



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Since this is the month of the shamrock, and St. Patrick, we present a little something about that little something that makes Irishmen out of all of us at least once a year . . .

THE SHAMROCK OF IRELAND

By David Ashe

One of the ancient ecclesiastical mint marks found on early English hand-hammered coins is the trefoil. This heraldic mark, known as the shamrock, appears on numerous coins issued by the ecclesiastical mints which were under the auspices of the monarchs.

It is more than unfortunate that the reason for the adoption of the trefoil is lost in antiquity--as only a legend remains.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, so the legend tells, had great difficulty in teaching the Trinity. On many occasions St. Patrick spoke to the heathens on a hillside, and the uneducated masses could not understand why there were three Gods, but one God.

It is here, the legend tells, how St. Patrick stood before the gathering and glancing downward near his feet and saw a shamrock.

He picked the small plant and held it before himself and said: "You see, there are three leaves, but they are joined as one. The Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Ghost is God, and yet, they are not three Gods but one God."

And so the people understood the teaching of the Trinity, and from that time onward the shamrock, or trefoil, was adopted as the ecclesiastical symbol of Ireland.

Whether there is any truth in this legend, we may never know. However, there is, one thing certain, in all legends we find a certain amount of truth.

The deliberation of such a legend is borne out when we study another phase of numismatics known as heraldry.

By studying ecclesiastical symbols and the science of heraldry, the latter subject being in existence for well over a thousand years, we are immediately made aware of the colour green closely associated with Ireland.

Have you heard of the fine old saying, the wearing of the green?

The colour green, is indirectly attributed to the green fields of Ireland. In fact, it is traditional and fermented on an ancient Irish rite. In the olden days, it was enacted that green boughs were to be burnt, after which, the wood-ash had to be carried forth and scattered over the fields. This religious ceremony, performed in ancient Ireland, had a profound understanding that new life would come forth in abundance from life.

Yes indeed, March 17 is a great day for the Irish, religiously in tradition, and numismatically for all those concerned.

THE CONVENTION

The Capital City Coin Club, Ottawa, hosting the Ontario Numismatic Association's second annual convention, is well under way with plans to make this convention a memorable one.

Dealers who have not already reserved a table, better see to it immediately as there are less than ten available tables remaining.

Clubs of Ontario are urgently requested to select their delegates to this convention. Drop a line to Mrs. Ruth Mueller, ONA secretary, stating your selection as soon as possible.

Delegates are requested to attend the business meetings at this convention; bring along your club problems, if any; bring along a display for the Court of Honour showing what your club has been accomplishing; and bring along any good ideas for the improvement of our clubs and/or a closer relationship.

Displays for competition are to be set up no later than 1 p. m., Saturday, April 18. Judging will begin shortly thereafter. Any late displays will automatically be placed in the Court of Honour.

Admission will be 50 cents a day for the general public. Coloured buttons will be issued as receipt of admission.

Banquet tickets \$4.50. This includes three days admission plus the dinner at 6:30 p. m., Saturday, April 18. For tickets please contact Bob Whitehead, 1132 Bedbrooke St., Ottawa 3, Ont.

Award of Merit nominations should be sent in by March 1 to the chairman R. C. Willey, Box 726, Espanola, Ont. All ONA members have the right to select someone whom they believe deserved recognition for the work he or she has done to further numismatics. Someone has made numismatics more interesting and desirable for you, so take a few minutes of your time to give them recognition. Send in those nominations now.

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with memberships of one of the following categories: Adult -- \$2 yearly; junior (up to 18 years of age) -- \$1 yearly; husband and wife (one copy) -- \$3 yearly; club -- \$10 yearly. All payments are to be made to Bruce Raszmann, ONA Treasurer, 230 Herbert St., Waterloo, Ont.

Interesting aspects of the convention will include ladies activities; tours; the opening ceremony; dealers a-plenty; educational programmes; business meetings and discussion periods; displays from unique to fabulous; draws; awards. Everything is planned with YOU in mind, so plan to visit Ottawa on April 17 - 19.

CONVENTION DISPLAYS

CLASSIFICATION OF DISPLAY CATEGORIES to be used at the ONA convention.

1. Junior - All displays entered by persons under 18 years of age. A contest by themselves apart from all other categories except #9.
2. Canadian - Includes all provincial and Canadian coins, tokens, etc., but no medals or paper money. (Includes Newfoundland).
3. U. S. A. - Includes all U. S. coins, tokens, etc., but no medals or paper money.
4. Classical - Includes all items pertaining to ancient Greece and Rome and other ancient empires.
5. British Empire and Commonwealth - Includes all coins of the British colonies, dominions and Great Britain (except Canada).
6. Foreign - Includes all coins, token, etc., but no medals or paper money, from any one country excluding categories 2, 3, 4, 5.
7. Paper - Includes all paper money, documents, and other forms of paper exchange, etc. from any one country or from various countries, including Canada and U. S.
8. Miscellaneous - Includes medals and other numismatic items and novelty exhibits not applicable in any of the above categories. This includes any one display showing metal items from more than one country (other than as defined in #5), and/or any one display showing both metal items and paper items together.
9. Best of Show - All eight categories listed above will constitute one category to ascertain the identity of the highest point scoring display in the entire exhibition.

DECISION OF THE JUDGES will be final, and they shall be empowered as a single body to categorize any questionable display as they see suitable.

POINT SYSTEM FOR JUDGING DISPLAYS TO BE USED AT THE ONA CONVENTION

- 20 points - Information - Applied to all apparent research encountered in an effort to make a display for the benefit of the onlookers.
- 20 points - Originality - Applied to the new design of the display and the new means of exhibiting.
- 20 points - Arrangement and Eye-appeal - Refers to a design or means of display which is not original but which by better adoption, colourings, neatness, does in some way supersede other similar displays. Eye-appeal is the degree of visual attention demanded by general appearance over other displays. Arrangement, 10 points. Eye-appeal, 10 points.
- 20 points - Condition and Rarity - These terms are the standard means of numismatic gradings as used in Canada and U. S. Condition, 10 points. Rarity, 10 points.
- 20 points - Completeness - Applied to the completeness of any series or type sets of coins or other items or to any purposeful groupings of items.

Exhibitors! If you wish the judges to be aware of any characteristics of the displays, particularly of the condition, rarity, information, and completeness, this should be revealed in the information which is incorporated in the displays. Judges cannot be expected to know everything.

COIN GRADING

By Bill English

Another aspect of the collecting field that can cause concern to the collector, is the grading of coins. Unlike many other facets of the hobby, there can be a wide variance of grading for the same coin. Why is this the case, and why should every collector that purchases a coin, have some knowledge on grading? The answer is simple.

The uncirculated coin is the only grade that can be in this condition. It sounds like I'm talking circles but a coin is either uncirculated or has been circulated. This does not mean that an uncirculated coin cannot have bag abrasions, die flaws, or even an edge bump.

What I am trying to say is that an uncirculated coin has been struck at the mint, sent to a bank to be either rolled or issued to someone who has put the coin away. It has never been in circulation, provided, of course it has not mishandled anywhere along the way.

The condition of the coin is the determining factor in pricing a coin in the first place, and also a guide on the goal of your collection's beauty. Unfortunately, at the present time, there is not a complete grading description, recognized as a standard, that Canadian coin collectors can use.

Basically the Canadian series is not too complicated, since there are only six obverse designs to contend with. The reverse side of the Canadian series seems to be overlooked by many that grade the coins. This side of the coin has many different designs which make the reverse a little more challenging to explain.

We all know that one cannot grade a coin by only one side. Many collectors will grade by the poorest side, others by the better side, and still others by a combination of both.

Which is the best way? I think all will agree that the latter is the truest grading of a coin's condition. The problem that arises is that it gets unwieldy to describe. So the result has been to make a compromise between the two and then grade it on the conservative side. We all have a tendency to upgrade our coins particularly when we first start to collect.

Why do we all buy a standard catalogue as soon as the new ones are available? To gain more knowledge about our Canadian coins? No, I'm afraid this is not the case, because the catalogues have not changed basically for the last five or six years. The only thing that keeps changing is the values for each grade of coin. This in itself makes the collector more conscious of the grade of a coin than anything else on the market.

We all buy the new catalogues to see what the present value of the coins are and how our own collection has appreciated. True the scarcity of some coins causes them to jump more rapidly than others, particularly in the better conditions, but even this is not always so. Dealers, collectors, and speculators will tend to bring about unrealistic values on many more common coins.

There seems to be another thing that influences the grade of a coin and that is rarity. This should not be the case, but since values jump so rapidly on the scarce coins, many people tend to see them a little better than they actually are. The grade of a coin should not be influenced by age or rarity.

Some coins have a peculiar striking problem which is evident on brilliant uncirculated specimens. This makes the grading of the coin in lesser conditions more difficult to determine. Examples of this are evident on the following, to mention only three: 1890 50 cent with no raised rim on the reverse, the George VI 50 cent pieces with a weak strike in the reverse crown, and the low relief on the Edward VII coins.

Regardless of the grade of a coin the imperfections, if any, should always be listed so one will know exactly what to expect when they see the coin. Canadian coins were shipped to the banks in bags varying from \$20 in cents to \$100 in silver coin.

This has now been changed to vary from \$100 to \$1,000 worth of coin, depending on the denomination.

We can easily see that uncirculated Canadian coins without any bag marks are very few. This is more prevalent on the larger-sized coins.

Properly listing edge bumps, scratches, corrosion, cleaned, die flaw, etc., is very necessary to the listing of a coin. Some collectors do not care if a very fine coin has been cleaned, while others would not consider it at any price.

A copper coin with original mint lustre, that has partially darkened in some areas of the coin are described by adding the percent of lustre after the grade.

From the collectors' point of view a standard grading guide that would hold for the dealers as well is long overdue. The present catalogues do include a grading section but it is quite broad and can be used to the advantage of anyone, depending on how they see a coin.

COMING EVENTS

- March 7 - North York Coin Club Annual Exhibition, Bourse and Auction,
North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge St., Willowdale, Ontario.
- March 14, 15 - Waterloo Coin Society Fifth Annual Banquet, Walper Hotel, Kitchener, Ont.
- April 4 - Woodstock Coin Club Annual Banquet, Old St. Paul's Parish Hall, Woodstock, Ont.
Banquet 6:30 p. m. Information - contact James Cullen, 117 Wilson St.,
Woodstock, Ontario.
- April 11 - Metropolitan Numismatic Club Fifth Annual Exhibition, Auction and Dance.
Oak Room, Union Station, Toronto, Ontario.
- April 11 - Huronia Numismatic Association Third Annual Banquet and Public Display. The
Continental Inn, Barrie, Ontario. Guest Speaker - Major Sheldon S. Carroll.
Bourse table - \$5.00. Banquet tickets - \$2.50. Open noon to 11:00 p. m.
- April 17, 18, 19 - Ontario Numismatic Association Second Annual Convention, Chateau
Laurier Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario.

A great deal of work has been done by the speaker's circuit chairman Frank Uttley to bring to the Ontario numismatic clubs all the benefits and operations of the ONA services. This includes brochures on exhibition services, speaker's circuit and audio-visual services.

Ontario clubs that have not received these brochures are asked to contact Frank Uttley immediately giving a correct mailing address of your club. Clubs that have received the brochures are asked to please read the rules and regulations governing the services.

These brochures are FREE to any Ontario club library and if used properly will benefit your club.

NEW MEMBERS

Applicants published in the February issue of the Journal have now been accepted.

The following applications were received in February. If no objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the April issue of the Numismatist.

- 390 James Sweeney, 484 Church St., Toronto 5, Ont.
- 391 Sgt. Sidney W. Fitzpatrick, 24B Lundy's Lane, F. H. H., Kingston, Ont.
- 392 Allan C. McLean, 274 Poplar Dr., Oakville, Ont.
- 393 Mrs. Betty Anderson, 18 Woodlawn Pl., Brockville, Ont.
- 394 Russell G. Heard, Woodville, Ont.
- 395 John Wm. Craig, 105 Lancaster St. East, Kitchener, Ont.
- C29 TILLSONBURG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, c/o R. Bentley, RR 5, Tillsonburg, Ont.
- C30 BAY of QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, Box 125, Belleville, Ont.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 139 Harold E. A. Rose, 148 Stanley Ave., Toronto 14, Ont.
- 310 Paul Pasmore, 237½ Welland Ave., St. Catharines, Ont.
- 340 Miss Edna Rogers, 132 Suffolk Dr., Oakville, Ont.
- C2 HAMILTON COIN CLUB, c/o E. Murray, 78 Duke St., Hamilton, Ont.
- C6 OAKVILLE COIN CLUB, c/o Mrs. Claudia Pelkey, 440 Pineland Ave., Oakville, Ont.
- C9 TORONTO COIN CLUB, c/o 100 Front St. West, Toronto 1, Ont.

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY LIST

THE COINS OF SOUTH GERMANY -- In the Thirteenth Century, D. M. Metcalf.
THE COINAGE OF MILAN, W. J. W. Potter
GREEK COINS, Seaby's Numismatic Publications
LATE ROMAN COINAGE, Carson, Hill and Kent
ROMAN COINS -- And Their Values, Seaby's Numismatic Publications
A HANDBOOK OF THE COINS OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE, Hugh Goodacre.
HADRIANUS IN NUMMIS, Dr. Alexander Magnaguti
THE SCOTTISH COINAGE, Ian Halley Stewart.

THE YEARBOOK OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES, B. A. Seaby.
THE COINAGE OF WILLIAM WOOD, Philip Nelson, M. D.
THE MILLED COINAGE OF ENGLAND, Spink and Son, Limited.
THE COLONIAL COINAGE OF BRITISH AFRICA, H. Alexander Parsons.
BRITISH COPPER COINS -- Part I -- Regal Coins, Seaby's Numismatic Publications.
BRITISH COPPER COINS -- Part II -- Tokens, Seaby's Numismatic Publications.
ENGLISH HAMMERED COINAGE -- Volume II, J. J. North
THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS -- Part I -- European Territories, F. Pridmore.
STANDARD CATALOGUE OF BRITISH COINS, B. A. Seaby.
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH COINAGE -- Practical Handbook for Beginners, Howard W. A. Linecar.
THE COINAGE OF ANCIENT BRITAIN, Commander R. P. Mack.
THE SILVER COINAGE OF WILLIAM III, E. R. Jackson Kent.
INVENTORY OF BRITISH HOARDS -- A. D. 600-1500, J. D. A. Thompson.
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF APPLIED NUMISMATICS, Cornelius C. Vermeule, OH. D.
COIN COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS, Kenneth A. Jacob.
COINS -- A Practical Handbook for Beginners, Howard A. Linecar.
INCO -- Fall, 1961, International Nickel Company of Canada Limited.
BEGINNERS COIN GUIDE, Kail Kash
JEFFERSON NICKELS -- Past, Present and Future, Gene Cass and Bill Evans.
COMMUNION TOKENS - Story of the Formation of the Token Collection, James Andrew Beverley.
DOMESTIC COIN -- Up to year 1961, U. S. Government Printing Office.
COINS, TOKENS AND MEDALS of the Dominion of Canada, Alfred Sandman.
UNITED STATES and CANADIAN COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS and TOKENS -- 1959, Clifford Mishler.
UNITED STATES and CANADIAN COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS and TOKENS -- 1960, Clifford Mishler.
COINS - A Complete Guide to Collecting, Jacques DelMonte.
COMPLETE GUIDE TO COIN COLLECTING, Don Zucker.
STANDARD CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN COINS, TOKENS and PAPER MONEY -- 1963, James E. Charlton.
COIN GUIDE with PREMIUM LIST of Canada, U. S. and Great Britain -- 1963, James E. Charleton.
THE GUIDE BOOK OF GREAT BRITAIN'S MODERN COINS -- 1st Edition, H. C. Taylor and Somer James.
CANADIAN COINS, PAPER CURRENCY and TOKENS -- Guide Book -- 1700-1962, Somer James
and H. C. Taylor.
CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND, U. S. and GREAT BRITAIN COINS AND CURRENCY -- Premium Guide,
Murray Sweigman.
INTRODUCTION TO NUMISMATICS -- A Symposium, Elston G. Bradfield and Glenn B. Smedley.
MY BANK AND HOW I CAN USE IT, The Bank of Montreal.
POPULAR GUIDE TO CANADIAN COINS, MEDALS, P. N. Breton.
GOLDEN SALE OF THE CENTURY -- Public Auction Sale -- Part III, Hans M. F. Schulman.
AUCTION CATALOGUE -- Mail Bid Sale, Abner Kreisberg.
LIBRARY CATALOGUE -- American Numismatic Association, 1962.

INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY -- Quarterly Magazine, Summer, 1963 and Christmas, 1963.
LIGHT WEIGHT SOLIDI AND BYZANTINE TRADE DURING THE 16th and 17th CENTURIES, Howard L. Adelson.
COUNTERFEITING IN COLONIAL CONNECTICUT, Kenneth Scott.
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARABIC METROLOGY -- Part I, George C. Miles.
EXCAVATION COINS FROM THE PERSEPOLIS REGION, George C. Miles.
THE NUMISMATIC ICONOGRAPHY OF JUSTINIAN II, James D. Breckenridge.
COINS FROM THE EXCAVATIONS AT CURIUM -- 1932-1953, D. H. Cox.
STUDIES IN CONSTANTINIAN CHRONOLOGY, Patrick Bruun
A BRONZE HOARD OF THE PERIOD OF ZENO I, Howard L. Adelson and George L. Kustas.
VICTORY AS A COIN TYPE, Alfred R. Bellinger and Marjorie A. Berlincourt.
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARABIC METROLOGY -- Part II, George C. Miles.
CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION JOURNALS, 1962 and 1963
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION NUMISMATIST, 1962 and 1963
ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION JOURNALS, 1960-61, 1962, and 1963.
COINS AND MEDAL BULLETIN -- Miscellaneous Issues, Seaby's

THE CONSTITUTION

Article V - Members - Resignation, Suspension and Expulsion

Section 1 - No member shall be permitted to resign from the Association while he is indebted to it in any manner or while charges are pending against him.

Section 2 - Annual dues shall be payable in advance on January 1 of each year. Any member who fails to pay his dues before March 1 of any year shall be liable to lose his membership, in which case his name shall be dropped from the membership rolls and removed from the mailing list. Any member who has lost his membership for non-payment of dues or who has resigned, may be reinstated upon payment of arrears due at the time of the loss of membership or resignation, provided no charges are pending against him, and in such case, only if the charges are withdrawn or dismissed.

Section 3 - When ever written charges are brought against any member for conduct prejudicial to the welfare of the Association, such charges shall be signed by the person making them. The identity of the person making such charges shall not be made known, except to the Executive. Such charges, with particulars thereof, shall be filed with the President, who shall thereupon furnish the accused member with a written copy thereof. The accused member shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to enter a written defence to such charges. The matter shall then be referred to the Executive, which shall study the case. The executive may dismiss such charges, or it may censure, suspend or expel the accused member. It may cause the result of its action to be published in the official publication. Until the final decision of the Executive, the accused member shall continue in good standing.

Section 4 - Members in arrears for any cause for more than one calendar year, provided that the arrears are not a result of expulsion from the Association, shall be reinstated on payment of the current year's dues, but will be assigned a new membership number.

Section 5 - Any portion of the membership dues, overpaid by the member at the time of his "suspension", "expulsion" or "resignation by request", shall be refunded to that person.

Section 6 - In the event of a Life Membership being terminated, other than by death, dues shall be refunded on the basis of the assumption that the Life expectancy of the member was ten years after the date of admission as a Life Member.

They tell us that the words "In God We Trust" are put on the U. S. cents for the benefit of those who put them in electric fuse boxes.

On the reverse of the Canadian 1949 silver dollar is the sailing ship Matthew in which the discoverer John Cabot sailed to Newfoundland in 1497. The Latin inscription FLOREAT TERRA NOVA translates: "Let the New World Prosper".