ta ye-----

Ye Ed

Pat Lambert

A NEW SERVICE : An Audio Visual slide of your coming banquet or show will be made to be included with the slide presentations. No Charge to O.N.A. member clubs. Limit information to: Name * Date * Information. Mail to Box 33, Waterloo.

Audio Visual Slide Set : Canadian Silver Dollars has been updated and changed to include everything to 1967.