



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1969 - 1971

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YOUR MEMBERSHIP - 1970

Even as any business is only as good as its financial income so an organization such as ours is only as good as the contributing membership.

Of late years it has been noted that there has been a tendency to put off sending our membership fees until more or less the last minute. This has resulted in needless correspondence both by way of personal letters and the Bulletin to remind our members that they are in arrears, and even as a business cannot function too long without a steady income so our organization cannot function to its full efficiency without adequate funds to carry out its various day to day activities.

It was decided this year to appeal to our members to do one of two things:- Firstly, to endeavour to have that cheque in the mail not later than the 15th of January, 1970, but better still, Secondly, how about giving serious consideration to investing Fifty Dollars in a life membership, which has much to commend it, in as far as you do not have to worry about further annual dues and also you will save money in the long run.

Finally, I would point out that our hard-working treasurer would really appreciate those annual dues coming in early, without further solicitation, thus making his already burdensome office much lighter. On behalf of your President and Executive we ask your co-operation.

Ye Ed.

A STANDARD CATALOGUE

By Bill English

This subject has been bothering me for a number of years, namely, a Standard Catalogue of Canadian Decimal coins. We do have such a catalogue but is it really what it says it is? What about the future should the present authors decide not to continue to produce a catalogue?

Let me say that we have been very fortunate to have the present Canadian Numismatists guiding the destiny of our hobby with their fine works. We are starting to hear rumblings from the dealers if someone shakes the boat in regard to their values of material available and for sale. Who is right and who is wrong? We all know it is the collector who buys the material although sometimes we wonder if many of the transactions are not between one dealer and another and another with the collector being squeezed in along the line. This is sometimes done to create a market and when enough interest is generated you know what happens from there. It's the collectors and novice speculators that pay. Like everything else in these days of rising prices eventually the values will increase and some of the people involved who can wait long enough will realize their original value if they decide to sell their collections.

To get back to my main point of this article on what should and should not be included in the standard catalogue? I say that every Canadian coin, date and type, should be included in a standard catalogue. This sounds simple but it is not so. Who has decided what constitutes a type and an error. Varieties is a word bandied about loosely. It should be used as a descriptive adjective only because there are varieties of types and errors. For example, a mule coin can be a type coin as illustrated by the 1913 ten cent piece with the two different reverses. But a mule can also be a type coin with two different obverses such as the 1953 one cent pieces. So we have a variety of mule type coins.

An error coin such as the listed 1956 dot ten cent piece should not be in the catalogue. It is an error due to pitting in the die and there are many varieties of 1956 dimes with dots located in many places. They are not listed. Is this standardizing Decimal series.

We have read many articles on specific differences in the Canadian Large Cents of Victoria. We have to go to an Error catalogue to read about the date spacing variations in the Canadian Fifty Cent pieces from 1940 to 1950.

We find listings of wide O's and narrow O's, high and low O's, no water lines, one water line, one and a half water lines, no islands and islands, pointed 5's and blunt. The main problem is in consistency. If it can be listed for one date or denomination it should be listed for all or none.

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 membership - \$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.

A case in point is the 1953 half dollar. A mule exists that is traded with the large date reverse and no shoulder strap obverse. The 1955 cent with no shoulder strap obverse and the regular reverse is another example of inconsistency. Neither of these coins are listed in the catalogue.

Some dealers or collectors may argue how can we take some things out of a catalogue and add others? How can we determine a value for something that has not been listed? Like everything else the values will evolve from supply and demand and auction records. Removal of listed coins is a matter difficult to resolve.

In my opinion, examples of die breaks which are error coins, are the pointed 5, 1965 small cent, 1946 Design and 1949 hoof over 50¢ pieces and the 1859/8 narrow 9 large cent. Should these be in a standard catalogue? Definitely not, but they are. We could go on with other specific listed or unlisted recognized coins but the main idea of this article is to find out what others think about our catalogues.

We must remember that Canadian decimal collecting as it is to-day is less than twenty years old and we owe much to the numismatists and scholars who have assisted in the many problems involved. The Standard catalogue covers much more than just the decimal series and here again credit is due.

We must think of the future. Possible new catalogues and changes in the present catalogues. It would be fitting if our national or provincial associations could become involved through a committee to protect the future of our hobby. The local clubs and associations acting for "Mister Collector" could let such a committee know their opinions of the material they consider to be listed. The learned committee could then have some guidelines coupled with their own experience on the subject to guide future cataloguers.

If this subject has been bothering you and you think something should be done about it, let your association know so something can be done. Do it now.

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NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY --

The last meeting was a triple treat, first the Canada Packers movie "Canada Produces" showing how foods are prepared for the table, second, Harry Eisenhower spoke on "Paper Money of Canada" from 1870 to now, and third, the founding President Walter Griggs, outlined the benefits members may attain in the hobby and research, and urged the members to speak on their own topics.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION--

The last meeting featured a talk by Ross Irwin on Canadian and other very interesting Numismatic items. It was decided to hold the annual show on April 18th next and anyone wishing to display to provide their own cases as it was a problem to get O.N.A. cases. It is hoped to have a speaker for each meeting.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB -

The chief item at the last meeting of the club at Orillia was final plans for the banquet on November 6th. at St. David's Anglican Church. Also a nominating committee was chosen and elections will be held at the December meeting.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB-

At the last meeting a card was read from Arthur Honour informing us of his safe arrival in Vancouver and that he had already made some good numismatic contacts. The rest of the meeting was taken up with preparations for our fall show on November 8th.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

The last meeting showed plans going ahead smoothly for the 1970 O.N.A. Convention next May 2 and 3, and it has been confirmed that the guest speaker will be John J. Pittman, President of the C.N.A. Also the Constitution and Rules came up for discussion to see if they are keeping pace with the Club's progresss. Further thought is to be given by the members and any changes to be brought up at the next meeting.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB -

The highlight of the last meeting was a talk on "The Halifax Banking Company" by Harry Eisenhauer. He showed a number of slides of the notes on this bank and other Nova Scotia banks. A case of material from early Nova Scotia Banks was displayed by William Clarke of London. A lively auction was conducted by Charlie Laister.

KINGSTON COIN CLUB -

Most of the last meeting was given over to details for the show being held this month. Some members reported having attended the N.N.Y.C.C. Show at Claytonn New York in July and that it was very entertaining. A Corn-weiner roast held during the summer was enjoyed by all and helped to made for a good summer.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY-

A report of the C.N.A. Convention was given by Alex Sweeton who said the three speakers on British Empire Coins, Paper Currency and Roman Coins was much enjoyed. Mr. P. Elgie gave an interesting talk on "The Magdalen Island Penny" which is not too well known. There was a display of this token from Mr. Elgie's own collection. Two fine new books, English Coins and Roman Coinage have been added to the library and it is hoped these books will be used.

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB-

The outstanding feature of the last meeting was the election of Paul Sullivan to the presidency for the next year. The secretary for the ensuing year is Miss R. Keall so the club is off to a good start for another year.

PORT CREDIT COIN CLUB-

An interesting item is the Essay Contest For Juniors where, junior members fifteen years and under may write an essay on coins or coin collecting and these will be judged by Don Thomas, Editor of Coin, Stamp and Antique News. The winners will receive prizes. Good idea to get more juniors interested.

PRESTON COIN CLUB-

At the last meeting there were numerous opinions brought forth as to whether the name of the club should be changed since the meeting place is being changed to Galt. It was decided to give the matter some thought and come up with a name with the name "Galt" in it. Also the O.N.A. slides on "Canadian Fractional Currency" was shown and the meeting ended with a lively auction which was enjoyed by all.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB-

The last meeting was a more or less "free and easy" meeting with guests present from Welland and Niagara Falls. The display winners were- Senior-Vic Snell and Mrs. Glasser and Juniors - Bill Aaroe. Lloyd Dorsey conducted a lively auction at which the bidding was lively as usual. Due to no banquet being held this year a lunch was served at the close of the meeting.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY -

The outstanding event of the last meeting was a talk by Harry Eisenhauer of London on Canadian Paper Money. The Past Executive will be the nominating committee for the coming year and will bring in their report at the November meeting.

TORONTO COIN CLUB -

The last meeting had three very distinguished speakers, namely, C.N.A. President, John J. Pittman, 2nd Vice President-F. C. Jewett and Ontario Director-Walter Griggs. Mr. Pittman is the first American to hold this office and was also one of the earliest members of the Toronto Coin Club.

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY -

We of the Waterloo Coin Club wish to welcome back after the summer all our members. Mrs. Shirley English gave a talk on "Why Join Coin Clubs" which was enjoyed by all.

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NEW MEMBERS

The applications for membership which appeared in the October issue have now been accepted and the following new applications have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the December issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 748 Donald L. Mitchell, 998 Huron Street, London 25, Ont.
- 749 Wm. Boynton, 14 Auburndale Court, Rexdale, Ont.
- 750 William Jehan, 2 Edna Ave., Toronto 165, Ont.
- 751 Robert Edward Sargent, 1212 Hancock St., Port Huron, Michigan,
- 752 Robert Flanders, Paisley, Ont.
- 753 Robert Aaron, 237 Douglas Ave., Toronto 320, Ont.
- 754 William D. Feeney, 81 York St., Kitchener, Ont,
- C64 Pembroke Centennial Coin Club, c/o C. G. Beach, 259 Patricia St.

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HUMOROUS SIDE-

London Tax officials thought they had Bill Hughes dead to rights when they charged him with bookmaking and failing to pay taxes on the proceeds. The 50 year old shipyard worker admitted having saved \$16,800 on his \$56.00 a week salary, but said he had done it this way:

Never ate candy, never smoked, never drank, never went out with women, shaved with his brother's razor blades, charged his grandmother 12 per cent interest on money she borrowed, worked a night shift and borrowed his father's shoes while the latter slept to save shoe leather, went 13 years without buying a new suit, never bought a single flower, limited his life-long movie-going to one picture, ate everything on the table even if he didn't want it, patched everything including his underwear, never took a trip for more than 56¢.

AWARD OF MERIT

Please start thinking about your "O.N.A. Award of Merit" (1970) nomination. This is a prize highly thought of in numismatic circles. Any person whom you feel has done much to improve our hobby, worked hard to promote its qualities and spread the word as to the merits of belonging to a club which specializes in making our hobby a healthy and worthwhile past time. This is the person who should receive your individual consideration, then take to your club for their support. Let's make it tough on the O.N.A. Executive this year and give them some real opposition to choose their Award of Merit Winner.

CASSANDRA SAYS

Since our last issue I have had (2) letters from (2) very distinguished folk - Past President O.N.A. Bill English- who writes a short note in which he partially agrees with my comments re the conniving member who "bleeds" his fellow members by selling hard to get new current coins, etc, but then, in turn, blames the buyer for getting in on the action. Here is Bill's letter---

"Dear Cassandra -

I agree that your example of the collector club member who buys a quantity of hard to find current coins at face and then sells them to other members at a handsome profit is hard to swallow. To buy by the roll means that the other club members want to get a piece of the action, are they not just as guilty as the lucky first collector. If you divide the number of coins in a roll into the value that "Mr. Profiteer" is asking it then becomes quite reasonable for any club member to buy one or two coins. Let's face it, if many other collectors were not greedy Mr. Profiteer would not exist".

Another letter from Mr. John McKay-Clements also gives this would-be columnist quite a lesson in the history of our lady "Cassandra". The article is so good and does point some good natured pokes at you know who that I shall print it in its entirety but not until the December issue due to lack of space. I'll say this, though, to put you at ease, Mr, McK-C, Cassandra is no lady and I can assure you Ricky Morse doesn't know who "he" is-and I'm giving no hints to my identity, even if the writer of our above-mentioned letter does think he knows.

Recently I read an article in Coin World I believe, where an enterprising firm was offering a course on "Numismatics" for a nominal sum of I think \$10.00, and it struck me that perhaps here is a field where one of the numismatic associations - C.N.A., A.N.A., O.N.A., etc., could perhaps give guidelines to such a course, perhaps through the medium of one or even all three of their monthly publications we could get specialists in the various aspects of our hobby to write an article, covering some facet of the hobby with which he or she specialized. For instance, to mention a few - Fred Bowman on Early Tokens - Jim Charlton on grading and identification of coins - E. V. Snell on paper money - John J, Pittman on Early Canadian Decimal Coinage, Alan MacNab on the Early History of Medals and Military Media -- Major Sheldon Carroll on the Bank of Canada Museum and his vast knowledge of our early coinage. Why, as you can see, we have a great number of real dedicated men who

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THIS 'N THAT

Had a note from Arthur Honour, President of the Hamilton Coin Club who recently moved to British Columbia for business reasons and he tells us he has settled in and already is becoming acquainted numismatically with the various clubs around Vancouver---Arthur will be writing an article shortly for our Bulletin on "Commemorative Coinage"--Good luck, Arthur in your new venture---Our genial secretary suggests I remind our members that November 30th will be the final date to order your O.N.A./St. Catharines medals----I am given to understand that there are quite a few members who have not ordered yet--don't be caught short -- get that order in to Bruce Raszmann, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, in the next week or two and avoid getting a "sorry, none left" note from Bruce --- Had a last minute note from fellow Director, Charles Miller, giving me details of the Bay of Quinte Numismatic Association's latest meeting --well attended (32), plans for the forthcoming spring show were discussed and are progressing well -- so keep that most important date free--April 18th, Saturday, 1970--- A final memo to all club secretaries, will you if at all possible, send me your club notes by Dec. 10th. for due to Christmas mail onslaught we must be sure to have our bulletin in the hands of the Post Office by the 15th of December---Thank you for your kind cooperation--hope you hunting enthusiasts got your count --- All being well, I hope to say a personal hello to Nelson Boltz in Halifax at Christmas as I hope to be there to spend the holidays with my son and his family---See you in December