



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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NUMISMATIC NUGGETS

By Alex M. Sweeton.

MILITARY MEDALS ISSUED TO CANADIANS have occupied my moments of numismatic research for the past couple of months and I wish to explore this subject.

ANATOMY OF A MEDAL -- THE BRITISH MILITARY MEDAL was the outstanding numismatic display at the 1969 Canadian Numismatic Association Convention at Toronto, but was disqualified from competition on the technicality of an oversize display case. This disqualification was, of course, entirely justified but from my viewpoint it did seem unfortunate that no award or honourable mention was made to John S. Newman for having had such an excellent exhibit made up for viewing at the Convention as a non-competitive display. Even more than feeling sorry for John Newman, however, I am more than a little peeved at myself for having procrastinated so much at the Convention that I took no notes on this display other than to jot down the title.

Ross W. Irwin, an engineering professor at the University of Guelph, has produced a noteworthy numismatic research book in 1969, entitled "WAR MEDALS AND DECORATIONS OF CANADA". It has been my good fortune to add this valuable reference book to my numismatic library. Quoting from Professor Irwin's PREFACE: "This guide has been prepared to present in a convenient form a description of each award given for military service in Canada, or to organized groups of Canadians representing their country in foreign lands". One very slight omission which I have discovered is that no mention is made in the book of the Distinguished Service Order, which was instituted in 1886 to recognize the distinguished services of officers who have performed acts of gallantry in the field, with bars for subsequent distinguished service. As the author says, "Canada followed the British system of honours which was built up over many years as the need arose", and "there are many publications dealing with the Orders, Decorations and Medals of Great Britain, however, no attempt has been made, I believe, to compile those awarded

in Canada", where I add a great big "Thank You" to Professor Irwin for having achieved such a thorough compilation. Decorations conferred by His Majesty King George VI on Personnel While On Strength of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment of Canada during World War II were: six awards of the Distinguished Service Order; five military Cross; one Distinguished Conduct Medal; twelve Military Medal; one Member Of The Most Excellent Order Of The British Empire; and twenty-four Mentioned in Dispatches.

C.N.A. 1969 Convention Display winners in the "Military Medals" category were: 1st, Joe Shkwaret, Ottawa; 2nd, Ross Irwin, Guelph; 3rd, Bruce Beatty, Ottawa, and in the "Non-Military Medals and Medallions": 1st, James M. Reid, Toronto; 2nd, Douglas Wark, Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A.

London Numismatic Society display categories the past few years have taken cognizance of this branch of numismatics in a preferable manner by including the one category "Medals and Medallions". London Numismatic Society Bulletin published for December, 1962, included an article by me on "Medals, Military", where I was mainly describing the John Watt collection of military medals in the Victorian House Museum of London History.

Numismatic Information has been very difficult to find, but Ross Irwin's new book will fill this void for MILITARY MEDALS ISSUED TO CANADIANS. Rarity of numismatic material is a function of the mintage and the hoarding or destruction of the material, so that here again, Ross Irwin's new book will be most valuable. The condition of all MILITARY MEDALS ISSUED TO CANADIANS will likely be About Uncirculated or Fine. The value of MILITARY MEDALS ISSUED TO CANADIANS will likely never be catalogued since the medal itself is "not intended for currency". However, medals (to my mind) are legitimate items of numismatics as the "science and study of coins and medals".

A NOTE FROM THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT BROCHURE

(Thanks to L.N.S.)

Canada, a union of ten provinces and two territories came into its present form over a period of 82 years since Confederation in 1867, with Newfoundland joining as recently as 1949.

In 1870 Manitoba joined Confederation to become the fifth province, and to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of this event the Royal Canadian Mint by authority of the federal government in Ottawa commissioned the design of a commemorative dollar coin depicting the prairie crocus -- Manitoba's floral emblem.

Since 1908, the year Canada began striking its own coinage, notable events have been commemorated by the Mint and continue to be a source of great interest to the collector. The years 1971 and 1973 will see the 100th anniversary of entry by British Columbia and Prince Edward Island and we anticipate the issue of especially designed coins.

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THE GROAT

To Edward 1 (1272-1307) is attributed the honour of first striking or issuing a groat, and this denomination was continued until the reign of Charles 11 (1649-1685) when the four small silver coins were first generally accepted as being struck for use as Royal Alms for distribution on Maundy Thursday. The fourpenny piece or groat as opposed to the Maundy coin was reintroduced in 1836 under William IV (1831-37). Sir Joseph Hume M.P. for the County of Middlesex (1830-37) was responsible for the legislation authorizing the issue of the "Joey" as it was to be soon nicknamed.

These groats were notable for the fact that the design of Britannia appeared for the first and only time on an Imperial Silver Coin. It is interesting at this time to note that the 30 Oboli silver piece struck for the Ionian Islands in 1834 with this design was issued two years before the first groat of 1836. Originally issued for home use only, they circulated until withdrawn in 1887 even though not minted after 1856, but in the interim had a chequered career, particularly the earlier issues.

The coins were not actually issued for Colonial use until 1888 but it is officially recorded that in 1834 and 1842 consignments of groats were sent to Ceylon. At this stage Ceylon had progressed from the Ceylon Government issues to the Rix Dollars and the supporting 2, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ stiver coins.

Also in 1840 a local proclamation in British Guiana fixed the amount at which the Dutch Guilder was to circulate at $\frac{1}{4}$ Sterling with the object doubtless, of groats being accepted as equivalent to the $\frac{1}{4}$ Guilder or "1 bit".

The re-issue of 1888 featured a different bust of Queen Victoria but the same legends on the obverse and reverse; £2000 worth or 120,000 pieces were struck for Colonial use only, namely British Guiana and the West Indies. An order in Council of 9/5/1891 and a subsequent Royal Proclamation recognised the Colonies and authorized the inclusion of their names on the reverse of the coins. This practice continued until 1916 when the legend British Guiana only appeared on the reverse.

(Thanks to City of Ottawa Coin Club)

ON MILITARY MEDALS

Numismatists, stamp collectors, artists, composers, poets, sportsmen, etc. all want "PEACE" and will continue as best they can, the wars of the world to follow their hobbies and work. This means that if all men collected coins and stamps, composed music, wrote poetry, painted pictures and indulged in sports there would be no wars (or far less of them. True there would be less medals struck but, then, there are a million other subjects far more pleasant than commemorating wars and generals in medals of bronze, silver or gold.

One of the main reasons I do not seriously collect medals is that, to me, each one represents a man who has either given, or risked his life in service for his country, and in a manner of speaking: NO ONE ELSE IS REALLY ENTITLED TO HAVE THAT MEDAL.

I recently read in a British newspaper of an old man who had to sell the medal he had won for bravery in order to get the money for food. I may be overly sentimental, but, to me, this story was one of the saddest of our times.

And more interesting food for thought is the fact that"of all the military medal collectors that I have interviewed...none of them had won any medals themselves, although they were in the right age group to have done so".

The men who fought, and gave their lives for freedom in two world wars, and on other battle-fronts, deserve our respect and honour for the services they performed in good faith.

Governments issue these medals for services rendered, and for bravery and valour. A large percentage of these men are now gone from our midst, and this column was written, "LEST WE FORGET".

Ricky Morse

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CASSANDRA SAYS

As this is to be my final article (under the above named caption) anyway, I thought perhaps it would only be right to thank those of our readers who took the effort to write and give their views on various topics discussed -- be it coin-collecting, dealers or what have you -- even to including the doubtful gender of yours truly -- happily this appears to have been settled in favour of the male of the species.

I single out three of my correspondents for comment -- to Arthur Honour, out there in Vancouver, a big thank you and may I say in passing, how very close to guessing my identity you were-- to Ricky Morse who, some of our readers anyway thought was hand in glove with Cassandra, a big thank you for your friendly encouragement-- you too did a wee bit of fishing and you were correct-- and finally, to John Mackay-Clements, to whom I am most grateful for his friendly, encouraging letters, even his home truths were good for my soul!-- however, John, your guess was way out, but the writer considers it quite a compliment--so havingsaid my parting piece, I leave you, my readers, wiser and happier to have met you -- So long for the present,

" YE ED" Alias Cassandra.

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DID YOU KNOW -

ANCHOR MONEY was small silver coins, struck in 1820 and 1822, for use in Mauritis, the West Indies, and other British Colonies. One-half, one-quarter, one-eighth and one-sixteenth of a dollar were issued. The reverse of the coins shows an anchor crowned.

BARBER HEAD COINS was any coins or patterns designed by American mint engraver Charles E. Barber, but used specifically to refer to the Liberty Head dime, quarter and half-dollar of the 1892-1916 issue.

SAINT-GAUDENS - Augustus Saint-Gaudens American sculptor and the designer of the beautiful and artistic Double Eagle (\$20.00) and also the Eagle (\$10.00) first issued in 1907 and considered by many to be first in rank among beautiful American coins.

WIRE MONEY- When a coin has a sharp rim around its perineter it is said to have a wire edge. Some of the 1907 Saint-Gaudens eagles and double eagles have wire edges.

OVERSTRUCK - A coin struck upon the flan of an existing coin instead of upon a blank is said to be overstruck.

FLAN - In French originally a flat cake or pie. In nunismatics metal cut to the shape of a coin but yet unstamped.

THE COIN COLLECTOR'S WIFE

(Anonymous)

Here's a saying I'm sure you've heard,
 And you've probably stopped to think;
 "Water, water everywhere,
 But not a drop to drink".

Shipwrecked sailors shout for it
 As they drift upon the sea,
 It brings the saddest tears of all
 To the eyes of you and me.

But the saddest cry I've ever heard
 So full of woe and strife,
 Is the cry you hear when you lend an ear
 To the Coin Collector's wife.

"Money, money everywhere,
 But not a cent to spend".
 I often sit and muse aloud
 Just when will this thing end?

Money in the dresser drawer,
 And money on the shelf;
 There's hardly even one thin dime
 To spend upon myself.

Lincoln Cents and Mercury Dimes
 And Washington Quarters too;
 Some of them are old and worn,
 And some of them are new.

I even find them row on row
 In a pretty little book;
 I wish my husband cared as much
 About the way I look.

The paycheck he brings home at night
 Means nothing at all to me;
 'Cause hubby, bless his little heart,
 Needs an '09-S VDB.

As soon as he can find that coin,
 He'll be out seeking another;
 I think that I'd be better off
 If I went home to mother.

One day in desperation sheer,
 I took a half a dollar;
 He said it was a real scarce coin,
 You should have heard him holler!

Another time I took a coin ...
 He said it was a PROOF;
 When I said I had to spend the thing,
 I thought he'd raise the roof.

So my advice to you single girls,
 If you want a happy life;
 Don't ever marry a Numismatist,
 And be a Coin Collector's Wife.

Shouting "Money, money everywhere,
 But not a cent to spend";
 Don't ever let a Coin Collector
 Be more than just a friend.

(Thanks, Mel Fiske,
 Note to Ann-Do you agree?)

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CLUBS?

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY -

The March meeting featured a talk by George Brunsten on the coinage of the ex-King Edward VIII, with a second feature being a Coin Quiz by the President, Fred Hiuser. Also more plans for the Tenth Anniversary Show in October with Major Sheldon Carroll, Bank of Canada, guest speaker.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION-

Special work is being done to prepare for the Annual Show on April 18th. All bourse tables are sold and all things point to a special show. Also a Quiz on Canadian Coins and Bills to sharpen the wits and a lively auction conducted by Andy Anderson. Charlie Miller wishes a "Happy St. Patrick's Day and many more of them" to all.

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB-

Right now the only thing heard around the Club is the Exhibition and Auction to be held in May. The Best of Show Winner will be awarded the "Norval Parker Memorial Trophy" in honour of the former Master of the Mint and life member of the Ottawa Club. Also in the "Token" category a lovely trophy donated by Mr. J. Douglas Ferguson and a placque by Major Sheldon Carroll for the best in "World Coins". Information from the Secretary, P.O.Box 6094, Station "J", Ottawa. This is all the members can talk about so come and see for yourselves.

GALT AND AREA COIN CLUB-

The highlight of the last meeting was the showing by Vince Neviden of the Franklin Mint film entitled: "Ultimate Achievement" with suitable commentary and to make it better the film is in colour. A lively auction was also held and the club members were asked to help improve the advertising the club is doing. Two new signs were presented to the club for use on the library billboard and a downtown store window to announce the meetings.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB -

Honorary Memberships are being extended to Arthur Honour, Past President, now in B.C. and Claude Kewley for his publicity in the "Spec." These memberships are for 1970 and show the club's appreciation for worthwhile efforts. The main activity of the last meeting was a lively auction.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

From Huronia comes the slate of new officers for 1970. They are:- President-Ken Prophet, Vice-President - Steve Wiggins, Treasurer - Cecil Sharpe, Secretary - Frank Fisher, Editor - Bill Gage.. To Ken goes the special honour of having been the President the first year of the club and he will be president at the 10th anniversary which will see the O.N.A. come to Barrie for the first time. Right now all we hear from Huronia is O.N.A. Convention which promises to be a success if Barrie has anything to do with it. So the date is May 2 and 3, the place - the Curling Club, Barrie. See you.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB -

The March meeting featured Jack Griffin as guest speaker and the highlight was a Dutch auction and draw for a Canadian proof-like set and proof-like dollar with all proceeds going to the Easter Seal Fund. Great idea, some of us should do likewise.

name and address -- Again a "Pat on the Back" to Club Secretaries who so regularly send us their club news -- some clubs may be a little late -- but then we keep over till the next bulletin--- A reminder to Charlie Laister- once again no bulletin news from your club--Why?--This is two months without any news, good, bad or indifferent--- Convention time is drawing near -- A reminder to those members who are intending to stay in Barrie -- Book your accommodation NOW -- or you may be disappointed -- There is another Convention on at the same time at the Holiday Inn, which we feel sure will strain the accommodations to the Curling Curling Club area where our Convention is to be held -- The Tropical Fish lobbyists are holding their Convention at the Holiday Inn on May 2 and 3 -- So any of our members interested in Tropical Fish -- here's a chance to attend their show, thus getting double value for your trip--- Finally a few words to the HARD WORKING CLUB COMMITTEES -- I know how hard you boys and gals work to put on a good show -- so won't you let me help you a little bit? Just give me a chance by sending me brief details of your Bourse Chairman, addresses, etc., and times of shows, etc. -- So many times I could help publicise a club's show and cannot because I have not the necessary information --- I'll help if you give me a chance -- so a reminder to Ottawa Club, St. Thomas, Ingersoll, Kitchener, St. Catharines, Sarnia -- All for now,

Ye Ed.

LATE, LATE FLASH -

Tillsonburg Coin Club have confirmed the following:- 8th Annual Fall Show, Sunday, Oct. 25th at the Orange Hall, Brock Street East, Tillsonburg. Date has been changed so as not to conflict with Brantford. All clubs note.

NEW MEMBERS

The following applications for membership have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the May issue of the Ontario Numismatist. The applications for membership that appeared in the march issue have now been accepted.

- 761 -- Mrs. Ernest Mastromatted, 19 Carey Road, Toronto 295 Ontario.
- 762 -- Mr Carl W. Querbach, Box 173 Sandwich P.O., Windsor 10 Ontario.
- 763 -- Mrs. Carlyn A. Querbach, Box 173 Sandwich P.O., Windsor 10 Ontario.

Delinquent members have not received the March or April Ontario Numismatist.....



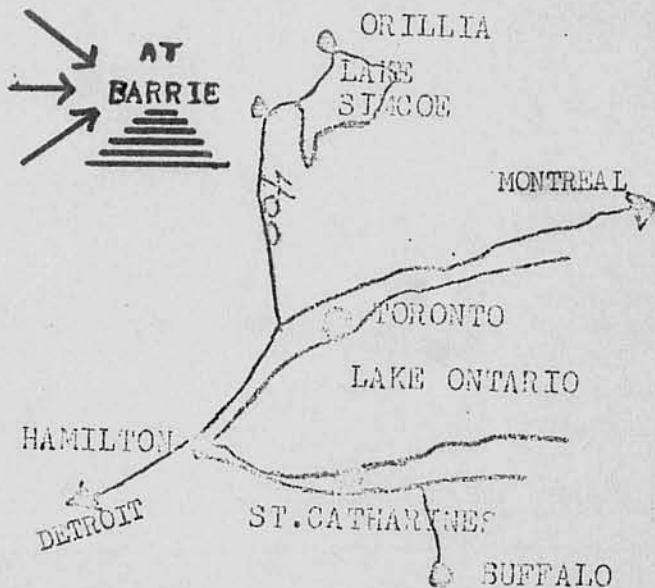
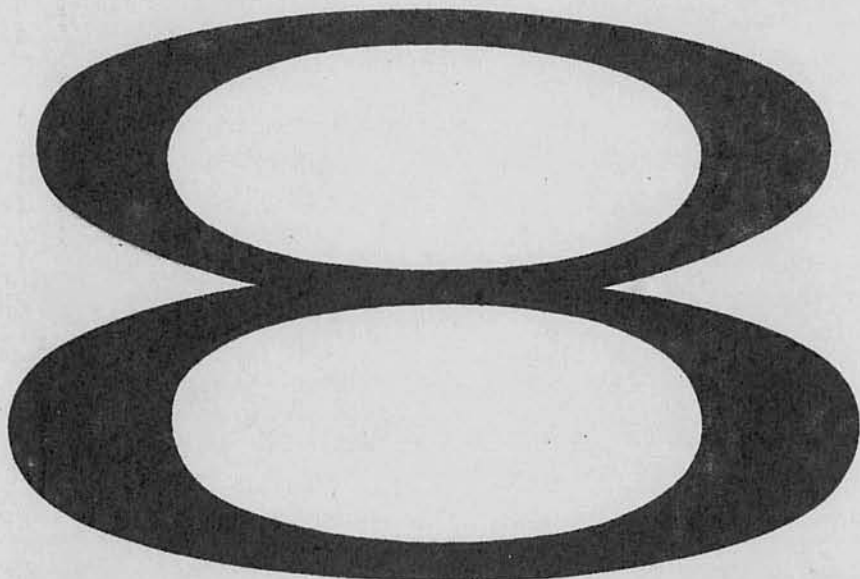
The Public Is Invited and Everyone Is Welcome

TO THE



ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Annual Convention



MAY 2-3, 1970

BARRIE CURLING CLUB - BARRIE, ONTARIO

HOST CLUB .. HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Educational Programmes

Special Bus Tour

BANQUET 6:00 p.m. — SATURDAY

Guest Speaker

JOHN J. PITTMAN F.R.N.S.

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT * AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

DRAW TICKETS

Bingo

AUDIO-VISUAL

BOURSE

Executive and Delegates Luncheon

Door Prizes

Awards

EXHIBIT

Delegates Meeting

Displays

AWARD OF MERIT

AUCTION

contact

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F.R.N.S.

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TORONTO, ONTARIO

INFORMATION

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Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario

Refreshments Available

Registration \$5.00

General Admission FREE