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PORTRAITS ON CANADIAN COINS OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

By Ruth McQuade

On February 6, 1952, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II succeeded her father. Her first coinage was issued in 1953. In Canada it was the first time in history that coins were struck from master dies made at the Royal Canadian Mint, and it was the first time a woman was responsible for the design of a Canadian coin. This woman was Mrs. Mary Gillick. Mrs. Gillick was born in Nottingham in 1881. She had always specialized in medals and bronze memorials and this was the first time she had designed a coin. This design was selected by the Queen herself from drawings submitted by 17 artists. It is a graceful portrait showing the head and shoulders. A light wreath of laurel binds her hair that is softly waved. The ribbon which ties the wreath flutters gently behind. Mrs. Gillick's initials MG can be seen at the base of the portrait.

There is no coin in this series which is the work on both sides of a single artist.

Here in Canada the first coins did not strike well - the folds of her gown were not visible. Later in the year, Thomas Shingles, the Chief Engraver of the Royal Canadian Mint, re-engraved this portrait, so that the fold in her gown now showed. This fold is erroneously called a "shoulder strap".

In 1964 on the Commemorative silver dollar, Myron Cook altered the original Gillick design and modified Shingles' alteration. The gown and fold of her dress are even more distinct.

In 1965 a new portrait was introduced. This was engraved by Arnold Machin. Mr. Machin was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1911,

and had held several posts in connection with art teaching and sculpture. This portrait shows a more mature Queen and she is seen wearing a diamond tiara of festoons, scrolls and collet-spikes, which was given to Her Majesty as a wedding present from Queen Mary.

The Queen approved this portrait in 1964 and it appeared on the Canadian coins in 1965, but it did not appear on the British coins until 1968 when it was used on the decimal coins. The coin was first struck on a flat field but this shortened the life of the die, so a more concave coin was struck. Coin collectors know there are other varieties in these 1965 coins, but the portrait remains the same.

In 1968-1969 the dollar was made from nickel and reduced in size, with the result that the portrait was reduced.

In 1971 Patrick Brindley, chief engraver of the Royal Canadian Mint, modified the original Machin design on the British Columbia silver dollar, which was a centennial issue. The nickel commemorative dollar has the same obverse as the 1968 dollar.

In 1972 another silver dollar was issued with the Brindley modifications.

In 1973 on the three commemorative coins issued i.e. R.C.M.P. silver dollar, R.C.M.P. 25¢ and the P.E.I. nickel dollar, we find the portrait reduced in size. It is a much sharper portrait and the hair is more visible, as it formerly had a worn appearance. This was the work of Patrick Brindley.

This year a nickel and a silver dollar will be issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Winnipeg (as well as many Olympic coins). The portraits on these dollars will be the same as the portrait on the 1973 commemorative coins.

While these two portraits by Mrs. Mary Gillick OBE and Arnold Machin OBE, RA have been re-engraved several times, the changes have been few, in details only, which do not affect the original portraits very much.

A MODERN COIN ---- A MODERN HISTORY
THE KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

By Tom Maters London Numismatic Society

"Where were you?"

Listening to your radio or watching a favourite television show, or going about your every day tasks?

Early in the afternoon on November 22nd, 1963, a flash interrupted all programs -- "The president of the United States has been shot in

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Remittance made payable to The Ontario Numismatic Association. c-o Mr. Bruce Raszmann, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

Dallas, Texas. I repeat - John F. Kennedy, the President of the United States, has been shot. Keep listening for further details on his condition."

With these few words the North American continent and the world was made aware. The shock of it all began to set in from coast to coast and around the world. Later that afternoon, after many news bulletins, the world was to be saddened with the report, "The President is dead." The shock had now set in round the world. Many people were asking the question "Why?" To-day, more than 10 years later, many of the why's have not been answered and may well never be answered.

The sound of the horses hoofs and the rumble of the caissons had hardly stilled when the wheels were put in motion to honour John F. Kennedy on the coinage of the United States. Should it be on the cent? Lincoln had adorned the cent since 1909, and many people thought a new design was necessary; or on the Jefferson nickel, the Roosevelt dime, or the Washington quarter dollar? All of these coins could have the design changed without an act of Congress, having all run the prescribed 25 years. But to remove one from either the cent, nickel, dime or quarter would be removing the portrait of a former President, so, it was decided that the Franklin half dollar would be the coin used.

Benjamin Franklin, who was one of the United States' most honoured citizens, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, statesman, etc., was a very popular choice for the half dollar in 1948. But it was thought that the half dollar would have a greater impact on the people, and that the changing of the Franklin design by an act of Congress would also serve to honour a young president who had still so much to do and so much to give to the people of the United States and to the people of the world.

The Franklin half was discontinued and in 1964, the Kennedy half rolled through the coin press like no other half dollar in the history of the United States coinage. In 9 years of issue, the quantity minted has exceeded the total combined production for the previous 170 years of half dollars. Millions were minted, but very few served as a medium of exchange. People from every walk of life put some away, so that they could tell their grandchildren about the coin and the man it depicted, or be able to present to them an honoured coin. Many hoarded great numbers with the hope of becoming rich over night, but with the great number minted this seems very unlikely. Only this last couple of years has one been able to pick up in change one of the Kennedy halves, and many have disappeared into the melting pot for the silver content it held.

This year's theme for ANA National Coin Week is "History in Your Hands". Every coin that we pick up has a history if we research it. My point is that the Kennedy half is a very young series that has already had a most interesting history. Thus far it has been minted in three metal varieties:- .900 fine silver in 1964; .400 clad silver from 1965 through 1970; and cupro-nickel clad copper commencing in 1971. It has also the mint marks on both the reverse (1964) and the obverse (from 1968). It was also designed by two engravers. The obverse was designed by Gilroy Roberts, whose initials appear on the base of the bust. The reverse was designed by Frank Gasparro, and his initials appear beneath the eagle's left leg.

Also another interesting fact is that in 1970 the only Kennedy halves were those of the Denver mint and those just for the collectors who ordered sets.

The Kennedy half is still a very young series, but in the eyes of this writer a coin that is much desired because of its beauty, history, still easy to complete, reasonably inexpensive, and in my opinion, barring unforeseen events, a long life.

John F. Kennedy had a great deal to offer to the world at the time of his death. May the Kennedy half dollar offer to the collectors of numismatics everywhere its full potential for years to come.

NEW MEMBERS

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-August issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 929 - Gordon M. Culbert, R. R. # 3, Stayner, Ont. LOM 1SO
- 930 - Felix DeLongchamp, 165 Tanguay Ave., Sudbury, Ont.
- 931 - Jan F. Szkolka, 789 Howey Drive, Sudbury, Ont.
- J932 - Wayne Huggins, 47 Lakehurst Drive, St. Catharines, Ont.
L2N 4C3
- 933 - Mrs. Noreen Howcroft, 107 Victoria St., Barrie, Ont.

DID YOU KNOW

The groat (fourpence) was first issued in England in 1279, during the reign of King Edward I, as part of a new style coinage which also included the introduction of specially minted half-pennies and farthings. It was discontinued shortly afterwards but during the coinage reform of 1351, under Edward III, the groat was re-introduced and a halfgroat was issued for the first time. Also during this reform, the weight of the gold and silver coins was reduced and the value of the metals was adjusted at a ratio of twelve to one.

NUN ILLOS VIS CAPERE, the reverse legend on the Vexator Canadensis tokens translates literally as "Don't You Want To Catch Them" and it is generally regarded that this refers to the people who issued the tokens. The obverse legend, VEXATOR CANADIENSIS, means "The Tormentor Of Canada" and, no doubt, refers to the subject of the very crude obverse bust, probably the King of England.

Edward VII and George V are depicted on the Canadian coins in the robes usually worn on state occasions (for example, the opening of Parliament). The crown is the Imperial State Crown, while they wear the chain of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The discovery of gold in British Columbia resulted in the administration, under Governor Douglas, setting up a mint at New Westminster to strike \$10. and \$20. gold pieces, in the year 1862. The plan ended very rapidly, however, as it didn't have Imperial approval. Very few of these coins are struck.

(The above was contributed by North York Coin Club.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

The following letters have been received in answer to our comments on the recent Convention held at Niagara Falls. Our readers are invited to make use of this new column, which I hope to make a permanent feature, provided you, our readers, write to me on your pet beefs, criticism (constructive or adverse) and/or whatever.

331 Dovedale Dr.,
Whitby, Ont. L1N 1Z8
10 May, 1974

The Editor, The Ontario Numismatist,
Box 311, St. Catharines, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Your April issue was delayed by the mail upset but here are a few belated thoughts on the poor showing of Exhibitors in general, not just at the O.N.A. Convention, which was affected by the weather.

While I have only been on the Show trail a mere eighteen months, I have noticed one or two things that I feel could be improved. Firstly, in the area of displays, it is my feeling that any display that takes a first should be withdrawn from future competition in that class. This would allow a "Topical" category display to be used again under a broader typing, but would eliminate the same display from taking several firsts with only the most minor changes being made to it while in the "Topical" grouping.

My other and possibly greater concern is with judging. Many people share my view that the judging is inconsistent, both between shows and between judges at the same show. An example of this is a case where a display that placed 3rd out of at least 5 entries received the highest overall points from one judge and the lowest from another. I'm not saying which I feel was right. The only recommendation I can suggest is possibly a training scheme for new judges having them work with an accredited O.N.A. judge for a year and much tighter control by the chief judge who would require re-examination of any display that showed too large a point spread between individual judges. Possibly too, display points could be awarded by the judges in consultation to reach a unanimous verdict.

Obviously, these are not all the answers but I trust my comments will spark some discussion on the subject. In closing, may I suggest more prize winning Non - competitive displays for education of us all.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. Cole ONA #914

Editor's Note - Further letters are on hand which will be used at a later date. Any comments on the above?

NRE MEMBERS CONTINUED

The below mentioned new members have been received from our Sudbury Area Director, Gerry Albert. Good work, Gerry!

- J934 Brian Enchin, 155 Kingsmount Blvd., Sudbury, Ont.
- 935 Paul Julien, 1151 Keewatin Crt., Sudbury, Ont. P3A 4B3
- 936 Rene C. Decosse, 337 Pine St., Sudbury, Ont. P3C 1X9
- 937 Richard Mroczynski, 173 Pine St. Box 693, Garson, Ont.

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PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

Listed below are the proposed coin club shows with dates and banquets. Please check to see if any of them conflict with your club's show date.

- Sept. 7 - Huronia Numismatic Association 14th annual show in the Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St. North, Barrie, Ontario. Information re bourse, etc., to P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario L4M 4T2.
- Sept. 21 - Toronto Coin Club Annual Show in the Territories and B.C. Rooms, Royal York Hotel, Front St., Toronto. Auction conducted by R. Shillingworth, Suite 506, 19 Richmond St., West, Toronto, Ontario.
- Oct. 6 - Bluewater International Coin Show sponsored by Sarnia Coin Club at the Village Inn, N. Christina St., Sarnia. For bourse contact Carl Williamson, 931 Greendale Ave., or General Chairman - Sandy Paine, 1714 Carl St., Sarnia. Display Case - Roy Richards, 723 Alexandra Ave., Point Edward.
- Oct. 19 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet in Westminster United Church Hall, Queenston St., St. Catharines. Chairman - Pat Lambert, P.O. Box 311, St. Catharines and Bourse Chairman - R. Voaden, Highland Ave., St. Catharines.
- Oct. 28 - Stratford Coin Club Annual Show... Details will follow later.

OLYMPIC COIN PROGRAM NEWS

Two months after the official launching of the 1976 Canadian Olympic Coin Program, the Minister responsible for the project, Postmaster General Andre Ouellet, was able to announce that few of the Canadian Allotment of the nine million coins minted for the first series, were still available.

"As far as the first series is concerned, we are in a near sold-out situation," said Mr. Ouellet. "Just filling the orders we have on hand will take about two months."

Acceptance of the Olympic Coin Program, coupled with the high demand by Canadians for the coins, have resulted in a decision to increase the original 40% allotment for Canada to 50%. In this respect, the Program's Managing Director, Mr. Austin P. Page, stated that every effort would be made to meet the Canadian demand while respecting commitments to other countries and markets.

At the end of January, banks across Canada were notified that supplies of two of the four Olympic coins in the first series, were exhausted, and that all future orders for packaged coins be accepted subject to availability only.

Originally, it had been estimated that approximately 60% of the coins would be sold in foreign markets. In Japan, where the Program was launched last December, sales are running well ahead of the projected 10% market share allotted the Pacific region. In Europe, the United States and Mexico, where coins will be offered for sale in March and May respectively, initial response at the distributor level has been very encouraging.

The 1976 Canadian Olympic Coin Program is off to a good start. And there are already ample evidences -- present trends included -- that the Program will meet its objectives of selling some 60 million Olympic commemorative coins in Canada and internationally, between now and the summer of 1976.

At face-value alone, the 60 million coins are expected to total \$450 million. Additional mark-up and special packaging will bring gross revenues up to above \$500 million. With production, marketing and all other costs estimated at about 50%, anticipated profit should be in the region of \$250 million which will foot most of the \$310 million bill to be incurred by the Games. Revenues from Olympic stamps, lottery tickets and related activities will balance the outstanding \$60 million.

The Government of Canada is creating a precedent with the Olympic Coin Program which opens a new vista on the vital aspect of financing future Olympic Games. If Canada is successful, it may become financially feasible for a host of the world's smaller nations to also stage the Olympics on their own soil.

NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

CAMBRIDGE COIN CLUB

The last meeting saw 39 members and guests in attendance. The feature of the meeting was the showing of the O.N.A. slides entitled "Large Canadian Cents" and was enjoyed by all present. The meeting closed with a lively auction conducted by Vince Neviden and assisted by Clare Glennie and Mark Wellsman, after which coffee and pastries were served.

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB

The last meeting was attended by 29 members and eight guests. The final plans were made for the upcoming show and everything seemed to be in order. Mr. Jack Roberts gave a short talk on the amount of research that can be done, especially on local tokens. He had just discovered 8 different types of bakery tokens. He also has 6 papers on different subjects which he will send to anyone who sends a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

COLLINGWOOD AND DISTRICT NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The first regular meeting of the club was held April 23, 1974 with 30 members and guests present. The Constitution was finalized and it was decided that the first formal election of officers should be held in June. This term would be short just from July-December so as to get elections on a yearly basis.

"Congrats to our newest club - Our best wishes - We hope to hear more from you as time goes on Ye Ed.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB

The last meeting had an attendance of 21 members and guests. The Program Chairman, Eugene Culp, gave an excellent talk on "Milk Tokens", and Patti Brace, a junior member, spoke on "Stone Money and It's History". This talk was well put together and was very interesting. Plans are almost finalized for the C.N.A. Convention being hosted by the Hamilton Club in August. All the juniors attending won a Torex Convention Coin which was enthusiastically received.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Forty-three members and guests were welcomed to the last meeting by President Mackie Smith. A most interesting talk on "Notes on the Coinage of Edward 1" was given by William N. Clarke who displayed some of the coins from his extensive British collection. It was announced that a junior member won the Best of Show at a recent Halifax show and Tom Waller did the same at the Waterloo Show

NIAGARA FALLS COIN CLUB -

At the last meeting it was decided to have a banquet in June, with Howard Hill working out the details. Mel Fiske urged members to buy O.N.A. medals as souvenirs of the Convention. The meeting concluded with a lively auction conducted by Pat Lambert assisted by Peter Kostyk and George Oblinsky.

NORTH YORK COIN CLUB-

The club had invited the members of the Thistle-town Coin Club and Richmond Hill Club to share this meeting and many of them did. Also Mr. Bruce Petch, Secretary of the Mississauga Club was there. The Presidents of the two visiting clubs gave a brief outline of their club work and the North York delegate to the O.N.A. Convention gave an excellent report. After this Jack Veffer gave a short talk on Paper Money and accompanied his talk with slides.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB -

The last meeting was fortunate to have as guest speaker, Mr. Bill Morris who spoke on the theme "Royal Coins of the British Empire and Commonwealth for the Last 100 years. The talk was made even more interesting with the coloured slides used. The club's delegate to the O.N.A., Stan Clute, reported on the activities at Niagara Falls and John Fotheringham was congratulated on becoming the new Treasurer of the Canadian Young Numismatists.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB-

Sixty members and guests attended the last meeting of the club. Membership chairman, Mrs. Lorne Shepard, reported that the club now had 90 senior and 8 junior paid-up members. Mrs. L. M. Ritchie, a member of the club since 1961 and an active member of the executive since 1962 was presented with a Life Membership, as a belated Mother's Day gift. Fred Barley will be the club's delegate to the C.N.A. Convention.

STRATFORD COIN CLUB -

The club announces that it will host the 1975 O.N.A. Convention on April 26 and 27, 1974 at the Victoria Inn, Stratford. For more information write to Box 262, Stratford. The last meeting featured a dinner meeting with the O.P.P. giving a talk on Counterfeit bills which proved very interesting.

THISTLETOWN COIN CLUB -

The main feature of the meeting was the report of delegate Paul Johnson on the O.N.A. Convention. This was followed by a talk on the former Port Credit Coin Club now called the Mississauga Coin Club which meets the second Sunday of the month.

TORONTO COIN CLUB -

The executive announced the appointments of Dr. Marvin as 1st. Vice-President and Herman Gordon as 2nd. vice-president, filling vacancies that have occurred in the executive for the balance

of the year. The slides on the Coinage of Edward VIII were shown and enjoyed by all. It is surprising the number of countries that issued them during his short reign.

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY -

The last meeting featured a slide series entitled "Canada's Five Cent Silver" which was from the C.N.A. library and was enjoyed by all. Also two members gave a short talk on "Why They Collect Coins", namely Agnes Whetham and Mark Koenig.

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A.N.A. OFFERS \$5,000 REWARD FOR SHERWOOD KILLERS

Colorado Springs, Colo. -- The Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association has posted a \$5,000 reward for information that would lead to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of A.N.A. member Earle D. Sherwood. John Jay Pittman, chairman of the A.N.A. Security, Thefts and Robberies Committee, noted this action by the board at its recent meeting in Colorado Springs.

Mr. Sherwood, formerly of Hurley, New York, and a 39-year member of the Association, was brutally murdered during a robbery involving his personal collection at his home in Florida. He moved to the Beacon Square retiree area of Tampa-Saint Petersburg three years ago from New York State where he had spent most of his life and was prominent in collective activities. His wife was in California at the time of the crime. Sherwood was alone when the thieves entered his home late in the evening. The beaten body of the 80-year-old collector was not found until the following afternoon.

Pasco County sheriff's detectives stated that the only item missing from the Sherwood home was a safe, weighing several hundred pounds. This was found the next day in a wooded area approximately 10 miles from the home. The killer's car was found nearby, too damaged to drive further.

A close friend noted that Sherwood had sold all but \$800.00 or \$900.00 worth of his collection. There is no information available as to the nature of the remaining collection that was stolen.

The \$5,000. reward offered by the A.N.A. is in addition to a \$1,000. reward by the Pasco County Sheriff's Department. Anyone having information that might help in solving this crime should contact the sheriff's office by calling (813) 842-9768.

NOTE : The A.N.A. has offered a \$5,000. reward for any information pertaining to the above-mentioned. Should any of our readers know of any information that will help to clear up this crime they should notify the above-mentioned sheriff. In passing, I feel sure that all of us of the O.N.A. extend our sympathy to the family of the late Earle D. Sherwood.

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A TIME TO THINK -

Do you, our members and executive, realize that in six months time you will be asked to nominate your executive for 1975-1977. My reason for interjecting this thought at this time is to give you all plenty of time to mull over in your minds those people whom you feel you want to guide this Association for the next two years.... O.K.?..... Ye Pres.

THIS 'N THAT

On Page One of our May Bulletin we published an article on Displaying and Judging by Lloyd T. Smith of the London Numismatic Society. We had expected at least 2 or 3 letters of comments on this topic - up to date (June 3rd) we have not received one letter. Now I know that there are many of my collecting and exhibiting friends who must have some ideas on improving both the Judging and the Judging System. In order to be fair, I am asking the author of the last month's article to please do us an thumbnail outline of the L.N.S. Judging System with all relevant details, such as the No-Category System, Standardisation of Judging--(one of the biggest beefs of many exhibitors) - cover as thoroughly as possible in, say, two pages -- At least let us, the O.N.A., be objective about this all-important part of our conventions -- then, perhaps, I can persuade your (O.N.A.) executive and our members to try this system. I am prepared to try it, but I am only one voice with only one vote, without the necessary majority of our executive and membership I can do little to change the situation. ONE THING IS FOR SURE--THE POOR SHOWING OF EXHIBITS, at the last O.N.A. Convention and subsequent coin club shows clearly shows that it is TIME FOR A CHANGE. Question: Do you want to change your judging system, to standardize your judging field? or carry on with the present half-hearted judging systems of former years?

I would further add that those who attended the recent O.N.A. Delegates Meeting will recall that this very question came up for discussion, with negative results; your executive had hoped for some direction from its delegates, but received only a directive to continue as before. The question of judges also was discussed and it was suggested that we hold a judges instruction forum, however, no definite date was set for this forum. Here, may I interject a suggestion that maybe we could hold a judging symposium at Torex, naturally subject to the approval of the Torex executive committee and sufficient numbers who are interested in judging will indicate their willingness to attend. This would be an ideal time and place to talk, pulling no punches, frankness being the order of the day. To quote Lloyd T. Smith. 'inconsistent judging, confusion of categories and lack of any standardization in the judging field are undoubtedly part of the reason for some of the loss in membership in both the O.N.A. and C.N.A. and, for the refusal of many advanced collectors to take an active part in the competitive display field'..... There you have it What are YOU going to do about it?.... What CAN WE do about it?.... You tell me and I'll tell them so they can tell you what they are going to do about it (if you're confused, join the judging confusion).

Have a good summer, and please note:- your July Bulletin will be the fully ammended Constitution and By-Laws of the O.N.A., but in order to keep in touch we shall be publishing a "Mini" Bulletin in August.