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An incredible find



Some incredible finds counterfeited. In a tele- still happen. phone call to the Royal

During a regular work- Canadian Mint in Ot- ing day at Empire In- tawa, a Mr. Bruce Hatch dustries Inc. on August said that the coin was in- 14, 1984, Michael Rogo deed probably genuine. He received a phone call by He explained to Mr. a man indicating he had Rogo that test runs of the a Canada 1985 25 cent 1985 coins have taken piece. Working in a coin place and that occa- store, one receives sionally some pieces numerous calls every may have gotten "stuck day of people claiming to in the shakers", and have incredible coins, so later got loose when like many other calls. it other 1984 coins were was dismissed as a joke minted and subsequently or simply a mistake. released. Mr. Hatch said

Surprisingly, within that a few 1985 cents the hour, the man came have also been reported.

to the store, reached in- to his pocket and produc-

ed a 1985 25 cent piece. After careful examina- tion. Mr. Rogo determin- ed that the coin was ab- solutely genuine and definitely not altered nor

As for the value of this 1985 25 cent coin that sur- faced in 1984, "well, in a few months it will cer- tainly be worth a quarter of a dollar," commented Mr. Rogo.

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 \$10.00 annually. Husband and wife (one journal) \$12.00 annually. Junior (up to 18) \$3.00 annually. Club Membership \$10.00 annually. Life Memberships available for \$75.00 after 3 years of regular membership.

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NUMISMATICS

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

ED REITER

A Russian Designs Olympic Medals

Although there are no Russian athletes at the Olympics in Los Angeles, the Games' leading medalist, Alex Shagin, is a Russian. He doesn't win medals; he designs them.

Mr. Shagin has designed more than half a dozen medals to commemorate the Los Angeles Olympics. They are stirring works of art and far more inspiring than the three Olympic coins struck by the United States Mint. The medals also represent a stunning irony. Before immigrating to this country in 1981, Mr. Shagin had served as chief artist at the Russian government mint in Leningrad.

"It is an incredible situation," he observed. "I am the only Russian participating in the Los Angeles Olympics." The artist was also involved in designing Russian coins for the 1980 Summer Games in Moscow. He prepared more than three dozen designs for prospective Olympic coins. Some were used in whole or in part. Well before the United States pullout, Mr. Shagin staged a boycott of his own. In turn, that set off a chain of events that led him to leave his job at the mint and eventually his homeland.

The straw that broke his back was a seemingly small revision. In crafting the word "Olympiad" for one of his designs, he used a Greek "d" to help convey the feeling of tradition. Someone in Moscow replaced it with the Cyrillic form of the letter. "At that point," Mr. Shagin said, "I walked away from the program. I didn't leave the mint, but I didn't participate further in this project.

"That," he added, "was my D-Day. That little letter 'd' changed my life."

The notion of leaving Russia had been in the artist's mind for some time. As a Jew, he had been viewed with suspicion all his life and subjected to constant surveillance. Up to then, he had resisted pursuing emigration, fearing he would jeopardize his career. In September 1977, while still on the staff at the mint, he was sent on a tour of Poland. The Soviet government had organized an exhibit of works by young Leningrad artists and arranged for some of the artists — including Mr. Shagin — to go along.

"The atmosphere," he said, "was like that before a thunderstorm. I was filled with electricity from the people, from the streets. I was amazed to

learn how much freedom the Polish artists had. That visit was the turning point in making up my mind to leave Russia."

Shortly after returning to Leningrad, he formally applied for an exit visa. The government summarily dismissed him from the mint, then made him wait — with no source of income — for another 14 months before permitting him to leave.

Since his arrival in the United States, Mr. Shagin has lived in Los Angeles. During the last three years, he crafted dozens of medals.

One of Mr. Shagin's medals is a rounded rectangular piece showing

medal is irregular in shape but has a flat bottom which permits it to be displayed in standing fashion. One side portrays a youth in whose hand the Olympic torch is held high. This represents the many Americans of every age and background who proudly bore the torch across the nation during its journey to Los Angeles. On the other side, in the corresponding position, the Statue of Liberty holds her own torch skyward.

This medal is made of bronze and is highly unusual not only in shape but in size. It is two and one-half inches in diameter and weighs half a pound. It is being offered in a limited, signed



"Standing Torchbearers" medal was designed by Russian emigre, Alex Shagin.

five runners with a torch. It was selected for inclusion last year in a special New York exhibition organized by the American Medallic Sculpture Association. To make the honor even more significant, it received the Exhibition Award. Medallic Art Company of Danbury, Conn., chose it from among all the entries as the basis for a medal marking the show. Another Olympic medal prepared by the Russian emigre was chosen by the United States Track and Field Team for official use in its fund-raising campaign.

"Remember the Eleven" is the theme of his Munich commemorative. Its obverse depicts a menorah whose center branch supports an Olympic torch. Around this are four broken rings, symbolizing the athletes' shattered dreams. The reverse shows eleven six-pointed stars." Sale of this medal will benefit the U.S. and Israeli Olympic teams as well as a number of Jewish institutions in both countries. The pure silver one-ounce proof medal is priced at \$36 postpaid.

The "Standing Torchbearers"

edition of only 100 pieces. The price is \$52.50 postpaid. Orders and inquiries regarding Mr. Shagin's medals should be sent to Numismarketing Associates, 5189 Jefferdale Avenue, Woodland Hills, Calif. 91364.

Editor Retires

Russell Rulau, editor-in-chief of World Coin News, is retiring at the end of the month at Krause Publications, according to Chester L. Krause, head of the numismatic publishing company. Mr. Rulau will continue his association with the company as author and editor of its ongoing series of catalogues on United States tokens. He edited World Coin News since it came into being 10-and-a-half years ago. Prior to joining Krause's, Mr. Rulau served in a variety of editorial capacities with Amos Press Inc. of Sidney, Ohio, publisher of Coin World and other hobby periodicals. Mr. Rulau indicated that while he is leaving numismatic journalism, he will soon assume an executive position with a coin company. ■

Regina club issues trade token

The Regina Coin Club of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, has issued a commemorative trade dollar token good for \$1 in trade in Regina until Dec. 31.

The commemorative token is a special project of the Regina Exhibition Association in partnership with the RCC in celebration of Centurex 100, the 100th anniversary of the REA. Proceeds derived from the sale of the trade dollar will go toward the cost of building the 100th anniversary commemorative gates to Regina's Exhibition Park, and toward the sponsorship of an International Numismatic Symposium to be held in Regina in July 1985.

The 33 millimeter diameter trade dollar is made of Nickel-Bonded-Steel. The obverse was designed by David MacDougall of Regina. The reverse was designed by Howard Hatton, consulting artist to the REA.

The obverse shows the crowned laureate and veiled mature bust of Queen Victoria facing left, a spray of western red lilies and wheat to the right.

The reverse depicts the Centurex logo as the focal point.

The bust is modeled from the portrait of the monarch

that appears on four alabaster plaques on Albert Street Bridge. These plaques are the work of Saskatchewan's provincial artist of the 1920s and 1930s, J.H. Lee-Grayson.

Regina was given its name in

1882 by Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria and wife of the Marquis of Lorne who was then Governor General of Canada. "Regina" is named after Victoria's Latin title.

The trade dollar may be spent at face value until Dec. 31 at any participating outlet in Regina including banks and credit unions.

The mintage of the Nickel-Bonded-Steel trade dollar is 100,000, with three pieces struck in silver and two in gold. The tokens are available at \$1 in Regina and \$1.50 by mail.

Mail orders should be directed to the Centurex Commemorative Trade Dollar, c/o The Regina Coin Club, P.O. Box 174, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2Z6, Canada.



A commemorative trade dollar token will be good for \$1 trade in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, until Dec. 31.

Inco wants to provide Canadians with \$1 coin

By Peter McBride Toronto Star

If Canada puts a \$1 coin into general circulation, Canada's top nickel producer hopes it can get a piece of the action.

Inco Ltd. took a plunge into the high-denomination coin market as it unveiled a newly minted gold-on-nickel medallion yesterday at Sudbury's Science North exhibition centre.



Inco coin unveiled yesterday

The 1.5-inch diameter commemorative coin, which depicts Science North on one side and mining activity on the other, is designed as a fund-raising vehicle for the new "living museum."

But the Royal Canadian Mint has expressed the possibility of bringing a \$1 coin into general circulation and Inco hopes its new process may be a front runner in any competition to supply the materials for such a currency.

"We have a commercial interest in coinage and we produce coin strippage for 25-cent, 10-cent and 5-cent Canadian coins," said Inco spokesman Dennis Nagata.

The medallion features a new coinage process developed by the company.

"It's an all-Ontario product made of nickel and gold which Inco hopes may have some application in high-denomination coinage," said Nagata.

The medallion has a razor-thin gold coating on a nickel base.

New coins approved to depict older Queen

LONDON (AP) — The Queen has approved two new images of her face for use on coins in Britain and Commonwealth countries. Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The 58-year-old Queen's face will be unlined on the coins, but her jaw will be heavier. In the new images, the Queen faces right and wears the crown she uses for the state opening of parliament. She also wears a pearl necklace and earrings.

The earliest Canadian coins will be changed is 1986.

A little girl and her brother who lived next door to a nudist colony discovered a knothole in the high fence, and the little girl took the first look.

"Are they ladies or men?" asked the little boy.

"I don't know," the little girl replied. "They don't have any clothes on."

2 get 9 years each for heist in home

By Gary Oakes Toronto Star

Two men who "terrorized" a couple in their 60s with threats of death during a daytime robbery in their home have each been jailed for nine years.

Lloyd Carney was struck in the face, head and chest with the butt of a loaded gun and both he and his wife, Maisie, "thought they were going to be killed," prosecutor Hank Goody said yesterday.

Goody called it a case of "stark horror."

Thomas Reginald Ramier, 27, of Broadview Ave. and Greg Winston Seymour, 37, of Goodwood Park Crescent both pleaded guilty to robbing Carney of a \$40,000 coin

collection, his watch, a ring and cash last Jan. 6.

They also pleaded guilty to using a semi-automatic handgun in the commission of a crime.

Co-accused Paul Thomas Rogers, 29, of Calvington Drive, the ex-husband of a niece of the victims and the driver of the getaway car, was earlier sentenced to 4½ years in prison.

Goody said after Carney discovered Ramier and Seymour in the kitchen, Ramier, dressed in a postman's uniform complete with bag, pulled a gun, struck Carney, a semi-retired, part-time coin dealer, and ordered him to the floor.

When his wife came into the

kitchen she was also ordered to the floor.

The accused men left the house with Carney's attache cases containing his coin collection and warned the now-bound victims "they would suffer death" if they called police, Goody said.

The wife quickly worked herself free and then untied her husband who called police.

But before they arrived he saw Ramier, still with the gun in his hand, coming back to the house.

Carney activated an alarm system which can be heard outside the house and he saw Ramier flee and jump into a car just as police arrived.

1984 SUMMER OLYMPICS

Collectors pin their hopes on the rare and the colorful

By Eric Brazil
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — It's the one Olympic event anyone can play: pin collecting.

Angelenos, athletes and tourists are festooned with brightly colored enamel pins, and the game goes on all over town.

The hub of the collecting craze is a 60-foot inflatable canvas replica of a Budweiser six-pack near Memorial Coliseum, where 10,000 people a day tramp the gravel floor, fingering rows of pins with Olympic sponsor logos, team insignias and national symbols such as Thailand's white elephant.

Some trade pins like baseball cards. Some buy. Some do both.

"I did \$22,000 worth of business right here yesterday,"

said Craig Bybee between sales at his sidewalk booth Sunday.

Rarity raises pin value. Hard to get: a red, black and gold pin with the initials ATOC LA 84, made for the Games' anti-terrorist squad. "I know a lot of cops. I had to bend elbows to get this," said the *Los Angeles Times'* Boris Yaro.

ABC pins are prized, even though 90,000 were made. Other hot items are team pins from Israel, the People's Republic of China and the black African nations, which fetch up to \$50. Ditto a 20th Century-Fox pin showing Olympic mascot Sam the Eagle as a movie cameraman.

Some pins are sold at souvenir stands. But avid traders — and even non-collector types — don't hesitate to approach strangers to strike a deal.

Aiding participants in the trading game: a "Pin Collector's Guide" showing hundreds of pins in full color.

TRW executive Steve Smolak took the plunge Sunday: "The Olympics are going to be here in Los Angeles only once in my lifetime, and I want something collectible."

Pin collecting was introduced in the USA at the 1980 Winter Games. It's more than a hobby for Ooh La La! Inc., the firm licensed to make Olympic pins. It was the first licensee to pay off its \$500,000 guarantee to the LAOOC.

Some collectors tend to get carried away.

"A guy from Morocco wanted to trade me his country's pin for my badge," said LAPD officer Dee Holguin. "I told him no way."

PICK OF THE FALL SHOWS
A Review of the Upcoming Season

by Paul Nadin-Davis

As Summer, so sadly and so soon, is drawing to a close, our thoughts turn back with increased keenness to numismatics and coin collections again. And, of course, they turn to consider the exciting array of Fall season shows that will take place around the country. In this article I will review what I consider to be among the more interesting of the upcoming shows. Naturally having made this judgment this also reflects the shows which my company will be attending!

For us the season gets seriously underway in a very thrilling manner, with the third **Hong Kong International Coin Exposition** in Kowloon, Hong Kong, on September 7th to 9th. This luxurious show is held at the fabulous Golden Mile Holiday Inn on the Kowloon side in Hong Kong, and is the highlight of the numismatic year for many travelling dealers. This year the attractions of the show include a three-day trip to communist China (province of Canton) for those attending the convention, an auction including a superb collection of Japanese rarities, and an opportunity to further cement business ties with many of the dealers in the Orient. One of the main drawbacks of the show for many, however, is the lengthy travelling time required to attend the show, some 15 hours by plane via Seoul, Korea, to gain the advantage of the very competitive convention air fare provided by Korean Airlines. Nevertheless the experience of Hong Kong itself, as well as the sheer delight of this show, are well worth the long journey and the show is number one on our list of recommended events!

Sadly, this year we shall miss **Quebex**, which takes place on the weekend of September 14th to 16th, due to other commitments. Guy Lestrade, the energetic proprietor of Quebex, has told us that the show will be moving to a new location in the Spring, and we extend our best wishes to Guy and the show for a successful Swansong at the old Mount Royal Hotel.

On the subject of Montreal shows, we are also very sad to report that there will be no **Monex** this Fall. Again, a move is at least part of the reason, with Mike Rogo and Empire Industries working hard to complete a new building for the show. As this has always been one of the most enjoyable and best attended shows in Canada, we shall miss the event and the business opportunities it always presents. We look forward eagerly, however, to the re-established Spring Monex!

At the end of September, on Sunday the 30th to be exact, the first of our new **C.O.I.N.S.** (Central Ottawa International Numismatic Shows) takes place at the Hotel Roxborough in downtown Ottawa. As part of our continuing attempt to contribute to the numismatic scene in our National Capital Region, Susan and I have organized three one-day shows this Fall, and these will be attended largely by local dealers plus a small number of invited guests from out of town (so far, Ingrid Smith, Bob Armstrong and Guy Lestrade). Other shows dates are October 28th and December 23rd. The Roxborough is a fascinating new Hotel in the old European style, and we are earnestly hoping for a successful new show. Besides extensive advertising we are scheduling phone-in shows on local radio and free public appraisal services to coincide with the show, which should aid in generating a healthy turn-out.

October is a non-stop busy month! The first weekend, 5-7 October, is taken up by another new show, the **Pacific Rim Coin and Stamp Show** at the Sheraton-Plaza 500 Hotel. Another energetic newcomer to the Show organization roster, Terry Myers, as been actively promoting the show for many months now and I am sure this will be a ripping success. I thoroughly enjoy visiting Vancouver at any time, and no doubt this show will get October off to a great start!

A quick change of suitcases on arrival back from Vancouver and I will be

right on the plane to merry old England! Full of delight at the prospect of seeing my family as well as a hot, hot coin show, I shall travel to London to attend **COINEX '84**, the British Numismatic Trades Association's annual London Show. This is another high class event with dealers from around the world represented. Show dates are October 11th to 13th (Thursday to Saturday). It takes place at the Marriott Hotel, just around the corner from Selfridges and Marble Arch, and is always a joy to attend.

As the London show is winding to a close, members of my staff will be attending **Torex** in downtown Toronto. I personally will be sorry to miss this Toronto highlight, held at the Harbourfront on the weekend of October 12th to 14th. Since moving back downtown Torex has been a simply great show for me, and there is no reason to suppose this Fall's event will be anything less than extremely enjoyable for everyone who attends. There are rumours that the militaria auction is to be re-kindled, which certainly will be a welcome addition for the many militaria collectors who complement the ranks of coin and stamp collectors attendign Roex.

The numismatic scene moves back to Western Canada with startling promptness. The **Regina Coin Club** holds its Fall Coin Show, virtually a dress rehearsal for the upcoming CNA 1985 Convention, on the weekend of the 20-21 October at the Regina Inn on Broad Street. While traditionally Regina shows have not generated huge crowds the business is steady and very pleasant, and the effervescent personality of Chris Gilboy, the guiding light behind the Regina shows, guarantees an interesting and inspiring weekend. At the Regina show I will be sharing a table with Stan Wright of Coinex International in Calgary.

After a brief trip back to Ottawa to attend **COINS** (October 28th at the Roxborough Hotel), it's back to the West for the third time in five weeks for the Fall **WESTEX** show in Edmonton. As yet I have no further information on this show beyond the dates, November 3-4.

The following weekend will, no doubt, be a busy one. November 9th to 11th are the dates set for the Fall **Toronto International Coin Fair**, no doubt destined to be the biggest numismatic event in Canada this Fall. The Lakeshore Inn is usually crowded for this huge show, and I overheard one dealer describing the bourse activity at the last TICF as "pandemonium"! Certainly we will be kept busy as we hold the official T.I.C.F. Auction at 7 p.m. on the Friday evening, with nearly 300 lots of superb Canadian coins, plus ancients, medals, world coins and a selection of gold and numismatic miscellany.

To date the later part of November has not been booked up for us: perhaps as well, as we shall need time to recover from the hectic schedule of October! December, unusually, however, becomes busy again. An unusually busy scene will probably be witnessed at the **O.C.S.D.A.** show at the Sportsplex in Nepean, Ontario, as the City of Ottawa Coin Club attends with their annual display competition on Sunday December 9th. When we last attended the OCSDA show there was a healthy turnout of stamp and coin dealers and if this attendance can be maintained the show should eventually prove a significant draw for members of the local public.

The season rounds off nicely with the last **C.O.I.N.S.** show for December, on the 23rd. This should provide some handy opportunities for last-minute Christmas shopping!

As you can see, the numismatic world is alive and well, with a superb array of numismatic events and opportunities coming your way. Let me say for all of the numismatic fraternity that you, dear reader, will be welcome at each and every one of these exciting events, and you will find it difficult to outlast your welcome! Remember, the more shows you attend the more coins you will see and the more you will learn. This clearly is to your benefit as you increase your knowledge, familiarity with those dealers you prefer doing business with, and thus your potential to build your collection in a wise and satisfying manner. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall shows!

Association News:

MEMBERSHIP

The following applications have been received. If no written objections are received, acceptance will appear in the November 1984 issue of the ONTARIO NUMISMATIST.

1237 Frank R. Emre, 17 Pott Rd., Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 2S5

1238 Graham W. Jackson, R.R. #4, Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 4K3

1239 Jerome H. Remick, Box 9183, Ste-Foy, Quebec, G1V 4B1

1240 Dan Bailey, R.R. #3, Parkhill, Ontario, NOM 2K0

1241 Melvin Reiter, 6482 Newton Road, East Lansing. Mic., 48823,
U.S.A.

1242 Serge Huard, FRNS. C.P. 402, Pointe-Aux-Trembles, Quebec,
H1B 5K3.

1243 Norman W. Williams, Box 310, New Westminster. B.C. V3L 4Y6

J1244 Todd A. Gee, 241 Laird Ave., Essex, Ontario, N8M 1S6

C95 Norfolk Coin Club, c/o Grant Anderson, 133 Maple St., Simcoe,
N3Y 2G3, Ontario.

C96 Mississauga Coin Club, c/o Ralph Bagnell, 1389 Cawthra Rd.,
Mississauga, Ontario, L5G 4L1

The following Member has recently transferred from regular Membership to Life Membership.

LM78 Robin C. Reader, Toronto, Ontario.

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1983 TO DECEMBER 31, 1983

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Petty Cash @ Jan. 1, 1983	\$ 35.07	
Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1983 (Daily Interest)		
Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1983 (General Fund)	1536.20	
Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1983 (Library)	3.22	
Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1983 (Virgil Hancock Award)	98.62	
Bank Balance @ Jan. 1, 1983 (Audio Visual)	<u>46.55</u>	\$1719.66

RECEIPTS

Memberships (Regular, Junior & Club)	\$1951.00	
Balance of O.N.A. Convention (Toronto)	471.16	
O.N.A. Convention Draw (1983)	2808.67	
Club Ticket Rebate	55.64	
Bank Interest	164.49	
Bulletin Advertising	22.00	
O.N.A. & C.N.E. Medals	1420.85	
Premium U.S.A. Money	3.00	
Donations	3.00	
Advance - F. C. Jewett	<u>100.00</u>	\$6999.81

EXPENSES

O.N.A. Publication "Ontario Numismatist"	\$2655.27	
Postage (\$213.09); Raffle Tickets (\$43.76)	256.85	
Printing	179.11	
Safety Deposit & P.O. Box Rental	123.29	
Honorariums	650.00	
Club Delegates & Executive Breakfast	253.46	
C.N.A.; A.N.A. Dues & O.N.A. Membership	75.41	
Office Supplies (\$40.38); Engraving (\$5.35)	45.73	
Telephone (\$46.80); Bank Charges (\$3.50)	50.30	
C.N.A. Delegate	25.00	
Ontario Heart Foundation	25.00	
Insurance	301.00	
O.N.A. Ticket Rebates	814.00	
Coin Week Canada	50.00	
Name Badges	109.41	
Proof Like Set & Silver Dollar	24.08	
1983 Medals - F. C. Jewett	<u>1300.00</u>	6937.91
Excess Receipts Over Expenses		61.90
Petty Cash @ December 31, 1983		18.75
Bank Balance (Daily Interest)		
Bank Balance (General Fund)		1614.42
Bank Balance (Library)		3.22
Bank Balance (Virgil Hancock Award)		98.62
Bank Balance (Audio Visual)	<u>46.55</u>	1781.56

BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank Pass Book Balance @ December 31, 1983	\$1792.81
(3) Outstanding Cheques Totalling	<u>30.00</u>
Statement Bank Balance @ December 31, 1983	\$1762.81

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1983 TO DECEMBER 31, 1983

CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT

Bank Balance @ January 1, 1983 \$6295.99

RECEIPTS

Interest Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 405.00	
Bank Interest	<u>476.86</u>	\$ 881.86

EXPENSESNILExcess Receipts over Expenses 881.86Bank Balance @ December 31, 1983 \$7177.85LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT

Bank Balance @ January 1, 1983 \$ 340.25

RECEIPTS

Life Memberships	\$ 150.00	
Interest Guaranteed Investment Certificates	535.50	
Bank Interest	<u>44.15</u>	\$ 729.65

EXPENSESMembership Dues (1983) \$ 483.00 483.00Excess Receipts over Expenses \$ 246.65Bank Balance @ December 31, 1983 \$ 586.90CASH ASSET SUMMARY @ DECEMBER 31, 1983

Cash & Bank Balance - General Account	\$1781.56	
Bank Balance - Contingency Account	7177.85	
Guaranteed Investment Certificates - Contingency Account	4000.00	
Bank Balance - Life Membership Account	586.90	
Guaranteed Investment Certificates - Life Membership Account	<u>3600.00</u>	\$17146.31

Total Cash Assets 1982 15955.90Increase in Cash Assets \$ 1190.41

The Bank Accounts are maintained at
The Canada Trust, Belmont Branch
Kitchener, Ontario.

Treasurer Eric H. Kazman

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-82

- * A sequel to an item on the previous page arose in the "Action Line" column of Roger Appleton of the Ottawa Citizen of May 26th. Someone wrote to him about having his cash rejected, and enquired "Isn't the dollar legal tender anymore?" Extracts from Roger's reply were as follows:

"The dollar is still legal tender, but the nature of legal tender is often misunderstood. Legal tender must be accepted in payment of a debt. It may be rejected as payment for a sale or rental fee." "While it is legal (for a firm to insist upon the use of a credit card in lieu of cash), I do not like it. I would rather see the law changed so anyone dealing with the public regularly must accept cash. Consumers should have an absolute right to pay cash if they choose. No one should be forced to have a credit card to function smoothly and efficiently." Hear! Hear! D'accord!

- * The new design for the Isle of Man legal tender coinage placed into circulation on March 7, 1984, has a heraldic theme marking the Quincentenary of the College of Heralds. The familiar triune appears only on the shields of the 1 & 5 pound coins.

This reminds me of a talk that I gave to the Lakeshore Coin Club of Pointe Claire several years ago. Those who attended should recall the Chinese legend of the disappearance of a 3-legged frog, and the appearance of a 3-legged emblem! An observation that I made at that time was that the triune was reversed on the coins of the Earl of Derby (Lord of Man) which implied that he was left-handed and bore his shield on his right arm (a possibility that I have never yet confirmed). This reversal was perpetuated on the Duke of Atholl's coins, and even on an 1831 token. The first official coins of George III corrected this irregularity, and so it has been ever since. Ironically, the Earl of Derby's motto was SANS CHANGER.

- * An advertisement in the April 18, 1984 edition of Coin World, by the Hong Kong Numismatic Centre, made the following statement about Chinese coin swords: "Starting from long time ago, Chinese people use it to keep away the devil and believe it will bless the family and bring good luck, good health and wealth."

I ran across another reference in the book, "The Junkman Smiles", by G.R.G. Worcester: "These swords are still (1959) used in remote country places by mothers, who lay them under the mattresses of their children's beds to protect them from evil or disaster." Does anyone recall the steel slats of the telescopic cots in the British barracks of Aldershot, Hants?

- * The \$1,856.42 in coins tossed last year into the fountain around Ottawa's Parliament Hill Centennial Flame will be split and sent to the Canadian Association of Guide-Dog Users and the Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, according to a statement by the Secretary of State, Serge Joyal, reported in the Citizen of 10 May 1984. I wonder if they were checked for items of numismatic value, first?
- * Bob Graham, of Pembroke, was the luncheon speaker at a gettogether of the Canadian Paper Money Society at the T.I.C.F. in Toronto recently. Bob is co-author of the recent book on Newfoundland currency, and will be producing another book on his own, soon. Good work!

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-33

	No.	10¢	5¢	1¢		
* Solutions to the	1	2	1	0	COPPER	<u>New Problem</u>
problems on page	2	2	0	5	CAPPER	Try to convert
84-25 are shown	3	1	3	0	CARPER	each of the
at right. Ans:	4	1	2	5	CARVER	three-letter
(1) 12 ways,	5	1	1	10	CARVES	numbers to the
(2) 9 steps.	6	1	0	15	CALVES	others, i.e.,
Did anyone have	7	0	5	0	SALVES	ONE, TWO, SIX
better or shorter	8	0	4	5	SALVER	and TEN; one
solutions?	9	0	3	10	SILVER	letter at a
	10	0	2	15		time, as at
	11	0	1	20		left.
	12	0	0	25		

- * Janice Middleton, a Citizen staff writer, reported on May 9 that the Royal Canadian Mint was planning to close its Hull operations and shift its production of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to the Winnipeg plant. She was only repeating what staff writer, Neil Macdonald had said the day before. I did not know that the Mint was making British and American coins!
- * José Reis, of Carsley Reg'd, 12 St. Catherine St. E., Montreal, Quebec, H2X 1K3 has been appointed distributor for the 1000 reis Portuguese coin struck to commemorate the fourth centenary of Luis de Camoes, their outstanding warrior and poet (1580-1980). The silver coin is .925 fine, 34 mm, and weighs 17 g. The coin was issued in 1983 with a mintage of 150K for circulation, 50K select BU, and 10K Proof. Price ?
- * "La connaissance est la santé - Great learning is wealth" read the slip of paper which was in my fortune cookie from the C.O.C.C. informal dinner held in the Yangtze Restaurant on Somerset Street on Monday, May 28th, 1984. A select group of club members learned that this is the Chinese restaurant at which Chinese people eat, and enjoyed the wealth of variety and flavours of several delightful courses of an excellent meal. The two versions of the fortune may not be equivalent, but both applied.

Our president, Su Nedin-Davis, was lavish and expressive in her kind words in presenting me with a top quality Sheaffer "White Dot" fine tip pen, on behalf of the Club, for my efforts as president last year. This came in a case with an engraved plaque, and will be treated as one of my treasured possessions. One rewarding side comment from our distinguished secretary was that the gift would help me continue my News & Comments. Thank you, Jacques Belzile.

As an orientalist, this gift has special meaning. Several years ago, during the time of "Fountain Pens", the Sheaffer company introduced one with the white dot of excellence above the clip. I used one for many years. The Japanese also recognized this mark of quality, which fact was used by the Allied prisoners of war, in their bartering with prison guards. When the supply of Sheaffers ran out, the ingenious prisoners used a white tooth brush to make insert plugs for any other brand of pen they had. This I have heard from a reliable source. Later on when I was on R & R (Rest and recuperation) leave in Japan, during the Korean War, I was astonished at the accuracy with which the Japanese had been able to copy the same Sheaffer White Dot pens. They were indistinguishable except for the name.

Frank Fesco C.O.C.C., L.C.C.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-34

* The Ottawa Citizen newspaper brought out its disgraceful miniature style type again, this time to report the honours paid to selected members of the Armed Forces, by their appointment as Commanders, Officers or Members of the Order of Military Merit. The three Commanders appointed were: Maj.-Gen. Donald M. McNaughton
Commodore Eldon J. Healey
Vice-Admiral James C. Woods

Our new Gov. Gen. Jeanne Sauvé was herself presented with the Canadian Forces Decoration, as honorary head of the Armed Forces, by Gen. Gerard Therriault, Chief of Defence Staff. The Order of Military Merit, created in 1972, recognizes meritorious service and devotion to duty, by members of the Forces. The names of Officers and Members appointed is shown at right, in miniscule print. As I am typing this, 40th anniversary recognition of the D-Day landings on France in World War II, are being commemorated, in spite of the modern trend to tie the can on our Canadian Servicemen and Servicewomen for both their contribution and their effort.

Other officers of the order Invested:

Lt.-Col. Joseph Gerard Maurice Baril of St-Albert de Warwick, Que.; Maj. Phyllis Marquerite Betts of Doaktown, N.B.; Lt.-Col. Ian James Campbell of Vancouver; Lt.-Col. Gerald Lewis Coady of Charlottetown; Maj. Larry Murrle Diebel of High River, Alta; Capt. Lawrence Alexander Dziuba of Vita, Man.; Col. Ian Hamilton Firth of Victoria; Maj. David Archibald Henderson of Sackville, N.B.; Lt.-Col. John Edward Moors of Medicine Hat, Alta.; Col. Joseph Jean Rodolphe Parent of Thurso, Que.; Lt.-Col. Aldore Popowych of Montreal; Maj. Robert Rivers of Victoria; Col. Philip Lawrence Spencer of London, Ont.; Lt.-Cmdr. Grant Alexander Towill of Bedford, N.S.; Col. John Robert Young of Okanagan Mission, B.C.

Members of the order Invested:

Warrant Officer Ivan Charles Ashe of Moncton; Capt. John Henry Bannister of Saint John, N.B.; Master Warrant Officer Richard Maurice Beaune of Windsor; Sgt. Donald Roger Joseph Bernardin of White Rock, B.C.; Master Warrant Officer Michael James Cashin of Gambo, Nfld.; Chief Warrant Officer William Jerome Daub of Kitchener; Master Warrant Officer Joseph Cleonide Desjardins, of Apple Hill, Ont.; Chief Warrant Officer Carrol Lewis Dow of Canterbury, N.B.; Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Lionel Paul Fillion of Debert, N.S.; Warrant Officer Hans Karl Klaus Gapmann of Montreal; Warrant Officer George Andrew Gerow of Delta, B.C.; Sgt. John Wayne Gillies of Halifax; Sgt. Bernard Frederick Goodman of Toronto; Master Warrant Officer Frank Austin Donald Howbold of Dartmouth, N.S.; Chief Petty Officer 1st Class George Frederick James Heard of Hamilton;

Chief Warrant Officer Wilbur John Humphrey of Toronto; Capt. Lionel Urbain Lafaut of Quebec City; Warrant Officer Richard Lasouski of Glace Bay, N.S.; Chief Warrant Officer Earl Vincent Marks of Sackville, N.B.; Warrant Officer Joseph Richard Jean Marquis of Sherbrooke; Warrant Officer Brian William McFadden of Timmins; Capt. Ian George McIntyre of Oromocto, N.B.; Chief Warrant Officer Robert Bruce McKenzie of Medicine Hat, Alta.; Master Warrant Officer Ralph James McKinnon of North Sydney, N.S.; Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Wayne Robert Moore of Toronto; Master Warrant Officer Richard Marvin Mc Pleasant of Oshweken, Ont.;

Capt. Jean Guy Plante of St. Felix de Dalquier, Que.; Chief Warrant Officer Frederick Farley Reid of Boisstown, N.B.; Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Guy Ringer Sabourin of Quebec City; Master Warrant Officer Clayton Robert Skinner of Oshawa, Ont.; Chief Warrant Officer Baden Wilford Thurber of Digby, N.S.; Chief Warrant Officer Douglas Edward Wall of Cape Tormentine, N.B.; Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Borden Wibberley of Dartmouth, N.S.; Capt. William Zaslowsky of Brossard, Que.

* As time goes on, I find it more and more difficult not to be critical of stupidity (in others, of course - I save my most severe castigation for my own inanities). Now the bumbling city officials, in their efforts to keep a market from becoming a bazaar, have jumped the price of special event vendor fees from \$20 to \$100. They did not realize until too late that this would affect other than the targetted groups. The Ottawa Stamp and Coin Dealers Association, which has (under various names) held shows in the Chateau Laurier for the past 13 years will now abandon it, in favour of the Nepean Sportsplex, at 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, starting in June, on the second Sunday of each month, as at present.

* WARNING Fake U.S. 1921 Morgan and 1923 Peace dollars have been reported.

* In reply to a reader's query, Coin World editors provided the following names of organizations and firms which offer authentication services for a fee, with the admonition to write before sending any coins:

- American Numismatic Association Certification Service
818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903, U.S.A.
- International Numismatic Society Authentication Bureau
P.O. Box 19386, Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.
- National Collectors Laboratory
P.O. Box 6893, West End Station, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80934, U.S.A.
- National Numismatic Laboratory
31 Brittany Road, Montville, N.J. 07045, U.S.A.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-35

- * In horse racing jargon, "A Mortal Lock" refers to a virtually guaranteed winner. One U.S. dealer feels that this is an appropriate phrase to describe the investment potential of .800 Fine Canadian Silver Dollars. He states that they are attractive, have a high silver content and are easy to resell. What noble incentives and motivation! What salesmanship!
- * The faddist fever has caught up the U.S. error collectors in a frantic search for Double Die 1983 cents, which U.S. Mint officials attribute to a striking error. Bugs!
- * The retirement of Senior Deputy Governor R. William Lawson, and the appointment of John W. Crow to succeed him at the Bank of Canada will be providing banknote collectors with new signature varieties, in addition to the new paper and printing changes already reported.
- * It appears that the previously well reported and objective Canadian Newsletter by Bob Rogers has come into question by a conflict of interest since Bob has become a dealer.
- * If Jimmy, the playing-card maker, had been born in Blighty, instead of in Gaul, things might have been different. As it is we will have a new nickel commemorative dollar featuring Jacques Cartier on its reverse, designed by a Toronto area artist, Hector Greville, in 1984. The dollar marks the 450th anniversary of the discovery of Canada in 1534. There is wisdom in using the dollar intended for circulation, rather than the silver showpiece for this purpose. Perhaps, just perhaps, it might focus enough public attention on our metal dollars to bring them into common use. If you want to see peculiar reactions, just use a few to make small purchases here and there. It is well worth the effort to carry them about.
- * I have not noticed any reference to our activities in the Club News column of Canadian Coin News lately. Do we still send them a copy of our letter? Stanley Clute is still doing admirable work in identifying and evaluating coins in his Questions and Answers column. (E.g. Silver denarius of the Roman emperor Caracalla - A.D. 198-217, copper 2-lepta coin of the Ionian Islands -1819, 10-reis copper coin of the Azores - 1901, etc.)
- * A Winnipeg motorcyclist plunked down 3,000 cents to pay a fine for driving with his helmet on backwards. It was refused because it exceeded the limit for legal tender. Who knows the limits? During World War II, the English Nazi propagandist, Lord Haw-Haw, said that all they had to do to defeat the Canadians was to provide them all with motorcycles. The casualty rates were high! Driving at night, without lights and in the fogs of southern England took its toll. I still recall the tragedy for some of my old D.R. (despatch rider) friends of 1st Div. Sigs.
- * La Société Numismatique de Québec is actively conducting numismatic research, as can be seen from the following plans to publish:
 - "La Monnaie Canadienne" by Yvon Marquis (coming soon)
 - "Quebec Trade Dollars" by André Pecteau (in process)
 - "Canadian Trade Dollars" by Serge Pelletier (being revised)
 - "Quebec Trade Tokens" by Herbert Eickhoff (in process)
 The annual fees for this society are \$12/yr (\$7 for students), and it issues a monthly bulletin of approximately 20 pages. It can be contacted at: C.P. 281, Sillery, Québec, G1T 2R1.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-36

- * The economic situation is so crucial these days that the Bank of Canada, in its 1983 Annual Report devoted the entire 50-odd pages to financial matters such as Inflation, Interest Rates, Credit Demands, Monetary Aggregates, International Financial Problems, the Canadian Payments System, Debt Management, Foreign Exchange Operations, Tables, Statements, etc. Nowhere was there even a whisper of their fine cultural contribution and excellent public relations rapport, particularly with students from an ever-widening ring of schools, made possible by one of best and most comprehensive currency museums anywhere, and the back-up staffs of museum guides and numismatic curators. It is one thing to maintain a low profile, so as not to be accused of squandering funds which might otherwise be devoted to other aspects of the public good, but to conceal or camouflage such a fine and noble effort borders on inordinate modesty. I feel that I must champion their cause, because I happen to be firmly convinced that most things of any great significance or consequence cannot be reduced to \$, as so many people believe. The Currency Museum is one such, of which they should be justly proud; proud enough to show and tell the historical story of money that it portrays in a formal publication of the standard of other national museums. Gallery VIII, The Collectors' Corner, now has its twelve cabinets (216 trays) laid out, showing over 6000 coins, which would make a companion volume. And the major display of banknotes is yet to come!

- * A set of 6 souvenir banknote cards commemorating World Coin Week 1984, are still available from L.H. Lewry, P.O. Box 1982, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, S6H 7N5, for \$15 for the set, or \$2.50 each, postpaid. They show paper currency from Great Britain, Uganda, Brazil, Mexico, China, and an obsolete Canadian \$25 1935 note of George V and Queen Mary. They are of top quality.

- * Bermuda is commemorating the 375th anniversary of its settlement by the issuance of an 11-coin set of 25¢ sterling silver proof coins (only 5000). They will have the regular Machin Elisabeth II obverse, but their reverses will feature various coats of arms, viz: those of Bermuda, the City of Hamilton, the Town of St. George, plus those of eight original patrons of the 17th century Bermuda Company, after whom parishes were named, i.e., Warwick, Smith's, Devonshire, Sandys, Hamilton, Paget, Pembroke and Southampton. The shields will be crested and supported.

- * Quote: There are too many variables for a generalized answer to the question, "what is it worth?" - particularly by mail or phone.

- * The theme of an editorial by Russ Rulau, World Coin News editor, in an April edition created quite a reader response. In it he made several frank observations, e.g: Coin Shows - too many, too lengthy, too often! Bourse activity is in the jaws between an expanding and successful mail order business & auctions, and shop sales (the former is more powerful). The public is staying away from coin shows, and their main justification is becoming dealer-to-dealer sales. A pre-1965 Great Coin Crash statement is being heard again - "who needs collectors to make a market - we have each other"!

- * A second nominee for The Coin of the Year 1983: Norway, Y88 10 Kroner Cu-Zn-Ni, 24 mm, 9 gms., plain edge, 15M minted, theme - Circulation, designer - Jan O. Larsen, of Trollasen, Norway. Any other nominations?

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-37

- * New electroplating apparatus has been installed in the Royal Mint at Llantrisant, in Wales, for copper platin steel blanks in the manufacture of low denomination coins. Several countries have eliminated their bronze coins and replaced them with these less expensive types. About half of the Royal Mint's production is reported to be sold overseas. This has likely been a factor in the reduction of foreign contracts by our own Mint.
- * In the Canadian Coin News of 1 May 1984, John Dinner stated in his editorial: "Without question, Trends is the most important feature that we publish." This has been provided as a 4-page pull-out centerfold. Would it be fair to conjecture that greed and lust have points in common - both deal with gratification, or is that too cynical?
- * Great Britain was the first to introduce a new 7-pointed coin (the 50p of 1969) with arced sides using these points as centres (I have forgotten the name of this shape), so as to allow the difference from the 10p coin to be readily distinguished, without resorting to an unduly large coin. (Yes, I know it is a form of heptagon, but I believe that it had a distinctive mathematical name).

Western Samoa has adopted this shape for their new \$1 coin of 1984. It is made of a yellowish alloy by the Singapore Mint and was released on May 14. The obverse portrays King Tanumafili II, and the reverse bears the date, arms & denomination. The proof silver proof costs \$40, and the regular mint pack, \$5 excluding postage. It is available from the agency of Western Samoa Treasury, G.P.O. Box 954 (118 K. William St.), Adelaide, So. Australia, P.S. This coin is planned to replace their \$1 banknote in circulation.

- * I must not neglect to mention another excellent coin club dinner that I attended in May, that of the Lakeshore Coin Club of Pointe Claire, Québec. In deference to the non-numismatic spouses of the club members, they had arranged for a speaker on another branch of collecting - old rural Canadian buildings. Mr. Earle T. Moore presented an enthusiastic slide-illustrated talk on the Canadiana Village in Rawdon, Quebec, which was pieced together by him, his family and friends, without government financial support, over the past 30-40 years. Old log structures had been moved from various rural locations and arranged in an ever growing village community cluster. They have all been restored and furnished with period pieces.

Mr. Moore's talk followed a substantial meal at Le Biftheque Restaurant on Cote de Liesse Avenue in Montreal. I was privileged to be seated at the same table as Mr. Moore and was most startled to find that he had once worked with, and known my father. My senior citizen status took a jolt by that news, let me tell you! I also renewed acquaintance with Frank Quinn, L.C.C. treasurer, and former alderman of Dollard des Ormeaux, where I used to live. Frank is more recently known for his dealership in trade dollars, and miscellaneous material. L.C.C.'s capable president, Jim Hay, turned over the two gavels of office to Dr. Bob Pallen - for their tenure is not by the calendar year. We must definitely establish closer ties between our two clubs. For starters I am sharing these news bulletins with them. Incidentally, the L.C.C. club members paid a visit to the Bank of Canada's Currency Museum on Sunday, May 13. Graham Esler, Chief Curator, hosted the group, and I heard nothing but praise for the visit and museum. While I was in Montreal, I took the opportunity to visit José Reis' store mentioned earlier (84-33) where I always find items for my collection.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-38

* On page 84-12 I quoted three doctors in reference to the hazards of infection from money. Since then, the headline: "Restaurant germs may give food for thought", was used for the "Dear Abby" column in the Citizen of 22 June, regarding a letter from "A Friend". In it, the Mayo Clinic is cited as saying that the 10 most common spreaders of infection are one's own 10 fingers. The Friend adds that another notorious germ carrier is money. She asks that notice be taken of how employees of some eating places who prepare the food, serve it, then take the customer's money and give them change, and then repeat the cycle for others, without washing in between. Abby said: "Thanks. That's food for thought, but not for eating." To this I add: Beware lest you develop chrematamysophobia.(1)

* Books recently advertised:

- "Los Denarios Romanos Anteriores A.J.C." (The B.C. Roman Denarii)
In Spanish; \$25 U.S.; 360 pp, 730 photos, 838 line drawings.
From: X & F Calico, 2 Plaza del Angel, Barcelona 2, Spain.
- "U.S. Hard Times Tokens (reprint); Original by Lyman Low 1900,
Low supplements of 1906, 1910; William Forrester Dunham Finding Guide:
Rarity guide; Photo plates by Edgar Adams; 7 x 10"; \$20 U.S.
From: Sandford J. Durst, 29-28 41st Ave, Long Island, N.Y. 11101, U.S.A.
- "Gold & Platinum Coinage of Imperial Russia 1701-1911", by H.M. Severin.
Reissued by publisher Durst (above); \$20 U.S.; 500 copies, 17 plates,
300 illustrations, 700 coin types.
- "The Coinage of the United States Branch Mints" (reprint) by A.G. Heaton.
Original 1893; 64-page monograph; \$6 U.S.
From: Foundation for Numismatic Education, c/o Sandford J. Durst (above).

* A new addition has been made to the historic transition of metals, translation of purpose, alternation of cycles and seemingly endless reversals of pendulum swings. Some known examples are: from gold coins to the statues of Victory on the Acropolis and back to Athenian gold coins; gold coins to a royal chain of James IV of Scotland and back to gold unicorn coins; gold and bronze coins to the great Diabutsu Buddha of Japan and back to Kanei Tsuho "bun" mon coins; Chinese ch'ien (cash) to Buddha's attendant images and back to K'ang Hsi "Lo-han" coins; also from strings of ch'ien (Ch'uan 串) to innumerable temple images and back to the "peaceful" coins of the T'ai P'ing rebels. There are probably many other cases.

Now the U.S. Treasury melt of silver coins for the General Services Administration - 10 million troy ounces from the National Defence stockpile - is to go back to the mint for coins. Plus ça change, moins ça change! :

* I reported incorrectly (84-37) that Western Samoa was adopting the British style of coin for their 1984 dollar. That is only partly correct. Yes, they have used a 7-sided coin, but the sides are flat rather than curved, and the point is down, not up. Otherwise the report is accurate..I believe.

* The manager of the bullion section of the British NatWest Bank reports that there is evidence that opposition to the £ 1 coin is declining. Could this be influenced by the new Scottish 1984 thistle issue, with the motto: "Nobody provokes me with impunity"?

(1) Morbid dread of filthy money.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-39

- * The U.S. Mint Director, Donna Pope, was quoted in the May 9th edition of Coin World as saying: "The mint deposits the difference, or what is called seignorage, between the face value of a coin and what it costs to make a coin, into the general fund. So, if one dime costs .01 cent to make, we deposit .09 cents." This explains, she said, why the mint just can't melt down the 500 million Susan B. Anthony dollars. "It costs the mint .03 cents each to make them but they are on the books for \$1.00. If we melt them down the Treasury is out 97 cents." Do these small fractional cents make sense? Could they not be replaced by other coins or banknotes and still balance the books?

The July 1984 journal of the National Geographic Society lists Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) as one of a select group who spoke out for temperance, women's rights & suffrage, and for the abolition of slavery. With such a noble record, it is strange that her coins should be rejected. Public objection to change, without adequate advance P.R. can be quite vehement.

- * Elliot Lake, Ontario, has arranged for a 33 mm. nickel-bonded steel medal to be struck by the Sherritt Mint to commemorate its bicentennial. It is available for \$1.75 from the Town at 45 Hillside Drive N., Elliot Lake, Ontario, P5A 1X5.

This is hardly creditable! Why, it was only in the early 1950's that I was called in to clear some trouble with the emergency radio equipment which provided a communication link with the outside world at Blind River. It was spring and the dirt road into Elliot Lake was thawing into seas of mud. Only 4-wheeled drive vehicles, or those with chains were permitted to attempt the winding trail into the trailer camp uranium boom town. Bicentennial! Hmmm....

- * A medal, struck by the Franklin Mint, was distributed to the 80,000 active employees of Bell Atlantic Management Service Inc., to commemorate the tragedy of the F.C.C. ordered breakup of the 107-year old Bell System on 31 December 1983. I would not be surprised if Bell Canada did the same because of C.R.T.C.'s similar smashing orders. In communications, the world seems just as incapable of coping with greatness as with mediocrity. The sacred name of competition is venerated over other economic reasoning.
- * Imagine \$167,000 in paper money flying down a highway. Police on Chicago's Stevenson Expressway saw "human nature at its worst" when a Brink's armoured truck spilled this amount, on Friday 13th April. (Coin World, Wed., May 16). Do you have triskadecaphobia? (2) Perhaps the driver now has.
- * The Seaby Coin & Medal Bulletin of June 1984 contains a short article by Simon L. Hancock, on "The Pembroke Mint". This might be of interest to our confreres up the river. Contact point: B.A. Seaby Ltd., Audley House, 11 Margaret St., London W1N 8AT, England.
- * Q: What are blank, upset on edge and going around in circles?
A: Coin planchets before being struck.

(2) Fear of thirteen, particularly Friday the thirteenth.

Frank Fesco C.O.C.C. L.C.C.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-40

* Well, Krause Publications has got on the C.O.C.C. bandwagon! It was announced in the June 6 (D-Day) issue of Coin World that they also have named a 1982 Coin of the Year - the U.S. George Washington commemorative half dollar. A group of 43 experts from around the world also judged it to be the most popular and most historically significant. (Our choices and results appeared previously in the News & Comments 84-21) Three other coins also won awards. The same judges rated Canada's New Constitution commemorative \$100 gold coin the most artistic and best gold coin, Panama's 20-balboa the best silver coin, and China's "Year of the Dog" silver coin the best crown. Government representatives from the four countries met on May 16 for the presentation of these first annual awards by Russell Rulau and Clifford Mishler, editor and publisher respectively, of World Coin News.

I tend to favour our C.O.C.C. standards of novelty, attractiveness and innovativeness, but would like to adopt their use of a nominating panel to select the coins to be judged. I would also like to see us accept mail or phone votes from our members who cannot attend the meeting on the evening of the vote. Does anyone wish to comment?

* One set of solutions to the problem on page 84-33 is shown at right. Were you able to come up with a shorter set?	ONE	ONE	ONE	TWO	TWO	SIX	Now try the same for the numbers FOUR, FIVE & NINE. i.e. change one letter at a time, to make common words on the way between them.
	ORE	ORE	ORE	TOO	TOO	SIN	
	ORT	ORT	ORT	TON	TON	TIN	
	OAT	OAT	OAT	TIN	TEN	TEN	
	TAT	SAT	TAT	SIN			
	TOT	SIT	TAN	SIX			
	TOO	SIX	TEN				
	TWO						

* Leonard Gribble, in his book, "Stories of Famous Spies" (Arthur Barker Ltd., 1964), narrates that in the New York City photographic studio front for the Russian spy, Colonel Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, code-named "Mark", was found a box full of assorted junk such as ballpoint pens and propelling pencils, large foreign coins, fancy metal buttons - all with one peculiar feature, a disguised hollow cavity."

With that information and an active imagination, I regard three items in my collection as having played a mysterious role in the past. The first is one half of a "box penny" - a hollowed out British penny of 1797, obviously intended to smuggle gold or secret messages. The second is a French ten-centime bronze coin of Napoleon III, which has a space hollowed out behind the emperor's head, and has a hinged replacement added. The third is a French five-franc silver coin of Charles X, which has been sliced into halves and was provided with three small rivet holes to reunite them, surely after concealment of a secret message!

So, make sure that you ring your coins to test for the thud of those with secret compartments. Mind you, there is also another explanation - the use of coins as lockets to conceal romantic keepsakes. Several years ago Laimas Macikunas, a Hamilton coin dealer, accidentally discovered a hollowed Prussian coin which contained the pictures of a young lady, and of a gentleman who resembled the Kaiser who was on the coin. Ah, romanticism!

P.S. The Russian spy, Abel, was exchanged for Captain Francis Gary Powers, the American U-2 pilot who was shot down over the Soviet Union.

NEWS & COMMENTS 84-41

- * An amusing numismatic anecdote was reported in the Bulletin of the Mexican Numismatic Society's April-June 1983 issue. To fully appreciate it, you should know that the Mexican 20-centavos coin of 1943-74 was a fairly large bronze coin, and that the 5-centavos coin is quite a small coin. You should also be aware that in the State of Jalisco it is the custom to express gratitude for miracles received or prayers answered, by either painting a picture or posting a notice at the church. One such simple notice read:
 "We thank the beloved Virgin of Saint John of the Lakes for having miraculously saved our son from an operation. He swallowed a big 20 centavos coin, but when it come out it had turned to a fiver."

- * General "Chinese" Gordon and I have had one experience in common - we have both had to sit for hours (days) on end, scrawling our signatures on documents. In his case, he was signing emergency banknotes for his beleaguered forces in the 317 day seige of Khartoum, Sudan, where he was defeated and killed by the rebel Mahdi's dervishes, in 1885. In my case, I was signing ration books and other discharge documents for thousands of World War II veterans at District Depot No. 3 in the Fort Frontenac (Tête du Pond) barracks of Kingston, Ontario, in 1945 (as a Duty Officer from overseas).
 Bond & Banknote News issue No. 7, June 1984, contains an article about General Gordon's seige notes, and how they were ceremoniously burned in public, after the Mahdi's conquest, or were left lying around for the goats to eat. Very few have survived.

- * The TAMS Journal Vol 24 No 2, April 1984 contains an article by Al Zaika on fake tokens of the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. These were supposedly prisoner-of-war or emergency tokens. Twelve of them were described or illustrated in his article. No. 9 is shown at right. I cannot remember who sold me this phony. Caveat emptor!

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- * Tony Sudlow, Army columnist of Coin & Medal News has been asked to be President of a new Canadian society devoted to the Indian Army, its men and its medals. The society was conceived by Michael Johnson and Peter Morohan of Toronto, at the last convention of the Military Collectors' Club of Canada, as a result of the growing interest in Canada about the Indian Army.

- * An 8 year old boy in Praa Sands, on the coast of Cornwall, has found a gold coin of Henry IV of Castile, issued between 1454 and 1474. A similar coin was found in 1958. They are believed to come from the "St. Anthony", a Flemish ship which sank in 1528, which is reputed to have carried a chest of gold coins, according to local legend. What an adventurous metal-detector part of the world to be in!

- * FUN - It is a dickens of a job to get hold of a tael of two cities - the 1867 pattern Hong Kong silver coin made to the Shanghai Tael Standard of 565.65 grams, which has both city names upon it.

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- * An article by Colin Narbeth in the May 1984 issue of Coin & Medal News describes the characteristics of two types of note collectors, which appears to apply equally to coin collectors. It reads:

"There are basically two types of collectors - one concerned with obtaining the beautiful and the rare in as superb a condition as possible and with a view to having a tidy nest-egg as well as a presentable collection. His main limitation is purely financial. He tends to be investment oriented simply because he has to lay out a considerable sum of money and doesn't want to waste it. He also tends to lean towards notes which are already popular and in demand; well catalogued and easy to identify.

The other main type of collector is almost the exact opposite. He wants to be able to study an area and add to the knowledge of the numismatics of that area. Preferably he wants a territory which is less popular than others so that he is not restricted too much by financial limitations, and where he can examine hundreds of the same item. Condition is of secondary importance because his main concern is to build up a collection with a degree of completeness which can tell the whole story of the issues, and include new information.

It does seem, historically that the second type of collector comes off best as far as the nest-egg is concerned. When his subject is fully chronicled and catalogued it usually becomes popular." (Ed: Which pushes up demand and prices). Q: Which type are you?

- * Another Book: "Modern Silver Coinage - 1983"; \$7 U.S.; available from: The Silver Institute, 1001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20036; has design description, size, weight and silver content, number issued by the 76 world's monetary authorities. It reports that no silver was obtained from coinage melt, by this Institute in 1983! ...nor in 1982!
- * In the book, "I Spied for Stalin", by Nora Murray (Oldhams Press, 1950), the expression - tea money - is explained as meaning a form of bribery, payola, or unofficial influence payment in Russia at that time.
- * Ernie Pyle, the outstanding war correspondent of World War II, made the following statement in his book, "Brave Men" (Henry Holt & Co., 1944):
- "There were some American outfits that had been in England for two years without action, and there were Canadians who had been marching up and down for four years. How men like that kept from going nuts is beyond me."
- That is my reply to those who think that I am a garrulous old coot. (Ex-1 Div)
- * Don McGillivray of Southam News, in his column "Understanding the Economy", in the Ottawa Citizen of June 28, 1984, featured the crazy history of Canadian currency. Examples of his article subheadings: Before the Europeans came, New France, British Colonial period, Pre-Confederation period, and Confederation period, are displayed in the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada. The Canada-U.S. currency relationships were covered under the subheadings: 1910-1930, the Great Depression, Second World War, Post-war period, and the 1970's and 1980's; showed the swings and widening gap over these times. His closing statement was: "The victory of the Parti Québécois triggered a fall that ultimately reached this week's level of less than 76 cents." National political and labour stability appear to be correlated with foreign financial confidence and sound local currency.