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www.ontario-numismatic.org

ELECTED EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Paul Petch

128 Silverstone Dr. Toronto, On M9V 3G7
(416) 745-5856* p.petch@rogers.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Tom Rogers

41 Masefield Cres. London, On N5V 1M9
(519) 451-2316 trogers@sympatico.ca

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Robb McPherson

652 Nelson St. W., Port Dover, On N0A 1N2
(519) 750-3978 robb4640@sympatico.ca

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Peter H. Becker

1-102 Sydney St. N. Kitchener, On N2H 3L7
(519) 744-6719 beckerhansp@rogers.com

AREA DIRECTORS

Area 1A Colin Cutler

1225 Monmouth Apt#2, Windsor, On N8Y 3M2
(519) 962-2584 ccutler@cogeco.ca

Area 1B Lorne Barnes

41569 Major Line St. Thomas, On N5P 4L4
(519) 633-8842 lornebarnes@rogers.com

Area 2 Fred Freeman

88 Northland Cres. Woodstock, On N4S 6T5
(519) 539-2665 bfreeman@oxford.net

Area 3 Todd Hume

41 Radford Ave., Fort Erie, On L2A 5H6
(905) 871-2451 thume1@cogeco.ca

Area 4 Len Trakalo

11 Joysey St., Brantford, On N3R 2R7
(519) 756-5137* ltrakalo@sympatico.ca

Area 5 Peter H. Becker

1-102 Sydney St. N. Kitchener, On N2H 3L7
(519) 744-6719 beckerhansp@rogers.com

Area 6 Vacant

Area 7 David Bawcutt

75 Claremore Ave. Scarborough, On M1N 3S2
(416) 266-2718 dbawcutt@sympatico.ca

Area 8 Sandy Lipin

85 Ontario St. Apt.607 Kingston, On K7L 4V3
(613) 542-6923 sandlipin@aol.com

Area 9 Barry McIntyre

3 State St. Ottawa, On K2C 4B3
(613) 421-1119 Barry.McIntyre@rogers.com

Area 10 William Waychison

P.O. Box 466, Timmins, On P4N 7E3
(705) 267-7514 billwaychison@gmail.com

Area 11 Vacant

President's Message

Are you right up to date on all the ins and outs of modern-day text communication? Some of the text that is sent from cell phone to cell phone these days strikes me as being more like code than communication. One of the recent short forms that has come my way is TOTH, which apparently means "tip of the hat."

My coming across this is fortunate and timely, because a TOTH and sincere thanks is what I send to the Brantford Coin Society for providing space to the O.N.A. executive for our meeting at their show location on Sunday June 14. It was, beyond a doubt, a great show on a truly fine day.

High points on the meeting agenda included confirmation of Peter Becker as 2nd Vice-President and Area 5 Director and Judy Blackman as our Web manager. Also important were the final numbers and the closing of the books on the 2009 Convention. I was unable to attend the June Waterloo Coin Society meeting, but 1st Vice President Robb McPherson was there to present the cheque representing Waterloo's share of the convention profits. Thanks to all those who had expense claims for getting them in and allowing us to wrap up the convention right on time. In addition to all the usual reports from executive members, we were pleased to welcome Ken Koch who had a few words to say as outgoing Audio Visual Lending Librarian. I am sure all members join with me in thanking Ken for his many years of faithful service in this position.

Our convention focus now switches to 2010 and our event scheduled at the Four Points Sheraton in Kingston. Convention Chairman Sandy Lipin and the members of the Kingston Numismatic Association are already well into the advanced work of convention planning. Specific details will soon start appearing on the O.N.A. web site, so please watch for it as you visit. The 2011 convention was also discussed at the executive meeting with the Ingersoll Coin Club being confirmed as our host and the Four Points Sheraton in London once again serving as the venue.

One point of business to be completed, in the background, by an incoming O.N.A. President is to join the Treasurer in meeting with bank officials and complete the necessary paper work establishing responsibility and signing authority for the O.N.A. bank account. I am pleased to report that this was done on June 19. Both Bruce Raszmann and I were surprised with the extent of the paper work and the amount of time taken to satisfy new Government of Canada requirements that apply to club and association accounts. Local club executive that have not had to update their accounts for a few years, be warned: it is not as easy as it used to be!

July and August are fairly slow show months here in Ontario, however, it is nice to see we have S.W.O.N. in Paris to look forward to on August 9 and the Woodstock Show coming up on August 30. For those able and willing to travel a little further, there is also the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association 2009 Convention at the Delta Edmonton South Hotel from August 12 through 16. This is shaping up to be another fine R.C.N.A. Convention and I look forward to seeing O.N.A. members and many local coin friends out in Alberta at the event.



With best wishes for a really fine summer,

Paul Petch,

President

APPOINTED COMMITTEE

RECORDING SECRETARY

Len Trakalo

11 Joysey St., Brantford, Ont. N3R 2R7
(519) 756-5137* ltrakalo@sympatico.ca

TREASURER

Bruce Raszmann

P.O. Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1
(519) 745-3104

AUDIO VISUAL LENDING LIBRARIAN

Len Trakalo

11 Joysey St., Brantford, Ont. N3R 2R7
(519) 756-5137* ltrakalo@sympatico.ca

BOOK LENDING LIBRARIAN

Tom Rogers

41 Masefield Cres., London, Ont. N5V 1M9
(519) 451-2316 trogers@sympatico.ca

CLUB SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Fred Freeman

88 Northland Cres., Woodstock, Ont. N4S 6T5
(519) 539-2665 bfreeman@oxford.net

HEAD JUDGE

Paul Johnson

P.O. Box 64556, Unionville, Ont. L3R 0M9
(905) 472-3777* cnainfo@rogers.com

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

William Waychison

P.O. Box 466, Timmins, Ont. P4N 7E3
(705) 267-7514 billwaychison@gmail.com

EDITOR - ONA NUMISMATIST

Richard Johnson

309 Lorne Ave., E.,
Stratford On, N5A 6S4 (519) 272-0051
rick@citizennews.ca Fax : (519) 273-6764

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce Raszmann

P.O. Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1 (519) 745-3104

WEBSITE CONTACT

webmaster@ontario-numismatic.org

* Available only evenings & on week-ends

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular Membership - \$15.00 per year

Husband & Wife (1 Journal) - \$17.00 year

Junior (up to age 18) - \$5.00 year

Club Membership - \$20.00 year

Life Membership - \$450.00*

*Life memberships are accepted only after one year of regular membership.

Send money order or cheque (payable to the ONA) for membership to:

Bruce Raszmann, ONA Treasurer
P.O.Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The applications for membership that appeared in the May-June issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

We welcome:

1987 Rich Williams, Oshawa, Ont.,
1988 Paul Strong, Oshawa, Ont.,
1989 Don Ferguson, Penetang, Ont.,
1990 Ron Culbert, London, Ont.,
J1991 Nathan Roy, Stratford, Ont.
1992 Alain Proulx, Saint-Colomban, Que.,

The following application has been received

J1993 Ted Judd, Toronto, Ont.,

Bruce H. Raszmann,
O.N.A Treasurer & Membership Chairman

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE

Apotex Centre Jewish Home For The Aged

Last month the Ontario Numismatic ran an article titled *Apotex Centre Jewish Home For The Aged* by Judy Blackman. Below is a response she received after that story was published. Judy wanted to share that response with everyone to further prove how helpful and insightful the readers of this publication can be.

Dear Judy Blackman,

I read with great interest about your article in the Ontario Numismatist about the Apotex Centre. I have collected a number of these contribution medals which were issued in the early 1900's to help pay for and maintain these Jewish homes for the aged. I have three from Montreal, two from Toronto and a few from the U.S. They all are similar with a picture of a building on the obverse while the reverse shows an elderly man and women with a reference to good luck or god will help you. The donation or contribution shown are either 25c or \$1. From the die work and the 25c denomination, I would say that the Toronto medal dates with the opening of this building. 25c was a lot of money at this time. The Montreal medals are similar to Toronto for a 25c contribution but there is another one from Montreal that has a more contemporary design for a \$1 donation. I hope this information is useful.

Regards

Barry Uman

Coming Events

AUG. 7 - 9, Long Sault, ON

Canadian Tire Coupon Collector's Club, Everett's Swapmeet, Everett Runtz's Home, 35 Chantime Dr. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A whole extended weekend of Canadian Tire Coupon Club events, plus a club Bar B Q with all the trimmings. A not-to-be-missed fun event. The weekend will include a whole range of Canadian Tire Coupons, trading sessions, displays, an auction, education seminars, and most importantly, fun and fellowship. Everyone Welcome, but please RSVP Everett, so he can plan the ultimate Swapmeet. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Tire Collector's Club. For more information, contact Everett Runtz, telephone: (613) 534-2675 or Roger Fox, telephone: (905) 898-7677, or e-mail: phoxyy@look.ca. Website: <http://www.ctccc.ca>.

AUG. 9, Paris, ON

S.W.O.N., Special Events Building, 139 Silver St. (Fairgrounds). Hours 9 to 4:30 Admission \$2, (includes ticket on gold coin draw). More than 55 tables of coins, paper money, jewellery, nostalgia items and more. Food and drink available at show. Buy sell trade. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ted's Collectables Inc. For more information, contact Ted Bailey, 1-866-747-2646 or tedscollectables@bellnet.ca, <http://tedscollectables.com>.

AUG. 30, Woodstock, ON

Woodstock Show, Community Complex, 381 Finkle St. Twentieth annual show. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$1, kids free, free parking, lunch counter, hourly draws. Sponsor/Affiliate: Woodstock Coin Club. For more information, contact Tom Rogers, telephone (519) 451-2316.

SEPT. 13, London, ON

London Numismatic Society 17th Annual Coin Show, The Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. off Hwy. 401. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Displays and dealers in coins, medals, notes and tokens. Admission \$2, includes entry for draws. Children free. Sponsor/Affiliate: London Numismatic Society. For more information, contact Len Buth (519) 641-4353, email: lbuth@webmanager.on.ca.

SEPT. 25 - 27, St. Catharines, ON

TNS Fall Show, Quality Hotel, 327 Ontario St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Show pass \$20 (includes early entry), daily admission \$4. For more information, contact Rick and Jo-Anne Simpson, email: rscoins@cogeco.ca, telephone 905-643-4988, fax 905-643-6329.

SEPT. 27, Windsor, ON

Annual Essex County Coin Show, Fogular Furlan Club, 1800 EC row Ave. E. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Canadian, U.S., and world coins and paper money, watches, and tokens. Admission by donation to Canadian Diabetes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Essex County Coin Club. For more information, contact Essex County Coin Club, email: club@hotmail.com, or Colin Cutler, email: ccutler@cogeco.ca.

OCT. 10, Oshawa, ON

Durham Coin-A-Rama, 5 Points Mall, 285 Tauton Rd E. Free dealer, public, and membership draws. Free admission. Featuring paper, coins, tokens, medals and many other items. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oshawa and District Coin Club. For more information, contact Sharon (905) 728-1352, e-mail: papman@idirect.com.

OCT. 17 & 18, Toronto, ON

Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Road, Mississauga Ballroom. Featuring Canada's finest dealers. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Official Auctioneer: Moore Numismatic Auctions, Charles Moore. The Hilton hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. Sponsor/Affiliate: . For more information, please call (416) 705-5348.. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

OCT. 24, Guelph, ON

South Wellington Coin Show, Royal Canadian Legion, 919 York Road. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One of Southwestern Ontario's biggest shows, 50 dealer tables, free parking, fully accessible. Large display area, hot meals. Admission \$2 for ages 16 and up. Free gold coin draw. Sponsor/Affiliate: South Wellington Coin Society. Lowell Wierstra, 8 Smart St., Guelph, ON, N1G 4K9, (519) 824-6534, e-mail: l.wierstra@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://www.w3design.com/swcs/>.

NOV. 7, Scarborough, ON

Scarborough Coin Club invites you to attend their 13th Annual Coin Show. Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd., Scarborough Ontario. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free admission and draws. Coins, paper money, tokens, medals, club table, etc. Refreshments available. Show will take place where the club meets. Tables still available, contact Dick Dunn, cpms@idirect.com pr P.O. Box 562 Pickering, ON L1V 2R7.

NOV. 8, Stratford, ON

Stratford Coin Show, Army Navy and Air Force Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$2 admission, 16 and under free. Buy, sell coins, paper money, tokens, lunch available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stratford Coin Club. Larry walker, telephone 519-271-3352, Box 221, Gadshill, ON, N0K 1J0. Website: <http://lswalker@cyg.net>.

NOV. 8, Windsor, ON

58th Annual Fall Coin Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue, Windsor, Ontario. Sponsor: Windsor Coin Club. Admission of \$1 includes hourly draws and grand door prize. Juniors are admitted free. Plenty of free parking. For more information contact, M. Clarke at mclarke@wincom.net or (519) 735.0727.

NOV. 21, Niagara Falls, ON

Niagara Falls Coin Club Show. Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission \$2. Free gold draw, free parking. For more information contact Todd Hume (905) 871-2451.



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Courtesy of the South Wellington Coin Society



Devins and Bolton of Montreal

DID YOU KNOW.....?

By Scott E. Douglas

...that the Montreal firm of Devins & Bolton were responsible for the most extensively countermarked coin in Canada? Richard John Devins was born in Montreal, Quebec on June 24, 1837. He studied at McGill University to become a physician but later ended up applying his full attention to chemistry and medicines. After apprenticing for a short time with a Mr. Burke of Montreal he went to New York City for a time. Devins returned to Montreal due to the death of his mother in 1857 and began in business for himself in 1861. In June of 1862 Mr. Bolton arrives on the scene and in January 1863 Devins announces Bolton as a partner thus creating the firm of Devins and Bolton.

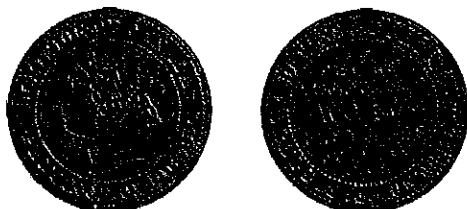
The firm appears to have begun countermarking coin sometime in 1863 up until 1870. Most countermarks appear on the obverse side and are apparent only on copper pieces with none known to date on silver. Many different Canadian colonial tokens as well as US large cents and some foreign coins were used as the host coin. The reason for this practice of countermarking was because of its value as an advertising tool. This was likely made clear to Richard Devins during his time in New York where the practice of countermarking was widely used.

The Devins & Bolton worm pastille token (Breton #569) is well known to Canadian collectors. It was struck in Birmingham, England but was seized by Canadian customs because of the recently passed 'New Currency Law' forbidding the manufacture or importation of coins or tokens without government approval. These tokens commemorated Canadian Confederation (1867) but resembled the Canadian large cents of 1858 and 1859 too closely. The tokens were to be destroyed but a few years later some made it into the hands of collectors. The firm of Devins and Bolton dissolved sometime in 1880.

For more information on this prolific company read the fine article by Mr. Warren Baker in volume 6 of the Canadian Association of Token Collectors journal.



Devins & Bolton countermarks on a PEI token, a bank token and a US large cent.



Worm pastille token Breton # 569.

Courtesy of the North York Coin Club

THE WAR MUSEUM PAYS \$288K TO BUY VICTORIA CROSS

BY DAN BLACKBURN AND RANDY BOSWELL, SASKATCHEWAN LEADER-POST

The Canadian government spent almost \$300,000 at a controversial auction in Toronto on Monday night to buy a Victoria Cross awarded to First World War hero Robert Shankland, preventing the iconic medal from leaving the country.

A set of nine military decorations given to Shankland — who was one of the three “Valour Road” soldiers from the same Winnipeg street who earned VCs in the 1914-18 war — was sold for \$288,000 to officials from the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corp., the federal Crown corporation that oversees the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

The hammer price of \$240,000, plus a buyer’s premium to be paid to sale organizer Bonhams Canada, pushes the total to \$288,000.

News of the outcome came as a “delight” to Murray Burt, author of a forthcoming 100th anniversary history of the Winnipeg-based Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders, Shankland’s former regiment.

The regiment had been engaged in a “quiet” fundraising effort ahead of the auction to acquire the medal if the top bidder on Monday was a foreign collector.

“It really is a relief,” Burt told Canwest News Service minutes after the sale of Shankland’s VC and the rest of his medal set. “I don’t think there’s a better place for it than the Canadian War Museum.”

He added that the regiment had “substantial philanthropists on our side” in case a fundraising drive had been necessary to keep the medals in Canada.

“This means that we won’t have a protracted hassle” to raise cash and prevent the export of Shankland’s decorations.

The planned auction of the Victoria Cross, awarded to Shankland for “most conspicuous bravery” in leading an attack against the Germans at Passchendaele in 1917, had prompted the federal NDP — with backing from the Royal Canadian Legion

— to introduce a bill last month that would outlaw such sales in the future.

The medal set included the “very scarce” combination of Shankland’s VC and his Distinguished Conduct Medal — won in 1916 for rescuing a team of Canadian stretcher bearers under enemy fire.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson had already vowed to do “what-

earned through several daring dashes into no man’s land in 1945 — the federal Liberal government of the day vowed to block the sale or to purchase the medal.

In the end, a public fundraising campaign spearheaded by the veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion — Topham’s former unit — raised \$300,000 to prevent the medal’s sale to a British collector.

Topham’s VC was later donated to the Canadian War Museum — now the likely home of Shankland’s medal following its acquisition by the museum’s parent corporation.

Shankland, who immigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1910 and settled in Winnipeg, earned his Victoria Cross in October 1917 during one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War.

A lieutenant with the Cameron Highlanders, he was credited in his VC citation with “most conspicu-

ous bravery and resource in action under critical and adverse conditions.”

The official description of his exploits describes how Shankland “rallied the remnant of his own platoon and men of other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he dispersed a counter-attack, thus enabling supporting troops to come up unmolested.”

Shankland lived before the war on Winnipeg’s Pine Street, along with two other future Victoria Cross recipients — Cpl. Leo Clarke and Sgt.-Major Frederick Hall.

The street was later renamed Valour Road in honour of the First World War heroes.

Neither Clarke nor Hall survived the 1914-18 conflict. But Shankland returned to Canada, working in Winnipeg and Vancouver before — at the age of 53 — rejoining the Camerons in the Second World War and serving in Britain as an officer at the Canadian army headquarters.

Shankland died in 1968 at age 80 and is buried in Vancouver.



Victoria Cross of Robert Shankland, one of the trio of First World War heroes from Winnipeg’s ‘Valour Road’

Photograph by: Handout, Canwest News Service

ever it takes” to keep Shankland’s VC in Canadian hands, and provisions under the federal Cultural Property Review Board would have compelled any foreign buyer of the medal to accept a matching offer from a Canadian collector or public institution within six months.

“These medals are a powerful part of our nation’s history and they are staying in Canada — where they belong,” Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson told Canwest News Service Monday night.

Burt said Thompson’s vow had been “very comforting” to the Cameron Highlanders.

“His heart seemed to be in the right place.”

Previous attempts to auction examples of the country’s highest military decoration — awarded only 94 times in the Canada’s history, and not once since 1945 — have prompted controversy.

In 2004, with the family of Toronto-born Second World War medic Fred Topham poised to auction his Victoria Cross —

The Artist – A Short Story

By James J. Antonio

By day, Pierre Bracquemond worked at the Royal Canadian Mint as a die maker and engraver, and, at night, or any other time he happened not to be working, he painted pictures. He preferred doing portraits but occasionally ventured out on better-weather days to do a cityscape or landscape. Ottawa, being home to a number of beautiful parks, especially the Ornamental Gardens, and some wonderful older buildings, was most inspirational. His 'forte' being portraits, however, Pierre had trouble finding anyone willing to sit for hours in his studio while he, as if trying to chase flies away, fussily flicked at a piece of stretched canvas. He resorted, therefore, to doing pictures of people he saw in magazines, jumping for joy on those rare occasions when he managed to hook a real model to sit for a few dollars an hour wither through a chance meeting or friend, or even via a small classified ad. The ads, rare things that they were, ran thus: Hopeful and happy painter (male) seeks cheery model (male or female) for portraiture; remuneration.

Pierre was just past thirty, a tall, thin young man with an eccentric, almost criminal look about him. Some of it came from the way he dressed, usually in black and white, rarely any other color, the clothes themselves expensive items, neither dress nor casual but lying somewhere in between. Classy definitely. It was a blue moon when his black shoes weren't as shiny as the coins that came off the presses. And about these, the coins, he was a bit disapproving regarding the austerity of Her Majesty's face. Unlike his own where there always seemed to be the beginnings of a smile to soften his sharp, pointed face -- just a spark and there it would be, amazingly wide and happy for a small mouth. He had short black hair, a close-cropped moustache and goatee; and, with his obvious pallor, these appeared to be nothing more than neat swaths of paint. He had piercing, amazingly blue eyes, a long, pointy nose, and a mildly jutting chin.

Pierre raced home one afternoon in his black Audi and pulled up with a screech in front of the imposing Georgian brownstone on Rue de Villejust. He was eager to put the finishing touches on the portrait of his superior, the CEO and Master of the Mint, Mr. Felix Turner. It was a beautiful day in June but he paid the sunny, blue skies little attention as he skittered up the walk by the pillowy beds of starry Lavender Queen aubrietias and into the house, so taken up with the project that he left his car keys in the ignition. As usual at this time of day, his mother was in the kitchen preparing supper.

"Hello," he said in acknowledgement, and then on up the steps he hopped, chortling to himself about the grocery list he'd noticed on the counter by the sink.

How he'd had fun with that not so very long ago! The trick was to add a renegade item or two in his mother's handwriting. She had seldom fallen for it, but once in a while mistakenly brought an unwanted culprit or two home. Only mildly reprimanded, he'd gotten the greatest kick out of it. It was simply something to do for a thrill, that was all there was to it. And didn't kids get into some kind of mischief every now and again?

"You're a prankster!" she'd admonish, shaking her head mirthfully.

His room had French doors that opened onto a small balcony, where he'd sit at the little table in good weather drawing or just sipping an espresso. From there he could gaze at the fruit trees in the backyard, – a cherry, two McIntosh apple, and a peach –, finding them especially inspirational in the spring in their regalia of pastel blossoms. There was a tall red maple off to the left, and a collection of crusty old rose bushes along the fence that reminded him of gnarled witches' claws ready to prick anyone who came near. He was amazed by the galaxy of buds that still appeared, almost like magic, all the summer long, opening like bright children's eyes. It was incredible for such an ancient clan! There were flowers out there too, annuals and perennials in small numbers and, in particular, geraniums, which his mother had a preference for, their numbers far in excess of the rest. "Durability," she liked to say. "They can take the cold and the heat. They can stand anything and still look good. And that's how you ought to be, Pierre!"

He kept the room neat. There were no unfinished canvases lying around and anything completed had a frame. His work was in a playpen, off in a corner, the pictures standing together like dominoes. His easel and stool seemed to be waiting for him like old friends beside the French doors, a chosen spot in recognition of his appreciation for natural light. The stool, made of maple and sporting the sheen of

Continued on next page.

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CONTINUED - The Artist

ages, matched the hardwood floor, which had been put down years and years ago in long, lean, reassuring planks, gleaming from what could have been a third, or even a fourth wash of varnish. When the sun peered at it, the floor took on a tremendous glare, as of polished silver. There was a single bed, which he made each and every morning before setting out for the mint, and a plain Victorian table, which served as a desk, smallish, with two drawers, pushed up against a wall to give it backing for a row of books. His brushes and paints were kept in a painter's box on the floor, everything in it clean, organized, always ready for use. He took some change out of his pocket, a couple of quarters, a dime, a nickel, and two pennies, and set it on the desk. The quarters were most obvious: there she was, Her Majesty with that austere look. How he wished he could do something about that! In fact, lately he found himself brooding over the portrait more and more often. He sat on the bed and took off his shoes. Then, in black stockinged feet, he padded over to the closet, opened it, and placed the loafers right there in their spot, beside his dress boots. He shut the closet and eagerly approached the easel, the palms of his hands clammy.

Pierre was nervous, but not in any incapacitating way. It was merely the fuse of excitement for a later explosion of creativity. He wanted to paint 'right'. But what was 'right' and what was 'wrong' when it came to art? He pushed his long, slender hands into his pockets and studied the oil on canvas of Mr. Felix Turner. There he was, the CEO, austere staring at him (just like the Queen of England!), his short hair all there, tinged with gray, a perfect brush on a squarish head. The man's eyes were dark, unmoving, paralyzing almost, his nose short, pugnacious, and, beneath, a trim little bold and brassy moustache capped, just like the outline of an arrowhead, the small, adamant, unsmiling mouth. The painting was in the Impressionist way and Pierre had to admit, and he was only being honest and not egotistical, that if he stepped back it was fine work and the Mintmaster was indeed a healthy-looking specimen with his full ruddy face and his yes! austere look.

He opened his box of tricks, took out the paints and a tiny brush, and, after a time, had managed to put a smile, albeit almost imperceptible, on the man's face.

The next day, Pierre, standing by the rolling machine with earplugs in his ears, was inspecting a fresh strip of nickel before it headed off to the blanking machine, when the mintmaster seemed to materialize out of nowhere. He had a sort of eager look on his face. Pierre was surprised to see him at all because he rarely set foot in the production area. Mr. Turner motioned for him to come.

In the quiet of the well-lit hallway, earplugs dangling from his fingertips, Pierre nodded upon hearing the question, and said, "Yes, sir, it's just about ready. Do you want me to bring it here?"

"Yes, I do," came the curt response.

Pierre, after several days deliberation on the quality and thoroughness of the portrait, brought the painting to work and, not finding the Master of the Mint in his 'bureau', laid it carefully on Mr. Turner's very neat and uncluttered desk. It was wrapped up in an old, but clean, sheet, and, for a moment, he stood there gazing at it open-mouthed, wondering if the stern man would like it, wondering more, and anxiously, if he'd appreciate the new, more upbeat visage. Well, he ought to, Pierre told himself, because the world needs a smile. So be it!

It was a long and uncertain month for the artist because he heard nothing at all from the Mintmaster. He went about his work dutifully nonetheless, as he always did, cringing whenever he saw Mr. Turner or even so much as glimpsed him out of the corner of his eye. One day, the man surprised him, nudging him from behind. Pierre spun around, startled. The Mintmaster said nothing, his face stern and expressionless as he handed him the envelope. He simply turned then and walked off, straight as a poker, as if he'd merely been to the washroom or gone through the wrong door.

Pierre waited until after work, when he was in his hot, sunbaked car, to open the envelope. Out of the end he drew the check, more money even than they'd agreed upon, and a note too that read: Delightful, Pierre! Absolutely delightful! Pierre breathed a sigh of relief. The CEO and Master of the Mint was satisfied, and, he mused, despite his uncompromising and severe look, he did after all have a sense of humor and a drop or two of joy! It was just the impetus he needed, and he drove home with a grin, pondering 'it'.

A man in a coffee shop a few months afterwards was the first to notice the trace of a smile on the brand new quarter on the table in front of him. The coin was with a couple of older ones, and a dime and a nickel. The man was middle-aged, in jeans and a heavier coat for the icy cold and, unemployed, was a bit down on himself. His hair was light brown, short, graying in places, and parted neatly on one side, but it was obvious he hadn't shaved. His long faced needed a lift and his eyes some twinkle and that

Continued on next page.

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CONTINUED - The Artist

was what happened when he took up the quarter and gave it a closer look. Despite not having his glasses, the smile on the face of Queen Elizabeth was conspicuous enough. He smiled too, and there, for a moment, his woes were forgotten. He showed the coin to someone else, who told someone else, and so on and on it went. And soon everyone was looking for coins with the portrait of the smiling Queen.

Felix Turner sat at his desk one morning in February, gazing out the window at the bare branches of the oak and maple trees as they seemed to reach up to the bright blue sky and the sunshine in a desperate way, entreating nature to hurry things along so they could make their new suits of foliage. The trees were ugly, the Mintmaster thought, not pleasing to look at at all, and certainly much more pleasant to the eye with all their leaves. He seldom even glanced at them at this time of year, but now it occurred to him how greatly he appreciated their greenness, their physical expression of life in the warm months. They were inspiring then, a token of reassurance from the Almighty that life did indeed go on and was in constant renewal. He wagged his head and even smiled. He looked at the six coins on his barren desk. There was a penny, a nickel, a dime, a quarter, and a loonie and toonie too. All of them had the portrait of the smiling Queen. He had to admit, Pierre was a real wiz with dies. What could he do with a fellow like that? After all, the portrait was not exactly comical, not hilarious at all but, in its subtlety, it did lend a certain aura of happiness and joy to the coins. It was done, definitely, in good taste. He was almost sure no one was going to make much of a stir about it. But therein lay the problem. It was he, Felix Turner, who would now have to bear the brunt of it all. There would be politicians to answer to, sure enough, and likely Queen Elizabeth herself. He'd had only one phone call so far concerning the matter, from the Prime Minister oh, and another too from a member of parliament who said that, although he liked 'the look', he didn't quite approve of it. The 'Smiling Queen Variety' was born.

"That Pierre!" said the Mintmaster out loud with a smile. "That crafty Pierre!"

A headline on the front page of one of the national newspapers that summer announced in big, black, bold letters:
QUEEN LIKES NEW COIN PORTRAIT, DECLARING IT PEACEFUL AND UPLIFTING

End

George Manz Coins & Auctions presents Auction #7

Submitted by George Manz

ONA member George Manz has announced that the Regina Coin Club's Fall Show will be the venue for the seventh in a series of auctions by George Manz Coins & Auctions. The auction includes part IV of the Georg Manz Senior Collection (the father of the auctioneer) as well as Part VI of the Roy Miller Collection.

The first lot at auction among the 298 lots is an Athenian tetradrachm that depicts Athena on the obverse and an owl on the reverse. The beautiful silver coin is expected to realize \$750. Other ancients include a Roman Imperial AE follis of Galerius as Augustus and a Chinese Wang Mang spade issued 7-22 AD. World coin highlights include a Colombian leper coin, a British Trade Dollar, and a rare Straits Settlements 1883H 10 cents. The small American section is led by an 1888S Morgan, a 1900 Quarter Eagle in MS-64 and a 1909D \$5 Half Eagle. Canadian decimal coins are once again the strength of this auction, including a large number of hard-to-get varieties. The 10 cents section includes two rare 1875H 10 cents, including one graded VF-30 by CCCS that is expected to reach \$2250. The 25 cents section includes a rare 1951 Low Relief graded MS-62 by ICCS. By far the most interesting section is the silver dollar section, with almost every coin having a variety mentioned on the certification. The highlight is a 1948 silver dollar with a die rotation, graded MS-60 by ICCS that is expected to sell for \$2200. Gold coins include an outstanding 1918C sovereign graded MS-63 by ICCS with a \$1500 estimate and a 1914 \$5 gold graded MS-62 by PCGS that is expected to realize \$2000. Newfoundland coins include a 1940 Re-Engraved Date 1 cent, a 1904H 20 cents with rotated dies, and three \$2 gold coins, including a scarce 1872 (one of only 6,000 struck) graded AU-58 by NGC. Errors include a rare 1875H 25 cents struck off center with a baseball cap type effect and several other hard to find coins that somehow slipped out of Canadian and American mints. Rare tokens include Wellingtons with die rotations and clips, a Blacksmith token, a Devins & Bolton token, and a one-of-a-kind 1885 Willow Bunch 50 cents token. The diverse auction also includes counterstamps, encased coins, a hobo nickel, wooden nickels, a communion token, trade dollars and commemorative and military medals. Paper money is led by a rare Hudson's Bay Company note and a 1935 English Small Seal \$20 featuring Princess Elizabeth.

The auction will take place at the Regina Coin Club's Fall Show on Saturday September 19 at the Western Christian College gym in Regina.

Those wishing to receive the auction catalogue by email should send their email address to George Manz at george@georgemanzcoins.com. The catalogue can also be viewed at www.georgemanzcoins.com. There is no buyer's fee in this auction.

Courtesy of the London Numismatic Society

THE SHELL ADVERTISING CARD FOR W. A. MURRAY & CO., TORONTO, ONTARIO -PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED-

By Len Buth FCNRS



obv. Liberty Head 1868, brass shell rev. cream coloured cardboard
actual size 34mm

Shell cards [also referred to as embossed business or advertising cards] are relatively rare for Canadian merchant issuers and seldom seen, although nearly 1,000 cards are now recorded for United States issuers [1]. These advertising cards began to appear in the decade 1866 - 1876 following the US Civil War. It is known at least 15 manufacturers were involved in the production of the US cards. At this time, there are ten known Canadian issuers of shell cards, and undoubtedly most of these cards were produced in the US, as they are identical to the US counterpart ones.

The W. A. Murray & Co. card was recently discovered and does not appear to have been previously recorded.

William Allan Murray was born on August 5, 1814 at Ravelson, Scotland, the son of William and Margaret [Carfrae] Murray. W. A. Murray received his education at Perth, Scotland, but owing to an early death of his father, he was compelled to leave his studies and enter the work force in order to care for his younger brothers. He was introduced to the dry goods business while working for a firm in Limerick, Ireland, where in 1844 he married Jane Ann Macnamara. They had seven children: Mary Jane; William Thomas; Charles Stuart; James Peter; John Alexander; Elizabeth Honora; and Margaret Helena. In 1854 the family came to Canada, to join Mr. W. A. Murray's brother Alexander in business in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1856 W. A. Murray and his family moved to Toronto, Ontario to form a dry goods partnership with G. B. Wylie with the business known as Wylie & Murray. This partnership dissolved in 1860, with W. A. Murray buying the assets to form the W. A. Murray & Co. A Mr. John Drynan subsequently took an interest in the firm in 1872, with W. A. Murray's sons William T., James P., and John A. also becoming involved in the business.

The W. A. Murray & Co. firm was highly regarded and a substantial enterprise which continued to grow and prosper during the period 1870's - 1890's. Originally occupying store space at 21 & 23 King Street East, they had expanded the business by 1888 to encompass 17 - 27 King St. E., in a building that also fronted on the street south, 10-14 Colborne Street. Their five-storey building had inventory including all sorts of dry goods, notions, millinery, boots & shoes, furnishings, carpets, china, etc. They were especially known for their tailoring, silks, satins, cashmeres, velvets and dress fabrics of every description. Staff employed included over 300 clerks and they also had an active mail order business with clients extending from Halifax, NS to Vancouver, BC. They were prominent newspaper advertisers and in 1897 were recorded to have double the amount of advertising of a competitor, the T. Eaton & Co.

Mr. W. A. Murray was well respected for his business acumen and crossed the Atlantic 119 times to purchase suitable goods to import and sell. His business always occupied his undivided attention and it is reported that he had little time for public life or politics, although he was a close friend of Sir John A. Macdonald [1815-1891], Canada's first Prime Minister. Mr. Murray remained active in management until 1890. He died on September 7, 1891, at the age of 77. The business continued after W. A. Murray's death, becoming incorporated in 1899 as W. A. Murray and Co. Ltd. By 1915 the company merged with another competitor, the John Kay, Son & Company to form Murray-Kay Company, Limited. This latter company ceased operations in January 1925, thus bringing an end to the "Murray" name from the Toronto department stores scene. The business demise was, in part, the result of major competition from two other department stores burgeoning at the new Toronto retail hub located 3 blocks north from King Street, at Queen and Yonge Streets. These competitors, and marketers to be reckoned with were none other than the Robert Simpson Co. [formed in 1872] and the T. [Timothy] Eaton Co. [formed in 1869]. The latter two firms dominated the Canadian department stores arena for most of the twentieth century.

Photos of the store, a newspaper advertisement and a small butter dish ordered by The W. A. Murray & Co. Ltd. for one of their Toronto clients from the English firm of John Maddock & Sons Ltd., are appended below.

Sources & Acknowledgements:

- [1] TAMS [Token & Medal Society] Vol. 45, Issue 5, Oct. 2005 & Vol. 45, Issue 6, Dec. 2005
- Toronto newspapers - The Empire - Sept. 8, 1891
 - The Globe - Sept. 10, 1891
 - The Toronto Mail - Sept. 8, 1891
 - various 1874 - 1925
- "Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York, Ontario", J.H. Beers & Co. Toronto, 1907.
- "History of Toronto & County of York, Ontario" - C. Backett Robinson, Toronto Publisher 1885
- "Toronto Illustrated 1893" - Published 1893 by the Consolidated Illustration Co. Reprinted 1992 by The Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto
- "The Barnums of Business - Department Stores and Their Relations to Trade, Property & Wages" - John H. Macintyre, Sheppard Publishing Co. 1897
- Various Business and Trade Directories - including: Mitchells & Co.; R. G. Dun & Co.; Bradstreets
- Thanks to Scott Douglas and Larry Laevens for information supplied.

GREAT SALE OF MANTLES.

W. A. MURRAY & CO.

To-day offer the following Special Lines in the

MANTLE DEPARTMENT

200 Ladies' All-Wool Scotch Tweed Ulsters, new shapes and new colorings, at \$4, \$5, and \$6 each.

250 German Pattern Jackets, at \$7, \$8, \$9, and \$10 each.

200 French and German Dolmans at about half-price.

150 Fur-lined Cloaks from \$8 to \$10 each.

200 Children's German-made Jackets at less than half the Wholesale Price.

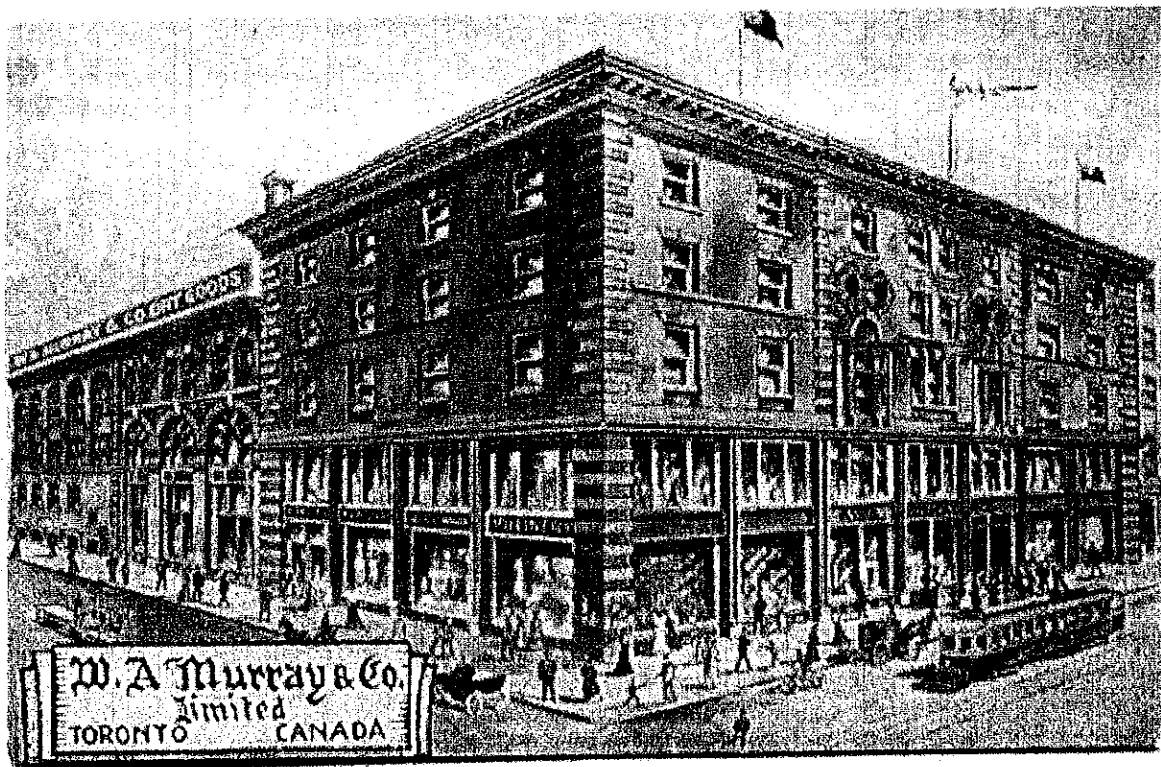
Also a lovely lot of Real Goat-skin Jackets, Real Dog Skin Jackets, Brocade Silk Velvet Mantles, Satin Mantles, Plush Mantles, Broche Silk Mantles.

Every Lady about buying a Mantle should see the magnificent stock at

W. A. MURRAY & CO.'S,

17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27 King-street.

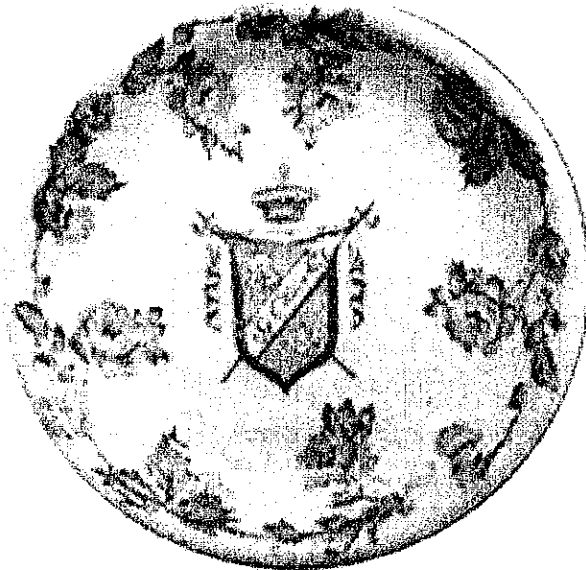
The Globe, November 12, 1881 Advertisement



Exterior view circa 1900



Interior view circa 1900



Butter Dish ordered by W. A. Murray Co. Ltd. for their Toronto client, St. Charles Hotel.
Actual size 79mm

**KNOWN CANADIAN ISSUERS
OF
SHELL ADVERTISING CARDS**

By Len Buth, FCNRS

A concurrent article on the shell advertising card issued by W. A. Murray & Co., Toronto, Ontario will provide some background information concerning these cards. As mentioned in the Murray article, there are not many known Canadian merchants who issued these advertising pieces. Based on the writer's research, only 10 issuers are known at this time.

As the Canadian cards are generally identical to their US counterparts, it is presumed most of the Canadian pieces were made in the USA. However, it will be noted below one of the issuers was J. K. Cranston from Galt, Ontario. As Cranston was involved in the sale and making of metal and cardboard tokens, it is again presumed he may have arranged for his own shell card and perhaps those of other merchants.

The known Canadian issuers of shell cars are:

Name	City shown	Date type*	Obv. metal colour	Obv. paper	Rev.	Notes
QUEBEC						
1. John Galbraith	Montreal	-	beaver	alum	salmon	
2. A. P. Savage	Montreal	1868	LH	brass	mauve	
ONTARIO						
3. H. E. Clarke	Toronto	1868	LH	brass	pink	
4a. J.K.C. [J.K.Cranston]	Galt	1858	LH	brass	pink	
b. J.K.C.	Galt	1868	LH	brass	pink	Good for \$1.
5a. W.C. Edwards & Co	Rockland	1868	LH	brass	cream	Good for \$1.
b. same		1870	LH	brass	cream	Good for 50c
6. W.C. Hoag	Straffordville	1876	LH	brass	mauve	
7. Horsman & Co.	Uxbridge	1870	LH	brass	brass	br both sides
8. Richard Horsman	St. Thomas	1868	SL	brass	brass	br both sides
9. J. Lowe	Hamilton	1867	SL	brass	green	
10. W.A. Murray & Co	Toronto	1868	LH	brass	cream	

* LH = Liberty Head, SL - Seated Liberty

There is one other shell card that will be mentioned here as it is of interest due to its reference to the Canadian firm, the Hudson's Bay Company. The issuer however is a New York merchant. This is the card of:

F. W. Lasak's Son - 682 Broadway, NY. - LH 1868 - brass embossed obverse and reverse - reads "Russian, American and HUDSON'S BAY CO." Furs.*

It is hoped this article may lead to readers identifying other issuers and different varieties of cards. The writer would be most pleased to hear from anyone who may be able to contribute additional information so that this small segment of Canadian exonomia may be expanded.

- Specimens of 1, 2, 4b, 5a & b, 6, 7 & 9 are in the Bank of Canada Currency Museum, Ottawa, ON.
- Specimen of 8 is in a private collection.
- Specimens of 3 and 10 are in the collection of the writer.

Other specimens of the merchants listed above no doubt exist in other collections.

- 1 and 2 are recorded in "Tokens of Quebec" by Fred Bowman as 2095[a] and 3150[a] respectively.
- 4a and 5b are record in "Trade Tokens of Ontario" by Fred Bowman as 404-I-A and 884-C-B respectively.
- 3 and 6 are record in TAMS Journal [Token and Medal Society] Vol. 45, issue 5, October 2005 as Rulau: A75 and 302 respectively.

** The specimen in the writer's collection is ex Lot 667, Bowers and Merena, Inc. "The Frontenac Sale" Nov. 20, 1991.

- Special thanks to Dr. Christopher Faulkner for supplying needed data for this article.



Card of - H. E. Clarke



Card of - F. W. Lasak's Son



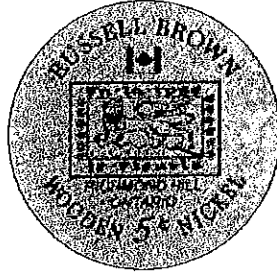
Courtesy of Timber Talk

MORE 2009 ONA CONVENTION WOODS CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH

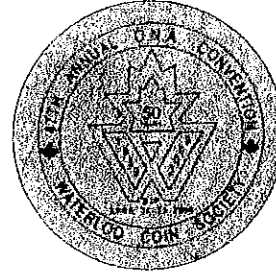
All the following woods are 38 mm in diameter



RED
RICHMOND HILL



RED



BLUE
NEWMARKET



BLUE



RED
MISSISSAUGA



RED



MULTI
GRAND VALLEY



BLUE



BLUE
WATERLOO



BLUE

The first four woods were handed out at the convention while the last one was only available in the registration kit.

CARLYLE COIN CLUB

This isn't a coin club as we know it, but rather a promotional and charitable effort by an Edmonton, Alberta Group of orthodontists. The following is a quote I found online that explains the program. "At each regular visit, patients are able to earn coins that they can collect and trade in for a variety of great rewards. Whether you would like to "cash-in" your coins for a hot Wheels or lip Smackers, or save them up to get a gift certificate to one of the stores listed on our coin club wall...it's up to you." The three doctors in the practice Drs. Carlyle, Meador and Chung.

Thanks to Bob Brown for information on this wood.



Courtesy of the North York Coin Club

WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE "TICKEY"

By Chris Woltermann, World Coin News

South Africa's 1898 gold threepence provides a valuable lesson on how a non-circulating legal tender coin (NCLT) can become a coveted collectible of lasting numismatic interest. Collectors today wonder how many of their era's NCLT issues will fare as well.

We readers of World Coin News appreciate the timeliness of this question. Every month, Colin Bruce II's "World Coin Roundup" gives us a global overview of new coins. The majority of these, at least in a typical month, comprises mint products never intended for circulation.

One such piece struck over a century ago recently fetched the second-highest figure, 1.4 million South African rands or about US\$185,000, ever paid for a South African coin. We may draw from its story several conclusions as to the conditions that foster or impair the numismatic potential of modern NCLT issues.

The enigmatically named Sammy Marks tickey, as South African collectors denote their 1898 gold threepence, is difficult to classify. Krause Publications joins South African cataloger Brian Hern in treating it as a pattern. We gain a better understanding of it as a NCLT off-metal strike if we delve into its meaning as a "tickey" and its association with Sammy Marks.

"Tickey" is long established South African slang for a threepence. Of uncertain origin but arguably deriving from a Nguni (Zulu, Xhosa) word meaning "something small," it became a fitting nickname for the smallest silver coin in South Africa's old monetary system. A tickey was nothing special; it was, quite simply, an ordinary coin.

Sammy Marks was extraordinary. Born in Lithuania, he immigrated to southern Africa where he made his fortune in the Kimberley diamond fields. He later moved to the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek, the famed Transvaal. Marks soon became one of the ZAR's first great industrialists. He initially focused on manufacturing and coal mining, from which he diversified into gold.

The basis of the connection between the 1898 gold tickey and Marks was his double role as a personal friend of the ZAR's president, Paul Kruger, and an unofficial financial adviser to Kruger's administration. During the turbulent 1890s, Marks repeatedly secured financing crucial to the completion of the government's railroad project.



Marks sought to show his esteem for the people close to him by giving each of them a most unusual memento. Pursuant to this end, he arranged through Kruger's intercession the privilege of using the ZAR's Pretoria mint for one day. To their credit, Marks and Kruger acted openly so as to avoid suggestions of scandal.

Thus was born the Sammy Marks gold tickey. The mint struck only 215 pieces, and Marks proceeded to distribute them to his relatives, friends and associates in government.

Surviving examples of the Marks tickey are much outnumbered by benign replicas and, to a lesser extent, counterfeits meant to deceive. The genuine article does not differ, except for its date and gold composition, from silver threepences struck from 1892 to 1897. Official 1898 dies were used. Ironically, these saw no other service as the ZAR canceled its plans to coin silver in 1898.

The recent market performance of the Marks tickey has been stunning. S A Coin, whose senior broker Christine Jones negotiated the sale of a pristine example for R1.4 million, affirms that such a piece would have brought only R50,000 10 years ago.

Behind this price appreciation lie elemental numismatic passions and other, more mundane factors unique to South Africa. The latter, principally the country's tax-free treat-

ment of numismatic profits and the influx of blacks into the ranks of white collectors, have amplified the effect of the former. Being clear about this fact allows us to discern whether other NCLT issues, including ones now being coined in 2008, have anywhere near the potential of the Marks tickey.

I've distilled from the story of the Marks tickey three quasi-rules that seem to be determinative. They are:

Rule #1: The coin should have a meaningful relation to the history and/or culture of the country of issue. NCLT pieces associated with some peripheral personage or an obscure event fall far short of this standard. So too do coins minted long after the occurrence of an associated event or the death of an honoree. In general, the more contemporaneous the minting is with a coin's referent, the better.

Rule #2: The coin should be recognizable as a coin in the context of the minting authority's circulating coinage. This means, among other considerations, that the coin should bear the denomination of an ordinary workaday coin. The NCLT's metallic composition should be common to some other circulating coinage, even if, as in the case of the Marks tickey, it is characteristic of different denominations. Finally, the coin's design should not be too far removed, if at all, from that of its circulating counterpart.

Rule #3: The coin should be scarce. Anything suggestive of contrived scarcity, though, is a major negative. The ideal NCLT issue has a small mint run, one sufficient to satisfy the coin's initial market upon its release to the public, but which subsequently meets with unexpectedly strong collector interest.

Although the foregoing criteria may seem too stringent for modern NCLT coinage, they nevertheless are useful tools for assessing which modern issues fall so short that their potential for long-term collector interest is negligible. Perhaps the Sammy Marks tickey is in a class by itself.

The pinnacle of South Africa's NCLT coinage will serve a function unimaginable to Sammy Marks if it stimulates foreign interest in South African numismatics. Collectors and investors in South Africa have created a robust domestic market whose allure is already becoming global.

Courtesy of The Collector (CTCCC)

WIDE & NARROW VARIETIES OF PREFIX W ON COUPONS PRINTED BY CTC

by Don Roebuck #848

The prefix W appears on five of the coupons printed by Canadian Tire Corporation: the orange and black Gas Bar coupons CTC 2-D and CTC 4-D, the Sandy McTire coupons MP1B-10W and MP2C-5W, and the Gas War coupon GW002.

There are two major varieties of this prefix: a wide W, which is about 4.4 mm wide, and whose lines are at an angle

of about 15 degrees to the vertical, and a narrow W, which is about 3.7 mm wide, and whose lines are at an angle of about 12 degrees to the vertical.

Which variety appears where? Here is what I have found in my own rather incomplete collection, supplemented by the illustrations in the Bilodeau Guide, 6th Edition:

Coupon with one W:	CTC 2-D			
wide W				
narrow W	(x)			
Coupons with two W's:	CTC 4-D	MP1B 10W	MP2C 5W	GW 002
two wide W's				X
two narrow W's	(x)	X		X
left wide, right narrow				
left narrow, right wide	X			X

(I have put parentheses around the ones that I have only seen in the Bilodeau Guide, because I'm not absolutely sure about them. It's hard to measure something accurately when it's printed in halftone dots, especially when it's scaled down.)

And now it's up to other collectors to fill in the gaps. (I'll keep the records, so send photocopies to Don Roebuck, 110 Dewbourne Ave., Toronto, Ont., M6C 1Y7.)

There also seem to be some minor differences among the W's, of both major varieties. (For example, the mid-point

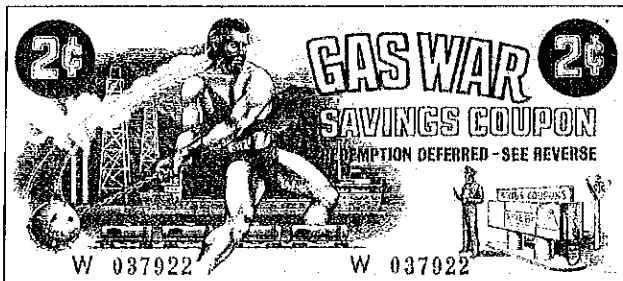
of the W may be flatter, or rounder, or more pointed.) In my personal opinion, these minor differences are not significant from a collecting point of view, but they might be useful if, for example, you were trying to determine how many of these coupons were printed on a sheet. (There is, arguably, a third major variety of the CTC's prefix W: the huge W that appears only on the problematic Sasaki-Muncaster orange and black Gas Bar coupons. From the illustration in vol. 2, no. 2 of the Collector, I'd say that it's about 5.8 mm wide. It's also taller than the other prefix W's.)



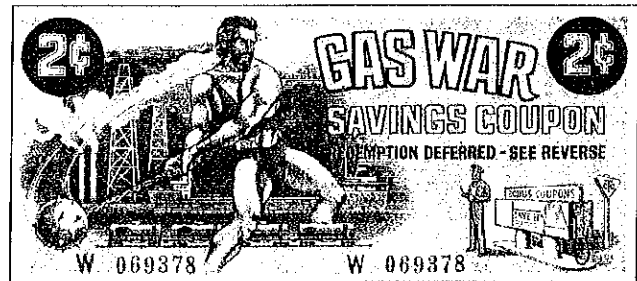
CTC 4-D with left W narrow, right W wide



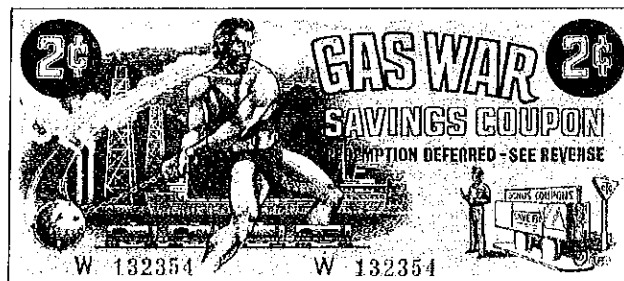
MP1B-10W with both W's narrow



GW002 with both W's wide



GW002 with both W's narrow



GW002 with left W narrow, right W wide

Courtesy of the North York Coin Club

A NUMISMATIC SANDWICH

BY ALAN HERBERT, COINS MAGAZINE

The Sandwich is Not Just for Lunch!

The well-loved “sandwich” has a variety of meanings, hardly as many as the possible fillings available at the deli counter, but still a source of possible confusion for the coin collector. It’s a very commonly used word, so it’s not surprising that the coin hobby has adopted it.

Wikipedia says that “The first form of sandwich is attributed to the ancient Jewish sage Hillel the Elder, who is said to have put meat from the Paschal lamb and bitter herbs inside matzo (or flat, unleavened bread) during Passover.” The English earl, Lord Sandwich, is credited with assembling a hasty meal of bread and filling, which was dubbed the sandwich in his honour.

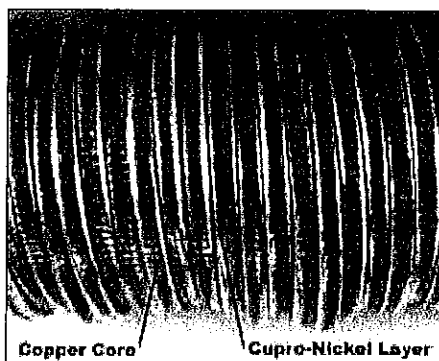
So, what does all this have to do with coins? Well, in case you hadn’t noticed, coin collectors have a habit of applying nicknames to their coins and sandwich is well on the way to becoming a favourite.

After all, the term has long since been applied to our clad coinage, a natural considering that when you put a sheet of one metal between two other sheets of different metals, what point is there in avoiding the obvious?

One word of caution is important here as the misconception is rampant that “clad” applies only to a copper core between layers of copper nickel. Actually, any metals or alloys can be used in making a clad coin. To point out just a couple, the 40-percent silver Kennedy halves have silver in the core and the clad layers, as do the 40 percent silver Eisenhower dollars.

If that were the only instance of using the term in the hobby, I’d need to pontificate about the earl, but there are other uses.

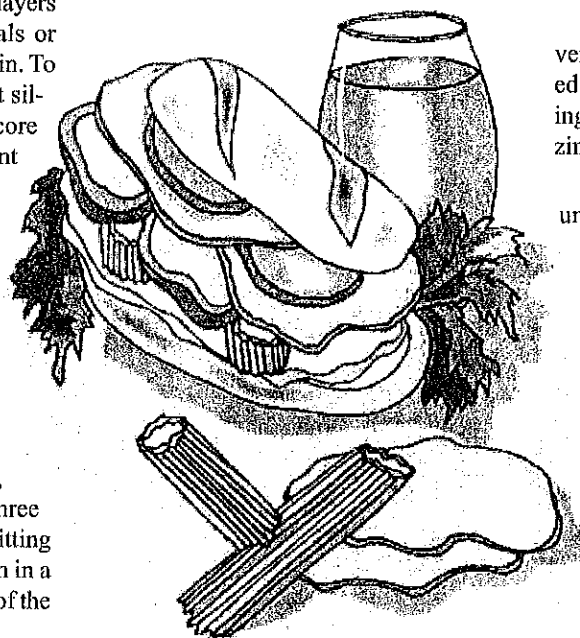
For instance—and a frequent question—coins with extra, incuse, reversed design elements are also called sandwich coins, because they are made by stacking three coins, (or two coins and an anvil) and hitting them with a hammer or squeezing them in a vise. The “filling” gets incuse versions of the designs from the other two coins.



Point to watch here is that the sandwich may be filled, or it can be open faced. Think about it.

There are at least three numismatic meanings for the term:

1. A clad coin that has a solid core, surrounded by clad layers.
2. An altered coin, produced by sandwiching a coin between two others.
3. This one is something of a surprise. An expert in English coins understood sandwich to mean two coins soldered together. That was a new usage to me. Although English collectors, like their American counterparts, have a similar tendency to use slang and nicknames when referring to their coins.



Actually, there is a precedent for the United States’ clad coinage. Seems that clad coinage has been around for some time. The Greeks instituted a silver-clad copper coinage after A.D. 700.

I know I’m going to miss one or more important usages of the term, but my loyal readers will be more than happy to fill in the blank spots in my memory.

While on the topic of sandwich coins, it wouldn’t hurt to explain that there are at least two ways of producing clad coins. The U.S. Mint started out in the mid-1960s with an expensive process that depended on a thin layer of explosive to bond the clad layers to the core. It quickly wrecked their budget and they were busy searching for a cheaper alternative.

The method they found uses pressure to bond the metal layers together. For the collector of minting varieties, the appearance of sandwich coins lacking one or both slices of bread made them highly collectible. This bonding method was introduced in 1967.

A bonding process line was installed at the newest Philadelphia Mint in 1969, doubling the cost of the building to more than \$30 million, only to be abandoned later in favour of purchasing bonded strip from outside suppliers. Remember, this was the cheaper process!

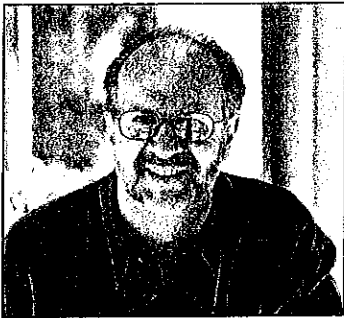
Bonding, coating and plating have some very common roots. The U.S. Mint persisted, for public relations reasons, in describing the 1943 steel cents as “coated” with zinc, when it was actually plated.

Confusing the three terms is quite easy until you sit down and study them closely.

Plating usually involves transferring one metal onto another using electricity, but there are actually other methods, such as to accomplish anodizing, or even chemical plating.

All of which takes us far from our original sandwich, but it serves as a gentle nudge to ensure you have an appetite for the right terms.

Courtesy of the South Wellington Coin Society



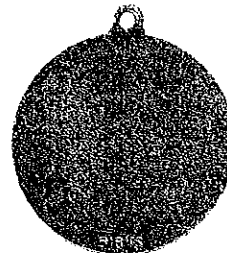
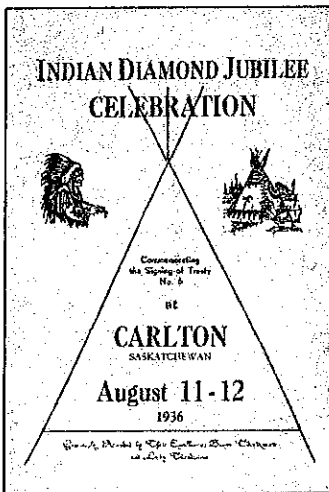
Indian Diamond Jubilee

DID YOU KNOW.....?

By Scott E. Douglas

.....that in 1876 the First Nations peoples signed over all of their land in Assiniboia (Alberta) and Saskatchewan to the Government of Canada for what amounted to agricultural assistance and an early form of 'medicare'? Following its assumption of sovereignty over the North-West Territories, the Government of Canada began negotiating a series of numbered treaties with the native peoples of this region of Canada. Treaty #6 was signed on August 26, 1876 by the Cree, Chipewyan and Saulteaux Tribes. The amount of land involved was 309,760 square kilometers and in return these First Nations peoples would move to designated newly established Reserves. On the Reserves the natives would receive the benefit of newly built schools, farm animals, agricultural tools and farming instruction. Treaty #6 also allowed for the provision of medicine and an assurance of Government protection in case of '.....any pestilence or general famine.' This treaty was signed at Fort Carlton, Saskatchewan. It has been suggested that even though a translator was present that the First Nations people really did not fully understand exactly what they were signing.

However, at the Indian Diamond Jubilee Celebration August 11, 1936 the prologue of the Cree Tribe stated in part '*....we have come together once again to re-enact before your gaze the Treaty #6, by which we gave our lands away, yes, willingly, nor would we wish it changed.*' This two day gala affair was attended by Lady and Baron Tweedsmuir of England. Baron Tweedsmuir was the Governor General of Canada and was made a chief of the Cree Nation in a ceremony at the Jubilee. There were several presentations to First Nations leaders as well as to other attending dignitaries by First Nations leaders. The highlight of the Jubilee was a re-enactment of part of the Treaty #6 negotiations in which Chief Sam Swimmer and Chief Joseph Dreaver along with several others took part. The sixty year celebration was a huge success and was commemorated by a medal produced by Birks. This medal is one of the few mementoes left as a reminder of an important part of our Canadian history.



The medal produced by Birks to celebrate 60 years of Treaty #6.

Courtesy of the London Numismatic Society

BANK OF LONDON NOTES

Graham Esler FRNS, FCNRS

When Bill Clarke and I decided to investigate the Bank of London in 1965 there were three known notes, all Fives.

One, 00627/_ was held by the University of Western Ontario; the second 10011/B, illustrated in C. S. Howard's *Canadian Banks and Bank Notes, A Record*, was in the Bank of Montreal Collection and the third, 00013/C which was purchased at the CNA Auction (lot 1277) in 1959 by Byron Swayze and, subsequently, obtained by S. S. Carroll for the National Currency Collection, Bank of Canada.

By the time we finished our article a fourth note, 09820/B had been discovered and found its way to the National Currency Collection as part of an exchange involving the Swayze note.

In 1966, as a result of an enquiry to the British American Bank Note Company regarding the Bank of London, the President Richard P. White supplied the following information (personal correspondence).

However, an old vault record indicates we engraved \$5,
\$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes for this Bank about 1883.

This was the first indication that denominations other than \$5 notes should exist.

In 1970, the National Currency Collection obtained a \$10 note from a private source in London. This note was shown, originally, to Keith Greenham, proprietor of Forest City Coins and Stamps. He referred the owner to S. S. Carroll, Chief Curator of the National Currency Collection.

In 1978, the Minute Book of the Bank of London was discovered in St. Thomas, Ontario in the possession of a descendant of one of the directors of the Bank who was instrumental in winding up its affairs after the failure of the Bank. Preserved between the pages of the minute book were sheets of remainder notes for all denominations, which had been punch cancelled PAID. For the first time the designs of the \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes were available to collectors and researchers.

The following is the list of the remainder notes:

\$5.00	one cut note	
	a partial sheet of three notes	23337/A,B,C. (D position is missing).
\$10.00	a partial sheet of three notes	07493/A,B,C. (D position is missing)
\$20.00	a sheet of two notes	0995/A,B
\$50.00 and \$100.00	a sheet of two notes	0994/A,A.

The \$5 and \$10 notes were printed in sheets of four (A, B, C, D)

The \$20 notes appear to have been printed in sheets of two (A, B).

There is also the possibility that the 20s, 50s and 100s were printed in sheets of four - on 20: 20: 50: 100 with the corresponding position letters A:B:A:A.

This information was recorded in the *The Canadian Paper Money Society Journal* (Vol. XIV, No. 3, July 1978, pp 91 - 94). I suspect that the author of the article was Ruth McQuade who not only was the editor of *The Journal* but also worked in the National Currency Collection at the time.

The quantities of notes printed, as listed in the article, is the same as those recorded in the minute book. The discrepancy occurs in the number of unissued \$5 notes listed as destroyed. The quantity listed in the article, 58,796 notes has always been puzzling. When I went back to the minute book I found that an error had been made in the CPMS article in calculating the number of sheets destroyed. The minute book indicates that the quantity of these notes destroyed was 58,060 (Bank of London Minute Book, October 13, 1887, page 144).

A. Numbers of Bank of London Notes Printed.

\$5	00001 - 25000	A,B,C,D	100,000 notes.
\$10	00001 - 07500	A,B,C,D	30,000 notes
\$20	00001 - 01000	A,B	2,000 notes
\$50	00001 - 01000	A	1,000 notes
\$100	00001 - 01000	A	1,000 notes

B. Number of Bank of London Notes Destroyed 1887 - 1888

Date	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$50	\$100
Oct. 13, 1887	58,000*	26,000*	2,000*	1,000*	1,000*
Oct. 16, 1887	2,060	440			
Oct. 27, 1887	34,000	3,000			
Nov. 9, 1888	2,470	295			
Dec. 21, 1888	2,150	225			

*Not issued

Total Destroyed	99,480	29,960	2,000	1,000	1,000
Total Unredeemed	520	40	0	0	0

C. Number of Bank of London Notes Issued

\$5	\$10	\$20	\$50	\$100
41,200	4,000	0	0	0

There are four fewer Bank of London notes unredeemed than previous thought, 520 rather than 524.

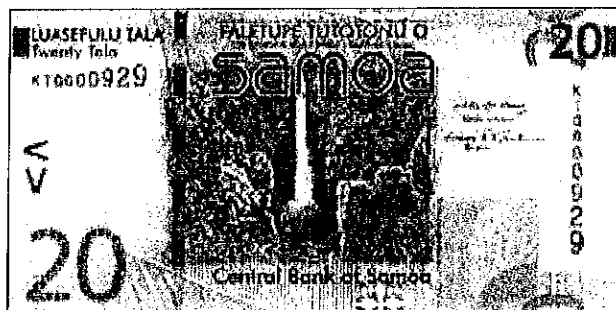


Courtesy of the North York Coin Club

INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY CHOOSES SAMOAN ISSUE FOR 2009 BANKNOTE OF THE YEAR



Samoa's new 20 tala polymer bank note wins the international award for Bank Note of the Year



From the International Bank Note Society's web site www.theibns.org

After reviewing government banknote issues worldwide last year, the International Bank Note Society (IBNS) has selected their Banknote of the Year from among the many countries that issued new currency designs in 2008. This year, the International Bank Note Society's Board of Directors has chosen as the most attractive new issue of 2008, the Central Bank of Samoa's 20-tala note. Samoa's 20-tala banknote beat eight other banknotes nominated by IBNS members, two of which were also from the Pacific region.

With striking, eye-catching yellow and gold colours and bold and innovative security devices, the 20-tala note easily eclipsed its competition in the views of the IBNS judges. The judges liked the Central Bank's emphasis on tourism, achieved by highlighting one of the nation's picturesque waterfalls — a refreshing departure from the standard practice of portraying famous persons on paper money. The reverse design was also praised for featuring Samoa's national bird, the Manumea, and the national flower, the Teuila; the two symbolizing the uniqueness of Samoa's natural environment.

Sharing the spotlight with the Central Bank of Samoa is the designer and printer of the banknote, UK-based De La Rue Currency, one of the world's foremost producers of paper money and securities. De La Rue's creative blend of state-of-the-art security features and design elements maintains its long tradition of superior banknote design and printing, significantly adding to the appeal of the 20-tala banknote, according to the IBNS Board.

NEW 20 TALA BILL IS 'BANK NOTE OF THE YEAR'

From the Samoa Observer, April 13, 2009

APIA, Samoa —The Samoan 20 Tala currency note has won the International Bank Note Society's (IBNS) '2009 Bank Note of the Year' award.

The IBNS is an Organisation founded in 1961 with the objectives of promoting, stimulating and advancing the study and knowledge of world banknotes and paper currencies. It has some 1,750 members throughout the world who collect, research, and write about aspects of paper money. And, for a number of years, the IBNS has made an award to recognise an exceptional banknote issued each year. The award recognises the artistic merit, imaginative design, and use of security features in the winning banknote.

In his letter advising the Central Bank of Samoa of the award, the IBNS President Mr. Peter Symes stated "of the nine notes short listed for our award this year, the 20 Tala note was a clear winner." Mr. Symes went on to congratulate the Central Bank of Samoa and the printers of the note, De La Rue and Company, on the magnificent achievement, not only in producing the Bank Note of the Year, but also in preparing a meritorious range of notes in the new series of banknotes.

The design theme of the 20 Tala note is 'Nature and the Environment.' These are

represented by the Sopoaga waterfall and native forest in the front, and our national bird and national flower at the back of the note. Like other notes in our new family of banknotes, the 20 Tala exhibits a vibrant colour palette, which is an important part of the Bank's design brief. Our traditional Samoan tattoo designs background all the notes in the new family of banknotes.

The new Tala series of currency notes is the first since the 1980s to involve a complete redesign. This follows a decision by the Central Bank to introduce new designs and upgrade to the latest banknote security features, especially after experiencing many counterfeiting problems with the previous issue.

On receipt of the notification of the award, the Governor of the Central Bank of Samoa, Leasi Papali'i Scanlan, said he was both "gratified and pleased" at the recognition received by Samoa's new banknotes, praising the close collaboration between the Bank and De La Rue on the award winning design.

The Central Bank has been further advised that our same 20 Tala note has also won the 'Bank Note of the Year' award for a German Numismatic Publication called the Munzen & Sammeln.

Courtesy of the North York Coin Club

EFFORTS INCREASING TO KEEP VICTORIA CROSS IN CANADA

BY RANDY BOSWELL, SASKATCHEWAN LEADER-POST

April 24, 2009

A growing controversy over the planned auction of an iconic Canadian war medal — the Victoria Cross of one of Winnipeg's "Valour Road" heroes from the First World War — has officials with Lt. Robert Shankland's former regiment plotting ways to prevent any sale to a foreign collector while debating whether Ottawa or Winnipeg should eventually lay claim to the illustrious decoration.

Shankland's VC, awarded to him in 1917 for "most conspicuous bravery" in leading his troops against the Germans near the Belgian town of Passchendaele, is the centrepiece of a nine-medal set being offered at Bonhams' May 25 auction of Canadian art and history.

The high-end estimate for the full set — which includes a Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to Shankland in 1916 for rescuing a Canadian unit of stretcher bearers from enemy fire — is \$330,000.

In one of Canadian war history's most poignant twists of fate, Shankland lived before the war on west-end Winnipeg's Pine Street along with two other future Victoria Cross recipients — Cpl. Leo Clarke and Sgt.-Major Frederick Hall.

The street was later renamed Valour Road, which remains a focal point of Winnipeg remembrance activities.

Murray Burt, historian and secretary for the Winnipeg-based Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, said the regiment is lining up "quiet financing" for an attempt to secure the Shankland VC, but intends to "hold our fire until after the sale." It's a strategy aimed at taking advantage of federal rules that give Canadians six months to match any auction price paid by a foreign buyer for specially designated Canadian cultural artifacts, including historic military objects.

"Our principal worry is that it goes out of the country," said Burt, adding that if any international collector purchases Shankland's VC "we'll sure go after it."

He added that the Cameron Highlanders "took some comfort" from the vow earlier this week by Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson to do "whatever it takes" to block

the export of the "powerful and enduring symbol" of Shankland's gallantry.

"We have a duty to protect and preserve this proud history of our nation's truest heroes," Thompson said Tuesday to Canwest News Service after it first reported the planned sale. "Our heritage cannot be for export."

Wayne Lightfoot, a federal public servant in Winnipeg, has also launched a public campaign to keep the Shankland medals in Canada.

Burt noted that some Cameron Highlanders working to secure Shankland's medals "would like them in Winnipeg" to be displayed at the regimental museum or elsewhere. Others, he says, believe the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa — which holds 30 of the 94 Victoria Crosses awarded to Canadians between the 1850s and 1945 — would be the "best place" to exhibit the Shankland VC.

Jack Kerr-Wilson, president of Bonhams Canada, has said Shankland's medals are attracting considerable international interest and that they will be available to any Canadian or foreign buyer.

Previous attempts to auction examples of Canada's highest military decoration have also provoked public ire and government objections to the planned sales.

In 2004, with the family of Toronto-born Second World War medic Fred Topham poised to auction his Victoria Cross — earned through several daring dashes into no man's land in 1945 — the federal Liberal government of the day vowed to block the sale and even offered to purchase the medal.

In the end, a public fundraising campaign spearheaded by the veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion — Topham's former unit — raised \$300,000 to prevent the medal's sale to a British collector.

Also in 2004, the planned sale of the Victoria Cross won by Canadian soldier Filip Konowal during the First World War was halted by the RCMP after the Canadian War Museum claimed ownership of the medal.

Konowal's VC had disappeared from a museum storage area in the 1970s. Following a brief police investigation, the

medal was returned to the military history collection in Ottawa, where Konowal had worked as a Parliament Hill janitor before his death in 1959.

And even the first Victoria Cross awarded to a Canadian — Alexander Dunn's VC from the 1854 Crimean War — sparked controversy when it was auctioned in Britain in 1894. Canadian government officials later purchased and repatriated the medal, which is now on display at Dunn's former school in Toronto.

Would you like to know more about the Victoria Cross? Here are some citations from the *Canadian Numismatic Bibliography*:

<<Victoria Cross>>. — CNJ : Vol. 12, no. 9 (Sep. 1967). — p. 330 - 331, ill. — *history of the Commonwealth's highest gallantry award which was instituted in 1856. Includes a chart displaying the number of VCs and bars awarded in various wars to Commonwealth Servicemen and civilians*

1000 Brave Canadians. — Toronto : Unitrade Press, 1991. — 415 p. — *includes all of the citations for Canadians awarded the: Victoria Cross; George Cross; Albert Medal; Edward Medal; George Medal; King's Police Medal; Cross of Valour; Star of Courage; Medal of Bravery; and the Meritorious Service Cross*

<<Four Canadian physicians have won the Victoria Cross>>. — CNJ : Vol. 36, no. 4 (April 1991). — p. 136 - 137. — *biographical notes on Herbert Taylor Reade, Campbell Millis Douglas, Francis Alexander Caron Scrimger and Bellenden S. Hutcheson - all physicians who were awarded the Commonwealth's most distinguished military honour while serving with Canadian Units at various times from 1857 -1918 (by NYCC member Marvin Kay)*

History of the Victoria Cross : being an account of the 520 acts of bravery for which the decoration has been awarded, and portraits of 392 recipients. — Glendale, New York : Benchmark publishing, 1970. — xxiii, (1), 442, (2) p., ill. — reprint of original 1904 edition by Philip A. Wilkins

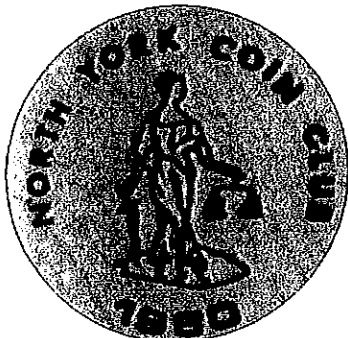
Courtesy of Timber Talk

THE WOODEN NICKEL INVENTORY OF HARVEY FARROW

by John Regitko, CAWMC Member #265

His Background

Harvey Farrow passed away suddenly at his home on January 18, 2001. A memorial service was held on February 15. The hobby was represented by 10 collectors, including Paul Petch, at the time President of the North York Coin Club, which Harvey considered his "home" club. He was pre-deceased by his parents Godfrey and Hazel Farrow (Harvey was only 6 months old when his father passed away).



In his 63rd year, he received his education at Variety Village where he also learned to cope with his physical abilities that were the result of a birth defect. His determination to succeed at whatever he chose to do was evident even in his childhood because one of his "hobbies" was going for longer walks around Toronto. He could be seen most weekends walking along Danforth Avenue to take in the sights of Greektown, or attend some event being held in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds.

Following his education at Variety Village, he obtained employment at Remington Rand where he was responsible for accounts receivables and credit & collection. I was also employed by Remington Rand for over 25 years, ever since I graduated from school. Although I had met Harvey numerous times at the Toronto and North York Coin Clubs, when I was hired by Remington I was not aware that Harvey worked there. I ran into him about a week after I started when I ventured from my 7th floor office to be introduced to the people in accounting on the 5th floor. Small world sometimes.

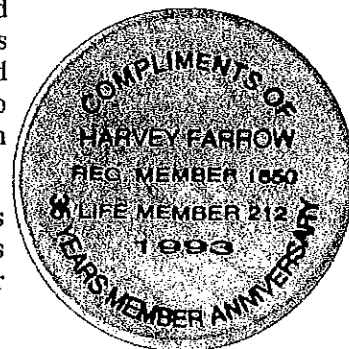
After more than 25 years, he joined All-Comp Supplies & Services Ltd., which I owned. Harvey was responsible for looking after all of the company's accounting functions, including invoicing, accounts receivable, accounts payable, inventory control, banking and financial record keeping. As an aside, all employees of All-Comp were involved in the hobby. Jacquie Miller, who was the daughter of the late Eric Miller, owner of Coin-Militaria Mart which operated out of the Sheppard Centre two blocks away from All-Comp, worked with me for a number of years. She and Larry Sontagh, another employee of All-Comp, always assisted me in running the Toronto International Coin Fair (TICF) which I owned and operated. With great teamwork, we turned TICF into Canada's largest coin show with more dealers than anyone else. We offered complimentary meeting space to organizations. The Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club held their founding meeting at one of the TICFs.

An avid hockey fan and season ticket holder, Harvey could be found every Saturday evening cheering for his favorite team, the Toronto Maple Leafs. He could also be found at a number of local area coin clubs, including the North York, Oshawa, Thistletown and Scarborough Coin Clubs, as well as Markham Village and Richmond Hill Coin Clubs when they were in operation. He could be found at every ONA Convention since the ONA's very beginning, as well as at virtually all CNA Conventions regardless where across Canada they were held.

He received his start in numismatics when his mother and her best friend, Louise Graham, introduced him to the Toronto Coin Club. While Mrs. Graham went on to become the President of the Toronto Coin Club and the North York Coin Club, as well as President and Executive Secretary of the Canadian Numismatic Association, Harvey also became involved with the organizational aspect of the hobby in a big way. One of his early volunteer positions was long-time Treasurer of the Toronto Coin Club during the times when Louis Graham and I were President of the club.

His history with the North York Coin Club had been long and extensive. At the time of his death, he was the North York Coin Club's Treasurer, a position he had held for over 25 years. He also served the club as President, Receptionist, and Social Convenor. He represented the Club as its official delegate at numerous annual ONA and CNA Conventions. For his hard work and dedication, he was made an Honorary Life Member by the club. Just prior to his passing, he agreed to take over as Treasurer of the Mississauga-Thistletown Coin Club.

As John Regitko stated at the eulogy at Harvey's memorial service: "Harvey was determined to do the best possible in whatever he was involved with, be it in business or in his hobby. He was as dependable and accurate as anyone else I have ever known."



Harvey Farrow's Wooden Nickels

Kent Farrow, who held the Power of Attorney over Harvey's property, asked me to review his numismatic holdings and set a value for estate probate purposes, as well as to recommend its eventual disposition. One of the things that Kent agreed to was to donate all of Harvey's wooden tokens and presentation certificates to the North York Coin Club. They were turned over to the North York Coin Club. The inventory was then reviewed by three members that were members of both the NYCC and CAWMC: Norm Belsten, Ron Zelk and myself. The only stipulation that Kent proposed was that most of the material should be given away (such as in door draws).

The inventory of wooden nickels amounted to about 1,800 which he had accumulated over his lifetime of collecting and included personal woods given to him by fellow collectors, wooden souvenir tokens from ONA and CNA Conventions that he attended, woods he won in door draws while attending coin club meetings and promotional woods passed on to him by others. Sixty-six had a NYCC connection and were retained by the club. It was determined that 139 had more than a minimum value. This included the hand painted woods of Lou Vesh and Garry Littrell, as well as some earlier issues and autographed woods by well-known numismatists that had passed away. These better woods were disposed of by auction at the CAWMC meeting that was held in conjunction with the CNA Convention in Quebec City.

In a showing of generosity, the executive of the North York Coin Club voted unanimously in favour of Paul Petch's motion to donate 50% of the remaining wooden nickels of around 1,600 from the Harvey Farrow Estate to other clubs of which he was an active member. This included the Scarborough Coin Club, Oshawa Coin Club, Mississauga-Thistletown Coin Stamp & Collectables Club and the Southern Ontario Chapter of CAWMC. Norm Belsten was asked to sort them into four piles of 200 each. The remaining 800 woods were used over an extended period of time in door draws and at auctions.

As I stated in the ONA Numismatist, official publication of the Ontario Numismatic Association, of which I was editor at the time: "We salute the members and the executive of the North York Coin Club for sharing their windfall with other clubs that were also attended by Harvey and were also close to his heart!



Gold 1.5" dia.



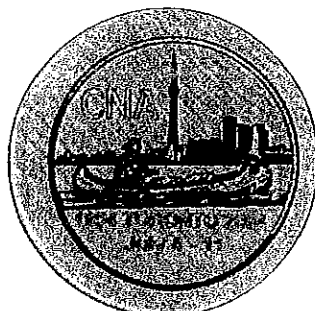
Blue 1.5" dia.

Obverse used for
the 1994 ONA
Convention
Hosted by the
North York Coin



Black 1.75" dia

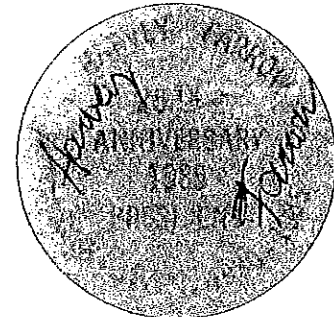
Obverse used for
the 2004 CNA
Convention
Hosted by the
North York Coin



Green 1.75' dia.



Blue 1.5" dia.



Green-blue ink 1.5' dia.

Illustrated are just six of the different woods issued by Harvey or for the North York Coin Club. The one in the lower right, issued as a personal wood by Harvey, shows his frugality. It was created by the use of a rubber stamp that did not involve the expense of creating a die.

Courtesy of the North York Coin Club

GETTING YOUR 4-CENTS WORTH

BY BILL MILLER, SOUTHERN OREGON MAIL TRIBUNE

\$15 for 2009 pennies? That joke was done nearly a century ago!

Tom Bartholomew thought the best way to celebrate Abe Lincoln's 101st birthday was with a practical joke. After all, the old rail-splitter always had loved a good story.

Tom was the owner of the West Side Pharmacy, just a couple of blocks up Main Street from the Medford railroad tracks.

It's sometimes difficult to find a penny these days, but if you should get desperate and really want one for yourself, check with your friendly banker or favourite cashier. If you want to pretend you still can see Tom Bartholomew's sign, head for the corner of Grape and Main in Medford. The devilish Westside pharmacist dispensed his particularly strange brand of humour just about where the Britt headquarters now stands.

In March 1910, the newly minted Lincoln pennies, first issued in August 1909, still were pretty hard to find. The public, especially young boys, were stashing them away in bags and drawers.

In Bartholomew's store window, up went his sign — "\$15 for 1909 Pennies." Even the mathematically challenged quickly recognized a \$14.99 profit. Drawers opened up and bags of copper coins came out. One by one, customers hurried in with their dreams of a new bonnet, yoyos or maybe even a few extra beers at their favourite saloon.

A timid lady approached Tom's counter clutching her new "Lincoln" and asked if it were really true.

"Why, sure I'll give \$15 for 1909 pennies," said Tom.

"But, I only have one penny," said the lady, ready for her reward.

"Well, you must get 1,908 more pennies," said Tom, with a smile.

"To get the \$15 you must have 1,909 pennies."



Then there was the portrait, the first to appear on a national coin. Some said it was like a Roman Emperor, while others found it appropriate that a humble, unpretentious patriot would be honoured on the country's smallest, humblest and most common coin.

**In the United States,
four new pennies
will appear this year
in celebration of
Lincoln's 200th birthday**

For 50 years, even when it was made of steel in 1943, the reverse of the coin carried two wheat heads, the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the national motto, E Pluribus Unum, "one out of many." That was replaced by the Lincoln Monument in 1959.

On Feb. 12, Lincoln's 200th birthday, the U.S. Mint issued the first of four new pennies that will appear this year. Lincoln remains on the front, but

the back images will change about every three months. First is the log cabin where Lincoln was born. In May, it's Lincoln reading on a log, followed by Lincoln in front of the Illinois Statehouse, and in December comes an unfinished Capitol Building, just as it was during the Civil War. Next year, a not-yet-released design will celebrate the union of the states.

In 1910, Tom Bartholomew's joke would cost you \$14.99. This year, it's going to take \$59.96. Now, that's what you call inflation.

20 MILLION LINCOLN RAIL SPLITTER PENNIES SOLD IN FOUR DAYS

BY MIKE UNSER, NUMISMATIC NEWS

Blazing past all expectations, collectors purchased more than 400,000 rolls of the 2009 Lincoln Rail Splitter cent in just four days, the latest United States Mint sales figures show.

The Mint launched the coin Thursday to an excited public. On the same day, two-roll sets — one roll of 50 coins for the United States Mint at Philadelphia and one roll of 50 coins for the United States Mint at Denver — went on sale for \$8.95. Or, perhaps more clearly, for 8.95 cents per penny!

As of Sunday, the Mint said 200,055 of the

two-roll sets have sold for a total of 400,110 rolls, adding up to more than 20 million pennies.

A staggering level that greatly outshines the very impressive performance of the first Log Cabin cent where 96,000 sets were sold in less than two weeks. To be fair, the Mint unexpectedly stopped selling those rolls, and

that helped create further excitement for the second launch. And, obviously, the sales limit was greatly increased for the new cent.

The public, and collectors specifically, apparently had little objections in paying premiums for the rolls. In running the numbers and discounting shipping, the Mint has grossed a whopping \$1.79 million (\$8.95 x 200,055) for the pennies so far.

For the Mint's part, a clear motivation was getting more pennies out to a demanding public. And to the Mint's credit, they have not shut down sales of the coins. The action may help reduce Lincoln coin prices overall. After the first 2009 log cabin cent launch, prices for the pennies in the secondary market went (and are) much higher than original Mint prices.

