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The Halifax Steamboat Token

Fact or Fiction?

By A. M. MacDonald, F.C.N.R.S.

The Halifax Steamboat Company received its charter on Jan, 1, 1817 and the first general meeting was held in the Exchange Coffee House on May 20, 1817. There were Twenty-five shareholders who held one share each valued at 25 pounds. Among the shareholders were the Provincial Treasurer, Honourable Michael Wallace, the Chief Justice, and Charles Cunard, founder of the great steamboat line. The Company took over the business and assets of a ferry service begun in 1753 by Messers Wynne and Manthorne to run a scheduled ferry service between Halifax and Dartmouth.

The minutes of this first and subsequent meetings were recorded by the Secretary in great detail and with precise penmanship. Minute books, still in perfect condition, are kept in the Nova Scotia Archives and are available for study upon request.

At the shareholders meeting of March 17, 1825 the rates of fare were set as follows, but no mention was made of tokens or tickets at that time:

Foot passenger (white)	--4d
Foot passenger (black)	--3d
Cow or steer	-----1s6d
Four wheel carriage	----2s
Two wheel carriage	----1s 6d
Chest, box or trunk	----3d
Small pig or lamb	-----1d
Horse, mare or ox	-----2s
Sheep, goat, calf or pig	--4d
Barrel	-----4d
Dog	-----2d

At the Company meeting of June 4, 1835 the suspected dishonesty of some employees was discussed at length. The employees were thought to be pocketing fare money and not turning it over to the Company. It is interesting to note that no shareholder suggested

the use of tokens or tickets.

A careful reading of the minutes up to the final meeting of the Company in 1890 provides no reference to the purchase or possible use of tokens. If the Company had ever intended to use tokens it appears almost certain that some discussion at the meetings would have been recorded in the minutes which covered other matters in such detail.

The ferry tokens (Breton 900) show a vessel which bears no resemblance to the type of ship used on the ferry service. If these nautical-minded shareholders went to the expense of ordering tokens it seems likely they would specify a vessel of the type used by their Company. The tokens may have been ill-advisedly ordered by some agent hoping to sell them to the Company before it was taken over by the Dartmouth Ferry Commission 1890.

If, as it has been repeated by Breton, a large stock of tokens was found in a building being demolished in Dartmouth it must have been associated with the Dartmouth Ferry Commission, as the Halifax Steamboat Company operated from Halifax across the harbour. This would indicate the tokens must have appeared on the scene quite late and probably just before or immediately after the Commission took over the service.

All tokens appear to be in uncirculated condition. It is a rare occasion when a ferry token is found in the Halifax area and those that do turn up are usually the property of some old collector who probably purchased them from some out-of-town dealer fifty or so years ago.

It seems very likely that Breton 900 may be called a Nova Scotia token but it is improbable that it was ever placed in commercial use by the Halifax Steamboat Company.

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MEMO TO MEDAL COLLECTORS AMONG OUR MEMBERS

The catalogue, "War Medals and Decorations of Canada" by Ross W. Irwin, 1969, 125 pages, price \$4.00, is available from the author, R.W. Irwin, 14 Tamarack Place, Guelph, Ontario.

This catalogue of war medals and decorations, earned by Canadians or won in Canada, fills a vacuum in an increasingly popular area of Canadian numismatics. The catalogue lists all applicable war medals, decorations, polar, coronation, long service and efficiency medals as well as police medals and special awards. There are 96 medals and decorations described in the catalogue.

The section on war medals represents years of research and brings together for the first time the significant numerical information on medals issued to each regiment. There is also a great deal of supporting data from many reference works.

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THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with membership in one of the following categories. Life memberships-\$50., Regular memberships-\$3. yearly, Juniors-\$2. yearly (up to 18 years of age), Husband and Wife (one journal)-\$5. 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.

An introductory section explains the system followed in Canada for the granting of awards and also contains technical information not repeated in detail in the main text. A simple numbering system has been included for numismatic reference purposes. This catalogue is a must for every person interested in Canadian medals and decorations. It is strip bound and is offset printed on heavy bond paper 6 x 9 inches, has a limp paper cover and 3 photographic plates.

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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 below proposed dates of the coin shows we have so far received.

- Aug. 14 to - The O.N.A. Coin Exhibit at the Canadian National
Sept. 1 Exhibition located at the Dufferin Gate Entrance.
 For information re exhibits, etc., contact Mr. Vince
 Doran, 606 Pape Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.
- Aug. 28-30 - Canadian Numismatic Association Annual Show and Ban-
 quet in the Royal York Hotel, hosted by the Toronto
 Coin Club with Mr. Fred Jewett as General Chairman.
 Excellent displays and auction. Bourse dealers welcome.
- Sept. 13 - London Numismatic Society 18th Annual Show and Banquet
 at the Carousel Motel. Enquiries to William N. Clarke,
 167 Delaware St., London, Ont.
- Sept. 28 - Bluewater Annual International Coin Show. General
 Chairman-Don McKelvie and Fred Hurley.
- Oct. 1 - Annual Banquet of the Halifax Coin Club in the Hali-
 burton Room at King's College, Halifax. There will be
 an "Awards Dinner" to honour some of the Club's out-
 standing Members. Anyone in the area be sure to
 attend.
- Oct. 5 - Kitchener Coin Club Annual Auction and Coin Show.
 Information from Chairman-Pat Collins, R.R.#2,
 Petersburg, Ontario.
- Oct. 18 - Kingston Coin Club Banquet and show at the Hockey Hall
 of Fame from 1.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. Further informa-
 tion from Fred Steele, Secretary, 1480 Montreal Street,
 Kingston, Ontario.
- Oct. 19 - Tillsonburg Numismatic Society Seventh Annual Fall
 Show at the Orange Hall, Brock Street, East Tillsonburg
 For further information contact Chas. B. Laister,
 R.R.# 3, Tillsonburg, Ont.
- Oct. 25 - Windsor Coin Club Annual Show at the Norton-Palmer
 26 Hotel. Bourse dealers contact Carl Querbach, P.O.Box
 173, Sandwich Post Office, Windsor 10, Ont. Show
 from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Sunday.
- Nov. 1 - Oshawa Coin Club Ninth Annual Coin-A-Rama, to be held
 in the Genosha Hotel, Oshawa from 11.00 a.m. to 11.00
 p.m. Bourse tables available from Bourse Chairman-
 Bruce Watt, P.O. Box 212, Oshawa, Ontario
- Nov. 8 - Hamilton Coin Club Fall Show 1969 at the Wentworth
 Arms. General Chairman-Lew Henderson, Bourse-Jake
 Speijer, Displays-Ross Wilby, Auction-Hans Rapedius,
 For information-Hamilton Coin Club Fall Show Com-

mittee, P.O. Box 325, Station "B"., Hamilton, Ontario.

April 11-12- Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association
1970 1970 Convention in the Westbuty Hotel, Yonge Street,
Toronto. Host Club - Central Coin Club. Additional
information from: CNVCA, P.O. Box 91, Station "H",
Toronto, Ontario,

April 11-12 - Central Coin Club Annual Spring Show, Westbury Hotel
1970 on Yonge Street, Toronto. Information from: The Sec-
retary, Central Coin Club, 306 Jarvis St., Toronto.

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The following letter received recently is printed in its entirety, firstly to correct a misquote from Mr. Lecuyer's speech and secondly to show (a) how easily a mistake can be made and (b) how well we are checked by the watchful eyes of our readers.

785 Willowdale Ave.,
Willowdale, Ontario.

Mr. W. E. Pat Lambert,
Editor, The Ontario Numismatist,
57 Emmett Rd., St. Catharines, Ont,

Dear Mr. Lambert:

In reference to a statement made by the guest speaker, Mr. P. Lecuyer, at the recent O.N.A. 7th Annual Convention an account of which appears on page 53 of the June issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

Mr. Lecuyer stated that - and I quote - 'the first Canadian coins appeared in 1810 in the city of Montreal'. With all due respect to the knowledge of the speaker and his position of Chief of Coining and Medals Division at the Mint, the above statement is misleading and I am curious to know what coin or coins Mr. Lecuyer referred to.

I have always been under the impression that the history of Canadian coinage dated back to the French Regime, 1670. Perhaps through the medium of your excellent monthly publication other members more knowledgable than I could throw some light upon the question. I refer you to an address given by Mr. R.W. McLachlan to the Royal Society of Canada in 1915, in which he states - the earliest coinage struck for Canada in Paris in the year 1670 is known by the first two words of the motto, the GLORIAN REGNI series (Br. 501/2) this differs from the SIT NOMEM of the regular French coins.

Yours truly,
Signed: May Bunnett, O.N.A.
#330.

In reply to the above letter I wish to advise the writer that, due to a misquote on the part of one of the club's recording secretary's Mr. Lecuyer's actual words were, and I quote direct, In 1810-
the first coin produced entirely in Canada, a peculiar and crude piece that appeared in Montreal, bore a taunt and an insult to the Governor, Sir James Craig, who was very unpopular. The face of the coin bore a rough resemblance to him and was surrounded by the words "The Torment of the Canadians" and on the reverse "Don't you wish you may catch me".

We hope this clears up Mrs. Bunnetts query. If not, we invite further comments.

COIN CLUB NEWS

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY - Main news from London has to do with the forthcoming Annual Banquet on Sept. 13th. Banquet and Draw tickets are now available. There will be eight display categories and a huge auction. Get ready over the summer.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION - Last meeting took the form of a barbecue with an assortment of draws throughout the evening. This is the last meeting for the summer. September will feature a talk on the "Liberty Bell" by Tom Masters. See you in the Fall.

Most clubs do not hold meeting in July and August but will come back strong in September.

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DATA ABOUT YOUR COINS

The 1871 Prince Edward Island One Cent is a good example of information shown on a coin that gives an insight to history as well as a description of its symbols.

The obverse of the coin is from a die used for the Jamaic halpenny, engraved by Wyon in 1868. For a change the Royal title is in English. The official description is: Victoria, Queen, diademed head to left within beaded circle, below, the date 1871, between 2 roses. The reverse design also engraved by Wyon, has the Province's coat-of-arms, a large oak tree typifying the Mother Country and three small oak saplings representing the counties of Kings, Queens and Prince. The Latin inscription PARVA SUB INGENTI translated to English means-"The small beneath the great."

Although there were about 4 million in circulation it is difficult to find a real nice uncirculated copy. Establishment of the decimal coinage for the Island was contained in schedule "A" of the Act to establish Decimal Currency in April 1871. During the same period the Act agreed to assimilate the currency of the Island to that of the Dominion of Canada.

During the same period the Island had decided to construct as a Public Colonial Works, a railroad line of 3'6" gauge rails connecting Alberton with Georgetown touching on Summerside and Charlottetown with an extension to Souris and Tignish.

Some suggest that minting of this coin may have intended to commemorate authorization to construct the railway. However, the cost of the work created a financial hardship and the Island joined Canada in 1873.

The centenary of Prince Edward Island will afford another opportunity to issue a special commemorative dollar on July 1, 1973. Let's hope it is silver or an alloy.

(Thanks to City of Ottawa Coin Club)

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Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.

THIS 'N THAT -

Here we are already August--summer's nearly over-- many of our clubs are getting organized for the fall meetings-- but before all this takes place may we remind our members and readers that two very important events take place this month-- First - Your Association's display at the Canadian National Exhibition in the new hobby building located at the Dufferin Gate Entrance and once again our good friend, Vince Doran, is acting as our chairman---any enquiries, information, etc., can be answered by contacting Vince Doran, 606 Pape Avenue, Toronto, Ontario--Those of our members who are again putting in displays at the C.N.E. please advise Vince on how many cases you will require in the next week or so---This will help Vince to plan his display area--- Second, of course, is Canada's big numismatic event of the year, the Canadian Numismatic Associations annual convention held this year in the Royal York Hotel, Front Street, (across from Union Station) in Toronto. Any enquiries as to displays, etc. contact Mr. Fred Jewett, Toronto Coin Club, (C.N.A. Convention Committee) 100 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario.---May we suggest that you take in both events and we hope to see as many of our friends and numismatic enthusiasts as possible at both events---Finally, Ye Ed would like to ask all of his past contributors of articles for our Bulletin to please sit down, count to 69, then write an article for the edification (?), illumination, etc. of the rest of us who are still learning about numismatics-- I believe that here would be an excellent place to say how much we owe to the bulletins of the various clubs, large and small, who have contributed so many excellent articles for the benefit of our readers--- I conclude with hoping to see as many of our readers as possible in August-- Please, if I don't know you but you know me, come and make yourself known so that I may get to know as many of our readers as possible-- I leave you with a typographical correction from last month's Bulletin--as a friend of mine would say "Bona SnowSHOES"

Ye Ed

LATE FLASH :::

1970 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION IS SLATED FOR BARRIE ONTARIO. THE HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION WILL HOST THE 1970 CONVENTION ON MAY 2, 3, AT THE BARRIE CURLING CLUB.

In keeping with the O.N.A.'s communication link with coin clubs this announcement will allow arrangements to be made so that other shows will not conflict. We ask all coin clubs to send in their proposed coin show dates as soon as a time and place are decided upon, and once the dates are listed, that other clubs arrange non conflicting dates. Please watch proposed coin show dates each month.

NEW MEMBERS

The applications for membership which appeared in the July issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted.