



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

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## THIS YEAR - 1975

On New Year's Eve some commentator was quoted as saying "This is the first year of the last quarter of this century" which, to say the least, should make us think, particularly the older members, that soon we will be in the 21st century, the century for which so much has been promised - new ways of living - purer air - cleaner surroundings, etc. How does this effect our hobby? Are we O.K. in our thinking about the future? Do you fully realize that we are starting this last quarter of the century with nickel coinage?

Few gold coins are being minted - mainly due to the high cost of the precious metal itself, which even as I pen these lines to you, is heading for \$200.00 an ounce or even more. While nickel coinage serves its purpose, due to its hard wearing properties, etc., it's not what I would call the most attractive of metals. As for coins of the Victorian, George V and George VI series, these will, I am certain, go into orbit as far as price is concerned. So what is the future for the merging collector? - Medals - Paper Money - Something new in numismatic collecting such as pursuing Theme Collecting - Foreign coins which still abound and are reasonably priced - perhaps collecting coins and paper money from our new countries. These present a challenge to our younger collectors. The ideas are plentiful - read our C.Y.N. Messenger for ideas from the younger members of our hobby. Here is a field of ideas which we cannot ignore, for here are the numismatists of To-morrow and it is of To-morrow that we are concerned.

Last year, at this time, I wrote of the challenge 1974 held for us - the results, to say the least, have been somewhat disappointing. We have tried, and in most cases failed, to come up to our expectations.

We have tried to re-align and streamline our Association, although some of our services proved so costly it was felt we had to curtail them. However, you will note we only increased our fees by \$1.00 this year, yet we hope to continue most of our services to the membership with little or no curtailment of the remaining services.

This is Election year for your Association - Make certain you elect to office those whose only ambition is the interests of this Association and the hobby in general.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year in 1975,

Numismatically yours,

President.

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AN OLD WAGER

By Stan Clute, President North York Club

While thumbing my way through a copy of J. Bernard Burke, Esq.'s "Anecdotes of The Aristocracy", published in 1849, I encountered a reference to a very interesting document. The wording of the introduction of this chapter (found on pages 314 and 315) leave little, if any doubt, that Burke had actually seen this document. The fascinating thing about this manuscript is that, while it actually records a wager between two gentlemen of Ireland, it takes the form of a promissory note. In effect this wager is merely a bet about how long it will take the town, which supported the efforts of James II to regain his throne (remember his issues of gun money?), to be reduced and captured by the forces of William of Orange. The note, as reported by Burke, reads:

"I doe hereby acknowledge to have rec<sup>d.</sup> of M<sup>r.</sup> Francis Baker the sum of Twenty Shill<sup>s.</sup> ster., and in consideration thereof do oblige myselfe, my heirs, Exec<sup>trs.</sup> &c. to pay to the said Baker (his heirs and assigns) the sum of four guineas, provided the town of Youghall, in the kingdom of Ireland, be not reduced to ye obedience of this present gov<sup>rn</sup><sup>t</sup> in England, sometime 'twixt this day and the first of May, w<sup>ch</sup> shall be in the year Sixteen Hundred Ninety. Which if it be so reduc<sup>d.</sup>, that then this present obligation to be void, oth<sup>r</sup>wise to be full force and power of law. As witness my hand seale, this tenth day of October, Sixteen Hundred Eighty nine. 1689.

"John Hayman" (seal)

Being present and when the words (his heirs and assigns) were interlin'd

Jno. Silver  
Thomas Cosens  
Ed. Nicholas"

Youghall surrendered to King William on Aug. 2, 1690, so it would seem Mr. Hayman lost the wager, as Burke observantly remarks.

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THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication can be obtained with membership in one of the following categories:- Life Membership - \$50., Regular Membership - \$5., annually, Husband and Wife (one journal) - \$7. annually, Juniors (up to 18 years of age) - \$3. annually, Club Membership - \$10. annually. Special O.N.A. Silver Lapel Pins - \$2.50.

Remittance made payable to The Ontario Numismatic Association, c/o Mr. Bruce Raszmann, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

Can any of our members help this budding numismatist? If so, please write to him direct, Ye Ed.

28 Nov. 1974

Dear Sir,

I am doing research on the coins of Vietnam including Annam Empire, French Cochin China, French Indochina and present day North and South Vietnam. I wonder if you would help me.

I would like to know how many people specialize in this area or include it in a larger collection. How knowledgeable is the average collector on Vietnam coins? Has any scholarly work been done on the subject? Are there any coins of this type with high numismatic value or popularity?

Any information on these coins or names of collectors or organisations who specialize in them would be appreciated.

Thank you,  
Mr. Anton Fox,  
568-66-0305  
ITT/FEC TMY 553  
APO 96393  
SAN FRANCISCO

California.

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NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the November issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted. The following applications have been received and if no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the February issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 943 James Ellison 85 Milton St., Stratford, Ont. N5A 3V2
- 944 Stanley L. Aaroe, 7 Rivercrest Dr., St. Catharines, L2T 2P3
- J945 Dennis Schoular, 94 Bruce St., Stratford, Ont.
- 946 Mrs. Marie Ford Box 717, Staynor, Ont. LOM 1S0

The following members have been transferred from Regular Membership to Life Membership:

- LM23 Russell Jackson Tillsonburg, Ontario
- LM24 Kenneth Prophet Barrie, Ontario
- LM25 John Jay Pittman Rochester, New York U.S.A.

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THE MARITIMES

Some Glimpses of Their Pre-Confederation Currency

By Ruth McQuade, City of Ottawa Coin Club

Pistareens, livres, sols, crowns, Spanish dollars, doubloons and French francs - these are names that conjure up dreams, but these, and many other coins, circulated in the Maritimes before Confederation.

"The Maritimes" was then known as the Province of Nova Scotia and included Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The French regime in Canada came to an end in 1763, and at that time paper was nearly the sole medium of exchange. All hard money had been

exported to pay for goods, or it was hoarded. From then right up to the war of 1812 there was a shortage of coinage.

Due to constant trade with the Spanish West Indies, the Spanish dollar invaded the country. (In fact the Bank of Montreal, Quebec bank and the Bank of Upper Canada, issued their first notes in Spanish dollars, although sterling was the legal tender.) By the end of the American Revolution, coins from many other countries were available to expand means of payment.

Before the establishment of banks, it was the importing and exporting firms which carried on the bulk of the foreign exchange transactions. In Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, the Spanish dollar was accepted at 5/; in New York at 8/. Both of these ratings became established in British North America. East of Quebec and introduced by Massachusetts merchants arriving in Nova Scotia, there prevailed the 5/ rating known as Halifax currency. In Quebec and to the West, and introduced by New York merchants arriving in Montreal, the 8/ rating, known as York currency became standard. This rating of 5/ for the Spanish dollar in Nova Scotia was adopted in 1777. Everyday transactions worked well, but did not work so well from the conversion standpoint.

The War of 1812 found Nova Scotia without much money, but also without debts. The successful issue of Army bills gave the people confidence in paper money. However, Nova Scotia was still a British colony and depended on Britain for financial assistance. Thousands of pounds came into Nova Scotia to maintain a military establishment and much money came for the representatives of the Church of England. The Imperial government tried at various times to transfer some of these expenses to Nova Scotia, but Nova Scotia continued to be a burden until late in the 19th century. As late as 1858, £191,000 was granted for the military of N.S. and N.B.

During the War of 1812, N.S. was not touched by the conflict, but trade did improve with New England. Thankful for their good fortune, the Nova Scotia legislators voted a grant of £2,500 for the "distressed inhabitants of Upper Canada", as well as £1,000 to their Lieutenant-Governor.

Much interesting legislature followed - coins were scarce, barter was still used in doing business. The Sterling introduced by military officials was scarce. G. A. White in "Halifax and Its Business" says, "Every merchant had a bank in his own office in the form of an iron chest, bound and studded with bars and rivets (some of which have not yet given place to Edward's or Milner's safes) in which the doubloons and dollars from the West Indies or Spanish Mail were deposited. Scales and weights were necessary adjuncts to every office to weigh the several classes of coins so that any sweating or filing might be guarded against, and to determine whether the money was of the standard weight. When an Irishtown merchant had to pay for a cargo of fish to an uptown dealer, his trusty clerk, bearing a heavy bag of doubloons or dollars, accompanied by a friend with a stout cudgel, trudged the crooked paths of the not over safe Water St., and duly counted and weighed the coin, which was then consigned to the custody of a fannin chest."

An unmediated act in 1787 had drawn the copper coins out of the country, as it overvalued the shilling. Merchants imported tokens to fill a great need, and later issued tokens with their names inscribed<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

In 1817 the legislature banned the use of these tokens and specified they must be gone by 1820. The Provincial government then issued tokens in 1823, 1824, 1832, 1840, 1843 and 1856. Britain wanted Nova Scotia to adopt sterling as a standard but Nova Scotia did not want this. Nova Scotia had many heartaches and trying times before a decimal system was established.

In 1825 the Halifax Banking Co. appeared, but it was not until 1832 that the Bank of Nova Scotia received a charter. Treasury notes were issued as early as 1766 and at various times after.

The first half of the 19th century was a period of economic prosperity in the Maritimes, and further banks were opened. Lumbering and shipbuilding provided the basis for the expanding economy, in a period of "wood and wind". Prince Edward Island concentrated on farming and Nova Scotia lumbering was prevalent.

New Brunswick, which had become a separate colony in 1785, opened the first chartered bank in the Maritimes in 1821. Due to trade with Nova Scotia they seemed to have a better supply of coins. The use of dollars and cents was legalized in 1852 in keeping accounts, although the unit of account was to be the pound. In 1860 another act adopted dollars and cents, but sterling equivalents were to be shown in accounts. This act provided for the striking of bronze coins in 1861 and silver in 1862. At the time of Confederation these coins were declared legal tender in Canada.

Prince Edward Island became a separate colony in 1770 and opened its first chartered bank in 1855. An act in 1871 deemed it advisable to assimilate the currency of the island to that of the Dominion of Canada, and to introduce a decimal system of accounts so that the dollar of 100 cents became the unit of accounts. This act gave permission to procure a million 1/2 pieces. Prince Edward Island entered Confederation in 1873, but it was 1881 before Dominion currency was adopted.

In 1860 Nova Scotia as well as New Brunswick adopted the decimal system as the standard of value. Both cents and half cents made their appearance. Public accounts were to be kept in dollars and cents, but sterling equivalents were to be shown.

Bookkeeping must have been a trying experience!

References:

- "Annals of the Nova Scotia Currency" R. W. McLachlan
- Nova Scotia Provincial Finance & Currency 1812-36
- Canadian Monetary Banking & Fiscal Development

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NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The last meeting saw the largest turn-out since the mid-1960 and the highlight of the evening was the C.N.A. slide programme "Coins of the Bible" narrated by Walter Griggs who also had an interesting display of coins to tie-in with the slides on view. A draw for Olympic Coins, tickets for which were \$1.00 were sold and the money to go to the Gestetner Fund. There was also the Dollar Tree to which members brought a dollar piece and were eligible for the draw.

CAMBRIDGE COIN CLUB

36 members and guests were welcomed by President Hank Vandermaas to the last meeting of the club. The President has prepared a calendar of the meetings of the club for 1975 so all members know what is going on. The membership fee for the O.N.A. was past and the President and Treasurer announced that they would hold office for another year.

CENTRAL COIN CLUB

The last meeting saw an unusually large attendance of members and guests who came to view the set of slides taken at the Royal Canadian Mint by Mr. Robert Aaron, the Toronto Star's Coin columnist. These slides included many not normally encountered by many collectors. After his talk Mr. Aaron was presented with a Club medal and he in turn donated it for the junior draw for the next meeting.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB

A good number attended the last meeting of the Orillia Champlain Coin Club who meet in St. Athanasius Church Hall first Thursday of the month. There is an excerpt on Bank Notes in the club's last bulletin that is well worth reproducing here:-"Rare issues of early Canadian Banks make up an extensive part of the display of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce coin and note display which travels to various centres. During the period between 1792 and Confederation, about 61 acknowledged banks came into existence, with virtually all of these institutions at one time or another issuing their own notes. Through amalgamation or liquidation, 24 of these disappeared. Samples of most of these banks are found in the collection. The coin collection was initiated to illustrate the history of Canadian metallic currency and, therefore, the majority of the specimens consist of Canadian pieces. The collection sounds interesting."

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB

The last meeting was held in the War Museum with 32 members and guests present. The president, Len Fletcher, retired and the office was taken over by Johnny Johnston, with the new Vice-President being Glenn Rodger, and 2nd Vice President being Michael Curry. Best of luck to the incoming executive.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB

The last meeting saw 28 members and guests present. The program planned was a "Canadian Coin Quiz" presented by Terri Roach. An important note to all members and any outsiders who might be attending the next meeting:-The next meeting will take place in a new meeting room, namely the I.O.O.F. Hall, located at 64 Wellington North. All future meetings will be held there.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Those who attended the last meeting enjoyed a slide presentation on Numismatic Terms shown by the President with the narrative being read by Terry Donovan. The date for the next show at the Bayfield Mall has been set for February 8th, 1975. See you there.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

At the last meeting there were 45 members and guests in attendance led by the President, Lloyd T. Smith. The President recommended that as many as possible visit the Canadian Imperial Bank

of Commerce Coin and Note Collection on display at the Centennial Museum as it is well worth seeing. Also a brochure on "From Wampum to Bank Notes" is available at the exhibition.

NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

Forty-eight members and guests turned out at the last meeting to Mr. Leslie Brown's talk on the Roman Army and its Appearance on Roman Coins. Les is the Vice-President of C.Y.N. and the members were much impressed by his knowledge. Executive for 1975 is as follows:- President - Stan Clute, 1st Vice-President - Fred Jewett, 2nd Vice-President - Paul Johnson, Secretary - Mrs. Colson, Treasurer - George Fraser. All the best for 1975.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB -

At the last meeting Ricky Morse donated a \$10. Olympic Coin to be given as a prize to the member who signs up the most new members for the year. An anonymous donor matched this donation in case there should be a tie between members. Guest, Tony Gordon, Area Director of the O.N.A. announced the sale of O.N.A. cases to member clubs as the shipping costs had become prohibitive.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB-

Seventy members and guests at the last meeting saw O.N.A. President, Pat Lambert, install the following executive for 1975:- President - Stan Aaroe, Vice-President - George Shave, Secretary - R. Voaden, Treasurer - Fred Barley, Membership - Mrs. Sheperd, Librarian - Mrs. Ritchie, Historian - Glen Waite. A very interesting talk was given by Dr. Marvin Kaye on Medical Coins and Medals accompanied by illustrations. The annual Christmas draw for a turkey and several other prizes was then conducted by Pat Lambert followed by a lively auction by Lloyd Dorsey. Also Vic Snell moved a vote of thanks to the 1974 executive for a job well done.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

At the last meeting the following executive was voted in to lead the club for 1975:- President - Clarence McGee, Vice-President - Gertrude Scott, Secretary - Don Park, Treasurer - Horace Bardwell, Executive Secretary - Marie Williamsch, Editor - Fred Webb. Good luck to the new executive.

STRATFORD COIN CLUB

At the last meeting 34 members and guests listened to a very interesting talk by Tom Masters of London on "Living History in the Making" being on the birth of the United States and the Declaration of Independence & slides of many medallions and coins commemorating this great event. Here is food for thought - Rip-Off - This word has become increasing popular when talking about someone getting something for nothing or excessive profits. A perfect example has been brought to my attention. The Canadian Mint recently announced that Series One of the Olympic Coins were available to Coin Club members for an extended period beyond the cut off date. These were described as encased: One of our members took the opportunity to order a set at the encapsulated issue price. Is this what he got? Well, I guess not! The coins were received on a piece of cardboard with a plastic bubble over them. This is what I call a RIP-OFF.

( YE ED - Have any of our other members experienced the above - if so, your comments are invited)

TORONTO COIN CLUB

At the last meeting those present were treated to a very interesting talk with accompanying slides by Bob Aaron on his recent trips to the Ottawa and special numismatic section of the Royal Canadian Mint at Hull, Quebec. Also the following list of the 1975 executive was passed for 1975:- President - Mrs. Ingrid Smith, 1st-Vice President - Dr. Marvin Kay, 2nd Vice-President - Herman Gordon, Secretary - Terry Campbell, Treasurer - Harvey Farrow, Directors - Mrs. Frampton, Herschel Howard, Ray Pleau, Sam Rogozinsky and Gordon Vanson. Good luck for 1975.

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY

At the last meeting 28 members and guests heard fine comments by two detectives, R. Westphall and T. Tosheff on the subject "Break and Entry" who brought some of the tools used in an entry attempt and also some photos of break and entry attempts. They showed how easily places can be entered by slipping the locks with pieces of plastic or loosening screws. This talk made those present realize what thieves can do to get into a house or business.

CANADIAN YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

The recent show held by the Young Numismatists was a huge success and a great improvement on last year. What more could one ask. The President, Ted Banning, makes the following comments which, to Ye Ed at least, seem well worth repeating. Quite a drop in C.Y.N. membership has been noticed recently, and I don't think it quite fair to attribute lack of renewal to disappointment in the Association. It is true that there have been some problems with the Messenger lately, but there will soon be a re-organisation in this department, a number of articles are forthcoming, and the printing problems should by now be solved. Disappointment in the services offered by the Association is certainly no excuse for lack of renewal, since it is only the willingness of the members to make use of services that is lacking. No one, as yet, has asked to make use of the Information Service, the Coin Location Service has been little-used, and efforts on the part of some of the executive to start billeting out-of-town members during coin conventions have met, to my knowledge, no response. All these things are being offered to you at the ridiculously low annual fee of \$1.00 which, I might add, barely covers the postage expenses of the Messenger. The opportunity to display in the annual Coin Exhibition, or to make use of club services, then is essentially FREE. Why not renew and make use of that opportunity?

Ye Ed

Come on, young people, let's help make C.Y.N. the best it can possibly be, and also the most helpful to young numismatists who have so much to learn about coins and coin collecting.

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A COUPLE OF SMILES

When she said she was going to change the baby, her dumb husband told her to get a quieter one!

Behind every successful man stands a surprised wife!

When the Lord handed out humor, woman was late, as usual. She arrived just in time to get the last laugh!

Young men object that they can't get a job if their hair is long. They ought to see how tough it is to get one when the hair is sparse and gray.

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

Listed below are the proposed coin club shows we have with dates and banquets. Please check as you decide on a date for your forthcoming show to see if any of these dates conflict with your show date.

- Feb. 8 - Huronia Numismatic Association's 2nd annual Mini-Show featuring coins, stamps and antiques during Winter Carnival Week at the Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St., Barrie, Ontario. Enquiries re bourse, displays, etc. to Richard A. Ford, P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario.
- Mar. 22-23- Waterloo Coin Society annual show and banquet at the Walper Hotel, King and Queen Streets, Kitchener, Ontario. Enquiries re bourse, display, etc. to the club president.
- Mar. 22 - North York Coin Club Annual Show, Bourse, Book and White Elephant Sale, at the North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. For information please contact P.O. Box 294, Willowdale, Ontario.
- Apr. 26-27- Ontario Numismatic Association Annual Convention to be held in the Victorian Motor Inn, Stratford, Ontario. For details re Bourse, Displays, Reservations, etc., please write Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ont.
- July 14-16- C.N.A. Annual Convention at Calgary, Alberta. More details as soon as received.

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JOHN MIDDLEBROOK

NUMISMATIST

By William N. Clarke, London Numismatic Society

The London Numismatic Society was indeed fortunate to have as one of its co-founders, a serious numismatic scholar in Mr. John Middlebrook. At the founding of the society, John was over 70 years old and had been collecting for some 60 of those years. He was what was then called a general collector, although his main interest was in the classic Greek and Roman coinage. He was also interested in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval English coins and collected world coins of historical interest.

John Middlebrook, along with the late John Watt, attempted to form a Numismatic Society in London as early as 1936. This attempt failed. However, it wasn't until 1950, after meeting with a few others the present society was founded the following year. It was John Middlebrook who proposed that the name London Numismatic Society be adopted by the new organization.

John was interested in writing and produced many fine papers which he read at early meetings of the Society. He was also a pioneer in the audio-visual field and I can recall his presentation to the Society in October, 1953 on Roman coins, illustrated by slides of his own coins on 4" x 4" glass plates.

One of the first papers read at our Society was John's study of the 18th Century Tokens of England (September 18th, 1952) and again in February, 1953 the paper "The Lost Coin" was presented by him.

It is regretted that after his death the Society was unable to obtain John's glass plates.

John was a friendly person, easy to know and willing to share his knowledge with all collectors. He was particularly interested in the junior collector and worked for many years with our first president, Byron Swayze, at the London Hobby Fair coin exhibits. It was through the Hobby Fair of May, 1951, that I first met John Middlebrook. At that time I was twelve years old and I shall never forget the interest John took in me and my collecting.

I have considered it a great privilege to have known John Middlebrook and, on this occasion, consider it an honour to write this brief tribute to one of the true students of our hobby.

Ye Ed: Thank you, Mr. Clarke, for your tribute to one of the founders of your Society. In February, thanks to the London Numismatic Society, we shall reprint the article "English Tokens of the 18th Century" by the late Mr. Middlebrook.

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THIS 'N THAT

We have much to cover in our meanderings this month - one of the more important ones is to remind our readers that nominations for the 1975-77 election of officers closes on January 31st; I would respectfully remind our readers that it is their right and duty as members of this association to nominate those persons whom you feel will best be fitted for the particular offices, I would also remind you that two things are a must (1) secure that person's consent to stand for office and (2) make sure that your nomination is duly seconded by another member - club, or private member....Next may I express a blanket Thank You to those of our readers who, upon reading of my proposed retirement as editor of this Bulletin, have been kind enough to express appreciation for my humble efforts over the past nearly eight years; However, it would appear that to date anyway, no one has any ambition to take over the editorship of this Bulletin. When you realize that all the hard work, ingenuity, scrounging and begging for articles, etc., etc., it makes you wonder whether it is worth it or not until one day in the mail someone will take the time and trouble to write you a letter of appreciation for your efforts and then it all seems well worthwhile and one experiences the satisfaction of having tried to do a good job and at least partially have succeeded; so here again if you want a satisfying job, why not offer your services to the O.N.A. executive to try your hand as the Editor of the O.N.A. Bulletin as I did at Rod Rekofsky's lovely cottage on Wasaga Beach in June 1967 .....Most of our readers will have been following closely the gold futures in the United States, particularly since they removed the restrictions on the gold ownership, at the time of writing gold futures for July, 1975 are quoted at \$203.00 per ounce. I wonder what the true value will be in six months time? I believe that many people, like myself, feel that this is a situation where one should wait and see, I hope that not a lot of people get burnt on this false sharp rise in the price of gold....To the hard working club secretaries who have so diligently provided me with their club news, etc., may I place here on record my appreciation of your efforts. I receive, about 38 club bulletins every month, some are just a straight recording of the club business meeting which make for rather dull reading. My purpose in mentioning this is please to give us some interesting happenings of your club which will make and hold the interest of our readers..... Until February, we wish you all a Happy New Year in 1975 ..Ye Ed