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TWO NAPOLEONIC RELICS

A paper read at the February, 1895 meeting
of the York Pioneer and Historical Society,

by the

REV. HENRY SCADDYNG, D. D.

(Originally published in 1898 by D. Sutherland,
294 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario.)

We must all of us have remarked that in the dates which we have been familiarly using for several years are the exact counterparts, if we substitute eight for seven, of dates with which we are very familiar as having been those of events of a striking character, occurring at the close of the last century. It seems a very little while ago, since we were using the dates 1889-92-94, and we could not help being reminded thereby of similar dates, 1789, storming of the Bastille, 1793-94, the Reign of Terror, and other dates marking dreadful events in the drama not yet entirely played out, known as the French Revolution.

We also here in Western Canada have had several

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Napoleon, cont'd

centennial celebrations lately, that of the organization of the Province of Upper Canada, for example, and holding of its first Parliament in 1792, the laying out of York, i.e., Toronto, in 1793, and so forth; and in this year, 1895, we recall the close of the ever-memorable administration of Governor Simcoe in 1795.

How unaware were our forefathers of the startling events which were occurring in Europe at the very moment when they were acting and moving and making their mark on the soil of Canada here; and it is often well for us for our comfort and peace of mind, that we are not made acquainted with things that are happening at particular moments just outside our own sphere.

By a curious engraving which I happen to possess, I am reminded that about this time 100 years ago Napoleon Bonaparte was beginning to be the terror of Western Europe.

In three-years' time from 1795 he was seriously threatening England with invasion at the head of an overwhelming force. It was simply at the moment, perhaps, only a pretence just to spread alarm and to cover ulterior designs. He collected at St. Malo, on the coast of Brittany, in France, an immense force, naval and military, ostensibly for the invasion of England; but in reality it was probably from the very outset intended simply to mask the attack upon Egypt, which he suddenly made in the year 1798, and which was so gallantly checkmated by Nelson at the Battle of the Nile.

It is in connection with the gathering of an armament for the alleged invasion of England that the old engraving in my possession has an interest. I have accordingly determined to exhibit it to you. It was found among the papers of my father, who, I know, set a particular value upon it as having been secured by him at the time of the great alarm felt in England at the prospect of an invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte. Moreover, it may not be inappropriate to do so in that the name and fame of Napoleon are at the present time undergoing a revival in consequence of the simultaneous publication of illustrated memoirs of Napoleon in several popular periodicals.

The print to which I refer professes to give a view of a huge raft as seen afloat at St. Malo in February, 1798, and was "published February 13, 1798, by John Fairburn, No. 146 Minories, London." This engraving represents the apparatus for conveying the expedition to the shores of England, consisting of a gigantic ferry raft, bearing in the midst apparently a bomb-proof, metal-sheathed citadel and surmounted by a tall mast, bearing a flag somewhat resembling the tri-colour of later years.

The whole raft is supposed to be propelled forward by means of four engines contained in the same number of towers, situated two at each end; each engine turns a paddle-wheel of a large diameter, set in motion by a contrivance of six horizontal sweeps placed on top of the towers, so as to be acted upon by the wind after the manner of the great sweep of a windmill, only moving not vertically, but as we have said horizontally.

We have here paddle-wheel propulsion of very large vessels, anticipated with wind instead of steam as the moving agent.

On the flat floor of the raft are seen squadrons of cavalry proceeding at full gallop, in perfect order, however, passing across the surface, having entered the great floating affair by a set of drawbridges at one end, which can evidently be lifted up when the process of embarkation is completed, whilst a corresponding set of drawbridges to be used for debarkation are seen at the other end already hauled up.

They are deploying round and passing into an arched entrance to quarters provided for them in the basement of the central fortress or citadel.

Napoleon, cont'd

The engraving before us informs us that the extraordinary structure was 600 feet long by 300 broad, mounts 500 pieces of cannon, 36 and 48-pounders, and is to convey 15,000 troops, etc., for the invasion of England.

In the background is seen the Town of St. Malo, partially lining the shore, with adjoining heights, each crowned with a signal tower and flagstaff. Parkman, in his "Pioneers of France in the New World," page 181, thus describes the town of St. Malo:

"The ancient town of St. Malo, thrust out like a buttress into the sea, strange and grim of aspect, breathing war from its walls and battlements of rugged stone -- a stronghold of privateers, the home of a race whose intractable and defiant independence neither time nor change has subdued -- has been for centuries a nursery for hardy mariners."

Parkman then refers to Jacques Cartier, in whom Canadians are so much interested, inasmuch as it was from this port that he sailed on his famous voyage of discovery in the New World, April 20, 1534.

Parkman describes the portrait of Jacques Cartier preserved at St. Malo, now become familiar to all Canadians from Hamel's copy thereof.

Parkman informs us that it shows him as a man of bold, keen features, bespeaking a spirit not apt to quail before the wrath of man or the elements.

In the account appended to the engraving of the St. Malo raft, it should be subjoined, we are told, that a bomb-proof arrangement was made for the working of the paddle-wheels by horsepower, whenever the wind apparatus should be unavailable.

It may be added, too, that another great raft, the exact counterpart of the one described, is seen in the distance, putting out to sea, whilst a fleet lies in readiness in the harbour under the heights close by. Whether these formidable appliances for the invasion of England were ever constructed in all their completeness or not may be a question, but it is not improbable that we have in these pictures of them reproductions of adumbrations made in outline by the hand of the clever Engineer Napoleon himself.

After the abortive preparations of 1798 Napoleon still did not relinquish the designs which he had formed for the invasion of England. In the year 1804 he assembled an armament with the same object in view on a vast scale, but on this occasion not at St. Malo, but at the port of Boulogne, nineteen miles south-west of Calais.

In the meantime he had caused himself to be elected Emperor of the French.

His Army, which was styled the Army of England, now consisted, it is said, of 180,000 men, and a flotilla of 2,400 transports. Napoleon, fully confident of the success of this renewed attempt on England, had the die of a medal prepared, which was to be struck on his taking possession of London. The engraver was Jeuffroy, the designer was Denon, the device of the reverse was Hercules holding an amphibious monster in the air, half man and half sea-serpent, crushing it to death. The monster, of course, represented England, and Hercules was France.

In the mind of Napoleon and his artists the wish was doubtless father to the thought, but, as we know, it was not destined to be fulfilled.

The allusion in the device is to the mythological story of the destruction of Antaeus by Hercules. Antaeus, as the story goes, was the son of Neptune and Terra, and was powerless so long as he was kept from contact with Mother Earth, a contact he was ever desirous of repeating.

Napoleon, cont'd

I exhibit the engraving of the medal thus described, which appears in Plate V., contained in Edward Edwards' Napoleon Medals, published in London by Paul and Dominic Colnaghi in 1837. At page 15 of that work we are informed that "the dies of this medal were engraved in Paris, at the epoch when the expedition against England was preparing, and were intended to have been employed in London after the taking of that city."

As the expedition did not take place, the medal was never struck. Some impressions, however, in soft metal and fine plaster of Paris were made, and from them at a later period facsimiles were derived, copies of which are occasionally found in the cabinets of the curious.

The medal bears the inscription in French, "Descente en Angleterre," i.e., "Attack on England," and below are the words "Frappée a Londres, 1804," i.e., "Struck at London in the year 1804." But London was not captured. The trained bands of London stood in the way, and more formidable still were the people of the three Kingdoms, linked together as one united phalanx for defence.

It is somewhat singular that a lofty and conspicuous column 164 feet in height should be seen to this day on the heights above Boulogne, recalling the memory of Napoleon's quixotic ideas in regard to the annexation of England to the Empire of France.

How noble is the future which offers itself to the British Empire throughout the globe, could its sons everywhere be induced to dwell together in unity, and on every critical occasion to act like their forefathers when a tyrant sought to lay a yoke upon their necks. In this way, what Shakespeare said of the limited England of his time will be fulfilled in the case of the greater England of today, and still more in the case of the vaster and more compact British Empire of the following ages.

I close with a portion of his words to be found at the end of the famous tragedy of "King John," making therein the verbal change of "the Empire" for England:

"This Empire never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror...
Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them. Nought shall make us rue,
Let but the Empire to itself, rest true."

(The medal illustrated on page 1 is one dated 1803, by Brenet, on preparations for an expedition against England. editor)

ERRATUM

On page 213 of the December, 1978 edition of the Ontario Numismatist, it was stated that the item about the Russian Gold Medal of Merit had appeared in the November issue of the Illustrated London News. The introduction should have read that the item appeared in the November, 1860 issue of that magazine.

NEW MEMBERS

The application published in the December issue of the Ontario Numismatist has now been accepted. The following applications for membership have been received and if no written objections are received, acceptance will be acknowledged in the February issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

C 82 Canadian Large Cents Club, P. O. Box 212, Pineville, LA 71360, U. S. A.

1104 Rick Parsons, 1723 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3V4

Editor's Notebook

In France, a couple of centuries ago, it was the custom for the king to give out jetons to his courtiers and officials for New Year's Day gifts. The higher ranking the officials the more precious the metal of the jetons they received. It was for this gift-giving that the jetons of the various government departments were struck; pieces which bore in their exergues the name of the department for which they were issued, such as "TRESOR ROYAL," "CHAMBRE AUX DENIERS," "ORDINAIRE DES GUERRES," "MARINE," etc. -- even the "COL. FRANC. DE LIAM" jetons, the so-called Franco-American series which many people erroneously believe were issued for use in Canada. By way of a slight digression, it might be well to explain here that jetons were counting discs, minted for use with a counting board which was a form of the line abacus. Originating in the middle ages, jetons were used for doing arithmetical calculations.

The foregoing was by way of introducing the New Year. As this issue of the Ontario Numismatist is being put together on Christmas Eve, even your grumpy editor is feeling mellow. Therefore, as a New Year's Day gift to members of the O. N. A., I am not going to complain about a single thing in this column for this month. Happy New Year, everybody!

The Editor



From the Library

The following books have been donated to the O. N. A. Library:

Gould's Gold and Silver Guide To Coins, by Maurice M. Gould (donated by Arthur Leff)

Coins, by Howard Linecar (donated in memory of Gertrude Scott, Past President of the Sarnia Numismatic Society)

Silver & Nickel Dollars of Canada, by Stephan E. Dushnick (2 copies, donated by the author)

Have you used your O. N. A. Library lately?

A LOT OF BULL

(The following short article is taken from The Gentleman's Magazine, vol. XVI, ie. 1746. Once again, the English has been slightly modernized for easier reading.)

Number III is the representation of the golden Bull of Charles the 4th, emperor of the Romans (ie. the Holy Roman Empire, ed), and king of Bohemia, according to the original at Frankfort. On one side is CAROLUS QUARTUS DIVINA FAVENTE CLEMENTIA ROMANORUM IMPERATOR SEMPER AUGUSTUS, on the other side this verse,
ROMA CAPUT MUNDT
REGIT OMNIBUS FRAENA ROTUNDT.



It is called Bull from Bulla, a little gilt picture, which the young Romans during

the republick hung about their necks, till they were 14 years of age, and then consecrated them to their lares; but it has changed its meaning very much since that time; for of latter ages it has been made to stand for the seals, and even the decess of emperors and popes, particularly of the famous constitution of the empire, being a set of laws (in the nature of our Magna Charta) granted by Charles IV about the year 1360, to the electors and princes of the empire for establishing their rights, privileges, prerogatives, precedency and offices.

It has on the face the bust of Charles IV, and on the reverse, a castle with these words, AUREA ROMA; it is called golden, because of its gold seal.

The original is written in Latin on 24 leaves of parchment, and it is preserved with the greatest care in the senate house at Frankfort on the Mayne; a gentleman returned from his travels has brought us a copy of it.

NOW THAT'S PUBLICITY

Italian model Marilena Innocenzi has filed suit against the Bank of Italy, and is demanding the withdrawal of its new 50,000 lira banknote. The twenty-year-old model claims that her portrait appears on the note and that it was used without her permission.

CLUB NEWS

The November issue of Timber Talk, the newsletter of the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors highlights several new issues of wooden money issued by the Oshawa & District Coin Club, Richmond Hill Coin Club, Thistletown Coin & Stamp Club, Richmond Hill Dairy Queen, as well as a Christmas flat issued by newsletter editor Garry Braunwarth. Also featured is a news item about the Association's member George Parfet of Temple, PA., and an article by Stanley Clute on the Earl Haig Secondary School's fiftieth anniversary wooden dime.

The monthly bulletin of the Canadian Large Cents Club, the O. N. A.'s newest member club, suggests that local coin clubs try holding a Canadian coin grading quiz at one of their meetings, stating that the quiz would make "an educational contribution to all." In addition, a half page in the bulletin is devoted to editorial comments on grading.

The City of Ottawa Coin Club held its November 27 meeting in the War Museum, with 20 members and two guests in attendance. The President made the following appointments for 1979: Program Officer - Jerry Schneider, Auctioneer - Dick Nash, Fines Collector - Derek Robinson, Bulletin Editor - Heidi Walker. The outgoing Secretary presented a verbal report which indicated a net increase of 12 in the club's membership over the past year. The speaker for the meeting was Mr. Frank Fesco, who gave an interesting talk on "Directions Collections Can Take." He outlined fourteen examples of areas of collecting coins, tokens and medals which can provide a challenge for both the new and the advanced collector. His remarks were most effectively illustrated by specimens in each category, drawn from his own collection.

The Ingersoll Coin Club meeting for November was the club's pre-Christmas banquet. Sixty-two members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous dinner served by an Ingersoll senior citizens group. Guests included a delegation from Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Stratford, and London coin clubs. President Tom Masters presented Mrs. Anne Towle with a C. N. A. certificate and a ceramic cake plate for her contribution to the club's success in 1978. C. N. A. certificates were also awarded to Grant Monck, Barbara Macnab, and Evelyn

Club News, cont'd

Mercer. Ken Wilmot showed a trophy which had become lost for almost two years, and which was found at the engraving shop. Explaining that this trophy was being retired, he first wanted to make a formal presentation to club member Grant Monck, who had won it in 1977.

At the November 16 meeting of the Huronian Numismatic Association, in Barrie, the slate of officers for 1979 was elected. They are: President - Ken Prophet, Vice-President - Don Owens, Treasurer - Cec. Sharpe, Secretary - Bill Gage, Directors - Alma Gage, Conway Bishop, Doug White, Pam Shakell, Glen Shakell. According to the President, the club has increased its membership by over thirty new members during the past year.

The Kent Coin Club in Chatham, has also elected its new slate of officers for 1979, as follows: President - Lou Wagenaer, First Vice-president - Al Burniston, Second Vice-president - Walt Stanski, Treasurer - Ted Oulds, Secretary - Al Caron, Directors - Jim Rhodes, Gord Claridge, Bill Martin, Bob Brooks, Doug Ruest, Tim Raaymakers, Bob Smith, Ellen Smith. The following members were elected to the club's 1979 Show Committee: Al Caron, Lou Wagenaer, Bill Martin, Bob Smith, Ellen Smith, Vincent Smith, Al Burniston, Jim Rhodes, Bob Brooks, Walt Stanski, George Renversez, Brian Johnston, Tim Raaymakers, Ted Oulds, Gord Claridge, Doug Ruest, Danny Petrosich, Tom Maynard.

Newmarket Numismatic Society heard a talk on the history of Newfoundland by Gary McKnight as well as a presentation on the 1949 Canadian silver dollar by Ray Gregory. Ray also presented a short slide production on pre-confederation coins.

The Orillia Champlain Coin Club held its annual banquet at its November meeting. The banquet was reported to be a huge success, with 76 people turning out for a lovely turkey dinner. The ladies of St. David's Anglican Church outdid themselves in preparing a superb meal. Many members generously donated items to be used for the door prizes and draws.

The November meeting of the Richmond Hill Coin Club saw a slightly unusual program. Long-time member John Curtis chaired a panel on Why Do You Collect? Members were asked to participate in answering questions such as "why do you collect?" "what do you collect?" "why do you come to club meetings?" etc. The program was considered to be one of the most interesting and successful that the club has had for a long time.

The St. Thomas Numismatic Association reports that its October meeting was proceeding normally, until a careless driver lost control of his car and damaged the cars of four members. The subsequent police investigation broke up the meeting. The club's Christmas party was planned for December 11, with a delicious dinner, draws, etc.

At the November meeting of the Stratford Coin Club, Wilf and Winnie Becker reviewed the history of the St. John's corps., for the 32 members and guests present. The talk covered first aid as far back as recorded Biblical happenings, right up to the present volunteer work. Spiced with humorous anecdotes regarding the answers to the question "what are bones", and to the more serious questions of what to do for different ailments and injuries, the talk was interesting to all.

Thistletown Coin & Stamp Club reports an increase of ten new members since its Annual Show in October. The club has requested nominations for its 1979 executive.

At the November 20 meeting of the Toronto Coin Club, in the Royal York Hotel, Dr. John Wilkinson spoke on "Rulers of Rome", covering a number of the most famous rulers and their relatives that have graced Roman coins: Julius Caesar, Nero, Otho, Titus, and many others. His presentation was accompanied by beautiful colour slides showing both the obverses and reverses of the coins covered. Interesting and humorous anecdotes were also included in the presentation. The following slate of officers was then acclaimed: President - Dan Bowyer, First Vice-President - Stan Clute, Second Vice-President - Dr. Donald McIntyre, Treasurer - Harvey Farrow, Directors - Jim Cartwright,

Club News, cont'd

Mirko Kopic, and Axel Nielsen. Jim Charlton, C. N. A. President, took the floor to present the C. N. A. Club Bulletin Award to the club. Editor John Regitko accepted on behalf of the club. It was also announced at the meeting that the C. N. A. executive has voted unanimously to award the 1981 C. N. A. Convention to the Toronto Coin Club. Also featured at the meeting was a display of medals created by Toronto medallist Dora de Federy-Hunt. It was also mentioned that Club Receptionist Retta Frampton had been released from the hospital and was completing her recovery from her heart attack, now, at her own apartment.

A. N. A. NEWS

Two news items of interest have just come to our attention from the American Numismatic Association. They are reprinted here, as they may be of interest to readers.

The A. N. A.'s museum holdings of United States coins received an important addition from a Chicago area collector who asked to remain anonymous. Dennis Forgue of Chicago's RARCOA, acting as go-between, accepted the coins from the donor and handed them over to A.N.A. museum curator Kenneth Hallenbeck. The timing of the transfer was arranged to coincide with A. N. A. President Grover Griswell's appearance in Chicago on a business trip.

The highlight of the collection - which has a total value in excess of \$21,000 - is a 1792 half dime in unusually choice condition. The officials agreed that early American coinage is needed to fill out the exhibits in the A. N. A. museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Other items in the collection include three proof and three Unc. specimens of the 1875-1878 twenty-cent coinage, making a complete set except for the virtually unobtainable 1876 CC. In gold there is a choice but not quite uncirculated three-dollar coin and five uncirculated dollars.

With its certification service running smoothly and very successfully, the A. N. A. is actively setting up a long-awaited grading service. The grading service will necessarily function in close cooperation with the certification service after the trial period expires.



Thomas K. DeLorey resigned his post as editor of Coin World's Collectors' Clearinghouse department recently and joined the A. N. A. staff on November 1. Executive vice president Edward C. Rochette, in welcoming the new addition to the headquarters staff, said, "Tom will be the man doing the grading." Rochette cautioned, however, that "we will not be accepting coins for grading until early next year, possibly shortly after the mid-year board meeting scheduled for February 5-7."



DeLorey has moved to Colorado Springs and is now working with Ed Fleischmann and John Hunter of ANACS to set up procedures and guidelines for implementing the grading activity. One prerequisite of having a coin graded will be that it first be certified as a guard against grading a fake piece.

Arrangements are being made to invite a few dealers who have conducted A.N.A. auctions to submit representative coins for the grading service to use as test samples. Thereafter a comparison of the A.N.A.'s and the dealers' grading would be made to check the similarity of results.

DeLorey, 23, is a native of Detroit, living in that area and graduating from Wayne

A.N.A., cont'd

State University before accepting a position in the advertising department of Coin World, in late 1973. He is a collector of British Commonwealth coins and the issues of Thomas Elder, and is compiling a catalogue of the latter material.

Show Schedule

- February 17, 1979 - Huronia Numismatic Association's Mini Show, Bayfield Mall, Barrie, Ont. Inquiries to: P. O. Box 243, Barrie, Ont., L4N 4T2.
- March 3, 1979 - North York Coin Club's Annual Coin Show & White Elephant Sale, North York Memorial Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario. Information from: P. O. Box 294, Station A, Willowdale, Ont., M2N 5P0.
- March 9, 10, 11, 1979 - Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers' Spring Convention, Sheraton-Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec. Information: A. Bliman, box 31145, Sta. D., Willowdale, Ont., M2R 3G5.
- June 1, 2, 3, 1979 - the 17th Annual Ontario Numismatic Association convention, at the Royal Connaught Hotel, King St. East, Hamilton, Ontario. Information from: Lou Henderson, 1862 Main St. East, Hamilton, Ont., L8H 1G2.
- September (Labour Day weekend), 1979 - City of Ottawa Coin Club's annual show, at the Commonwealth Room, Holiday Inn, Kent Street, Ottawa. More details when available.
- September 15, 16, 1979 - Toronto Coin Club's Annual Fall Show, at the Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.
- September 29, 1979 - Pemex 79, in the Highview School Auditorium, Pembroke, Ont., opening at 10:00 A. M., with the theme of "Stamps, Coins, and Tourism.

People In The News

INGRID SMITH, prominent numismatist and past president of the Toronto Coin Club, who has recently returned to Germany to take on an assignment involving counterfeit detection with the Bundesbank (the Government's bank, equivalent to this nation's Bank of Canada).

DORA DE PEDERY HUNT, well-known Toronto medallist, who has been featured in several news items recently, including an almost full-page write-up on page A-10 of the December 4 Toronto Star (Insight: Medallist's Art "Like Short Poems"), and an eight-page article in the Toronto Coin Club newsletter (The Works Of Dora De Pedery-Hunt), which also published -for the first time anywhere- several of the designs she had submitted in past years for consideration for Canadian coins.

PRICES OF YESTERYEAR

While memory of the season of goodwill remains with us still, and before the shade of Ebenezer Scrooge capers off into the more seasonal pages of the works of Charles Dickens, it might be interesting to look at some prices of days of yore. In this instance, I have chosen the year 1731, which comes reasonably close to being a quarter of a millenium ago. The figures are taken from our old standby, the Gentleman's Magazine of that year.



