



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1969 - 1971

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SOME THOUGHTS ON COMMEMORATIVE COINAGE

By W. Arthur Honour

The subject of commemorative coinage has become very popular lately. In Canada Centennial year saw the issue of a full series and we are to have a "Manitoba Dollar" in 1970. The recent exploits of Apollo 11 have precipitated a clamour in the United States for the issue of the first commemorative coin since 1954. And a quick glance through any of our popular publications (particularly those directed towards world coin collectors) will usually reveal the imminent release of one or a series of beautifully artistic "commemorative coins", often with several issues of the same high denomination and usually available only at a premium - Tunisia has just announced a set of 10 simultaneously issued commemorative 1 Dinar "coins" in a limited edition, proof only, with half the number to be struck at each of two different mints with resulting mint mark varieties - the 10 coin set a steal at only U.S. \$77.00.

But just hold on there for a minute -- haven't things become a little confused somewhere along the line, and aren't these so-called "coins" fulfilling the function one would expect of a medal? Others seem to share this view: Graham Teasdill, in a recent article in Seaby's Bulletin entitled "Silver Coinage of the 1970's, mentions "commemorative medals masquerading as coins for the 'benefit of collectors"; and writing on "Columbian Commemoratives" in the March 1969 "Boletin" of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, Luis Enrique Ruiz offers the opinion, "these are not coins, properly speaking, since they will never circulate as such. It would be well if this kind of issue were presented in their true nature, that of official commemorative medals... as it has been the custom through the ages". Let us consider for a moment the basic functions and meanings of coins, medals, and commemoratives, and investigate the "benefit" to collectors.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines "coin" as "a piece of metal or rarely of some other material (as leather or porcelain) certified by a mark or marks upon it as being of a definite intrinsic or exchange value and issued by governmental authority for use as money". "Money" is something generally accepted as a medium of exchange, a measure of value, or a means of payment". For "medal" we find "a piece of metal usually in the form of a coin with an inscription, head or other device issued to commemorate a person, action, or event or awarded (as to a soldier) for heroic deeds or meritorious service or (as to a student) for proficiency, skill or excellence". Finally, "commemorative" signifies "commemorating or intended as a commemoration, specifically: issued temporarily in commemoration of some notable event and bearing a design and inscription symbolizing that event".

Now it seems to me that many of these recent "coins", particularly those issued in limited quantities at a premium above face value, are not coins at all since they fail to satisfy the conditions that a coin is "issued...as money" and money is "something generally accepted" for payments. If such pieces are available to only a few and then only at a premium over face value it is very unlikely that they will ever be offered at face value for payment, and if never offered they cannot be "generally accepted". The purposes for which such items usually seem intended fall squarely within the scope of "commemorative medals". The sole reason I can find for trying to palm them off as coins is to facilitate sales to the gullible and add to the silver lining of someone's pocket.

In my opinion a true commemorative coinage must fulfill several critical requirements. Besides having a memorial theme it should: - (1) be issued for one year only; (2) be in a denomination that might reasonably be expected to circulate; and (3) be issued in sufficient quantity to encourage circulation. To best achieve this, I feel it should replace a regularly circulating coin for one year and have approximately three times the normal mintage for that denomination.

There should be a definite and careful distinction made between true commemorative coinage, directed to all the people of the nation rather than just the few, and commemorative medals produced for presentation or sale to the public. Each of these categories has its own separate functions and characteristics which may complement each other, but which are quite different. There are places for both in numismatics and our economy, but not the same place. Unfortunately attempts to combine the two seem to lose the best features while retaining the worst drawbacks.

A medal offers a much more suitable medium for the exercise of a sculptor or artist's imagination than a coin. Assurance of a large area to present a design as well as more painstaking methods of manufacture and the possibility of very high relief permits very intricate and artistically pleasing creations not otherwise possible.

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with membership in one of the following categories. Life membership-\$50., Regular membership-\$3. yearly, Juniors-\$2. (up to 18 years of age), Husband and Wife (one journal)-\$5. yearly, Club-\$10. yearly. Special O.N.A. Sterling Silver Lapel Pins (screw back or pin back) only \$2.50. Remittances (plus bank exchange if paid by cheque) payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

A commemorative coin issued for circulation, while not having all the artistic quality possible in a medal, nevertheless fulfills several important functions, both for the country as a whole and (if you must always be mercenary) from the selfish viewpoint of a greedy coin collector.

Commemorative coins should remind citizens of highlights of their history and promote a dignified pride in their country. In this respect they have a long history themselves, dating back to Roman Republican times when moneyers frequently took the opportunity to glorify the deeds of their ancestors. Later commemoratives were used as we use newspapers to inform the public of important national events--the winning of a battle or the marriage of an Emperor. More recently Canada issued a special silver dollar in 1949 to welcome a new Province into Confederation and plans another in 1970 to mark the centenary of such an event.

No one will deny that the 1967 Centennial series (some of which actually did filter through to the general public) played a very important role in making everyone coin conscious and sparking many new converts who helped our hobby recover quickly from the "doldrums of '66". Commemorative coins for general circulation are about the best publicity agents our hobby could ask for.

Summarizing the benefits to the collector -- medals mean high prices and high quality workmanship; circulating commemorative coins mean inferior workmanship, but everyone can afford to keep one and this leads to greater interest and growth in our hobby; limited issue commemorative "coins" mean high prices, inferior workmanship and no increased public awareness of numismatics.

The sooner the collector realizes which side his bread is buttered on (or perhaps, whose bread is being buttered) the sooner we should be able to plug up still another burrow of the "fast-buck artist".

Any other ideas on the above. If so, let's air them. Ye Ed.

This is a letter received from Mr. Jim Charlton in answer to the article written by William English in the November Bulletin and with Mr. English's permission we are publishing this to help others who may be in the position as Mr. English.

November 15, 1969.

Mr. William English,
WATERLOO, Ontario.

Dear Bill:

I have read with interest your feature article in the Ontario Numismatist for November in which the Standard Catalogue or Canadian Coins is singled out for a critical appraisal. You mention that the subject of a Standard Catalogue of Canadian Decimal Coins has been bothering you for years and ask such questions as, "Is the present Standard Catalogue of Canadian Decimal Coins really what it says it is?" and "What about the future should the present authors decide not to continue to produce a catalogue?".

First of all I would like to say that the author and publishers have no intention of discontinuing the yearly edition of this catalogue.

It is regretted that the subject has bothered you for a number of years, but in our correspondence and various meetings I do not recall you mentioning the fact.

In your second paragraph you suggest that collectors and novice speculators are the victims of dealers who manipulate the coin market to their own advantage. I do not know what connection this has with the Standard Catalogue, but it is a generally recognized fact that the law of supply and demand governs the price of coins. This you admit later in the article. I have not hesitated to reduce as well as increase values as warranted and am not unduly influenced by any dealer or dealers.

My only reason for editing the first (1952) and subsequent editions has been to make available a yearly standard reference and price guide for both collector and dealer.

The matter of what should and should not be included in such a book is a contentious subject as you admit. Your article overlooks the fact that some so-called error coins were listed before a variety catalogue was published and certain later issues because they were unusually popular with collectors. My policy has always been to let the individual collector decide what he or she wants in their collection. If the majority of collectors appear sufficiently interested in certain error or variety coins to include them in their collection and an active market exists, I would seriously consider listing the coins. The same policy is followed with the Guide Book of U.S. Coins. You are anticipating the inclusion of the no island and island dollars in a future edition of the Standard Catalogue as they have not appeared as yet.

You mention having to go to an Error catalogue to read about the date spacing variations in the Canadian Fifty Cent pieces from 1940 to 1950. What is wrong with that? If these and all other minor varieties and error coins were listed, the Standard Catalogue would become another variety catalogue.

I trust this letter will clear up some of the misunderstanding that may exist with you and other collectors regarding the Standard Catalogue.

Yours very truly,

Signed: Jim (J.E. Charlton)

CATALOGUING YOUR COLLECTION

The most useful and easiest form of cataloguing your collection is a "continuous" or "running" ledger. This can be elaborated upon by a loose-leaf or card index system but the diary system should form the basis for any kind of catalogue. As each coin is added to your collection it is recorded in your ledger according to date of acquiring it. It can be given a number and it is well to record the source, price and a brief description of the coin - such as country, date, denomination, metal, condition and pedigree. Such a record will be invaluable if any of your collection is lost or stolen or if it has to be appraised for taxation. Along with the ledger system you can devise a supplementary method of cataloguing - alphabetical, geographical or chronological being the most popular. A rubbing or photograph of each coin can also be added. Printed 3 by 5 inch index cards add much to the pleasure of cataloguing as well as to the neatness of the catalogue.

(Thanks to the ANA through Ottawa Club)

NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY -

The theme of the January meeting was "A Trip Through Ghana" by Mr. & Mrs. Moore assisted by "Archie, the Talking Parrot". The new officers for 1970 are:- President-Fred Hiuser, Vice-President-Ernie Baker, Secretary and Editor-John Barchino, Assist. Secretary - Gordon Durnford, Treasurer-Thomas Savory, Directors - Phil Baker & Henry Meggitt. This being the 10th Anniversary plans are under way for a Banquet in the fall. The President's award for the year was won by Henry Meggitt.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

The President, Duke Perry, Vice-President Andy Anderson and Secretary, Mrs. Gwen Sager went in by acclamation, and Treasurer, Mr. Lewis Kline, by ballot. Plans went ahead for the spring show, April 18th, and a lively auction was conducted by Andy Anderson.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

Christmas cake and coffee helped to make the last meeting of 1969 a big success. From now on each member is to wear a lapel badge so everyone will know everyone else. Plans are progressing for the O.N.A. Convention in May and everything possible is being done to ensure its success.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB-

At the last meeting the O.N.A. slide presentation "The Voyageur Dollar" was shown and it made all realize how much information can be derived from the study of just one coin. An interesting account of the Dearborn, Michigan, show was given by Arthur Leff and he also conducted a lively auction.

KINGSTON COIN CLUB -

The executive for 1970 are:- President - Allan Rickey, Vice-President-Gerry Bradford, Treasurer-Harry Wade, Secretary-Doug Small, Librarian-Ernie Howlet and Program-Stewart Watts. The Treasurer's report showed the club in a healthy condition and we are looking forward to a good 1970.

KITCHENER COIN CLUB -

The 1970 executive are :- President-Albert Fuller, Vice-President - Raymond Cote, Secretary-Euth Jacobs, Treasurer-Brian Miller, Program-James Dunn, Director-Ted Turanski and the Guiding Light-Jack Craig. The new program chairman had a good auction and an interesting film for the January meeting.

NIAGARA FALLS COIN CLUB -

At the last meeting Mr, Harold Daniels was honoured with a presentation of a plaque from the president in recognition of his work in organizing the club and his leadership as president three times. The executive for 1970 is:- President - John Sanderson, Vice-President-Don MacDonald, Secretary-Marj Smith, Treasurer-Mrs. Daley. The highlight of the meeting was an auction which created a great deal of interest.

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB -

Plans are continuing for the Convention to be held in May. The highlight of the meeting was the motion to make Guy Potter the Honorary President of the Club. The next meeting is to feature each member bringing a guest in the hopes of adding new members to the club.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB -

The flu bug prevented the new president, Frank Kiley, from occupying the chair at the first meeting of 1970, but his place was ably taken by the Vice-President, Dick Ray. Two interesting talks featured the meeting, one by Pat Lambert on the new bills being brought out shortly and one by George Oblinsky on the 1965 silver dollar varieties. The theme for the club in 1970 is Numismatic Service and Education and four members, Howard Hill, Pat Lambert, Lloyd Dorsey and Vic Snell are available to give advice and information on tokens, coins, prices and paper money. The meeting closed with a lively auction conducted by Lloyd Dorsey.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

The 1970 officers are :- President-Phil Nickson, Vice-President-To be filled, Secretary - Frances Clunas, Treasurer-George Cooney. A brief review of what has happened in coins since 1860 and speculation on the changes that will be seen by 2060. The draw last meeting was for 1968 P.L. Dollar as this coin represents one of the biggest changes in years being the first of the nickel dollars.

THISTLETOWN COIN CLUB -

1970 is to feature a number of speakers on a variety of Numismatic Topics and the January topic was given by Reese Dunford on "Housing of Coins". There was also a lively auction. There will be coffee and donuts at each meeting during the year.

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PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

To help clubs decide upon a coin show date that will not conflict with another club in its area we are listing below proposed dates, which we now have on hand.

- Feb. 28 - Canadian Paper Money Society Convention in the Dominion Room, Toronto-Dominion Centre. Application forms and info -- The Secretary, c/o P.O. Box 7, Postal Station "S", Toronto
- March 14 - Richmond Hill Coin Club Spring Show. Information re Bourse tables, etc. to:- Ricky Morse, P.O. Box 91, Station "H", Toronto, Ont.
- March 22 - Norfolk Coin Club Banquet and Show at the Municipal Hall, Delhi, Ont. Chairman is Willy Mahrt. Draw prizes will be Gold Presentation Set, Mint sealed sets of 1967,62,63, 64.
- April 4 - Woodstock Cpin Club spring show in Old St. Pauls Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. with a banquet in the evening. Information next month.
- Apr. 4-5 - Waterloo Coin Society 11th Annual Coin Show and Banquet in the Walper Hotel, Kitchener.
- Apr. 11-12-Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association Convention in the Westbury Hotel, Yonge St., Toronto, with the host club being the Central Coin Club. Information either from CNVCA, P.O. Box 91, Station "H", Toronto OR Central Coin Club, The Secretary, 306 Jarvis St., Toronto. Either club will supply details re bourse, exhibits, etc.
- April 18 - Bay of Quinte Numismatic Association will hold their Annual Coin Show at the Quinte Hotel, Belleville, corner Bridge & Pinnacle Sts. Exhibitors to supply own cases. Room for 8 bourse dealers.

- April 19 - Kent Coin Club Second Annual Coin Show at the Holiday Inn, Keil Dr., Chatham, Ont. Bourse chairman - David Cregg, 192 Richmond St., Chatham, Exhibit Chairman - Bill Waite, 67 Finch St., Chatham and Show Chairman - H. Toll, Port Alma, Ont.
- May 2-3 - Huronia Numismatic Association will host the 1970 O.N.A. Convention at the Barrie Curling Club. Chairman is Ken Prophet and Co-chairman is Steve Wiggins. Information re bourse, accommodation, etc., from Huronia Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ont. Guest speaker is John J. Pittman, President of the C.N.A. and First Vice-President of the A.N.A.
- May 9-10 - City of Ottawa Coin Club Exhibition and Show at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. Exhibits chairman - Jeff Holmes, Auction chairman - Peter Degraaf, both may be reached through the Ottawa Coin Club.
- May 16 - St. Thomas Numismatic Association Changed their show date so as not to conflict with Waterloo. It will be held in Grace United Church Hall, BalACLava St., St. Thomas. For details re bourse, exhibits, etc., write to A. W. O'Neill, P.O. Box 187, St. Thomas, Ont.
- June 6 - Ingersoll Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet at the Ingersoll Community Centre Auditorium, Mutual Street. Information either from Alan Macnab, 249 Hall St., or Harry Eisenhauer, 501 Chester St., London, Ont.
- Sept. 26 - Ingersoll Coin Club's Canadian Currency Convention sponsored by the Canadian Paper Money Society who will award the trophies. Guest speaker will be Major Sheldon S. Carroll C.D. Convention chairman - Alan Macnab, 249 Hall St., Ingersoll. Bourse and Publicity Chairman - Harry Eisenhauer, 501 Chester St., London, Ont. Banquet, General Meeting and Audio-Visuals at Ingersoll Inn, King St., and displays, Bourse and Auction at the Community Centre.
- Oct. 4 - Kitchener Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet. Details as soon as arranged.
- Oct. 17 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet. Date arranged but details later.
- Oct. 18 - Brantford Numismatic Society Exhibition and Banquet to commemorate their 10th Anniversary. Guest speaker will be Major Sheldon S. Carroll, Curator of Numismatics Division, Bank of Canada. Details as to bourse, exhibits, etc., later. Keep date in mind and help Brantford celebrate its 10th Anniversary.

DID YOU KNOW:

That Russia is offering a 9-coin set at \$4.50 U.S. funds? Address is Bank of Foreign Trade of U.S.S.R., Commercial Department, Pushkinskaya, Street 9, Moscow, U.S.S.R. Money is to be sent to the account of the Bank for Foreign Trade, Chase Manhattan Bank, International Department, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10015.

That the U, S. prints its paper money at the rate of about \$48,000,000 a day.

SPECIAL JUNIOR EXHIBIT POINT SYSTEM - Bill English

The Ontario Numismatic Association is trying to make it easier for the younger collectors to exhibit on a competitive basis. In the past the same rules used for adults applied to the Junior collector which meant in many cases, the junior did not really make his own display.

The O.N.A. feels that in order to get the juniors involved in displaying coins, it would not be necessary for them to own all of the material. This has been taboo with adult competition. The actual points for the coins is only 20% of the possible maximum total. What is required, is that the junior do all of the work on the display on his own.

The reason for this is so the junior collector can derive the most from the material he is displaying. He will do this by doing his own research, and using his imagination to make up a display that will tell a story and be of interest to other viewers. All junior exhibitors that enter a display and do not win a trophy or second or third ribbon will receive a special honourable mention ribbon to show that he has displayed.

It must be emphasised that judging points are the same for the exhibitor and the judge so please read them and be guided by the information on the judging sheet, a copy of which is enclosed in the bulletin.

SCOOP ON THE O.N.A. CONVENTION

It has been confirmed that John J. Pittman, Rochester, New York, President of the Canadian Numismatic Association, and 1st Vice-President of the American Numismatic Association is to be the guest speaker at our Convention to be held this year at Barrie, Ontario, as guests of the Huronia Numismatic Association at the Barrie Curling Club on May 2nd and 3rd, 1970.

Ken Prophet is chairman ably assisted by Steve Wiggins as Co-chairman as well as a very active and enthusiastic committee.

All inquiries pertaining to the convention such as bourse, accommodations and anything else in connection with the convention should be sent to:

Huronia Numismatic Association,
P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario.

THIS 'N THAT-

Here we are February already and the ink isn't dry on my January notes yet---or so it seems--- This is a big bulletin which leaves little to me to say my piece---suffice for me to say, keep up the news items---these make for an interesting bulletin---Thanks to Fred Steele of Kingston Coin Club for getting my gender correct---apologies not necessary---Please those of you who still write me as "Miss"---please note I'm a HE not a SHE--- so long for now--Till March

Ye Ed
Mr. W. E. Pat Lambert.

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
SUGGESTED JUNIOR EXHIBIT POINT SYSTEM

Category No. _____

Judges No. _____

Description	Explanation	Median	Display Exhibit No.(s)				
		5					
		Max. Points					
INFORMATION 30	Research from other publications or Personal knowledge Correct Information and Title Not too Long and not too Short so information is clear and concise (Too much information will not be read thus destroying its purpose)	10 10 10					
EYE APPEAL 10	Does it make you stop and examine the display	10					
NEATNESS 10	In Good Order - Not junky or messy	10					
ORIGINALITY 10	Have you added something to better illustrate your material	10					
PERSONAL EFFORT 10	Did you do all of the work in the display yourself	10					
CONDITION 10	Condition of particular material, relative to available material	10					
COMPLETENESS 10	Relative to title of display, a Theme, or a Series	10					
SPECIAL 10	For Special information, Tying title, material & information together, Judges discretion.	10					
	TOTAL After all exhibits are judged	Max. 100					

JUNIORS - AGE 14 and under:

Junior exhibitors will be given recognition with a trophy for first, and ribbons for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, (Each Exhibitor will receive a special ribbon) It is not necessary for a Junior exhibitor to own all of the material in the display, only that he or she personally make up the display with materials available to them.

DISPLAY SIZE TO FIT IN O.N.A. CASE SHOULD BE 28" x 16" - DEPTH 1-7/8".