



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0048-1815

1987-1989

## O.N.A. OFFICERS

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L. T. Smith (1965-67)  
W. English (1967-69)  
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Tillsonburg, Ont. N4G 3J1

### Editor-Librarian

T. Masters

823 Van Street

London, Ont. N5Z 1M8

VOLUME 27

MAY-JUNE ISSUE

PAGE 51- 88

## THE CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



## LE TEMPLE DE LA RENOMMÉE DU BASEBALL CANADIEN

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 \$10.00 annually. Husband and Wife (one journal) \$12.00 annly. Junior (up to 18) \$3.00 annly. Life Memberships available for \$75.00 after 3 years of regular membership. Club Membership \$10.00. Remittances payable to the Ontario Numismatic Assoc., P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ont., N2J 3Z6

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A short while ago a first occurred in the O.N.A., when a commercial show hosted our Convention. Some Members were quite skeptical and I must say that there was concern in my mind too. I personally believed that there was no other way as we had suffered a serious financial loss in the past Convention, and the image of the O.N.A. was at an extremely low point. Something certainly had to change, and when John Regitko agreed to let us "Piggyback" on the Toronto International Coin Fair Show's shoulders, changes were certain to follow. The Convention is now history, and to reiterate what has been said many times since, it turned out to be a "Benchmark" for the shows of the future. Anyone attending it will have to agree that it was an extremely well organized and entertaining three days.

Some of the firsts were:

- 1 A pre Registration that completely sold out.
- 2 A money back guarantee that if you were not satisfied with the package you would receive all your money back, and you still received three days admission free. "No-one took us up on that one."
- 3 More publicity than we have ever had in the past with a great deal of thanks going to the publication Canadian Coin News.
- 4 More favorable comments about the Convention than we have ever had before.
- 5 A calendar showing all the meeting dates, show dates, and contact persons for Member Clubs in the O.N.A.

The accomplishments of the past year have been many, but the challenges remaining are many. Some of the ones that are going to be addressed in the immediate future will deal with a judging system that will be suitable to the majority of Clubs and prove to be helpful in Show preparations. A major change in the Charles Laister award to an award for competition in Club Bulletins. More about this later. We will continue our efforts to expand our service to all Members.

The Directors and Executive have worked hard and given a great deal of time in the previous year but I will be asking their support and help over the months ahead. With the co-operation of all I am sure this year will be one of great achievement.

Before I close I would be remiss if I did not mention that Past President Roy Hollingshead was seriously ill and hospitalized in Toronto. I know our Members join with me in wishing what is best for Roy.

Your President,

*Ker Walnut*

# EDITORIAL

How many noticed that page number 47 was missing from the March-April issue of the Numismatist? This wasn't a typographical error, but an error on my part. When getting these pages together for the printer, somehow this page was missed. I have included it, marked Page 47, in this issue, so those who keep the Numismatist can bring theirs up-to-date.

I would also like to ask another question. How many of our members and readers didn't attend the O.N.A.- T.I.C.F., Convention Show in March? If you were unable to attend this event you were indeed the loser. For me it was one of the busiest O.N.A. Conventions I ever attended. I tried to attend as many or all the meetings, breakfasts, as possible, and from those meetings I came away with a better understanding which way Clubs and the hobby is going.

At the Delegates Breakfast, speaker Geoffrey G. Bell told his audience the do's and don'ts of how to conduct a successful Coin Club meeting. He stressed the fact that fun had to be put back into the hobby to attract members and to keep those we have. The Wooden Money Breakfast was a first for me, and to see the enthusiastic bidding on many pieces of wooden money that was offered in their auction.

The O.N.A. Annual Meeting was a great disappointment to me. I'm sure if there was no annual meeting there would be very few who would complain. Very few new faces from past years and those who do attend, have been doing so for many years. John Regitko summed it up in a recent column in Canada Coin News - "Does Membership Care About the Annual Meeting"?

Except for a problem with the air conditioner, the Educational Forum was a highlight. Those in attendance heard three excellent speakers on three completely different topics. Artist Raymond Taylor, designer of the 1970 Manitoba Dollar, told how one goes about designing a coin or medal. Richard Giedroye, Coin World International Editor, told the audience the do's and don'ts if you ever want to sell your coin collection. Long time supporter of Canadian Coin Shows Stephen Taylor, President of the A.N.A., showed the audience slides on how to put together a prize winning display. He also stressed that we should attempt to be putting fun back into exhibiting.

About 40 cases of very competitive displays graced the exhibit area, but there was ample room for more. I'm not sure why many who used to display don't now, but the hobby needs you back.

Talked to many Bourse Dealers and got the usual mixed reaction on how business was going. From the selection of material being offered, I'm sure that coin you were seeking was available and in some cases at a reasonable cost.

I'm sorry to say I was unable to attend the auction, being at a committee meeting with Woodstock Coin Club, in selecting a design for the 150th Anniversary medal they will be releasing on June 4th. Details of this appears elsewhere in this issue.

These are just some of the events you missed by not attending this show. Do plan to attend all future shows and meetings.

T. Masters

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## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

At an Executive meeting held on Sunday, May 15, 1988, in the meeting room of the Canadian Legion Hall in Elora, Ontario, the Executive Members of the Ontario Numismatic Association adopted and passed unanimously the following: Effective January 1st, 1989, that Life Membership to the Ontario Numismatic Association be increased from \$75.00 to \$100.00.

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# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP

The following applications have been received. If no written objections to these applications are received, acceptance will appear in the next issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- |      |                     |                 |
|------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1298 | Martin J. Lamoureux | Scarborough     |
| 1299 | Mrs. Terry O'Brien  | Bolton          |
| 1300 | Mrs. Rosemary Hedge | Kitchener       |
| 1301 | Robert D. McAlpine  | Deep River      |
| 1302 | Brian Corwell       | Toronto         |
| 1303 | Garry K. O'Donnell  | Willowdale      |
| 1304 | Frank A. Quinn      | Roxboro, Quebec |
| 1305 | Miss Martha Coborn  | Kenora          |

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# ONA convention

### DISPLAY WINNERS:

- Canadian Decimal -- Patrick Glassford, Gary Oblinsky
- Canadian Paper Money and Script -- George Fraser, Bruce Watt
- Foreign Coins -- Bruce Brace, Tom Kostaluk, Del Murchison
- Medals and Tokens -- Tom Kostaluk, Tim Henderson and Paul Johnson
- Miscellaneous -- Bruce Brace, Del Murchison and Howard Richardson
- People's Choice Winner -- Pat Glassford of Mississauga for his three cases on Canadian errors

Note: Not all categories had three or more entries.

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### Best in Show

GEORGE FRASER.....

Winning the Best in Show Award and the Douglas Wark Memorial Trophy for best exhibit was George Fraser of the North York Coin Club. Fraser's display was on Asterisk and Replacement Canadian bills from 1969 to 1986.

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AL BLIMAN -- Winner of the prestigious O.N.A. "AWARD OF MERIT"



Al's contribution to Numismatics cannot be fully appreciated in just the few lines written here, but some of his credits include - 1st Vice President of C.N.A., Chairman of the Donald B. Thomas Memorial Foundation, Past President of Canadian Paper Money Society. Writer, Speaker, Member of several Clubs and Organizations, Collector of Wooden Money, and held numerous Executive positions on many of these Clubs. As I said, these are just a few of Al's accomplishments. Congratulations Al, you're a worthy recipient of the "Award of Merit".

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IN MEMORIAM....

I'm sad to report the sudden recent passing of Member Howard G. Richardson, of Scarborough. Howard was interested in several facets of numismatics and a Member of several Coin Clubs and Associations. He produced several different woods, many with the Logo "Howard Says". His passing leaves a large void in the Numismatic Family. To his family, the O.N.A. extend their sincere sympathy.

Paul Dezo, St. Catharines - Although he was not an O.N.A. Member, he did attend our O.N.A. Delegate Breakfast as the St. Catharines Coin Club Delegate. At this meeting he showed a keen interest in the O.N.A. affairs and the problems that face the hobby as a whole. To his family we extend our sympathy.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

The O.N.A. needs your help! Included with this issue you will find a Membership Application Form. We are asking each Member to sign up one new Member. Clubs could also help by giving an O.N.A. Membership for one year as one of their Draw Prizes. Won't you help?

Also, the Speakers Circuit was re-introduced at the Delegates Breakfast, and the Booklet outlining this program and Speakers and Topics available was distributed to the Delegates. If your Club didn't receive this Booklet, check with your Delegate or write to Tom Kennedy, 54 Trinity Street, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 4P4, for a free copy.

Over fifty topics appear in this Booklet, but many more are needed. We know there are many who have not as yet indicated their willingness to participate in this program. A Form has been included so that you can become a Member of the Speakers Circuit. I urge you to fill out your application and become a Member of this very important aspect of our hobby. Return to Kennedy address shown above.

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AUCTION TENDERO.N.A. CONVENTION APRIL 22, 1989

The Ontario Numismatic Association invites all those interested in conducting a one (1) session auction on Saturday, April 22, 1989, at 2:00 p.m. in the City of Woodstock, at the Quality Inn.

Those interested should reply in writing with terms and conditions before the deadline - Friday, September 2, 1988, to:-

AUCTION 1989 - O.N.A.  
P.O. Box 33  
Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3Z6

All those who have submitted a tender will be notified after all tenders have been reviewed.

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# ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## WE ARE ALL RECRUITERS FOR THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

The Canadian Numismatic Association prints the NAMES of all the RECRUITERS each month in their Journal, which to some degree, tends to encourage an individual to sign up new members for the C.N.A.

The ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is asking each and every MEMBER to sign up ONE NEW MEMBER this YEAR. This if accomplished will double the MEMBERSHIP and ASSIST in keeping the Association both healthy and in an excellent position to serve its MEMBERS and AFFILIATE CLUBS to their utmost advantage.

### REMEMBER

ALL WE ASK IS ONE NEW MEMBER FROM EACH OF YOU THIS YEAR...

## ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

BOX 33, WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA N2J 3Z6



FOUNDED - 1962

### ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PLEASE PRINT

APPLICANT: Mr. Mrs. Miss Jr. Club .....  
(Encircle correct title)

ADDRESS .....  
St., Ave. etc. City Prov. Postal Code Phone

CLUB CORRESPONDENT: Name .....  
(For Clubs Only) Address City Prov. Postal Code Phone

AFFILIATIONS: C.N.A. No. .... A.N.A. No. .... Others .....

My particular interests in Numismatics are: .....

If accepted into membership of the Ontario Numismatic Association, I will abide by its Constitution. I HAVE NEVER BEEN EXPELLED OR REFUSED MEMBERSHIP IN ANY NUMISMATIC CLUB OR ASSOCIATION.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: ..... DATED .....

#### DUES PER CALENDAR YEAR

|                              |         |                             |         |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Regular                      | \$10.00 | Life Membership (subject to |         |
| Junior (up to 18)            | \$ 3.00 | bylaws)                     | \$75.00 |
| Husband and wife one journal | \$12.00 | Club or Association         | \$10.00 |

Remittances payable to the  
ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario. N2J 3Z6

DATE OF BIRTH ..... APPLICANT'S O.N.A. NO. ....  
(Junior Members Only)

Will you please send me information on: ..... O.N.A. MEDALS .....

SPONSORED BY ..... O.N.A. # .....

# ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

BOX 33, WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA N2J 3Z6



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FOUNDED - 1962

## O.N.A. SPEAKER'S CIRCUIT

I would like to submit my name as a participant in the O.N.A. Speaker's Circuit.

The following information is forwarded for inclusion in the Speaker's Circuit Brochure:

- A. The title of my presentation is \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The length of this presentation will be about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.
- C. I am willing to travel \_\_\_\_\_ miles/km one way during the week or \_\_\_\_\_ miles/km on a weekend. (please state either miles or kilometers)
- D. I would require the following aids for this presentation (list what is required):  
(example: tape recorder, screen, display cases, slide projector, etc.)
- E. Brief outline of presentation:
  
- F. I will not charge a specific fee but would expect the host club to pick up my transportation expenses. If overnight accomodation is necessary, it will be arranged at the host club's expense.
- G. In order to prepare for this presentation, I will require \_\_\_\_\_ weeks advance notice.
- H. Numismatic affiliations (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Numismatic Biography of speaker:

I understand I will be contacted by the club requesting my services directly and will deal with that club directly.

Should any problem arise during my presentation which you may wish to know about, I will contact you directly.

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1987 TO DECEMBER 31, 1987

GENERAL ACCOUNT

|  |              |           |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Petty Cash @ Jan. 1, 1987                          | \$ 53.77     |           |
| Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1987 (General Fund)         | 1534.62      |           |
| Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1987 (Library)              | -24.78       |           |
| Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1987 (Virgil Hancock Award) | 106.62       |           |
| Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1987 (Audio Visual)         | <u>21.55</u> | \$1691.78 |

RECEIPTS

|   |               |           |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| Memberships (Regular, Junior & Club)            | \$2826.00     |           |
| O.N.A. Convention Draw                          | 1200.00       |           |
| Club Ticket Rebate                              | 44.00         |           |
| Bank Interest                                   | 78.67         |           |
| Bulletin Advertising (2.00), Lapel Pins (49.00) | 51.00         |           |
| Premium U.S.A. Money                            | 14.18         |           |
| Silver Medallion                                | 25.00         |           |
| Virgil Hancock Award                            | 2.00          |           |
| Transfer From Contingency Account               | <u>850.00</u> | \$5090.85 |

EXPENSES

|   |                |           |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| O.N.A. Publication "Ontario Numismatist"            | \$2101.57      |           |
| Postage   | 180.29         |           |
| Printing  | 60.76          |           |
| Safety Deposit & P.O. Box Rental                    | 125.44         |           |
| Archives  | 27.77          |           |
| C.N.A. & A.N.A Dues                                 | 53.08          |           |
| Office Supplies                                     | 34.27          |           |
| Telephone   | 64.40          |           |
| Engraving   | 37.46          |           |
| Honorariums   | 600.00         |           |
| O.N.A. Night  | 10.00          |           |
| Club Rebates  | -4.00          |           |
| C.N.A. Delegate                                     | 50.00          |           |
| O.N.A. 1987 Draw Advance Repayment                  | -200.00        |           |
| Interim Payment Of Net Loss (North York Convention) | <u>2000.00</u> | \$5141.04 |

Excess Expenses Over Receipts \$ 50.1

|   |              |          |
|---|--------------|----------|
| Petty Cash @ December 31, 1987                          | \$ 19.81     |          |
| Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 (General Fund)         | 1484.17      |          |
| Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 (Library)              | -24.78       |          |
| Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 (Virgil Hancock Award) | 108.62       |          |
| Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 (Audio Visual)         | <u>53.77</u> | \$1641.5 |

BANK RECONCILIATION

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Bank Pass Book Balance @ December 31, 1987 | \$1719.78 |
| (5) Outstanding Cheques                    | 98.00     |
| Statement Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 | \$1621.78 |

## ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1987 TO DECEMBER 31, 1987

CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT

Bank Balance @ January 1, 1987 \$9103.86

RECEIPTSInterest Guaranteed Investment Certificates \$375.00  
Bank Interest 384.38 \$759.38EXPENSESTransfer To General Account \$850.00 \$850.00

Excess Expenses over Receipts \$ -90.62

Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 \$9013.24

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT

Bank Balance @ January 1, 1987 \$1467.10

RECEIPTSInterest Guaranteed Investment Certificates \$439.56  
Bank Interest 86.37 \$525.93EXPENSESMembership Dues (1987) \$730.00 \$730.00

Excess Expenses over Receipts \$-204.07

Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 \$1263.03

INSURANCE ACCOUNTRECEIPTSClub Premiums (1987) \$940.00  
Club Premiums (1988) 70.00  
Bank Interest 23.04 \$1033.04EXPENSESInsurance Premium \$350.00  
Printing 79.28  
Postage 4.38  
Bank Service Charge .40 \$ 434.06

Excess Receipts Over Expenses \$ 598.98

Bank Balance @ December 31, 1987 \$ 598.98

## ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1987 TO DECEMBER 31, 1987

CASH ASSET SUMMARY @ DECEMBER 31, 1987

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Cash & Bank Balance - General Account                        | \$1641.59         |
| Bank Balance - Contingency Account                           | 9013.24           |
| Guaranteed Investment Certificates - Contingency Account     | 4000.00           |
| Bank Balance - Life Membership Account                       | 1263.03           |
| Guaranteed Investment Certificates - Life Membership Account | 4275.00           |
| Bank Balance - Insurance Account                             | 598.98            |
|  | <u>\$20791.84</u> |
| Total Cash Assets 1986                                       | <u>\$20537.74</u> |
| Increase in Cash Assets                                      | \$ 254.10         |

The Bank Accounts are maintained at  
The Canada Trust, Belmont Branch  
Kitchener, Ontario.

Treasurer Bruce H. Raymond

This report was approved at the General Membership meeting at Toronto on Saturday, March 26, 1988.

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COVER:

What has our cover to do with Numismatics? Let me explain.....

On June 4, 1838, Canada's first documented baseball game was played on a smooth pasture field just outside of Beachville, a village midway between Ingersoll and Woodstock on Oxford County Road 9. The ball was made of double and twisted yarn covered with calfskin and sewn by the local shoe-maker. The bat was cedar, blocked with an axe and finished with a drawing knife. There were five bases instead of today's four, and no umpire. Players relied on the honour system. Batters were called knockers or strikers, and you couldn't be walked to first base. Runners could be plugged or hit with a thrown ball for an out as they ran between bases. There were no set number of players during a game, but each team had to have the same amount. Games usually lasted until one team scored a previously agreed upon number of runs. A two-day celebration is planned, June 4 & 5, in Beachville, to honour this first game. To coincide with this celebration the Woodstock Coin Club is producing a medal showing the knocker in the uniform of 1838, with the bat over his shoulders waiting on the first pitch. In the field you see the 5 bases as they were in that era. Around the border - "First Recorded Base Ball game in Canada - 150 Anniversary - the date, and Woodstock Coin Club, appears in small letters below the knocker's feet."

These medals produced by Pressed Metals of Vancouver in quantities of 30 silver, 300 copper, and 200 nickel, go on sale June 4 for \$30.00 silver, and \$5.00 for the copper and nickel. This price includes Ontario Sales Tax and can be ordered from Ken Ovington, R.R. #1, Harley, Ontario, NOE 1EO. Postage and handling charge \$1.25 for each medal not included in the above price.

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CONVENTION CALENDAR

- June 3-4-5 Canadian Association Wooden Money - Park Hotel, 4960 Clifton Hill, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Info: N. Belston, 37 Neames Cresc., Downsview, Ontario, M3L 1K8.
- June 12 Brantford Numismatic Society 28th Annual Coin Show- Woodman Centre, 491 Grey St., Brantford. Info: B.N.S. P.O. Box 351, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 5N3.
- June 18-19 (Torex - Ramada Hotel, 111 Carlton St., Toronto. Info: Ingrid  
October 29-30 (K. Smith (416) 920 6461, or P.O. Box 865, Adelaide St. P.O.,  
(Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2K1.
- July 21-23 Canadian Numismatic Association Annual Convention, C.P. Prince Edward Hotel and Convention Centre, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Info: Prince Edward Island Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 2921, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 8C5.
- August 28 (M.T.C.E. - Metro Toronto Coin Exhibition at Bond Place Hotel,  
September 25 (65 Dundas Street East, Toronto, -- 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.,  
December 4 (Admission \$2.00 - 30 Bourse dealers. Info: Ingrid K. Smith,  
(416) 920 6461.
- September 10 Huronia Numismatic Association Coin, Stamp & Antique Show Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St., N. Barrie, Ont. Info: H.N.A. P.O. Box 243, Barrie Ontario, L4M 4Y2.
- October 2 Sarnia Coin Club Annual Coin Show - Guildwood Best Western Hotel, Foot of Bluewater Bridge, Sarnia. Info: Carl Williamson, 931 Greendale St. Sarnia, N7V 3P4, (519)337 9191.
- October 15 Hamilton Coin Club Coin Show - Royal Canadian Legion, Br.58, 1180 Barton St., E. (upstairs) Hamilton, Ontario, (across from Centre Mall). Info: T. McHugh, P.O. Box 9271, Stoney Creek, Ontario, L8G 3X9.
- October 16 Tillsonburg Coin Show - Memorial Centre (Fair Grounds). Info: W. Baxter, 462 Queens Street, Tillsonburg.
- October 22 St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Coin Show & Banquet. Info: Later date.
- October 30 Stratford 26th Annual Show and Bourse - Kiwanis Centre - Lakeshore Drive, Stratford. Free Admission - Hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Info: Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ontario, N5S 6T1.
- April 22-23, 1989 O.N.A. 27th Annual Convention - Quality Inn, Woodstock, Ontario, Junction 59 Hwy and 401. Host Clubs - Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, and Woodstock. Info: Chairman T. Masters, 823 Van Street, London, Ontario, N5Z 1M8. (519) 438 2402.
- July 27-30, 1989 C.N.A. Annual Convention - Quebec City, P.Q.

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If your Coin Show does not appear in this listing, it's because the Editor has not received that information. In order for your show to be listed, get that information to the Editor at least three months prior to your show date.

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Deadline for July-August Edition is July 15, 1988

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DELEGATES' REPORT - MARCH 26, 1988

The following are excerpts from written reports turned over to the Editor. If your Club was missed it was possible that no written report was prepared for your Delegate. I would urge all Clubs to provide their Delegates with written reports at all future Conventions.

HAMILTON - reported their total membership and dues, their meeting date and place (2nd Sunday each month except July & August, Hamilton Library, 55 York Street), and their upcoming show, which is published in our Convention Calendar.

INGERSOLL - outlined 14 points in their report, - membership, publication, community work (raised \$1200.00 for Disabled Children), meetings include numismatic education, auction, fellowship, and social, yard sale, one of the leaders in selling O.N.A. Draw Tickets (63 books 1987). Hosting with Tillsonburg and Woodstock, O.N.A. 27th Annual Convention April 22-23, 1989. Asked the O.N.A. to review their Audio Visual Library and to retape programs where the Audio had become distorted and hard to understand. Congratulated O.N.A. on introduction of Liability Insurance and Speakers' Circuit programs. Meet 3rd Monday 10 times a year, Senior Citizens Room, Lions Hall.

NIAGARA FALLS - reported difficult times with declining membership and attendance. Reintroduced numismatic programs and auctions, and attendance has increased. Show date announced May 28th at the Niagara Square Shopping Mall, which was received too late to be included in our Convention Calendar. Meet 1st Wednesday each month, Stamford Lions Hall.

CHAMPLAIN - meet 1st Thursday each month (except July & August) in St. Davids Anglican Church Hall, Orillia. Announced membership of 40, banquet in June. Variety of speakers and slide presentation at meetings, plus an auction.

ST. CATHARINES - announced plans to change their regular meetings to Russell Ave. Community Centre, starting in September, also looking to whether meetings might be better attended if held on Saturday afternoons instead of Sundays, where they have to compete with the local Flea Markets for attendance. Asked the O.N.A. to mail all rebate cheques under separate cover after their 1987 cheque mailed with Club O.N.A. Numismatist was lost or destroyed. Asked the O.N.A. if they would consider replacing the 1987 rebate cheque.

STRATFORD - announced regular meeting 2nd Monday each month, (September-June) at Kiwanis Centre, Highlight was speaker Denis Cudahy from Ottawa Mint, who spoke at June 1987 Banquet. Robert Aaron to speak at this year's Banquet. Announced their upcoming October Coin Show (listed in Convention Calendar).

VICTORIA-SIMCOE - reported they held 5 meetings in 1987 in different members homes. Membership 17 - Show and Banquet was another success - Announced their upcoming show (listed under Cannington Show and Bourse in Convention Calendar May 7, 1988).

WOODSTOCK - though membership of 20, Club holds regular meetings 4th Tuesday (September-June) at Central Public School. Programs include discussion period with fresh new ideas. Ask O.N.A. to review their Audio-Visual Library - slides are excellent but video in Romance of World Gold so distorted the narration had to be read from printed sheet. Announced Woodstock Club would be producing a medal on first recorded Baseball game in Canada (1838), and that a 2-day celebration would be taking place the weekend of June 4-5 at Beachville, Ontario, Midway between Ingersoll and Woodstock. O.N.A. 27th Convention to be held in Woodstock's Quality Inn April 22-23, 1989.

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*The Mysteries A Coin Can Possess*

# THE BRIDGE AT ALCOLEA

By John W. Dunn

*A Century of Time*

*Has Clouded the Origins*

*Of A Coin Devoted To A Bridge*

Some people may think a bridge is just a bridge, enabling folk to get easily from here to there. However the Bridge at Alcolea in Spain cannot be regarded as just an ordinary structure in any sense of the word. True the Bridge at Alcolea performed its duties by spanning the yellow waters of the Guadalquivir River. A battle which was fought in 1868 on and near this bridge was of great significance. It became the dividing line between two very distinct eras of Spanish history. What's more, the rather insignificant coin which was struck to commemorate that memorable event was one of the last escudos before Spain adopted the new centimospeseta system.

Isabella II sat on the Bourbon throne of Spain. Against the vacillating and incompetent monarch, a strange combination of elements conspired to bring an end to her reign. The opposition represented all shades of dissatisfaction, ranging from rabid Republicans to staunch supporters of constitutional monarchy.

They all sought liberty in worship, education and press; inviolability of their homes; personal security from unjustifiable arrest; abolition of conscription, capital punishment, slavery and official monopolies; introduction of universal suffrage, trial by jury and popular election of members of both houses of government.

Abortive uprisings plagued the hapless Isabella for years. Finally, after countless meetings abroad in Brussels, Ostend and Paris, the revolutionists launched what was hoped to be the decisive blow in August of 1867. Although original plans were changed at the last moment, the loyalist troops learned of the changes and the rising failed completely.

Undauntedly the rebels continued to lay their plans during the summer of 1868. By the beginning of September 1868, General Juan Prim, who continued to be the moving spirit of the revolution, was assured of the support of a number of army units and the Spanish navy which was based at Cadiz.

Prim was wise enough to solicit the aid of Marshal Francisco Serrano who had been exiled by Isabella to the Canary Islands. Serrano was at one time a great favorite of Isabella, even receiving the highest decorations at her hand. Now Admiral Juan Bautista Topete of the Spanish navy had turned the tables by dispatching a warship to bring Serrano to Cadiz on September 18, 1868. Prim and Serrano issued a joint manifesto, "Spain with Honour", declaring Isabella was no longer monarch of Spain.



THE BRIDGE AT ALCOLEA (Cont'd)

From Cadiz Serrano journeyed to Sevilla. There he raised an army and proceeded by the old Roman road, following the valley of the Guadalquivir with Madrid as his ultimate objective. Some 10 or 15 miles north of Sevilla, the river turns to the northeast. About 60 miles away in this direction is Cordoba on the north side of the Guadalquivir, the immediate objective of Serrano. There to oppose his crossing was Isabella's army under the command of General Manuel Pavia, the Marquis de Novaliches. Both sides were about evenly matched with some 12,000 troops in each army.

In the meantime Isabella quit Madrid, leaving Luis Gonzalez Bravo, President of the Council of Ministers, in charge. But he, too, left unceremoniously as the two armies joined in battle on September 28, 1868, at Alcolea Bridge. All day long the battle raged - on the bridge and on both sides of the river. The Marquis de Novaliches was wounded mortally. The day ended in somewhat of a draw. It was not until the next morning when the greater part of the former loyalist troops deserted to the rebel side that victory was decisive for Marshal Serrano - September 29, 1868.

On that day, too, Juan Gutierrez de la Concha, acting head of the loyalist government, heard of the defeat of Isabella's forces at Alcolea. He immediately requested the Revolutionary Committee of Unionists and Progressives to take over the government. On September 30th, Isabella crossed over into France. Sovereignty was again for the moment in the hands of the Spanish people.

Some time between September 30th and October 19th, a twenty-five one thousandth of an escudo piece was struck commemorating the Battle of Alcolea. On October 19th, 1868, a new monetary system was established by decree. Instead of the escudo which had been by Isabella's decree of June 26th, 1864, the new monetary unit was to be the peseta.

The obverse of the commemorative coin, which is copper and measures 25 millimeters in diameter, shows a portion of the old Roman aqueduct at Segovia within a wreath of laurel. Around the top and sides in bold letters: NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. At the bottom is a six-pointed star with a small radiant star in the center of the larger star. The main device on the reverse is the legend, SEPTEMBER 29, 1868, within a closed oak wreath. Around the top and sides: FREE SPAIN. Two six-pointed stars on either side divide this legend from the denomination which is spelled out to read: TWENTY-FIVE THOUSANDTH ESCUDO. The edge is plain.

Apparently there are no records extant concerning this coin. F. Xavier Calico stated in the December, 1948, issue of The Numismatist that the coin was a pattern piece and was struck at the Madrid mint.

As noted above the central device for the obverse is a portion of the Roman aqueduct at Segovia. The aqueduct was the mint mark for LaMoneda, the mint at Segovia. The marks usually seen are several one story arches in a row, or one double-decked arch at one side of a coin. LaMoneda was in existence from 1550 to 1868. Until 1730 it was the chief mint for Spain. For many years all copper coins had been struck at LaMoneda.

Why was the suggestion of the Segovia mint mark used as the principal device for a commemorative coin struck at the Madrid mint and honoring the Battle of Alcolea?

The coin is well designed with all lettering, numerals and devices sharply and expertly rendered. That is all except the six-pointed star at the bottom on the obverse side. The star is poorly proportioned, lopsided and apparently the work of an inexperienced engraver. Nevertheless it is the mint mark of the mint at Madrid.

The Roman aqueduct was Segovia's best known landmark. It carried water from the hills some ten miles away into the city. There were 118

THE BRIDGE AT ALCOLEA (Cont'd)

arches in the system, some of which reached a height of 100 feet. Remember the section of the aqueduct portrayed on the obverse of the coin is within a laurel wreath and too large to be considered a mint mark. Therefore we can logically assume that LaMoneda and its symbol were being honored. It was 1868. After more than three hundred and thirty-eight years of service, the old mint was being closed. We can further assume that this obverse die was prepared at LaMoneda for a coin which would have honored the Segovia mint. The legend, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, could fit any regime in power.

In the hurry to strike a coin commemorating Alcolea, an obverse design was needed - one which had nothing to do with royalty. What better thing than to portray and honor at the same time the symbol and mark of the Segovia mint: the old Roman aqueduct. Possibly the reverse die was engraved also at LaMoneda. But with the mint closed officially, the dies had to be brought to Madrid some 50 miles away where the coin would be struck. At the last minute someone at the Madrid mint added the Madrid mint mark - the crude six-pointed star - to make the striking official.

If Sr. Calico is correct in saying that the coin is a pattern, then the coin would not have circulated. But there are any number of arguments in favor of the position that the coin may have been struck for circulation. Specimens which have been examined show an even wear (uncirculated specimens also exist) on ALL parts of the design for both obverse and reverse. This kind of wear is "circulation wear" and not "cabinet friction".

Then there are the die breaks - a number of them - which would indicate the die was used to strike a relatively large number of copper coins before beginning to crack. If this had been strictly a pattern coin, only a limited number of pieces would have been struck, undoubtedly without die breaks. Then, too, the rebels needed some kind of victory symbol for the general public - something which would spot-light their great victory at Alcolea. What better way than a small denomination piece which would circulate among the peasants.

From September 30 to October 19 was plenty of time to prepare the issue since only the reverse die had to be engraved and the pieces struck. Even though October 19 was the official cut-off date for the escudo, coins of this denomination could have circulated freely for some time. Yes, the smooth even wear, the die breaks, the need for a victory symbol among the people are arguments hard to cast aside.

There remains one small item necessary to complete the story of the commemorative coin struck to honor LaMoneda at Segovia and the Battle at Alcolea Bridge. Where was Alcolea?

You will recall that Serrano brought his army up from Sevilla, following the course of the Guadalquivir River. His immediate objective may have been Cordoba. But then there was Isabella's army under General Pavia to dispute his crossing at the old Roman bridge immediately south of Cordoba. The river there was of considerable depth and width. Since steamboats came up the river, it's not likely there were bridges west of the city to block their passage.

The logical place to cross the Guadalquivir, by-passing Cordoba and reaching out for Madrid, was Alcolea. Alcolea was some 25 miles upstream and east of Cordoba. Here the river was narrower and relatively shallow.

Yes, the Bridge at Alcolea was not just an ordinary bridge any more than LaMoneda was an ordinary mint. It was, indeed, a monument to brave and courageous men who fought and died for principles they deemed right and just.

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