



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1971 - 1973

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CONVENTION ADDRESS BY GUEST SPEAKER

R. WILLEY

On learning that the Convention this year was to be held in Niagara Falls, I remembered an anecdote dating from the second World War, which would seem to prove George Bernard Shaw's dictum that England and America were two countries separated by the same language. A Canadian sailor on duty in England came to know an English family in London, whom he would visit when on leave. They were always correcting his pronunciation of such names as Worcester, Gloucester, Warwick and St. John Chelmondeley, all the letters of which he kept trying to pronounce. It came to be a bit embarrassing as time went on.

One day, however, he got his sweet revenge. A member of the family began to talk one evening of his visit to Canada before the war, and mentioned having seen Niagara Falls. Quick as a flash the seaman asked, "Where did you say you went in Canada?" "Niagara Falls", replied the host. "I Can't quite place the name," replied the sailor. "How do you spell it?" His host spelled it out for him. "Oh!" the sailor replied, "in Canada we pronounce it Niffles!"

Twenty-seven years after the war, the Ontario Numismatic Association is holding its annual convention here in "Niffles." The Association also has invited me, for the third time, to address its annual convention. I believe that I am the only individual to have been asked three times to be guest speaker, and for this reason I feel highly honoured. On this occasion I should like to say something about the past, present and future of Canadian numismatics.

Eric Nicol's and Peter Whalley's "Uninhibited History of Canada" begins with a cartoon showing a cave man and woman expressing anxiety over their boy, who sits and mopes all day asking, "Who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going?" Thus do the

authors depict Canada's identity crisis, to use a current American psychological phrase, of the early 1960's. As numismatists we have undergone a sort of identity crisis as well. The market crash of 1965 brought on this situation, and though matters in the hobby are not as serious now as then, it still would be wise to take our bearings and think about the course we have followed and decide whether to continue it or plot a new course for the future.

Who are we? What are we? Canadian numismatists have been termed keen students, avid collectors, greedy speculators, mere accumulators, astute buyers, clever bargainers, and imaginative collectors. At one time I heard it said that we were the laughing-stock of the numismatic world. The activities of a few of the greedy speculators and mere accumulators of a few years ago hung this label on us. Are we any of these things, or all these things? Among Canadian numismatists we all can find examples of these types. There was a time when I felt it necessary to agree that there might be some basis to the allegation that we were the laughing-stock of the numismatic world. However, I do not feel that way now. Canadian numismatics is coming of age, and Canadian numismatists are now expanding their interests. We are slowly taking our place among the numismatists of other countries, and are making substantial contributions to the growth of numismatic knowledge.

Where did we come from? What is our history? We come from all walks of life and all segments of Canada. Our hobby is enjoyed by everyone from ages six to ninety-six. We have a three-hundred-year history, Louis XIV of France was himself a numismatist and, Canada being under his personal direction in those days, his collection included coins struck for use in Canada. After the British conquest a few English collectors were interested in Canadian numismatics but it then was only a part of the numismatics of the British colonial empire.

As the Canadian colonies grew, people began to take notice of the variety of coins in use, especially the copper, and by 1850 a systematic search for coins in Canada began. In 1862 the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal was founded, and the Golden Age began. This period lasted 'til 1914, and was the age of Breton and Leroux, Sandham, Courteau, McLachlan, Dr. Kingsford, Judge Lees, and others, all of whom were keen collectors and students of the Canadian Colonial coinages. Some, such as Breton, studied the various trade tokens issued after 1870, while others, like Leroux, studied medals of all kinds. During this period the emphasis was on these items, decimal coins being looked on, unfortunately, as spending money.

Another reason for the neglect of decimal coins was economic. Few people could afford to put away very many Queen Victoria decimal coins in the days when fifty cents was wages for a whole day. Fifty-cent pieces therefore were almost never saved, which is why the early years command such high prices to-day in any condition better than very fine. Quarters were sometimes saved, being given as gifts to children

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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.

by doting parents or relatives. Dimes were not often saved, for a dime was a useful coin. So many things could be bought for ten cents in those days that the coin had a phenomenal velocity of circulation. Five-cent pieces and cents were saved at that time, and were the only decimal coins that were actually collected in any quantity.

But all good things in this world eventually come to an end, and in 1914 the numismatic activity, gold coinage and all, was killed off, along with many other amenities of civilised living, by the outbreak of the first World War. The war was followed by disillusionment as the promise of 1918 rapidly proved false, and in the economic turmoil of the roaring twenties and the dirty thirties there was not time nor money to resume the study of numismatics. A few individuals continued as long as they were able, but after Courteau's last monograph in 1934 the flame burned very low indeed.

During this period numerous coins were produced, tokens used, and medals struck, but hardly anybody really cared enough to gather background data and record the number of items produced. The age of apathy had set in. Important things went unrecorded. The identity of the engraver of the reverses of most of the Canadian coinage from 1902 to 1936 was unknown until recently. It simply was not to be found in the literature anywhere. Present-day researchers are faced to-day with a dreadful problem, for information concerning medals, for example, of this period is extremely hard to find, and it may in many cases be irretrievably lost.

In 1939 the second World War broke out in consequence of the behaviour of a gang of bloodthirsty hoodlums, and it took six years to restore some semblance of civilised behaviour to the world. The war seemed to shake us out of the apathy into which we had sunk after 1918 and a numismatic renaissance began. People began to take an interest in coins, this time turning their attention to decimals. People began to collect all denominations date by date. It was the happy time when one could get everything but the extreme rarities from circulation in reasonable condition if one had the patience. Patience in those days was rewarded by finding such items as an extremely fine broad-leaved 1913 dime in circulation. Alas, alack and tears, idle tears, for the days that are no more!

In 1950 the Canadian Numismatic Association was founded, a consequence of the large number of collectors from all parts of Canada who joined the old Ottawa Coin Club. The Association grew quickly, and local clubs sprang up from coast to coast. Dealers began to appear in Canada about this time, and in 1952 J. E. Charlton published the first of his annual catalogues. His catalogue is now in its twentieth edition. This was of invaluable assistance to collectors, and it was not very long before important varieties were discovered. Some were at last beginning to study their coins, and their work is the foundation of present-day research.

The number of conventions and shows began to increase, and with it the number of dealers and clubs. In Ontario it soon became apparent that a provincial organization was necessary, if only to co-ordinate the activities of the clubs in the province. The O.N.A. was founded in 1962, and its full range of services and activities was developed and put into operation before the year was over.

Prices began to rise rapidly in 1962, and an element of speculation crept into the scene. A teletype service began, and trading in coins by the roll and bag and in sets by the hundreds or even by thousands became

brisk. Every convention had a teletype clacking away, with people sitting big-eyed in front of it as the quotations rattled on. Some began to feel priced out of things and turned elsewhere. Some collectors turned to foreign coins, others to Canadian colonials, medals, or paper money. Others brought on the era of dots and spots, splashes, and dashes, daubs and blobs, and other trivia. The numerous examples of hasty minting to meet an increased demand for coins for general circulation were now eagerly sought. At this time people wanted the standard catalogue to include all these accidental flaws, and made so much noise that by 1964 they almost drowned out the roll-and-bag speculators. It soon was learned that these items deserve a catalogue of their own, and about 1963 the first of the listings by Hans Zoell was published.

Then in 1965 the mint found itself obliged to discontinue the sale of proof-like sets on January 2. A storm of rage and frustration swept the country, and the government was obliged to find a place for the new machinery possessed by the mint but not then ready for use. This occurred in April, the mint accepted orders again, with intent to flood the market. The balloon burst, with an enormous bang. It was as if the teletype exploded in everyone's face.

The collapse of this artificially-inflated market did not affect too much the prices of early material in fine condition. It always was scarce and had a fairly steady market. But the current material, such as recent proof-like sets, lost nearly all its premium above face value or mint price, with results disastrous to the hoarders. The teletype service disappeared, since the market was no longer able to generate the revenue to pay the rental for the equipment. Coin clubs went through difficult times. A few clubs, riven with quarrels over who should be at the helm, and some which had steered a course that was crassly commercial, foundered completely, their members either losing interest in coins altogether or joining other, more soundly based clubs. "What now?" we asked, stepping gingerly over the prostrate forms of bankrupt dealers and speculators, the wrecks of derelict clubs, and the shattered remains of teletype screens. Where are we going? For a few years we didn't really know. We simply sat around in bewilderment as prices continued to decline and bargain-hunters eagerly awaited the next bankruptcy sale.

Then, in different parts of the country collectors struck out on a new course. Instead of merely accumulating coins they began to study them and take a look at other fields of Canadian Numismatics. They found plenty of material to work with. Rupe Killick, who rather saltily reviewed "The Coins of Canada" recently, would say of these collectors that they realized that they would never find fish by sitting on the dock and expecting them to jump into their laps; that the only way to get fish was to rig oneself in oilskins, put to sea, and get to work.

This is good advice, and those who took it found that it paid off handsomely. What did they find? Some, we know, studied decimals in depth, and found die varieties and other varieties that have been under our noses and before our unseeing eyes for years. We all know about the changes in the head of Queen Victoria on our coins from 1870 to 1901, but, seriously now, how many of us knew, before Dr. Haxby began to write about this matter, that the head on a 1900 quarter, for example, was not the same as that of an 1870 quarter? Some people interested in the accidental flaws on our recent coinage are now studying the technical

aspects of coining and learning how these freaks, mint errors, or whatever else they may be called, are produced. This is fundamental knowledge, and is beneficial to all numismatists whatever they collect.

Some have turned to the Colonial coinages and have found that the early writers by no means solved everything. In fact they made a few mistakes which are accepted to-day as Gospel truth. It is interesting to discover that in the so-called Golden Age, one numismatist often disagreed with his fellows on many subjects. This man was R. W. McLachlan, and recent work is showing that most of the time McLachlan, whose work is almost forgotten, was right. But for years collectors went no further than collecting according to Breton and Leroux. This approach to Colonials reminds me of an unfurnished ship. Sandham laid the keel, and Leroux and Breton built the hull. Courteau designed a superstructure, and McLachlan, Lees, Wood, and a few others contributed, but for some reason the ship was launched without these contributions. No wonder interest in Colonials died out! But fresh work is going on now, and a new ship is being built.

There is plenty of work to do here. Much has yet to be done to establish accurate degrees of rarity. Earlier writers established rarity tables for individual series, but is a Rarity 1 Bust & Harp as common as a Rarity 1 New Brunswick halfpenny of 1843? We need to establish a common standard of rarity for all Colonial coins. The old frauds, perpetrated in Breton's days, are reappearing to-day to deceive the novice. These need to be exposed, photographically as well as in print. Certain mysterious pieces ought to be studied and identified once and for all. What is Breton 968, for example, and what is Breton 999? Has anybody ever seen a "Trade & Navigation" penny dated 1812? This last has appeared in old auction catalogues years ago, but in our day nobody has ever seen a specimen. If it does exist, where did all the specimens go? These are only a few of the jobs to be done.

Another field entered by some collectors is that of trade and transportation tokens, those pieces redeemable in goods or in services of some sort. Most of these were issued within the last hundred years and are interesting souvenirs of the history of the development of our country since Confederation. These are being studied as never before, and books are available on the issues of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Work is going on in the study of the trade tokens of Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, sometimes with a bit of humour. One issuer of trade tokens in Bethune, Sask., fired a shotgun loaded with rock salt at a group of pranksters on Hallowe'en Night, 1912. He scored, and some were so badly filled with salt that they needed medical attention. The people of Bethune boycotted his store after this, and he had to sell out the following spring, and afterward left the country. Hallowe'en was a night of serious business back in those days!

Paper money collectors, or rag-pickers, as they sometimes are called in derision, are very active now and making plenty of noise. But the activity is generally very good, and the approach to the subject is sound. Much more important than the pricing of Canadian paper money out of the reach of many individuals is the activity of so many collectors in discovering the historical and economic background of their notes, the better to appreciate the rarities they have discovered. This work will be remembered long after the asterick-eyed numbers players are gone from the scene. A lot of information has been rescued from utter oblivion by these collectors. Paper money had been neglected for so many years that such valuable information was in danger of being irretrievably lost.

Considerable information concerning Canadian banks of the past has been unearthed, and many old bank notes have been documented in the literature for the first time. Paper money has a goodly number of keen students, and can use many more.

Medals form an enormous field. This field has been called by some students a bottomless pit. Canada is a young country; her numismatic history goes back only three hundred years or so. Yet in that time hundreds of medals relating to Canada have been produced. At long last, a few collectors are turning their attention to this field, and they have a long, hard task ahead of them. Apart from war medals and decorations, ably written up by R. W. Irwin, there is very little literature on Canadian medals. Research is going on into academic medals, Governor-Generals' and Lieutenant-Governors' Medals, and the classic historical medals, which will soon appear in print, I am told.

There is an enormous number of Canadian medals, which, having been issued during the famous period of neglect after 1914, were never published in numismatic literature. Many important details were never recorded. As an example, the beautiful medal issued in 1914 to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Lundy's Lane was published, and all the historical facts of the medal are well known, but it is not known by whom it was designed, engraved, and struck. This is only one of the many examples. Research into medals will amply reward the student, for there is much that has to be ferreted out of hiding.

Last but not least, there is that galaxy of para-numismatic material lumped together under that new-fangled American word, "enonomia". This is an interesting word. It is plural; what is its singular? This will depend on whether it is considered as Latin or Greek in origin. Latin, Greek or just plain American, it covers such things as wooden nickels, shell cards, mirror cards, spinners, advertising counters, encased postage stamps, and the slugs used in former times in juke boxes and slot machines. Communion tokens are considered by some to be in this classification as well.

All these things are being studied now, and as recently as ten years ago all except Communion tokens were considered beneath the attention of the serious collector. These pieces are interesting souvenirs of past and contemporary social history, and many have yet to be recorded. Work is going on in this field, and we have already seen new literature on Presbyterian Communion tokens and Canadian wooden money.

The work in all these fields in Canadian numismatics shows that there are collectors who have altered course since the market crash. They are on the right course, and in the future there will be more and more collectors doing research as well as just collecting. If they continue this way, the future of Canadian numismatics will be bright. It will be bright for everyone, for the available literature will increase, there will be coins, clubs, and dealers, for the research will bring coins to light, discover more about coins we already know, and develop a firm market in which a dealer can make a good living. Prices will rise, inevitably, as demand increases, but will be less likely to be inflated artificially in such a numismatic climate. If we all study our coins and at least assist in research, the future of Canadian numismatics will always be bright.

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

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

- June 12 - Stratford Coin Club annual dinner meeting in St. Paul's Anglican Church, 9 Douro St., Stratford. Guest speaker is John J. Pitman, and further details may be obtained from K. W. Wilmot, P.O. Box 76, Sebringville, Ontario.
- July 15-16- City of Ottawa Coin Club 4th Annual Show in the Chateau Laurier Hotel. Details re bourse, etc. to P.O. Box 6094, Station "J", Ottawa K2A 1T6, Ont.
- Aug. 2-6 - Joint C.N.A.-C.P.M.S. Convention at the Holiday Inn, Civic Square, Toronto, Ont. Details re bourse to Jack Veffler, P.O. Box 7, Station "S", Toronto. General Chairman - E. Victor Snell, P.O. Box 2186, Station "B", St. Catharines, Ontario.
- Sept. 17 - London Numismatic Society Coin Show at the Carousel Motor Hotel, Wellington Road South near Highway 401, London. Information re bourse, displays, etc., to Lloyd T. Smith, 123 Arundel Street, London 4L, Ontario.
- Sept. 23 - Huronia Numismatic Association Annual Show and Banquet. Details later.
- Oct. 1 - Sarnia Bluewater International Coin Show at the Village, 751 N. Christine St., Sarnia. Details re bourse to Norm. Scott, Box 89, Corunna. Exhibits - Robt. Sargent, 1212 Hancock St., Port Huron, Michigan and General Chairman - Carl Williamson, 931 Greendale St., Sarnia, Ont.
- Oct. 1 - Kitchener Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet at the Holiday Inn, Fairway Road, Kitchener. Details re bourse, etc., to Ted Turonski, 111 Lancaster St. East, Kitchener, Ont.
- Oct. 21 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet in Westminster United Church Parish Hall, Queenston St., St. Catharines. For details write the President, R. Voaden, 63 Highland Ave., St. Catharines, Ont.
- Oct. 22 - Stratford Coin Club Annual Show and Auction with eight bourse dealers and a 100 lot auction. Details re the above to Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ont.
- Oct. 29 - Tillsonburg Numismatic Society Annual Coin And Antique Show in the Orange Hall, Brock St. Details re bourse to Chas. B. Laister, No. 3 Highway, Tillsonburg. General Chairman - George Reynaert, 41 Park Avenue, Delhi, Ont.
- Nov. 4 - Oshawa and District Coin Club 12th Annual Coin-A-Rama to be held at the Mid-Town Mall in Oshawa. Details re bourse, exhibits, etc. to Henry Burke, P.O. Box 212, Oshawa, Ontario

In an Auction did you know that an Unreasonable or Nuisance Bid is a bid so low that no reasonable person would accept it; sometimes even below the face or bullion value of the coin or lot. Auctioners do not accept such bids.

DISPLAY WINNERS AT THE 10TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

CANADIAN DECIMAL

1. R. Marcetti - Mount Clemens, Mich.
2. S. Smigiera - Willowdale, Ont.
3. Tom Waller - London, Ont.

PAPER CURRENCY

1. W. Allen - Oakville, Ont.
2. S. F. Peaver - Bancroft, Ont.
3. Fred Barley - St. Catharines, Ont.

TOKENS

1. No first place winner
2. Albert Fuller - Kitchener, Ont.
3. Albert Fuller - Kitchener, Ont.

MEDALS

1. Albert Fuller - Kitchener, Ont.
2. S. F. Peaver - Bancroft, Ont.
3. Art Leff - London, Ont.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Phil Romeril - Racine, Wis.
2. Tom Waller - London, Ont.
3. S. F. Peaver - Bancroft, Ont.
3. Mrs. T. Daly - Niagara Falls

FOREIGN

1. Jan. Nielson - St. Catharines
2. J. Ashley - Ogdensburg, N.Y.
3. P. Sullivan - Ottawa, Ont.

TOPICAL

1. V. Snell - St. Catharines, Ont.
2. Art. Leff - London, Ont.
3. Mrs. R. McQuade - Ottawa, Ont.

JUNIOR

- Charles Miller Trophy -
R. Caldwell, - Peterborough
1. R. Reed - Niagara Falls, N.Y.
 2. Ann & John Ashley -
Ogdensburg, N.Y.
 3. Steven Peaver - Bancroft.

CHARLES LAISTER TROPHY

Best Club Display -
St. Catharines Coin Club

DOUGLAS WARK MEMORIAL TROPHY

BEST OF SHOW - W. Allen, Oakville.

NEW MEMBERS

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

- 849 - Mr. Jay Siegal Thornhill, Ontario
- 850 - Mr. Albert Bliman Willowdale, Ontario
- 851 - Mr. Jeffery Hoare Scarborough, Ontario
- 852 - Mr. Ken B. Forbes, F.R.N.S. - Toronto, Ontario
- 853 - Robert Stewart London, Ontario
- 854 - Victor G. Potter St. Catharines, Ontario
- 855 - Richard A. Ford Stayner, Ontario
- 856 - Howard C. Toaze Oshawa, Ontario
- 857 - Stanley H. Clute Willowdale, Ontario
- C71 - Peterborough Numismatic Association
c/c Paul Johnson, 375 Rogers St., Peterborough, Ont.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Since publishing our last Bulletin it has now been confirmed that the Royal Canadian Mint will be striking a special commemorative silver (50-50) dollar along the lines as struck last year. This should be on the way to collectors, I understand, by the end of July. Price to be \$3.00 in simulated leather case.

Due to the length of the main feature in this month's Bulletin we have had to leave out news from the following coin club:- Brantford, Champlain, Central, Ottawa, Hamilton, Huronia, Ingersoll, Kitchener, Niagara Falls, Port Credit, Richmond Hill, St. Catharines, St. Thomas, Thistletown, North York and Waterloo - so please bear with us and be sure you will be in the news next July-August Bulletin -- as I am pinch-hitting in most instances for Ye Ed, who has been pretty sick, so if you have any squacks - send them to him! ! !

THIS 'N THAT 'N THAT

What can I say when I don't know what is in my husband's head? Here goes --- I shall try --- from typist to author in one jump -- Help, Bob Willey -- I need your help --- All I can think about is that next month Pat will be back to do his own This 'n That -- I want to thank, on Pat's behalf - the over 50 kind folk who wished him well -- I know he has recovered quicker for your very kind thoughts -- Pat says he has had no more news about next year's show -- he trusts someone somewhere somehow is giving this some serious thoughts -- in conclusion I hope most of you are reading this in the quiet of your garden where it is nice and warm and that you are making your plans for this year's vacation --- See you all next month,

Sincerely,

"Ye Ed's Ed"

TORONTO

1972

THE CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

CANADIAN PAPER MONEY SOCIETY

JOINT CONVENTION

at the

HOLIDAY INN of CIVIC SQUARE

August 2nd-5th, 1972

(free parking for registered guests)

BOURSE - AUCTIONS - DISPLAYS - AWARDS - TOURS

EDUCATIONAL FORUM - GUEST ACTIVITIES

LADIES' HARBOUR TOUR and LUNCH at ONTARIO PLACE

BUS TOUR to NIAGARA FALLS and LUNCH in REVOLVING RESTAURANT

BANQUET SPEAKER - MARGO RUSSELL

REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN A FREE TRIP FOR 2

TO A.N.A. CONVENTION, NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 1972.

PRE-REGISTRATION - Mrs. L. Graham, P.O. Box 192, 5170 Yonge St.
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