



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1975-1977

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We are now entering another season. Many of you, hopefully, will have had a good summer vacation, and are now looking forward to settling down and finding more time to involve yourself in Numismatic Endeavours.

Many 1976 Summer events are now history. The Olympics are over and olympic coins are still available. The C.N.A. Convention in Ottawa was a tremendous success. JIM CHARLTON'S 25th Anniversary Edition is now available and is bigger and better. The price of GOLD ... where will it go ... up or down.

The field of Numismatics is vast and complex. In our Numismatic Associations there are many astute and knowledgeable members. What will they contribute to and for our newer members this coming year? What will you contribute?

I would really appreciate if members who have the promotion of our hobby at heart would lend a hand, contribute short articles, bearing in mind that you learn by doing.

I'm really looking forward to an exciting and profitable year Numismatically.

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication can be obtained with membership in one of the following categories: Regular Membership \$5.00 annually, Husband and Wife (one journal) \$7.00 annually, Junior (up to 18) \$3.00 annually, Club Membership \$10.00 annually. Life Memberships available for \$50.00 after 3 years of regular membership. O.N.A. Silver Lapel Pins \$2.50 each.

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# CONVENTION

# CALENDAR

## PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

The following are the Annual Coin Shows proposed for the next few months, that we have received notices for, or taken from Club Bulletins . We advise you to check this list as you debate the date of your own Club's Show, to ensure that your date does not conflict with any other coin Shows.

- Sept. 11 Huronia Numismatic Association 16th Annual Coin Show. Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St., Barrie, Ontario. Enquiries to P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario.
- Sept. 19 Waterloo Coin Society Annual Coin Show, to be held at the Waterloo Knights of Columbus Hall, 105 University Ave. E., Waterloo, Ontario. Time- 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Oct. 2 London Numismatic Society - Coin Show and Bourse - at St. Georges Presbyterian Church Hall, 1475 Dundas St. Enquiries to Box 6221, Station "D" London, Ontario. N5V 2Y8
- Oct. 3 Sarnia Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show, at the Travel Lodge on the Golden Mile, Hwy. 7. Enquiries to D.W. Park, Show Chairman, 308 Savoy St., Sarnia, Ontario.
- Oct. 9 Richmond Hill Coin Club 12th Annual Coin Show, to be held at Hillcrest Mall (Yonge St.) Richmond Hill, Ontario.
- Oct. 16 Thistletown Coin & Stamp Club Annual Coin-Stamp Show. To be held at the Public Library, Albion Rd. and Kipling Ave. across from the Shoppers World, Albion Mall.
- Oct. 23 St. Catharines Annual Coin Show, to be held at the Westminster United Church, 180 Queenston St., St. Catharines. Enquiries to Chairman S.L. Aaroe, 7 Rivercrest Dr., St. Catharines, Ontario.
- Oct. 31 Stratford's 1st. Combined Coin & Stamp Show, to be held at Stratford's Legion Hall, corner of St. Patrick & Church Sts. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Enquiries to the Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 6T1
- Nov. 6 Oshawa and District Coin Club 16th Annual Coin-A-Rama, will be held at the Midtown Mall, Oshawa, Ontario. The Show Chairman is Henry Burke, P.O. Box 212, Oshawa, Ontario.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1977-1979

In accordance with our By-Laws and Amendments passed at the Annual General Meeting, May 1976, article 7, section 4, we quote; "In an election year, the President shall make a call for nominations of elected officers six months prior to the opening of the Annual General Meeting in the official publication and at the same time shall appoint an election committee, consisting of a chairman and two members". This year's election committee is made up of Chairman - W. E. (Pat) Lambert, who will complete his committee in the near future. Also we quote; "All nominations shall be made in writing, signed by two members in good standing and sent to the Chairman of the Election Committee". Mr. Lamberts address is:

Mr. W. E. Lambert, P. O. Box 311, St. Catherines, Ontario. L2R 6T7

Use the following form to send in your nominations:

- President -----
- First Vice-President -----
- Second Vice-President -----
- Secretary -----
- Treasurer -----
- Director, Area # 1. -----
- Director, Area # 2. -----
- Director, Area # 3. -----
- Director, Area # 4. -----
- Director, Area # 5. -----
- Director, Area # 6. -----
- Director, Area # 7. -----
- Director, Area # 8. -----
- Director, Area # 9. -----
- Director, Area # 10.-----

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Award of Merit -----Nomination

Name -----

Address -----

Please list the reasons for your nomination for the 1977 Award of Merit of the Ontario Numismatic Association on a separate sheet and sign the name of the person or organization making the nomination.

(List achievements, Special services, Writing, Research, Advancement of numismatics, etc.)

MINUTES OF THE O.N.A. GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY MAY 15, 1976,  
at the Westbury Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.  
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The General Meeting was opened with the President, Elliott Jephson, in the chair with a quorum present.

The minutes of last years meeting were discussed and adopted. Bruce Raszmann presented the Treasurer's Report in the form of a Financial Statement which was gone over and accepted as presented. Each of the Area Directors present was then asked to present a report. The Editor then asked for comments on the Bulletin, either critical or constructive. As none were forthcoming he reminded the members that he required articles and material to keep it up. Also a resume of Club reports should be sent to the Editor instead of, or with the Club Bulletins.

Library Questions were raised re the library. The general feeling was that it was not being used. It was suggested that an updated list be made available to the Editor and that it be printed as soon as possible, in the NUMISMATIST.

Amendments to the Constitution were then presented. The following amendments were made and accepted.

- Article 7 - Section I - No Change.  
Section 2 - No member shall be eligible for or appointed to the office of President until he has served a full two year term as an elected or appointed officer of the executive.  
Section 3 - No change.  
Section 4 - add the following: "Members of the Committee shall not be seeking the office of President, Ist Vice-President, or 2nd Vice-President."  
Section 5 - All nominations shall be made in writing, signed by a member in good standing and sent to the Chairman of the Election Committee. All nominations must be accompanied by a written acceptance from the nominee, or an assurance of the nominee stating that the nominee shall stand for office. Failure to do this the nomination shall be invalid and the nominee shall be so advised.  
Section 6 - Add: "No member may be nominated to or stand for more than one elected office."  
Section 7 - No change.  
Section 8 - "The Secretary" shall be deleted and replaced with "The Election Committee."  
Section 9 - Amendments defeated. - No Change.  
Section 10- Any office for which no nominations have been received shall be filled by the following,-  
Nominations from the floor at the General Meeting, then voted upon by the elected officers at a regular meeting.  
Sections II, I2, I3, - No change.

Section 14 - The term of office of an elected President shall not be limited to two year term. However he may seek a mandate for another two years if he so desires to remain in office, but shall be limited to two consecutive terms. Any Past-President may be eligible for this office.

Section 15 - No change

Article 6 -

Section 2 - Delete entirely to be replaced by Article 7, Section 14.

Section 4 - Add the following: "The Past President may assist and guide at any regularly called meeting provided he has attended fifty percent of the meetings."

Section 5(b) Delete entirely.

The amendments were accepted.

A motion was then passed thanking Ken Prophet and his Committee for the effort put into this project.

A resolution was amended and passed to read as follows: - A resolution on O.N.A. Displays comencing with the 1977 O.N.A. Convention, only duly paid members of the O.N.A. will be allowed to provincial competition for O.N.A. trophies and ribbons in regular categories.

Junior displays remain the same as at present with first, second and third award for best of show, this award not to have already taken place.

Education and communications between Clubs was then discussed.

Honorariums were given out.

A motion passed that "At future O.N.A. Conventions, members of the O.N.A. Executive Committee of all parties involved should not have to pay admission to the O.N.A. Convention.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Editors Note :

Pages 72, 73 and the above have been printed here at the request of our President. He wrote me a letter and stated.... "Whereas next year is election year, would you please make sure to publish in the September Numismatist, the enclosed for the edification of all interested members and clubs."

Kind regards, Elliott Jephson.

P.S. I would also like to point out that there has been some changes in the O.N.A. Executive and a complete list will be updated and available on the front page of your October Bulletin. Ye Ed.

Smile :

They're building an addition to the poor house. It's called the "Credit Card Annex."

Why is it that the guy in the third car back is always the first to see the light change?

CONVENTION EXHIBITING - Numismatics or Nuisance by W.H. McDonald, N.L.G.  
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In order to understand the fundamentals of convention exhibiting a brief review of the circumstances under which most collectors display or exhibit numismatic items might be helpful. It should be observed, however, this subject will be discussed only within the context of larger national or regional conventions which provide the main forums for displaying or exhibiting. It excludes the junior collectors who recently have been producing some excellent displays that shame the adults! Dealer-sponsored "shows" tend generally to be local in character with limited exhibitions and are also not within the scope of these remarks.

National or regional conventions in Canada have three main components - meetings of organizations and social activities are perhaps the most important although the second activity, the buying and selling at the bourse, because of the high profile of such activity, seems sometimes to overshadow everything else. At the numismatic organizations' meetings and during the social activities much of the educational and fraternal activity take place. The public is attracted to many of the meetings, often by the thirst for knowledge and information.

The second component is the bourse, at which the buying and selling of collectors' items takes place. Included in this activity, although physically separated from it, is the auction sales that are a normal part of most conventions. The auctions are also mail bid sales and they do not always attract large numbers; the evidence is that they are a limited drawing card for the public, other than on a curiosity basis, in the majority of cases.

The third main area of activity is the exhibits which have an educational value both to collectors and the public. From time to time they have very good public relations value as the media is often attracted to exhibits of an unusual or rare nature.

A close look at conventions in the last few years will show that many of their characteristics have changed, some of which are subtle and some not so subtle. Bourse activity has become very prominent and has been emphasized to a point where it has begun to dominate conventions. One has only to look at the relative prominence of the bourse and the exhibit rooms in several recent conventions, including the size of space apportioned to each, and the message becomes crystal clear. One wonders who does all the buying at the bourse, and the conclusion is inescapable that dealers and collectors who do much of it do not really need a convention, but could buy with very little inconvenience throughout the year. The public may do some buying but the importance of this has not been quantified and may be overstated.

The meetings that take place at conventions and the social activities are good and healthy and it is pleasing to see so much of this activity that the conventions must be lengthened. An alternative for CNA that should first be tried, however, is that commercial activities such as auctions could be shortened and also the time now being used for auction sessions could be used for other activities to take place at the same time.

The result of much of the change mentioned has been devastating on the exhibition that once formed a very important part of conventions. These have been steadily downgraded, space has been cut off there has been available only poor space, often ill-lit and out of the way. Exhibition committee chairmen have not been given the support they should have and they have not been considered very high in priority. Little time and less money has been spent for advertising or public relations except the odd case when certain "unusual" exhibits have been the catalyst for media attention. Judging may have been a fault at one time in the past, but it has not been for the past few years. The quantity and quality of exhibits has been reducing at a significant rate.

It is difficult to categorize all the reasons why people will not now exhibit. Some of these are interdependent and with most it is difficult to attach a priority: I) Lack of interest or laziness.

- 2) Lack of confidence in oneself -- or this could be described as lack of confidence in the quality of one's collection.
- 3) Fear of robbery once a reputation as an exhibitor becomes known.
- 4) Not enough of a challenge. This is a difficult one to evaluate but it would appear that as the number and quality of exhibits gradually reduces the better people withdraw.
- 5) Not enough competition, similar to Item No. 4.
- 6) Not enough incentive or reward. Everyone does not need incentives, but for many it is the spice that makes it worthwhile.
- 7) Too much effort required for the benefit derived. This is not necessarily laziness, but for busy people there must be a quid pro quo for time spent. The benefits that they are looking for, of course, are not necessarily material.
- 8) Too little prestige placed on exhibits. In other words when one sees poor lighting, no priority attached to the exhibits, no advertising and other things which make it difficult they just react "Why bother, who cares?".
- 9) Lack of confidence in the judges (I don't think this is much of a reason any more).
- 10) Dislike rules and a stereotyped judging system.
- 11) Security is inadequate in the exhibit room.
- 12) Not enough space or cases for an adequate exhibit. For instance if you allow only three to five cases you only get 3 - 5 case exhibits whereas there are many exhibits, outstanding ones, that could be entered if 5 - 7, 7 - 9, 9 - 11, etc. cases are available.
- 13) There is a lowest common denominator effect. If you apply rigid rules, close standards, small sizes and stereotyped judging procedures these tend to reduce the initiative and imagination and the total range of possible alternatives is, therefore, limited. The result can be sterile, uninteresting, or as is increasingly evident gaudy, superficial exhibits where the main competitive aspects are on colour, flamboyance and so-called novel presentation.

To summarize, it can be stated simply that (a) people today aren't exhibiting, and (b) the present system, therefore, isn't working.

It would be too superficial to attach all the blame to judges, exhibit committees or the types of categories for the exhibit and the other rules, although all have some effect and many tend to be negative in their result. But something more fundamental needs to be discussed first, and to do this it is necessary to analyze what the subject is all about:

- (a) Do we want exhibits? If we look at the evidence of the past few years it is easy to conclude that we don't. As mentioned, exhibitions have been given no priority, very little space, not enough cases, very little time and attention in the planning and execution.
- (b) If we don't want exhibits let's forget about the whole thing; however I believe its too soon to write them off. But if we want to improve the situation we will not do so by picking away at the periphery or just by changing the rules, designing more judges sheets or having more judge briefing seminars, etc. etc.
- (c) Something fundamental needs to be done. Something that is new and different and even experimental. After all we shouldn't be afraid to try something different. If it doesn't work what have we got to lose because it is difficult not to believe that we are now just scraping the bottom of the barrel.
- (d) If we do propose to carry on and try something new it should be approached the right way. We should establish a new format and not expect everyone to agree with it. The traditionalists always die hard. New innovations are not always readily seen, therefore, they need to be promoted or sold. They need to be given a fair trial and then evaluated. The parts that are successful should be adopted and those that don't work should be discarded, but just because one thing doesn't work is no reason to assume that the whole thing is no good. It must be approached objectively.

The following represents a proposal for consideration by the responsible organizations such as the Canadian Numismatic Association, Canadian Paper Money Society and the Regional Numismatic Groups. Hopefully the suggestions will be the basis for developing a new look in this important matter.

#### PROPOSAL

##### I. The priority of exhibitions should be raised:

- a) More space needs to be made available. If necessary some of the bourse space should be sacrificed. In most conventions there are already too many bourse tables and it would be a real asset to reduce them. The lost income could be recaptured by charging an increased fee to all bourse tables. By having fewer dealers those present would sell more. Collectors would have more time as less would be spent searching through the many dealers tables, many just a repetition, anyhow.
- b) More cases need to be made available. They should be bought if necessary.
- c) Better space is required. It should include proper lighting and always contain lounge areas or meeting areas where exhibitors, collectors and others could browse, chat and generally enjoy the exhibits. The exhibit area should be the focal point of the whole convention. If possible, it should contain a bar, or be located near one. Security should be beyond question.
- d) More advertising and public relations is required. At least 33-1/3%, and maybe more, of the total advertising and public relations budget for each convention should be devoted to the exhibition. Special press releases should be issued to the media and other ways found to attract attention. How about a "Meet-the-Exhibitors-and-let-them-explain-their-exhibits" party?

e) There should be better awards. They should not be gaudy or resemble bowling alley trophies, medals are preferred but cups (simple ones), plaques, trays and certificates that look tasteful are acceptable. More attention and greater priority should be given to the presentation. It should always be a responsibility of the exhibition committee to issue press releases, to arrange for photographers and to have all winners photographed and adequate publicity placed in all the Associations' Journals and the media.

(If the suggestions in the next paragraph are followed, there would be fewer awards, therefore, taking less time but they should be made to attract more attention.)

## PROPOSAL II

The whole subject of exhibition categories and judging should be simplified by effecting certain changes:

- a) Competitive exhibit categories with good awards for each (whats WRONG with a small engraved sterling silver cup?) should be as follows:
  - I) Canadian, media of exchange.
  - II) Canadian medals and other non-media of exchange numismatica.
  - III) Non-Canadian, media of exchange
  - IV) Non-Canadian medals and other non-media of exchange numismatica.  
(Special Junior and Juvenile awards would be given in above categories.)
- b) Over the years, collectors have built many divisions within the total hobby which may be meaningful to them but have little relevance or understanding to the general public for whose benefit, after all, the educational aspects of exhibiting are largely being aimed. The "Best of Show" award should be something quite special, and can be made even more interesting because of the suspense associated with it.
- c) Judging can also be simplified, stereotyped point systems can be discarded, but it is recognized that under these conditions the quality of judges available must be fairly high. This would not appear to be a problem. Recent observations has indicated the judges have much greater ability and have even been more numerous than the exhibitors, but are being given very little discretion.
- d) As a safety valve, non-competitive exhibits should form a more important part of the exhibition:
  - I) This will ensure a balanced exhibition as the committee can seek out the types of exhibits which it wishes to feature.
  - II) Quality and quantity will be guaranteed even if the competitive part of the exhibition is weak.
  - III) This will also solve the problem of people who won't exhibit competitively because for whatever reason they have become discouraged. Most will be pleased to be asked to exhibit non-competitively particularly if they are given suitable recognition - perhaps they might even start exhibiting competitively again when they see the whole subject has been rejuvenated.
- e) Guarantee anonymity if requested. It is recognized that this might be difficult to do because it detracts from the ability to up-grade the presentation of awards. However, in the final analysis it is the exhibit itself that has won the award and an owner who wishes to remain anonymous could use a non-de-

plume. The people who are close friends or acquaintances and know instinctively who the owner of the winning exhibits is will be aware of the award and will understand. The general public who do not know the collection anyway, don't care.

The foregoing are the bare bones of the proposal - obviously much detail needs to be worked out once the principles are accepted.

Most important, the Canadian Numismatic Association, the Canadian Paper Money Society and other responsible regional organizations need to accept responsibility for the exhibitions. They should establish standard rules (keeping them simple as possible), give guidance based on previous (successful) exhibitions elsewhere and furnish financial support. Local committees need to be backed up with some 'muscle' and the entire convention would then have as its focal point THE EXHIBITION.

### Author's Postscript

The foregoing was written prior to the 1976 CNA Convention. Only one or two minor items could be revised as a result of this years exhibition; however, the CNA Exhibition and Display Committee, meeting in Ottawa, defined four categories of exhibits and those referred to herein are based on such definitions. The author had previously tried for three categories but the Committee's categories are better.

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### NEW MEMBERS

The applications published in the July - August 1976 issue of the ONTARIO NUMISMATIST have now been accepted.

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This months issue of the Ontario Numismatist is going out a little bit early so that we can save a few dollars on postage. As you know we will have an increase on September 1st.

Pat Lambert has finalized and sent me a copy of THE WHO, WHAT and WHY of the O.N.A. I hope to reprint some of the information it contains in future issues but in this issue I would like to give you one of the items it contains.

#### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

1. Develop new ideas of interest and help individual collectors enjoy their own hobby more.
2. Include new articles and services of a greater interest to all in the Bulletin.
3. Continue to encourage Club and Member participation in the O.N.A.
4. Hold O.N.A. Conventions in New Cities across Ontario.
5. Develop the use of the library of the O.N.A. and Audio-Visual Series.