



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0048-1815

1979-1981 O.N.A. OFFICERS

Past Presidents

R.R. Rekofski (1962-65)
L.T. Smith (1965-67)
W. English (1967-69)
D. Flick (1969-71)
C.B. Laister (1971-73)
W.E.P. Lambert (1973-75)
E. Jeohson (1975-77)
B.R. Watt (1977-81)

President

F.C. Jewett

First Vice-President

S. HODGE

Second Vice-President

H. BURKE

Secretary

THOMAS MASTERS

Treasurer and Membership

BRUCE H. RASZMANN

Mailing Address

Box 33, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 3Z6

DIRECTORS

Area 1a Howard Whitfield
1b Vacant
Area 2 C.B. Laister
Area 3 R. Voaden
Area 4 R. Hollingshead
Area 5 Wm. Gordon
Area 6 W. Hamm
Area 7 G. Fraser
Area 8 E. Keetch
Area 9 L.B. Fletcher
Area 10 R. Albert

Historian

Walter Griggs

Audio-Visual Service

Chas. B. Laister
No. 3 Highway
Tillsonburg, Ont. N4G 3J1

Editor

Bruce R. Watt
1153 Northridge St;
Oshawa, Ont. L1G 3P3

Librarian

Thomas Masters
823 Van Street,
London, Ontario N5Z 1M8

Volume 21

SEPTEMBER 1982

Page 125



Counterstamps

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication can be obtained with membership in one of the following categories: Regular Membership \$7.00 annually. Husband and Wife (one journal) \$7.00 annually. Junior (up to 18) \$3.00 annually. Club Membership \$10.00 annually. Life Memberships available for \$50.00 after 3 years of regular membership.

Remittances payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario. N2J 3Z6.

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

Why Counterstamps?



by Maurice M. Gould

One of the most fascinating phases of numismatics is collecting and attributing counterstamped coins.

A coin may be counterstamped or countermarked for many reasons: political, advertising, revolutionary or siege, admission tickets, and many more.

Among the most sought after counterstamped coins are those which have been used for advertising purposes and among them are such unusual items as Sage's Candy Coin, known on an U.S. 1874 Trade Dollar, Houck's Panacea, which is known on various silver coins, Dr. Shattuck's Water Cure, Waterford, Maine; Dr. Kirstead, Dentist, Boston; and in the amusement field, Parisian Varieties, 16th St. and Broadway, New York as well as Young, the Magician. These are struck on U.S. silver coins.

Spanish Colonial Silver was legal tender in the United States until 1857 and a few of the counterstamps appear on this series and show that they were circulating in the United States for many years.

Among these counterstamps are Consult Dr. Darby, Boston, Wood's Minstrels, 144 Broadway, Blanchard House, Monmouth, Ill-

inois, R. Flanagan's Punch, Sachem Oyster Saloon.

One of the most interesting is Kunkel's Opera Troupe, which appears on a Spanish 2 reale of 1744. George J. Kunkel was one of the first delineators of negro minstrelsy in the United States and during his theatrical career was indentified with three historic theaters in Baltimore. John Wilkes Booth and Joe Jefferson were in his company.

Many of these pieces have exciting histories or are associated with the well-known names in numismatics.

The E.B. stamped on a 1799 dollar is the mark of Ephraim Brasher, famous in numismatics for the Ephraim Brasher Doubloon, one of the world's rarest coins.

One of the rarest Hawaiian items is the counterstamp on a U.S. halfdollar of 1872 of the Thomas Hobron Hawaiian Token. It is believed Unique and was originally in the collection of the author.

Str. Jewel, struck on an 1853 quarter, refers to the Steamer Jewel which was a coastwise craft running from Portland, Maine to Gardiner and also to Nova Scotia about 1900.

Some U.S. copper and silver coins are known with various Masonic counterstamps and in some cases the reverse and obverse have been shaved and then engraved for use as Royal Arch Chapter pennies.

Among the political tokens is an American Large Cent counterstamped, "Vote the Land Free." These circulated during the presidential election of 1848. Part of the platform of the Free Soil Party was, "Whereas we have assembled in convention as a union of free men for the sake of freedom, forgetting all past political differences, in common resolve to maintain the rights of all free labor against the aggression of a slave power and to secure free soil for free people." The slogan in this campaign was, "Free Soil, Free Speech, and Free Men."

The countermarked and cut coin of the West Indies are among the most glamorous of this series. They bring visions of pirates, Pieces of Eight, two bit and four bit oieces, as well as the mysterious markings on some of the coins. To date, many have not been attributed, even though a great many scholars

have worked in this field for years.

Authority for the use of many of the counterstamps is to be found in the Laws and Ordinances of different islands. Some of the stamps were within the Napoleonic War period, when the flag of several of the islands changed hands according to the fortunes of war. Among these counterstamps are included A Rose with 5 petals, which was used in Curacao during the English occupation, 1807-1815.

Cuba used a "key" counterstamp. Dominica had a circular piece cut from the center of Spanish Pillar Dollar and this section was stamped with a script "D" enclosing a star within a circle of rays. Some of the dollars have been found stamped with "16" and a crown above it. Silver, copper, and gold coins of the West Indies have been counterstamped, and an ordinance was passed in Martinique in 1805 authorizing the countermarking of gold half-joes with a stamp having the figures "20" or "20" over a small eagle, these coins to have a value of 20 or 22 livres.

There has been a great deal of interest in this series in recent times and with the research work and a new book to be published by Ray Byrne of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this collecting will reach a new height.

During the 18th century, there was a shortage of change and silver in England. This was greatly due to the government not coining any silver larger than a four-pence for a number of years.

The English government had in its vault a huge number of Spanish dollars that had been captured from various Spanish vessels. Because of the tremendous demand for change, the Government decided to place these Spanish Pillar Dollars on the market.

In order to give official sanction for this experiment, the King's head was stamped on the head of the Spanish King. This was the same stamp used at Goldsmith's Hall for marking silver plates.

On March 6, 1797, a public notice appeared that the bank would supply these coins and because they were in such demand, there was a great rush for this counterstamped money and over 2,325,000 were issued.

As soon as the dollars were issued by the bank, some cunning counterfeiters set to work and issued counterfeit stamps of the King's head and stamped Spanish dollars to their own advantage.

Because of this, the Bank of England called in the dollars and issued a notice that they would no longer be redeemable after October 31, 1797.

It is interesting to note that the Kings head has been found on both U.S. dollars and half-dollars.

For further information on this fascinating area of numismatics, read the "Merchant Counterstamps on American Silver Coins" by Maurice M. Gould and a "Trial List of the Counter-marked Modern Coins of the World" by F. G. Duffield.



"Don't be ridiculous, father; I just wrapped my coin album in a baby blanket to keep it from getting wet!"

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

Keep that CLUB NEWS coming in, folks!!!

NORTH YORK COIN CLUB C74

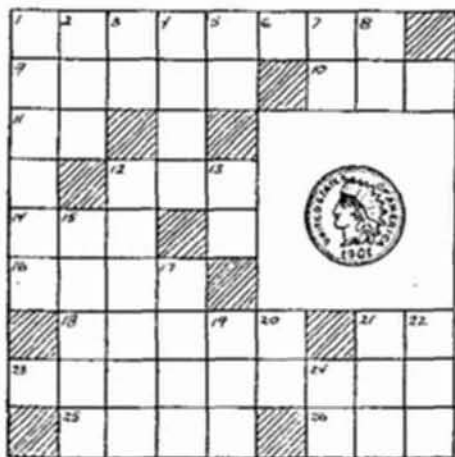
The July 27th meeting was held at the North York Memorial Community Hall 5090 Yonge St., Willowdale, at 8 P.M.

The programme for the evening consist of a show of C.N.A. Library slides on "Coinage of Edward VIII" and "Basic Terms of Numismatics". Commentary was provided by Harvey Farrow and Marvin Kay.

President Farrow gave a report on the C.N.A. Convention which was held in Winnipeg on July 15th-18th.

The Lucky Draw Prize winners are as follows: T. O'Brien, M. Kay, H. Farrow, B. Latham, F. Dennis, T. Bexall, J. Curtis. H. Richardson, M. Talavera and W. Ciona.

Coinword Puzzle



Across

1. Another name for a milled or reeded edge of a coin
9. Mint
10. Chamber of Commerce Token, 1922-31
..... Pour 1 Franc, France
11. South America, abbr.
12. Auricle
14. Coin condition, abbr.
16. Ninth letter, Greek alphabet
18. Cast silver ingot, Chinese
21. Designer Iowa Comm 50c, init.
25. Observed
26. Japanese coins yrs 19-20, tin

Down

1. centennial Lexington-Concord Comm 50c

2. Age

3. Railroad, abbr.
4. Americana 1722 Two pence
5. Silver, abbr.
7. Designer Robinson—Arkansas Comm 50c, Initials
8. Achieve
12. Reproduction of an original design
13. Tercentenary Providence Comm 50c, State abbr.
15. Necessary part of portraits on coins
17. Designer Indian cent Long
19. Period of long duration
20. Edward, nickname
21. Aviator
22. Instrument for writing
24. All 50 states, abbr.

solution on page 137

SHOW AND BOURSE DATES

SEPTEMBER 11th, 1982

Barrie, Ontario HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Annual Coin Show
Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St., N.
Barrie, Ontario.

SEPTEMBER 18th 1982

St. Catharines, Ontario.....St. Catharines Coin Club
Annual Coin Show & Banquet
Club Heidelberg, 569 Lake St.,
St. Catharines, Ontario.

SEPTEMBER 30th to OCTOBER 3rd, 1982

Toronto, Ontario.....The Torex Collectables Show
Harbourfront Building,
Queen's Quay, West, Toronto,

SEPTEMBER 26, 1982

Sarnia, Ontario.....Blue Water International Coin Show
Holiday Inn, Sarnia, Ontario.

OCTOBER 16th, 1982

Tillsonburg, Ontario..... Tillsonburg Coin Club's
Fall Coin Show
Lions Auditorium, Tillsonburg, Ont.

OCTOBER 31th, 1982

Stratford, Ontario.....Stratford Coin Club's
Annual Coin Show
Kiwanis Club, Lakeside Dr.,
Stratford, Ontario.

Prison counterfeiters are halted

By JAMES H. BRUNS

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Florida

Moonlighting inmates at the Virginia State Penitentiary have apparently been competing with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) as producers of \$100 bills. According to the head of the Secret Service's Richmond office, William H. Sutherland, an undisclosed number of those assigned to the Richmond facility's 25-man print shop appear to have been involved in an unusual sideline; they've been printing counterfeit \$100 bills, at least \$33,000 worth of them.

Because the case is still being investigated Sutherland declined to elaborate on many details, but did confirm that the counterfeiting operation has been linked to the prison and that investigators have seized some bogus bills there.

Prison officials and the Secret Service pulled the plug on the operation last month, August 1982, but not before a few of the counterfeit bills had been passed on several Virginia merchants.

Generally, notes Sutherland, people don't really take the time to examine their money before using it and that tends to make it tougher for the Secret Service when it comes to backtracking a counterfeit bill to the original passer. That wasn't the case here.

Luckily a worker at one of the firms was alert enough to spot something funny and the prompt detection enabled the Secret Service to act quickly, thereby limiting the number of bills which otherwise might have wound up in circulation.

Thus far, three arrests have been made in Virginia in connection with the case. One woman admitted carrying a package out of the prison several weekends ago after she had visited an inmate at the facility. Reportedly, some money was also mailed from the prison.

The first two counterfeits were spotted Aug. 16, 1982 by a store employee who was suspicious of receiving a \$100 bill and had doubts about its appearance.

The Charlottesville police were contacted and the worker was able to provide authorities with an automobile license number.

Just about the time the Charlottesville police department was notifying the Secret Service of the appearance of the fake bills, officials of the Virginia Department of Corrections were letting the Secret Service know about suspicions they were having over the way the print shop possibly was being used.

Normally the print shop produced forms and publications for a variety of state agencies, but in this instance one of the offset presses was apparently being used for something else.

The bills, while probably not bothering anyone who doesn't take the time to pay particular attention to what they stick in their pockets or purse, would likely have been spotted by anyone willing to examine them, if only briefly. "The quality on these is a bit worse than on most others I've seen," says William Sutherland.

ARTHRITIS SOCIETY INTRODUCES SOUVENIR MEDAL

The Arthritis Society announces production of its first souvenir medal, honouring the outstanding support for arthritis research made possible through the generosity of volunteers and contributors.

The medal produced by Sherritt Mint in N-B-S has an engraving of the Society's symbol, the Society's bluebird, and the phrase "The Arthritis Society-Service Since 1948". The obverse bears the engraving of a microscope, and the phrase "Arthritis Research Is Paying Off- 1982".

This limited edition first issue medal is available from the Arthritis Society, 920 Yonge St., Ste. 420, Toronto, Ont. M4W 3J7, at a cost of \$1.00 per medal. On orders for one or two medals please add 35¢ each for postage and handling. On orders for more than two please add 25¢ each for postage and handling.

COIN WEEK NORTH AMERICA, 1983

"Numismatics: Exploring Our Proud Heritage," was the theme unanimously chosen for National Coin Week, U.S.A., Coin Week Canada and Coin Week North America, for 1983, at a meeting in Boston during the annual American Numismatic Association Convention.

The theme was recommended by National Coin Week Chairman, Leslie A. Winners and Coin Week Canada Chairman, L.H. "Scoop" Lewry, who also co-ordinates Coin Week North America. The recommendation was accepted by the three presidents, Adna G Wilde, Jr; for the American Numismatic Association, John Regitko, for the Canadian Numismatic Association and Jose Luis Herrera Somellera, for Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico.

The week-long observation will be observed jointly April 17 to 23, 1983.

Winners and Lewry also announced that they plan to "EXPORT" Coin Week observations to some European countries as part of a planned expansion.

Full details of the plans will be announced after the end of the year.



Puzzle on page 30

CNA '82

*Low attendance, but
a high calibre show
staged by host
Winnipeg*



Scoop Lewry (right) is presented with the Royal Canadian Mint Award by Bob Huot, a vice-president of the Mint.

Norm Williams (left) with Norman Wells, winner of the Best of Show gold medal and plaque.



Sheldon S. Carroll (left) thanks CNA guest speaker Jim Astwood, who covered the Hudson's Bay Company history as related to token collectors at the final banquet of the mid-July CNA Convention.

PICTURES SUPPLIED
by

**Canadian
COIN NEWS**



Robert Willey (left) presents CCN columnist Stan Clute with the CNA Literary Award.

Old friends, business partners and co-workers in the CNA, John Regitko (right) presents Harvey Farrow with a 25 year certificate.

ATTENTION WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORSNEW ISSUES

Three new wooden tokens issued recently by L.H. "Scoop" Lewry, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, are now available to collectors.

A wooden dollar issued jointly by Al Bliman, who was dealer booster for Scoop as Coin Week 1982 Chairman is printed red on the obverse and blue on the reverse. Al Bliman is executive secretary of the Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers, Toronto, Ontario.

The second wooden dollar is the third in Scoop's "Double Louis" series- this is Double Louis 111 and is printed in red both sided. One side commemorates the Canadian Numismatic Association Convention in Winnipeg, Canada, July 15-18, 1982 and the other the American Numismatic Association Convention in Boston, Mass., August 16-22, 1982.

Lewry has also announced his candidacy as mayor of Moose Jaw for October 27, 1982, and has issued a wooden nickel for the event. This is a regular size wooden nickel, printed in black and suggests voters vote for him in the election.

A three-wooden set will be sent to collectors for \$2.00 postpaid. The mailing address is: Louis H. "Scoop" Lewry
1161 3rd Avenue N.W.,
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan,
Canada, S6H 3V1



Blue side



Red side



Red on both sides



Black on both sides



"He hasn't been the same since his wife washed his coins in detergent and polished them with steel wool!"

Editorials? Be our guest



Ever read an editorial and thought
"I could do better than that!"?
Well, here's your chance.

Each month, the O.N.A. Editor needs stories and editorials submitted by members and readers. It's not simply an expanded letters-t-the-editor feature; the guest editorials or stories should be original thinking on a subject of numismatic interest.

If possible, submissions should be typed, doublespaced; if not, they should be clearly printed.

We'll be glad to clean up any spelling or grammar mistakes, but it's up to you to meet the editorialist's challenge - to make your readers think.

SEND TO---

Bruce R. Watt
O.N.A. Editor
1153 Northridge St.,
Oshawa, Ontario,
L1G 3P3

New Washington coin to go on sale



New Washington coin features image of the first President and a view of Mt. Vernon.

The U.S. Mint has been accepting orders for the new George Washington commemorative 50 cent piece, thereby ending the 28 year lull in the issuance of part-silver U.S. commemorative half dollar coins.

The tribute to Washington is being issued to mark the 250th anniversary of the nation's first chief executive's birth.

The new commemorative coin which matches the size and composition of earlier U.S. commemorative half dollars, is being offered in both proof and uncirculated condition. The price per coin is \$10.50 (proof) and \$8.50 (uncirculated).

Collectors may purchase up to 25 proof and uncirculated coins per order. Payment should be in the form of a personal cheque, money order, or cashier's cheque made payable to the Bureau of the Mint. Orders for the 90 percent silver Washington half dollar should be forwarded to: Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Calif., 94175.

Credit for designing the new coin goes to the country's new chief sculptor and engraver, Elizabeth Jones. Appearing on the obverse is a view of Washington in military dress astride a horse. The rendering used was inspired by a portrait by American artist Rembrandt Peale.

Dominating the coin's reverse is a view of the eastern facade of Washington's Virginia estate, Mount Vernon.