



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Waterloo, Ontario

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June, 1965

Page 44

## RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the first three years since the founding of the Ontario Numismatic Association, we have come to know our organization as one of service to numismatics, particularly in the fields of club programming through the use of the Speakers' Circuit and Audio-visual sets, display case service, judging forms and related assistance. Many hours and much work have been donated to these services by a few devoted collectors to ensure the success of each service and to help guarantee the further pleasure of every member and supporter of the O. N. A.

No one can deny that under the exemplary leadership of our Founding President, Mr. Rod R. Rekofski and the untiring efforts of all elected and appointed officers, we have accomplished even more than originally anticipated. The enthusiasm for the continued progress of the O. N. A. has prompted many officers to accept re-election and re-appointment for another term.

As your newly elected president, I am indeed proud to have been associated with the O. N. A., its officers and committees, since the start and hope that we shall continue to grow in our service to numismatics.

We, as members of the O. N. A., can best express our thanks to each officer and executive member by serving whenever and wherever possible, renewing our membership each year and by bringing new members into the association. If every member will do these things it will be possible for the O. N. A. to continue to expand all present services and to add new services for the enjoyment of all members and clubs in Ontario.

Could any individual club develop and offer its own members the many and varied services supplied by our provincial organization? Even if this could be done, it would not serve numismatics throughout the province. This should be the prime selling point for membership in the O. N. A. and I would ask every member to work toward a much larger membership by discussing O. N. A. at club meetings and with friends and invite all club and collectors to join now.

In closing this first message, I would like to openly congratulate Mr. Rod R. Rekofski as a most deserving recipient of the 1965 O. N. A. Award of Merit Medal. I would also like to thank everyone for showing their confidence in me and our organization by electing me President for the coming term. May I prove a worthy and capable officer.

Sincerely,

Lloyd T. Smith, President.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the May issue of the Ontario Numismatist were accepted. The following applications were received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the July issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 492. George Oblinsky, 22 Josephine St., St. Catharines, Ontario.
- 493. Mrs. George Oblinsky, 22 Josephine St., St. Catharines, Ontario.
- 494. A. C. Wolley, 17 Carfrae St., London, Ontario.
- 495. Frederick O. Evans, 357 Brock Ave., London, Ontario.
- 496. Joseph Mustos, Box 128, Dorchester, Ontario.
- 497. L. H. Toll, Port Alma, Ontario.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 9. Frank Kovack, 309 King Street East, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 133. Bruce R. Watt, 1153 Northbridge St., Oshawa, Ontario.
- 179. Robert Armstrong, 554- 16th Street West, Owen Sound, Ontario.
- C13. ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB, c/o Mrs. I. M. Ritchie, 35 St. Patrick St.,  
St. Catharines, Ontario.
- C24. KITCHENER COIN CLUB, c/o Mrs. Jean Simms, 115 Highland Rd., W., Kitchener, Ontario.
- C39. THISTLETOWN COIN CLUB, c/o John S. G. Jefferies, 21 Hallow Cres. Rexdale, Ontario.

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A club is only as good as its members, with the benefits of a collective effort by the entire membership being returned to the individual member. The more effort exerted by the individual member, the more returns gained.

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The Royal Canadian Mint is now again accepting orders for 1965 Proof-like sets.

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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 -- \$1 yearly (up to 18 years of age); Husband and Wife (One copy) -- \$3 yearly; club -- \$10 yearly.

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CLUB NEWS

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY welcomed 40 members and guests to their May meeting. Nominations for officers and directors were held at this meeting. The June meeting will include the election and installation of new officers.

OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB is planning another "Beach Show", July 25. The show will open at noon and will be highlighted by a BID Board Auction. Everyone is invited to bring along their dancing-shoes for the indoor-outdoor dance pavilion, or their beach gear. The place is the Sauble Beach Pavilion on Lake Huron, 20 minutes west of Owen Sound.

KITCHENER COIN CLUB had Mr. Bill English as their guest speaker at their April meeting. Mr. English illustrated his talk on Silver Dollars with slides. Mrs. Jean Sims is replacing Mr. Elmer Daniel as the club's secretary. The response to the Doon Pioneer Village numismatic collection has been gratifying and a second case of material is under way. Monday, April 26, 1965, the collection was officially turned over to the village museum.

GUELPH COIN CLUB has announced that the club will discontinue meetings during July and August.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB announces that the club's display in the Y's mens Hobby Show was a success. Feature of the evening was the showing of the O. N. A. Audio-Visual "Canadian Coinage", by Lloyd T. Smith, showing the early types of coinage, etc. used in Canada and colonies of the New World.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB's April meeting was attended by 28 members and guests. The guest speaker was Mr. Wm. Lavell, President of the Metropolitan (Toronto) Coin Club. Mr. Lavell illustrated his talk on Indian Chief Medals with medals from his own collection. Mr. Art Nunn, Ingersoll, retained the Indian theme by showing his collection of arrow heads, axe heads and wampum . . . some of which had been dug up in Oxford County. It has been announced that the club will hold their July and August meetings (only) on the second Thursday of the month instead of the first Thursday.

HURON COUNTY NUMISMATIC CLUB held a Member's Display Night. The winners were: Best in Show - Don Folks; Foreign - Don Folks; Paper Money - Jean Stadelmann; Miscellaneous - Carl Radford; Canadian - Ed Fielding. For the Best in Show, Don Folks won the PAT MILLIGAN trophy. A new gavel was prepared and presented by Messrs. Jay and John Fisher to President, Don Folks.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION featured Silver Dollar Night at their May meeting. A member of the club obtained a number of 1965 Canadian silver dollars to be offered to the members at face value.

BRANTFORD COIN CLUB had two speakers at their April meeting. Mr. Bruce Brace, Hamilton, illustrated his talk with coloured slides of coinage of ancient Rome. Mrs. R. Hilborn gave a short talk about her display on United Nations flags and coins.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION have set up a committee for the striking of a medallion for the club's fifth anniversary. Twenty-four members and guests attended the April meeting with the success of the Annual Banquet being the main interest.

OAKVILLE COIN CLUB proudly announced a large turnout of its members at the O. N. A. convention, in London, with a good share of the trophies being brought back to Oakville. Mr. Ed Schroeder took first in the Foreign Category; Mr. Ken Hart won a first in paper money and his wife, Pat, came up with a second in Canadian.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB was privileged to hear an address by Walter Griggs at their April meeting. His topic was timely and somewhat controversial since it dealt with modern day trends in the hobby and the many abuses which have crept in.

TORONTO COIN CLUB presented the O. N. A. Audio-visual, Canadian Voyageur Dollar, by Claudia Felkey at their April meeting. Displays at this meeting featured an unusual collection of Russian Mint sets by Russell Martel; Dr. Marvin Kay-Mint Sets of the World and a display of John Hopkins Hospital commemorative medals.

KINGSTON KOIN KLUB held a very successful social evening combined with the monthly meeting on April 7th. The evening commenced with an O. N. A. Audio-visual set, "Canadian Fractional Currency", by William English with narration by Rod Rekofski. An extraordinary collection of Chinese coin dating back to 900 B. C. was shown by Mr. Sorenson of Toronto.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB announced that there will be an award at the end of the year for the member receiving the most points for his/her display during the year. The April meeting was held one week late and Mrs. Ritchie prepared another mystery draw.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY put the numismatic knowledge of the 38 attending members to the test at their April meeting with another of President, Dave Price's Coin Quizzes. Winner was Jim Moore with 15 out of 20 correct answers.

#### COMING EVENTS

- June 19 VICTORIA-SIMCOE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 6th Annual Banquet, Woodville, Ontario. Canadian Legion Hall. Open at 2:00 p. m. Guest speaker: Major Sheldon S. Carroll, Curator of Numismatic Collection for Bank of Canada, Ottawa. Banquet tickets are available at \$5.50, on or before June 12th, from Mr. R. G. Heard, Woodville, Ont.
- July 25 OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB 2nd Annual Beach Show. Bourse Chairman, Mr. Harold Hammon. Admission - 25 cents. Bourse reservations, \$10.00, Box 94, Owen Sound, Ont. Souvenirs, displays, dancing, fabulous beach . . . all at Sauble Beach Pavilion, on Lake Huron, 20 minutes west of Owen Sound.
- Aug. 12, 13, 14 CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 12th Annual Convention. Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec. Host club: Montreal Coin Club. General Chairman: Louis Goldsmith, 5251 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec.
- October 2 KITCHENER COIN CLUB 2nd Numismatic Show and dinner. General Chairman: William Mansfield. Displays: Victor Montag. Bourse: Ted Turanski.
- October 9 KINGSTON KOIN KLUB Annual Fall Show and Auction, Commodore Motor Hotel, 840 Princess St., Kingston, Ontario. Bourse tables available at \$7.50 from Mr. E. Howlett, 61 Westmoreland Rd., Kingston.
- September 19 TILLSONBURG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 3rd Fall Convention, Mil-Mar Manor. Competitive displays. Cup for Best of Show. Plaques for best in class. Tickets: \$2.50. Admission: 25 cents. 200 lot auction by Louie Biro. For information, contact: Mr. W. B. Wolfe, R. R. #3, Tillsonburg; Mr. J. W. Sutherland, Box 164, Port Burwell; or Mr. Fred Cole, Otterville.

#### HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

##### ANNUAL BANQUET REPORT

The Annual Banquet was held at the Continental Inn, Barrie, Ontario, April 3rd, featuring sixteen bourse tables and twenty-one displays. Ninety-four members and guests were seated at the banquet dinner and heard Mr. Ralph Cowan, Liberal M. P., speak on the

situation at the Royal Canadian Mint. Winners, representing five categories, are as follows: Tokens:- 1st. Don Flick; Canadian:- 1st. Steve Wiggins; 2nd. Bob Scruton; 3rd. Martin Hulak; Foreign:- 1st. Howard Johnson; 2nd. Ron Faber; 3rd. Bob Scruton. Paper Currency:- 1st. Barry Prophet; 2nd. Bob Scruton. Miscellaneous:- 1st. Lou Ranger; 2nd. Ken Prophet; 3rd. Mel Brass. Best of Show award went to Don Flick while the award for the best display by a Huronia Club member went to Lou Ranger.

### ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

#### ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT

The London (Ontario) Numismatic Society is to be congratulated for another successful O. N. A. Convention.

The Ontario Numismatic Association is indebted to the London Numismatic Society, host of the 3rd Annual O. N. A. Convention, held April 30, May 1st and 2nd at Treasure Island, London. Due to the wonderful effort and hours of work contributed by the members of L. N. S., the convention was a huge success. The smooth operation of the entire show; the high calibre of displays; the busy bourse area and the excellent numismatic educational periods, all compliment the forethought and planning of the London Numismatic Society.

After a very delicious dinner, Mr. Alex Sweeton introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Orlo Miller who talked very entertainingly on early 19th century currency. O. N. A. 1st Vice President, Lloyd T. Smith, very fittingly thanked Rev. Miller and presented him with a 1965 O. N. A. medal.

The great number and fine quality of displays held the interest of spectators and the three judges, Larry Pelkey, Oakville; Walter Griggs, Brantford, and Bruce Brace, Hamilton, spent a great deal of time scanning and deliberating before giving their accounts. Head judge, Alex Munro, had the pleasure of announcing the following winners:

|                  |                       |                            |                     |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Canadian:</u> | 1st - Shirley English | <u>Tokens:</u>             | Lloyd T. Smith      |
|                  | 2nd - Pat Hart        | <u>Classical:</u>          | 1st - Bruce Brace   |
|                  | 3rd - Art Savage      |                            | 2nd - Harley McCoy  |
| <u>U. S. A.:</u> | 1st - John Regitko    | <u>British Empire</u>      |                     |
|                  | 2nd - Sam Smith       | <u>&amp; Commonwealth:</u> | 1st - Harley McCoy  |
|                  | 3rd - Albert Fuller   |                            | 2nd - Percy Elgie   |
| <u>World</u>     | 1st - Dorte Brace     |                            | 3rd - Walter Morris |
| <u>Coins:</u>    | 2nd - Ed Schroeder    | <u>Miscellaneous:</u>      | 1st - Ed Schroeder  |
|                  | 3rd - Percy Elgie     |                            | 2nd - Stan Kupolski |
| <u>Junior:</u>   | 1st - Anne Querin     |                            | 3rd - John Regitko  |
|                  | 2nd - Anne Querin     | <u>Grand Award:</u>        | Lloyd T. Smith      |
|                  | 3rd - Sherry English  |                            |                     |

The AWARD OF MERIT, the highest award given by the O. N. A. for numismatic endeavour in Ontario, was deliberated for many weeks by a committee comprised of Alex Sweeton, Lloyd T. Smith and Wm. Clarke. The final results showed that the person most deserving to be known as the Medallist of the Ontario Numismatic Association for 1965 was none other than our retiring president, Rod R. Rekofski. Mr. Rekofski was very much in evidence in the founding of the O. N. A. and became its first president. He has devised and donated several sets for the Audio-visual service; is a member of the Speaker's Circuit and was its originator and organizer; is well known as a guest speaker to many clubs and for his exhibits in the classical field. Mr. Rekofski has done a great deal for numismatics in Ontario and is to be commended for his untiring efforts. It is,

therefore, with a great deal of pride that this highest of awards, in the form of a gold 1965 O. N. A. medal, was bestowed on so deserving a recipient, Mr. Rod R. Rekofski.

After a brief address by the retiring president, Rod R. Rekofski, the 1965 executive was introduced. The new president, Lloyd T. Smith of London, the Award of Merit recipient for 1964, thanked the members for their part in selecting him to the office of president.

During the three-day convention, the business meetings were well attended and a number of interesting and beneficial suggestions were made. As the O. N. A. had devoted its efforts to helping the clubs in its province, it is necessary that representatives from these clubs take an active part in these meetings. Twenty-one clubs sent representatives and all were actively interested in the proceedings.

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It is with deepest regret that the members of the Ontario Numismatic Association extend sympathy to Rod R. Rekofski on the death of his father, Monday, May 3rd, 1965.

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#### BACK ISSUES

Back issues may be obtained by contacting Bruce Raszmann. Charge for last year's bulletins is \$4.00 for the complete set or 35 cents per issue.

#### IMPORTANT

Calling all clubs!!! Every Ontario club has been issued brochures on the various phases of O. N. A. services. Please dig them up and read them before asking for service. All rules and regulations are clearly defined and it will save you as well as the directors a lot of time and misunderstanding.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE O. N. A. HISTORIAN

It has been my pleasure to be appointed Historian of the Ontario Numismatic Association. In accepting this post, I do so with all humility.

The success of Historian, I am certain, can only be accomplished with the full support of every member in our organization. It is requested that any newsworthy information, such as transcripts of talks, local newspaper articles, photographs, etc. pertaining to the O. N. A. should be sent in to your Historian so that a permanent record of our progress may be recorded and maintained for future numismatists who will follow us in the years to come.

Walter Griggs, Historian,  
298 Murray St.  
Brantford, Ont.

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No initials appear on the first issue (1935) of the Canadian silver dollar. Because the Prime Minister, R. B. Bennett, wanted a commemorative inscription on this coin to read "George the Fifth, King and Emperor in the 25th year of his Reign", the original obverse design had to be modified. The original artist, Sir Bertram MacKenna, had died in 1931 and the modification had to be done by another man.

CANADIAN VOYAGEUR DOLLAR (Continued)

by Claudia Pelkey

When the first silver dollar was released to the public, the Canadian Jewish communities were indignant. They mistook the Indian design on the front of the canoe for a swastika (at that time a Nazi symbol). But under a magnifying glass it is an Indian symbol, "whirling fish within a circle". By comparing this with other Indian symbols, I found that fish was the staple food of the early Indians . . . placed in this rotating or whirling manner, there is no beginning or end to the design; as is the same with the geometric circle. This would indicate a continuance or plenty to eat.

The canoe on the silver dollar is smaller than the one in the original painting by Mrs. Hopkins, but it is of the same type . . . it is an Algonquin type canoe. The Indian is an Algonkin. The man who posed for the arms and back of the Indian guide was Carl Schaefer, a student of Emmanuel Hahn. He is now one of Canada's major painters.

The island with its pine trees and the northern lights, or aurora borealis behind, came from composite drawings made by Elizabeth Wynn Wood . . . sketched in the Georgian Bay region and loaned to her husband for background material. This does not necessarily place the canoe in Georgian Bay. This background is only representing Canada's great northland where fur-trading took place.

The Voyageur was first known as a "Coureur-du-Bois" or "Runner-of-the-Woods". The first coureur-du-bois was Etienne Brule who was little more than a boy when sent out in 1610 by Champlain to live with the Algonkin Indians of the Ottawa Valley. He was to learn the ways of the Indians and find out all there was to know about the rugged country. For it was necessary to learn these Indian ways in order to survive the long winters and live off the land as it was impossible to take enough food to last the long months of travel or clothing to last the rugged life. Much credit is due the Indian for teaching the white man how to eat, clothe himself, and endure the long hard winters; but most of all for teaching the white man how to build and paddle a birch bark canoe.

When the Coureur-du-Bois became more respectable and were recognized as traders, their numbers increased. It then became more difficult for them to obtain enough canoes to carry on the fur trade. For the Algonquin nation was a nomadic race of people and wandered far and wide. They could not be depended on to deliver their canoes in time . . . when the ice left the rivers in the spring.

So, there was started what must surely have been the first mass-producing industry of "vehicles" in Canada. Near Three-Rivers, Quebec, a Scotsman named Matthew Bernard, started a boat-works employing half-breeds to make hundreds of canoes each winter.

The Algonquin family was the largest and most wide-spread nation of north American Indians. The Algonkin Indians of the Ottawa Valley were part of this great family.

In an Indian myth or legend, we find that Nanabozho was the mythical forefather of the Algonquian family. It was he who invented the birch-bark canoe and passed the invention on to the Chippewas thousands of years ago. He built his first canoe on Manitoulin Island, in Lake Huron, celebrated in after years this canoe-building centre. The ends of the canoes were decorated most beautifully and artistically with yellow ochre and vermillion from the south shore of "Gitchi Cumi" (Lake Superior).

The Algonquians made better canoes than the Iroquois, as they lasted for several years, while those of the Iroquois lasted only a few months.

The canoe is the earliest type of true vessel for navigating water. The word is

derived from the French "canot", meaning hollow log.

The birch bark canoe was used chiefly in Ontario and Quebec. It was with the aid of this craft that the French explorers were able to penetrate so quickly from the St. Lawrence valley through the rivers and lakes of Ontario to the edge of the plains. Whereas the English found it difficult to spread from New England through the interior to what is now Pennsylvania and Ohio, because their allies, the Iroquois, had only heavy dugouts which could not be readily carried from one body of water to another.

The birch bark canoe of the silver dollar carries bales marked with the initials FB, indicating that it is a freight canoe of the Hudson's Bay Company which was chartered by King Charles II, of England, in 1670. Because of these bales and the presence of only two men, an Indian guide and a Voyageur, it is assumed that this is a "North" canoe. For the "canot du maitre", the Grand River canoe or the Montreal canoe (all names for the "heavy" canoe) was a 500 pound freighter of the fur traders and could not possibly have been carried over the rough portages by just two men. The "North" canoe, the standard freighter of the fur trade, was only half the size of the "canot du maitre". It was lighter, narrower and more manageable in swift water. About twenty-four to thirty feet long; less than three feet fore and aft; with its high prow often decorated with paintings. This canoe could carry better than a ton of pay-load and was capable of incredible speed when empty.

The construction of these canoes was an art, little short of a miracle. In a pinch, a fur trader could make a canoe out of almost anything at hand -- raw buffalo hides, deer skin, poplar bark of cedar wood. But the best and most beautiful was made of the white bark of the birch tree. The bark peeled readily with hot water in the winter months. Naturally, the biggest trees offered larger strips to make the best canoes. The bark was spread out on the ground, the skeleton laid over it. With great care the broad sheets of bark were carefully drawn up over the frame and the edges turned down over the gunwale strip, to which they were firmly bound. To protect the canoe from the inevitable bumps and scrapes, a second strip was placed along the outer edge. Then, thin strips were placed across the ribs and lengthwise along the bottom of the canoe . . . a small piece of wood was inserted into either end, to increase the strength of the frame. Wherever necessary, the seams were so artfully sewn together with "wettup" (split pine roots), and gummed with pine resin, that it was almost impossible to detect the seams.

Because of their extreme lightness, they were ideal transportation along the rivers and streams. But, because of this very lightness, they were indeed fragile. The slightest scrape on a hidden obstruction, or bounce on the sand or gravel in landing would loosen the seams or puncture the brittle bark. They were so very light that they capsized readily, soaking the merchandise and passengers alike; often resulting in tragedy or loss.

Because the canoe comes to a point at both ends, it has neither prow nor stern . . . neither does it have keels, nails, or pegs . . . a true Indian canoe does not have a seat.

These canoes could carry over a ton of merchandise if properly stowed. For reason, merchandise was made up into bundles weighing exactly 90 pounds. In this way the weight could be distributed more evenly, almost to the ounce. It is little wonder then that the story comes down to us that the canoemen had to be extremely careful how and where they parted their hair, lest it capsize the canoe.

A bale of beaver skins was worth 100 crowns. Baron de la Hontan in his book, "New Voyages to North America", tells that he saw 25 to 30 such canoes, each carrying

20,000 weight and they had been gone for eighteen months.

The day of the voyageur started before dawn. About 8 a. m. they stopped for breakfast. Around two in the afternoon, they had lunch. Then they paddled and portaged until long after dark before stopping to eat and sleep. Before anything else, they repaired their canoes. For they had to always be ready to depart at a moment's notice because of the dangers of marauding Indians. Four to six hours sleep was all that was required when travelling.

Whenever they came to cataracts, rapids or waterfalls, the canoes and merchandise had to be toted around the obstruction. These were called portages or carrying places. It was often a game with them and bets or wagers were placed to see who could carry the most or make the most trips or how long it would take to portage all the equipment.

Canoes were provisioned with tea, pemmican and dried buffalo meat. No flour, sugar or other luxuries were allowed. Pemmican was made of dried pounded buffalo tongues, marrowfat and sugar. Berries were added when in season and were considered a great delicacy.

(Continued next month)

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The Charlottetown Towncrier took part in all Centennial events on Prince Edward Island last year, and read the proclamation signed by the Lieutenant Governor of the province, under the great seal signifying that 1964 was officially a year of celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first conference of Confederation held in Charlottetown in 1864. Dressed in 19th century costume and ringing a bell, the Crier ushered in all public meetings, gathering, conventions and official dinners.

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On April 10, 1910, the Currency Act was amended to provide for a silver dollar coin. The manufacture of the dies was authorized by the Governor-General-In-Council and pattern coins were struck, four of which are known to be in existence. However, only the dies for the obverse (the side showing the King's head) were ordered. These were received and stored in the mint in 1911.

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When silver dollars were first issued in 1935, there was so little interest shown in the East that the banks had to pay their staffs partly in silver dollars to get rid of them. Today, it is hard to find any surplus.

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When coins showing King Edward VIII uncrowned were introduced into India they caused such a riot that they were quickly withdrawn. In that country it is considered an outrage for a man to appear in public without a covering on his head.

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The 1937 Canadian silver dollar broke the old tradition that a king must wear a crown. The uncrowned portrait of King George VI was executed by H. Paget, an English artist.

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In 1936 the original dies for the 1911 silver dollar were used. This issue carried the initials of Sir Bertram MacKenna.