



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1971 - 1973

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PLATED COINS

By Michael R. Curry,
F.R.N.S.

Ancient coins, unlike their modern counterpart, were required to contain a quantity and quality of metal equal (or at least extremely close) to their purchasing value. In such a situation coins were more closely examined to assure the owner they were in fact of correct weight. The quality of the metal seems to have been taken for granted, though cities such as Athens and Corinth became famous for the quality of the silver in their coins. During the rule of Rome; first as a republic and then as an empire; gold and silver coins were closely tied to their bullion and face values. Here again quality of metal was trusted, though later on in the middle empire the silver coinage became so debased as to be visably evident.

The practice of issuing plated coins was hit upon by Greek forgers, though it is a contraversial question as to what extent this was employed by official government mints. Plated coins were produced imitating a large number of Greek civic and regal coinages - their dates running from the 5th century to the 1st century B.C. It is difficult to know for sure just who produced such coins and how long after the original (which they copied) had been issued. Usually the coins are so obviously under weight (an unusual occurence for Greek coins) that we are forced to assume that they would have only been accepted in bulk when individual coins could not be checked. The only people who could have passed out coins in bulk without drawing attention to themselves were wealthy merchants, money changers and officials connected with government finance or administration. It is entirely possible that plated coins were issued by all three groups.

Plated coins were produced by a number of methods and metals. Principally silver

issues were the favourite followed by a few gold and a dubious bronze or two. In the case of silver-plated coins a shell of silver usually covered a core of copper, though lead, zinc and tin alloys are known. Gold was limited, by its weight requirements, to lead. While copper was plated on bronze or brass, the exact methods of manufacture are lost though they are close to our modern Sheffield plating. Solders and fluxes were used in the case of solid silver coatings and also in silver powders that were used when melted on the coin. How both sides and the edges were covered evenly without leaving any marks is a mystery.

In most cases the plated coin is completely indistinguishable from a pure silver one except for the occasional patch of corrosion from the base metal core. This would not have been present when the coin was first issued. The edges may sometimes show signs of overlapping, but this has to be carefully searched for. In the case of Roman Republican serrated coins (coins with notched edges, similar to our milling though much deeper and more irregular) the copper shows through as the silver did not cover the nicks of the indentations. Once again we must assume that these coins were made to be issued in bulk, unless the shiny copper edges could be mistaken for silver.

In the case of Roman coins which were contracted out for their production; it may be possible that unscrupulous contractors were responsible for some plated coins. The plating of silver coins began with Rome's first republican issues and continued unabated through to the middle empire when the silver standards were so low that plated coins lost their "raison d'etre". Some later medallions were plated with gold or silver but this was official decoration, not private counterfeiting.

Plated coins seem to have instigated a number of other numismatic techniques; i.e. the chisel cuts found on numerous Greek coins, and the Bankers counterstamps on Roman republican and imperatorin coins. These should not be confused with symbol or letter counterstamps applied to denote a new issuing authority or re-evaluation of a piece or series.

Plated coins are fascinating as ancient works of art. They are of varying values from poor to good, sometimes surpassing the pieces they copy. They are usually lower priced though this depends on condition as they are more susceptible to corrosion than pure coins. From the historical point of view they are of supreme importance as a questionable example of official mint attempts to alter the economy. This is certainly the case in the 5th century B.C. Athens, when, after a number of humiliating defeats, the Athenians were forced to issue plated tetradrachma's and drachma's.

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 Memberships - \$50., Regular Memberships - \$3. yearly, Juniors - \$2. yearly (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.

Remittance is payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

This is the only sure case of officially issued plated coins and scholars are divided on the extent of government authority (or the use of government institutions) in the production of plated coins. None the less, they are an interesting and necessary part in any collection of ancient coins.

(Thanks to City of Ottawa Coin Club Bulletin)

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE C.N.A.

President Norman W. Williams of the Canadian Numismatic Association is pleased to recognize the co-operation of the Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, Gordon Hunter, and his staff in making available to clients of the Mint information on Canada's national organization of coin collectors. This has been done by way of an information card enclosed in the Mint's annual mailing which details the 1972 numismatic program.

Discussions on this were commenced during the Association's 1971 Convention held in Vancouver last August, between Mr. Hunter and Mr. W. K. Robertson for the Mint, and Mr. Frederick C. Jewett, the Association's First Vice President. As a result, the benefits of Association's membership have been placed before some 150,000 names. From early returns, it would appear that many of the recipients welcome the opportunity of applying for membership.

The Canadian Numismatic Association's voice in numismatics is being hereby strengthened, to the benefit of all collectors everywhere.

EDWARD VII AND HIS FARTHINGS

City of Ottawa Club Bulletin

"The farthing is a truly great little coin. It is an old friend of many numismatists, from schoolboy to wealthy investor, and the reign of Edward VII gives us a fine short series of these coins," so says Robert Hurding.

Edward VII, of the House of Saxe-Coburg, came to the throne on January 22, 1901, as the eldest surviving son of Queen Victoria. At the time he was 59 years old. His reign lasted only until 1910, when he died at the age of 68.

Although he acceded early in 1901, the first coins bearing the portrait of Edward VII were not issued until 1902. The entire issue of farthings (1902 to 1910) was specially darkened by the Mint before being put into circulation. The Royal Mint was unable to say what particular process was used for this darkening. However it is known that the main reagent was sodium thiosulphate, commonly known as photographer's hypo. The reason for this darkening process was that newly minted farthings were often mistaken for gold half-sovereigns, but the darkened farthings could be distinguished at a glance.

DID YOU KNOW

The notorious "pig" on the 1911 rupee of India may be seen just below the left shoulder of the King. Looking through a magnifying glass, one could be in no doubt about its identity, but Indian peasants didn't carry magnifying glasses about with them, and to the naked eye the animal is rather nondescript, although it could look like a boar.

THE BREAD TOKENS OF ONTARIO - continued from the January issuePORT HOPE

- Try/John Curran's/Home Made/Bread/Port Hope, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf/of/bread A-Sc4-28
- A. Hugh/Baker/Port Hope, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-32x19
- John Wells/Baker/Mill St./Port Hope, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf/of/bread A-Sc8-29

PRESTON

- J. Proudfoot/Home Made/Bread/Preston, Ont.
Good for/one/small/loaf of bread A-R-25
- A. Roos/Home Made/Bread/Preston, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-Sc8-29

RAT PORTAGE

- Peoples Bakery/Rat Portage
Good for/1/loaf A-RE-32x20

RICHMOND HILL

- D. Hill & Co./Richmond/Hill/Bakery
Good for/1/small loaf A-Sc8-25

ROCKLAND

- C. Raymond/Boulangier/Rockland, Ont.
Bon pour/un petit/pain A-0c-23
Bon pour/un gros/pain. A-0c-27 $\frac{1}{2}$
- Rockland Bakery/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf
(Pritchard & Andrews-Ottawa) A-R-24
(Blank) B-R-24
- Rockland Bakery/1/loaf
(Blank) A-R-28
(Blank) B-R-28
Pritchard & Andrews-Ottawa B-R-28
T. Viau (2 varieties, 1 thin, 1 thick) A-R-28

RODNEY

- Lusty Bros./Bakers/Rodney
Good for/one/loaf/bread A-Sc8-28

SARNIA

- Fine Confections/Foulds/Sarnia/Ice Cream, Etc.
Good for/one/loaf/or merchandise A-R-25
Good for/one/loaf/or merchandise A-R-25
(C/S "L" for Lucas)
- Fine Confections/Foulds/Sarnia/Ice Cream, Etc.
(C/S "L" for Lucas)
Good for/one/loaf/or merchandise A-R-25
- D.W.H. Lucas/Sarnia/Fine/Confections/Ice Cream Etc.
Good for/one/loaf/or merchandise B-R-25
- A.P. McAlpine/Baker/George St./Sarnia.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-32x19
- J.E. McMann/Baker & Grocer/Cor./Albert &
Devine Sts./Sarnia, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-Sc8-29

SAULT STEE MARIE

S. Dini & Co./Baker/Soo, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc8-29
T.S. Durham/Good for/2lb. Loaf/of Bread (Incuse) (Blank)	B-0c-26 $\frac{1}{2}$ -T.H.
Good for/2 lb./Loaf of Bread/T.S. Durham (Incuse) (Blank)	B-0c-26 $\frac{1}{2}$ -T.H.

SEAFORTH

Crich Bros./Bakers/Seaforth, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc4-28
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SIMCOE

G.W. Lea/Baker/&/Confectioner Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-S-23
G.W. Lea/Baker/Confectioner Good for/one/loaf of bread	A-S-25
Chas. F. Misener/Baker/Simcoe. Good For/1/loaf of bread	A-RE-32x19

SOUTHAMPTON

J.A. Wells/Baker/Southampton/Ont. Good for/1/loaf/of bread	A-Sc10-30
Good for/1/loaf of bread	B-Sc10-30

SPRINGFIELD

H.W. High/Baker/&/Confectioner/Springfield, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-RE-32 $\frac{1}{2}$ x20
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STAYNER

Wm. Reynolds/& Son/Stayner/Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-R-25
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STIRLING

George Lagrow/Baker/Stirling, Ont. Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf of bread	A-Ov-30x22
Good for/1/loaf bread	A-RE-32x19
(Spelling error "Lagrow"?)	
George Lagrow/Baker/Stirling, Ont. Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf of bread	A-Ov-30x22
Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-RE-32x19

ST. CATHARINES

East End/Bakery/W, Buchanan Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf of bread	A-Sc8-24
The East End/Bakery/Buchanan's/Geneva St./St. Catharines, Ont.	
Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc4-28
Good for/1/loaf of bread	B-Sc4-28
T. Fitzgerald/Baker/St. Catharines. Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loef of bread	A-R-25
Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-R-28
W.J. Foley/Baker/St. Catharines. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc10-31
Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf of bread	A-Sc6-29

A. Meyer/St. Catherines, Ont. (Note: Error in Spelling St. Catherines) Good for/1/2/loaf of bread Good for/one/loaf of bread 1 loaf fancy bread/A. Meyer 1 loaf fancy bread/A. Meyer	A-0-22 A-0-26 A-0-22 (C.H.-4 Sq.)
Shelly Bros./Bakers/St. Catharines Good for/1/2/loaf of bread	A-S-16
Shelly Bros./Bakers/St. Catharines Good for/1/2/loaf of bread	A-S-24
Shelly Bros./Bakers/St. Catharines Good for/one half/loaf bread	A-S-24
Shelly Bros./Bakers/St. Catharines, Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-RE-32x19
Wright's/Bakery/St. Catharines Good for/1/2/loaf of bread Good for/1/loaf of bread Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc4-30 A-RE-30x24 A-Sc4-30
<u>ST. ISIDORE DE PRESCOTT</u>	
A. Villeneuve/St. Isidore/Ont. Good for/3 lbs./de pain	A-0-27
<u>ST. MARY'S</u>	
J. G. Constable/Baker/St. Marys, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc8-29
J. Farr/Baker/St. Marys, Ont. Good for/1/2/loaf of bread Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc4-28 A-Sc4-29
Harry Truer/Baker/&/Confectioner/St. Marys, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-0v-30x32
<u>ST. THOMAS</u>	
J.T. Palmer/711/Talbot St./St. Thomas Good for/one/loaf/bread	A-Sc4-28
Stephens', Bakery/St. Thomas. Good for/one/small loaf	A-R-25
J.T. Stephens/Baker/St. Thomas. Good for/1/loaf of bread Good for/5/loaves of bread	A-Sc4-28 A-RE-32x19 1/2
James Tapp/Baker/St. Thomas, Ont. Good for/1/loaf/of/bread	A-Sc4-28
<u>STRATHROY</u>	
Strathroy/City Bakery/F.J. Brown Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-RE-32x19 (R.S.H.)
W.M. Smith/Baker/&/Confectioner/Strathroy, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-RE-32x19
R.C. Wilhelm/Baker/&/Confectioner/Strathroy, Ont. Good for/1/loaf of bread	A-Sc8-29

(to be completed in March issue)

CALLING ALL O.N.A. JUNIOR MEMBERS

Attention: Junior Coin Collectors: There are many different coin clubs and associations in existence to-day having to do with various segments of numismatics. These include tokens, varieties, paper money, coins, along with many other types of numismatic coins. I would like to give some information on a relatively unique club which many junior collectors might be interested in. This is the "Junior Numismatic Correspondence Club of America". It was formed in 1967 and members come from all over Canada and the United States. The club is made up entirely and headed by coin collectors under the age of 21. It is also the largest independent junior numismatic organization in the nation. In the club, members trade coins and share knowledge through the mail along with making new friends their own age. The annual dues are \$1. and each member received the official publication every month called "The Inkspot". This 8-10 page bulletin contains club news, articles of numismatic interest, monthly raffles, membership lists, library lists and a club auction. Also, unlimited free classified advertising is available to all members.

This is a chance for any Junior members to become more widely involved in numismatics and learn more about this hobby on their own level. If any Junior coin collector wishes to join or any Senior members knowing of anyone that might be interested in joining, please write to: Paul Johnson,
375 Rogers Street,
PETERBOROUGH, Ont.

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

Listed below are the proposed coin club annual show dates and banquets. Check, please, to see if any of these dates will conflict with your club's proposed date.

- Feb. 25-26- Torex '72 joint convention with Central Coin Club at the
27 Westbury Hotel, 475 Yonge Street, Toronto 5, Ont. Enquiries to Mr. Frank Lieshout, P.O. Box 841, Station "K", Toronto 315, Ont. Come and meet officials of the Royal Canadian Mint and the Canada Post Office.
- March 25 &- Waterloo Coin Club annual Show at the Holiday Inn, No. 8
26 Highway, Kitchener, Details re bourse, etc, to Waterloo Coin Society, P.O. Box 41, Waterloo, Ontario.
- April 8 - Woodstock Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet in Old St. Paul Parish Hall. Details later.
- April 22 &- O.N.A. 10th Annual Convention in the Sheraton-Brock Hotel
23 hosted by the Niagara Falls Coin Club. Enquiries re bourse, etc., to Chairman, Mel. Fiske, 7795 Beaverdams Road, Niagara Falls, Ont., Howard Hill, 1 Hayes St., St. Catharines and accommodations to Mrs. Marge Smith, 5138 Willmott Street, Niagara Falls, Ont.
- Aug. 2-5 - Joint C.N.A.-C.P.M.S. will be held at the Holiday Inn, Toronto Civic Square. Details later.
- Oct. 21 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet. Details later.

JUDGING RULES Recently a Bulletin arrived from one of our member clubs which contained quite a long article on the above-mentioned subject. Many of the points brought up were well taken, but the main issue to me appears to be not so much the judging system as the applying of the rules of the system.

So in answer to our friendly editors, Jerri and Brian, may I take just a few moments and answer the criticisms brought up by your good selves. You refer, firstly, to the judge who gave no points for condition when judging a brilliant uncirculated set of large cents, and secondly, with reference to the judging of neatness you quote that one judge gave it the full mark of 10 points while the other judge gave it a total of 3 points. But these instances are the result of bad judging and in no way casts reflections upon the O.N.A. system. I would venture to say that, and I quote, "the far superior judging system to which you refer in the U.S.A." would fare no better at the hands of these same judges. My point is that the best judging system in the world will fall down if your judges DO NOT follow the judging rules.

Speaking with Bill English on this very subject quite recently, both of us agreed that many of our judges refuse to follow the judging rules as laid down and, speaking as a judge of some years standing, and having acted as a head judge on some occasions, I feel I can speak with some knowledge on this subject, and I can assure you judges who don't judge by the rules prevalent at that show I do not ask to judge. I can lend a sympathetic ear to exhibitors who have worked hard to put on a first class exhibit only to lose first prize or best of show through bad judging.

I offer the suggestion that perhaps we would be better to insist that our judges abide by O.N.A. or whatever rules are in effect. If they do not, then I feel the head judge should set their judging point to one side and re-judge the exhibits himself. This would at least ensure a fair shake to the exhibitor.

I trust you will accept these comments in the spirit in which they are given. For after all we are interested in the same end results and that is to improve the judging, and by so doing to improve the exhibitors chances of winning.

Ye Ed

NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the January issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted. The following applications have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the March issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 830 - Ted Banning, R. R. #1, Grafton, Ontario.
- 831 - Paul Pasmore, 25 Barton St., St. Catharines, Ont.
- 832 - Norman W. Williams, P.O. Box 310, New Westminster, B.C.
- 833 - Henry Walthert, 168 Lawlor Ave., Toronto 13, Ont.
- 834 - Charles K. Brust, 15963 Warwick, Detroit, Mich., 48223, U.S.A.
- 835 - Mrs. Charles (Betty G.) Brust, 15963 Warwick, Detroit, Mich., 48223, U.S.A.
- 836 - Brian R. Smith, 37 Merrian Road, Scarboro, Ont.
- 837 - George H. Salovaara, South River, Ont.
- 838 - Thomas Roach, 33 Sanford Ave. S., Hamilton, Ont.
- 839 - Gerard Thibault, 1985 Boul Laurier, Quebec 6, Que.

O.N.A. AUCTION - CONVENTION 1972

We are pleased to report that one of the most important items at our convention, the auction, has been given to Mr. R. W. (Bob) Shillingworth F.R.N.S., who is known to the majority of our readers.

For the benefit of those who are not so well acquainted with Bob, may we say that Bob is the leading light for auctions held at the Central Coin Club and has for some years now held a booth at the C.N.E. show in the Arts and Crafts Building.

Bob tells me that he will be accepting desirable material from O.N.A. members until March 5, 1972. If you have any items for Bob, please send them to him direct, in care of Suite 506, 19 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ontario. Your Executive recommends that any member who has nice material send it to Bob before the above-mentioned date.

NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The highlight of the last meeting was the O.N.A. Audio-Visual slides on the Waitangi Crown of New Zealand. This was extremely interesting and all felt the meeting was really worthwhile

CENTRAL COIN CLUB

The highlight of the last meeting was the auction conducted by Bob Shillingworth. These auctions have taken on a new lease on life since Bob took over. The door prizes were won by Leslie Brown, Jeffrey Hoare and Frank Lieshout.

NIAGARA FALLS COIN CLUB

President, Mel Fiske, announced at the last meeting that the guest speaker for the convention in April would be Mr. Bob Willey, co-author of the book, Coins of Canada. At the end of the afternoon there was a large auction conducted by Pat Lambert.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB

The following is the new slate of officers for the next two years:- Pres. - Ivan Coles, Vice-Pres.-Mike Gallagher, Tres.-Joe Scala, Sec.-Bob Porter, Editor.-Orville Donnelly. All the best to these new workers. Plans went forward for the forthcoming show on March 18th at the Town & Country Square, Yonge St. & Steels Ave., in Willowdale. Information re bourse, etc. from Bob Porter, 46 Bankfield Dr., Rexdale, Ont.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB

The C.N.A. slides on our Canadian Five Cent piece was presented by Pat Lambert and proved very interesting. There were 4 guests and 63 members at the meeting. President Bob Voaden reminded the members of the up-coming show in October and warned them the time would soon be upon them.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The new executive are:-Pres.-C. Miedema Vice-Pres.-W. Benedict, Treas.-G. Connoy, Sec.-F. Clunas. The special feature was presented as a question -What are you going to do in 1972. Well worth all of us asking ourselves.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Blenheim International Coin Show will be held at The Village Inn, 751 N. Christina St., Sarnia, on Oct. 1st, 1972. Bourse chairman-Norm Scott, Box 89 Corunna, Exhibit Chairman - Robert Sargent, 1212 Hancock St., Port Huron, Mich. and Show Chairman-Carl Williamson, 931 Greendale St., Sarnia. More details later.

