



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1969 - 1971

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GET THEE A HOBBY

To-day people are enjoying a shorter working day than ever before. To most persons this means more hours of freedom, but one must not therefore be idle. For idleness pays no dividends and wasted hours produce no interests, mentally or physically, only disappointments. To loaf is very dangerous to one's health and wellbeing. Ask your physician about that. In fact, to be inactive is truly very harmful and in many cases prevents real happiness. Truly it is a loathsome habit to be idle.

Industrialists have now determined the exact ages of retirement, but these same busy barons have forgotten to mention how these faithful servants should enjoy their sunset years.

The age of retirement to many persons means entering the age of inactivity and death unless he has a hobby. Just look around and one will discover the truth of that statement.

To be happy one should use one's spare moments to the fullest extent. Ride a hobby and be happy.

Everyone needs a pal and a hobby is always a patient pal and a congenial friend. There are a lot of friendships too among people who ride the same hobbies. A man with a hobby is never dull.

Many an ailing person has heard the doctor say: "Get your mind off things that worry you." A good hobby helps you retain your mental facilities to the very last, because they are thus not permitted to rust or deteriorate.

A philosopher has said that he who never had a hobby very often becomes a dolt. And you know what a dolt is.

An English poet once penned, "Lord, keep my memories green." Surely many an old hobbyist brightens when he looks over his hobby collection and recalls the efforts, the times and occasions, and the places where he discovered or acquired the hobby specimens.

So young man, middle-aged or retired, Get Thee a Hobby in order that you may be happy and live long in the land which the Lord hath bestowed on you.

(Thanks to Arthur F. Giere, Galesville, Wis.)

THE ASTERISK NOTE

By Harry Eisenhauer

For quite some time now most collectors of Canadian Paper Money have completely ignored the Bank of Canada series of 1954, especially the very scarce "asterisk" or replacement notes. In this article I should like to emphasize the importance to the student collector as well as the seasoned collector the scarcity which now exists in this replacement series.

The asterisk note which was first introduced to Canada in 1954 is a red six-pointed star which precedes the two-letter prefix of the series. The denominator indicates the denomination and the numerator indicates the series. For example, "A" would represent the \$1., "B" the \$2., "C" the \$5., "D" the \$10. and "E" the \$20. Invariably the numerators would be "A" as no asterisk notes of the early series with a "B/A" prefix have been reported. However, the later series of asterisk notes bearing the signatures "Beattie" and "Rasminsky" have been seen and it is relatively common to find a \$1. or \$2. asterisk note bearing this signature with a "B/A" or "B/B" prefix in everyday change.

The collecting of asterisk notes has provided a particular challenge to collectors, one reason being that only about one in each six to ten thousand notes, collectors find. For this remarkable credit is due to the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited and the British American Bank Note Company Limited, both of Ottawa, the printers of Canada's banknotes. However, since the Beattie and Rasminsky series commenced in 1965 the output of asterisk notes has been much greater, but their value considerably less than the early signature varieties with the devil's face combination.

The asterisk series, used to replace regular notes damaged in late stages of production are known for five denominations only; the \$1., \$2., \$5., \$10. and \$20. To the best of my knowledge no asterisk notes have been reported for the \$50. or higher denominations.

Only twenty varieties of the asterisk note exist in the 1954 series. They may be found in the first series bearing the signatures "Coyne and Towers", which are extremely rare; the second series bearing the signatures "Beattie and Coyne" combined with the devil's face, the revised series bearing the signatures "Beattie and Coyne" without the devil's face, and, of course, our present day notes bearing the signatures "Beattie and Rasminsky"; the latter, of course, being relatively common. However, it would appear that the \$10. and \$20. denominations of all the series are giving collectors the most difficulty in obtaining, especially in uncirculated condition.

Premiums for asterisk notes vary from not much over face value for a current well circulated note to over \$150. or more for some of the early signature devil's face combination in uncirculated condition. A recent major auction sale in Toronto saw a price realized of \$160. for a 1954 \$2. Coyne and Towers asterisk note in uncirculated condition.

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A similar price of \$150. was realized for the \$10. denomination bearing the same signature and in the same condition at the recent "Torex" show in Toronto, the price being a result of private negotiation. Similar other shows resulting in the same price and condition have been reported for the \$1. denomination.

Having specialized in the Bank of Canada 1954 series for quite some time, and having been fortunate enough to obtain all but one specimen in uncirculated condition, it is, in my opinion, that the scarcest variety has to be the \$5. asterisk note of the first series bearing the signatures of Coyne and Towers, as I have never seen this note in any condition and know of none other in anyone's else's collection.

With the planned changes in the Bank of Canada notes for 1970, the 1954 series will end, as well as this article, and no longer will notes of this series be available at such reasonable prices, but as for the asterisk note, well, that's another story.

(Thanks, Harry, well done. Ye Ed.)

Next we are giving a little extra space to Cassandra as she has been pushed a little to the side for a month or so. First we will publish a couple of letters received by her which she has forwarded to Ye Ed.

2001 Grant St.,
Vancouver 6, B.C.,
Feb. 1, 1970.

Dear Cassandra:

Until recently my number one beef was the flood of "genuine replicas" of scarce or interesting coins that has appeared mainly through presumably well-intentioned, if misguided, advertising campaigns. Invariably some of these imitations are foisted off on unsuspecting collectors at high prices. As they are usually very accurate copies it is very difficult for a non-expert to detect them and often even dealers are fooled.

This problem has now been edged out as a prime source of annoyance by the attitude and actions of some issuers. An example is the case of a series of replicas that I learned last summer was being issued by Canadian Pacific Railways. One could hardly suspect such a company of intentional counterfeiting, so we must assume that they meant no harm. However, when I wrote (repeatedly) pointing out the unhappy results of many similar programs and asking that they reconsider this policy and also supply sufficient information so that collectors could be warned through hobby publications of what imitations had already been released, I received nothing but platitudes and vague replies. No reputable numismatist could possibly be fooled, I was assured, although there will always be the gullible type who would buy the Brooklyn Bridge. This is not confirmed by the opinions of experienced collectors I have consulted or the facts in many similar cases -- quite the contrary. But in the face of this evidence C.P. Rail and their advertising agent are still maintaining an ostrich-like stance while parroting the same old platitudes and seeming to be very careful not to reveal any helpful information about their issue that I have not already shown that I know. For instance, I have two of the copies and they did admit there were four in the series, but have ignored several direct requests to identify the two that I do not have. If C.P. issued these pieces with only good intentions, why do they now appear so reluctant to help try to reduce the

the inevitable harm that these imitations will do?

If any of your readers would care to add their own protest against this irresponsible practice, the address is:

Mr. C. C. Watson, System Manager, Freight Sales,
C.P. Rail, Windsor Station,
Montreal, 101, P.Q.

A final word - go C.N.

Sincerely,

W. Arthur Honour.

P.S. I enjoy your column very much and hope your warnings are better heeded than your namesake's. Keep up the good work.

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February 7, 1970.
Haileybury, Ontario.

The Editor,
The Ontario Numismatist,
57 Emmett Road, St. Catharines, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Well ! Well ! So Cassandra admits that she (he) is afraid to express any views that might hurt somebody's feelings. The picture of our beloved O.N.A. columnist cringing in "fear and trembling" behind her (his) pseudonym, is such a pitiful one, I can hardly bring myself to think about it. Surely Cassandra must know that the answer to her (his) question is as important as the punctuation that was omitted from the question itself, I quote the question as printed-- "Now why is it so important to know who writes what I will never know".

Would Cassandra give any credence to an anonymous letter addressed to her (him) personally, I doubt it. She (he) would consign it to the waste-paper basket where it belongs. By the same token, why should she (he) expect her (his) readers to have any more respect for her (his) own anonymous efforts.

You should advise Cassandra to be a man and get out from behind those skirts of pseudonymity, no one is going to sue her (him) for damages, no one is going to take violent bloodthirsty action against her (him). The worst that can happen to Cassandra is that she (he) might get speared by somebody's ball point or hammered by their portable electric.

We all love Cassandra for the colour and action she (he) has brought to our staid little publication. My motive for driving the needle a little further in, is to let us know who the character is who did this for us. Cassandra will be surprised how many people will be ready to agree with her (him) when they know who they are agreeing with. At present she (he) is just a myth, a nobody, a quivering, trembling pseudonym--the very antonym for a colourful, courageous numismatic personality.

Cassandra should remember Kipling's line -- " 'E's a kind of a giddy harumfrodite - soldier an' sailor too!" We want a real he-man columnist in O.N.A., not a "giddy literary harumfrodite" she-man. In my opinion, anonymity ill becomes the lass (lad). With best wishes to both you and Cassandra in the future, to the benefit of us all,

Yours sincerely,

John McKay-Clements.

CASSANDRA SAYS

Recent letters from some of our readers - two of which I believe will be published in this issue - have almost convinced me that perhaps I am doing a disservice in hiding my identity -- having been speared by "Ball Point and Electric Typewriter keys" (and I quote, John your message was well received - loud and clear) plus other innuendos -- I feel perhaps I should reveal myself -- however, before doing so I would like confirmation from other readers, upon receipt of which I promise to "Tell" in our next issue, if such is their wishes.

Looking ahead for our hobby and its prospects I do not subscribe to the "Die a death" boys whatsoever, I feel, and conversations with other numismatists tend to agree, that our hobby is going through a period of re-adjustment -- the genuine collector is more concerned than ever that, in spite of moans and groans -- we are going ahead-- throughout the years, the stalwarts of our hobby have given of their time and talents to the betterment and the advancement of things, so that to-morrow will see our resources strengthened, our house put in good order and, I trust, more concentration on our junior members, thus ensuring a strong hobby in the years to come---Strange, as I pen these lines I hear via my TV set the words "the prophecy of Cassandra". I trust these forgoing words will indeed come true and our hobby forge ahead-- attracting new, enthusiastic members, whose love of our hobby will ensure its continuance as the years go by.

Cassandra

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NEW MEMBERS

The following applications for membership have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the April issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 755 PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, c/o T. A. Hillman,
395 Wellington St., Ottawa 4, Ontario.
- 756 D. B. Thomas, Publisher, COIN, STAMP & ANTIQUE NEWS,
1567 Sedlescomb Dr., Mississauga, Ontario.
- 757 Hans Zoell, 92 Jarvis St., Toronto 1, Ontario
- 758 J. E. (Jack) Roberts, P.O. Box 6011, Station "J", Ottawa, Ont.
- 759 Arthur E. Trebilcock, 377 Bluebird Court, Burlington, Ont.
- 760 Don. J. Smith, 65 Munroe St., Kitchener, Ont.

The following Life Members may now be added to our list:-

- LM13 Mrs. J. A. MacPherson, Duart, Ont.
- LM14 W. Arthur Honour, Vancouver 6, B.C.
- LM15 Tom Grossman, Ottawa 13, Ont.

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NEWS FLASH ON THE FORTHCOMING ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S
Eighth Annual Convention -

HOWARD JOHNSEN, BOURSE CHAIRMAN, informs us that quite a few bourse tables have been reserved at this early date. Howard suggests that those dealers contemplating coming to Barrie should not leave it too late to order their tables. Besides which there is the special discount.

We now have the following Life Members in the O.N.A.

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|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | James B. Hartford | Stratford, Ontario. |
| 2. | Lloyd T. Smith | London, Ontario |
| 3. | Mrs. Wm. English | Waterloo, Ontario. |
| 4. | Jack, C. Dietrich | Markham, Ontario |
| 5. | Bruce H. Raszmann | Waterloo, Ontario |
| 6. | Donald H. Flick | Oakville, Ontario |
| 7. | Walter W. Griggs | Brantford, Ontario. |
| 8. | W. E. Patrick Lambert | St. Catharines, Ontario |
| 9. | Leslie M. Allen | Warton, Ontario |
| 10. | Chas. B. Laister | Tillsonburg, Ontario |
| 11. | O. Lombardo | Sherbrooke, Quebec. |
| 12. | Charles F. Martin | Sudbury, Ontario |
| 13. | Mrs. J. A. MacPherson | Duart, Ontario |
| 14. | W. Arthur Honour | Vancouver, B.C. |
| 15. | Tom Grossman | Ottawa, Ontario |

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

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

- March 14 - Richmond Hill Coin Club Spring Show. Information re Bourse tables, etc. to:- Ricky Morse, P.O. Box 91, Station "H", Toronto, Ontario
- March 22 - Norfolk Coin Club Banquet and Show at the Municipal Hall, Delhi, Ont. Chairman is Willy Mahrt.
- April 4 - Woodstock Coin 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.
- April 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, Toronto. Information from CNVCA, P.O. Box 91, Station "H", or The Secretary, Central Coin Club, 306 Jarvis St., Toronto.
- Apr. 18 - Bay of Quinte Numismatic Association Annual Coin Show in the Quinte Hotel, Belleville, corner Bridge & Pinnacle Sts. Exhibitors supply own cases. Room for 8 bourse.
- Apr. 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 - Bill Waite, 67 Finch St., 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. Bourse Chairman-Howard Johnson, P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ont. Guest speaker will be John J. Pittman, President of the C.N.A.

- May 9-10 - City of Ottawa Coin Club Exhibition & Show at the Chateau Laurier Hotel.
- May 16 - St. Thomas Numismatic Association Annual Show in Grace United Church Hall, Balaclava St., St. Thomas.
- June 6 - Ingersoll Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet at the Ingersoll Community Centre Auditorium, Mutual St., Ingersoll.
- Sept. 20 - London Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show.
- Sept. 26 - Ingersoll Coin Club's Canadian Currency Convention sponsored by the Canadian Paper Money Society.
- Oct. 4 - Kitchener Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet.
- Oct. 17 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet at Westminster United Church Hall, St. Catharines.
- Oct. 18 - Brantford Numismatic Society Exhibition and Banquet.
- Oct. 25 - Tillsonburg Eighth Annual Fall Show in the Orange Hall, Brock St. East, Tillsonburg, Ont.
- Sept. 27 - Bluewater International Coin Show at the Holiday Motel, Highway #7, Sarnia, Ontario.

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WHAT'S NEW WITH THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY-

A double treat at the last meeting - 2 speakers - Jack Armstrong will show colour slides of the various water projects in South-western Ontario, and George Brunsdon gave a talk and showed his display on "Coinage of King Edward VIII. Already the executive are working on the 10th anniversary banquet with the guest speaker to be Major Sheldon Carroll, Curator of Numismatics of the Bank of Canada.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB -

The January meeting was a social and hobby night, with a variety of different hobbies. There were clay elephants used as money and money in the shape of keys. A hobby of button collection, a shell collection, an antique gun and powder flask and card collections. These all proved very interesting.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB -

The new officers for 1970 are - President - Lew Henderson, Vice-President - Eugene Culp, Secretary - Evelyn Murray, Treasurer - Charlie Fincher. Bruce Brace gave a short talk at the last meeting on Club Organization and Member Involvement.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

The Huronia club is busy working out all the details for the O.N.A. Convention May 2 and 3, At the last meeting they also had a lively auction.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB -

The January meeting was highlighted by a talk on "Changing Times" by Howard Whitfield, including a brief history of Central Ontario, particularly from the Caledon Mountain to the Don Valley. Harry Eisenhauer also gave a report on his recent visit to Nova Scotia and the contacts he made there. A lively auction concluded the meeting after refreshments were served.

KINGSTON COIN CLUB -

Kingston has voted to hold two meetings a month and hope to have a good turn-out each meeting. The new 1970 executive took over the meeting and did a real job.

KITCHENER COIN CLUB -

The January meeting was a bit of a nightmare for the chairman as the two films arranged to be shown could not be used as the projector broke down. Haven't we all had times like this. An impromptu auction was held and went off very well showing what can be done in an emergency.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY -

The new president, Mackie Smith, gave the talk of the evening at the last meeting, using as his topic "Numismatics - What it means to me". Lloyd Smith distributed the forms for the 1970 dollars and mint sets reminding the members of the increase in price. He then conducted the auction which went off well.

PORT CREDIT COIN CLUB -

Dick Lockwood gave an informal talk on the care and cleaning of coins at the last meeting followed by an open discussion and question period.

NICKEL BELT COIN CLUB, SUDBURY -

Executive for 1970 are - President - Jack Dupont, 1st Vice - Roland Albert, 2nd vice - William Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer - Miss Helen Stoddart, Membership - Joseph Ash, Program - Gerry Albert. Meetings for this year will be varied with dinner meetings, guest speakers, good coin material available to members, educational periods of slides, quizzes and panel discussions. Good luck, Sudbury, we're sure such programs will stimulate more interest in your club.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY -

The January meeting was well attended in spite of below zero weather. The members were entertained with an audio-Visual slide from the O.N.A. and the new president, Carl Williamson handled the business.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB -

One of the highlights of the last meeting was the showing of an Irish $\frac{1}{2}$ sovereign token minted in "Dublun" which was supposedly made of half gold and half silver. A new feature was a short talk by each exhibitor on his exhibit and why he collected that particular item. Also there was a short talk by a member of the Auxiliary Police on security and this was followed by an auction. The next meeting should be interesting as a member of an accounting firm will give a talk on the White Paper, pertaining to numismatics.

THISTLETON COIN CLUB -

"How to House Your Coins" was the subject of an informative talk with practical exhibits at the last meeting. Also plans are underway for an April Show.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB -

1970 executive are - President - Ivan Colcs, Vice-President - Lee Humphries, Secretary - Ronald Bennett, Treasurer - Jessie Johnson, Editor - Mike Gallagher. Plans went on for the spring show on March 14th, at the Lions Hall with bourse, auction and refreshments and trophies and ribbons for displays.

THIS 'N THAT -

I attended the recent Torex Show and I must congratulate the sponsors and working committee on putting on a first-class show -- As yours truly was not judging I had the whole of Saturday to browse around and meet old friends and even make one or two new ones, like the young chap who had a One Stiver George III token. Some person had told him it was worth about \$15.00. He came away from one dealer who, upon being asked its value said about 50¢ would be a good price. He just about burst into tears and probably would have only a fellow collector, having overheard the conversation and noting the look of great disappointment on the young fellow's face, asked to see the "coin" and, having seen it, he brought him over to me and asked me if I knew anything about this particular token. I answered in the affirmative, giving a thumbnail sketch of the token. Upon being asked its worth, I said in nice condition probably about \$10.00, but as this one was holed its worth was probably a tenth of this. This seemed to satisfy our young collector and I took him to the exhibits and pointed out examples of what I had been speaking about--- Last time I saw the young chap he was heading home to find the old coins his Dad had brought back from Europe during the last war-- hence, we trust a young enthusiast is joining the hobby-- which brings me to a small but important point-- perhaps some of our dealer friends would do themselves and the hobby a great service if they took just a few minutes to explain why a coin or token is "only worth 50¢"--- He could possibly make a friend and a prospective client at one and the same time--- Although I must agree that at the time of the above-mentioned incident the dealer was negotiating a deal of no small consequence and was understandably brief-- again I congratulate Mrs. Ethel Sentes on winning "Best of Show" --- the look on Albert's face when he saw the Award was worth watching -- amazement at the size of the award and possibly mixed with "where on earth are we going to put such a big trophy" look also -- I spoke to many of my dealer friends who all seemed happy at the results of the show -- the advertising was extensive which probably accounts for the large public attendance -- I trust it proved profitable after all this work one likes a show to be successful -- I only have one small comment-- Where were all the exhibitors -- For a show of this size one would have expected 100 - 125 cases of exhibits -- hope next year's show sees more exhibit participation -- It's nice to see how many of our clubs, members and non-members alike, are sending in their club news, show dates, etc.--This serves a two-fold purpose - it tells of local club activities and tells other clubs what you are doing and when -- I note three clubs have changed their club annual show dates so they will not conflict with another club in their area-- hence we can go to both shows and enjoy and perhaps exhibit in both -- I thank the club secretaries who so very patiently send me their news and information every month-- It is your effort which helps make this bulletin -- so whatever success we enjoy you share in that success -- so also to our many article subscribers who send in articles for the interest of our members so regularly--I seldom have to request a second time for this or that article-- By the way I could use an article on Junior Clubs and How to Hold Their Interest -- Anybody have any ideas?-- Do our readers really wish to know the identity of Cassandra? Time is of the essence and our typist is pressing for copy -- See you in April -- So for now --

