



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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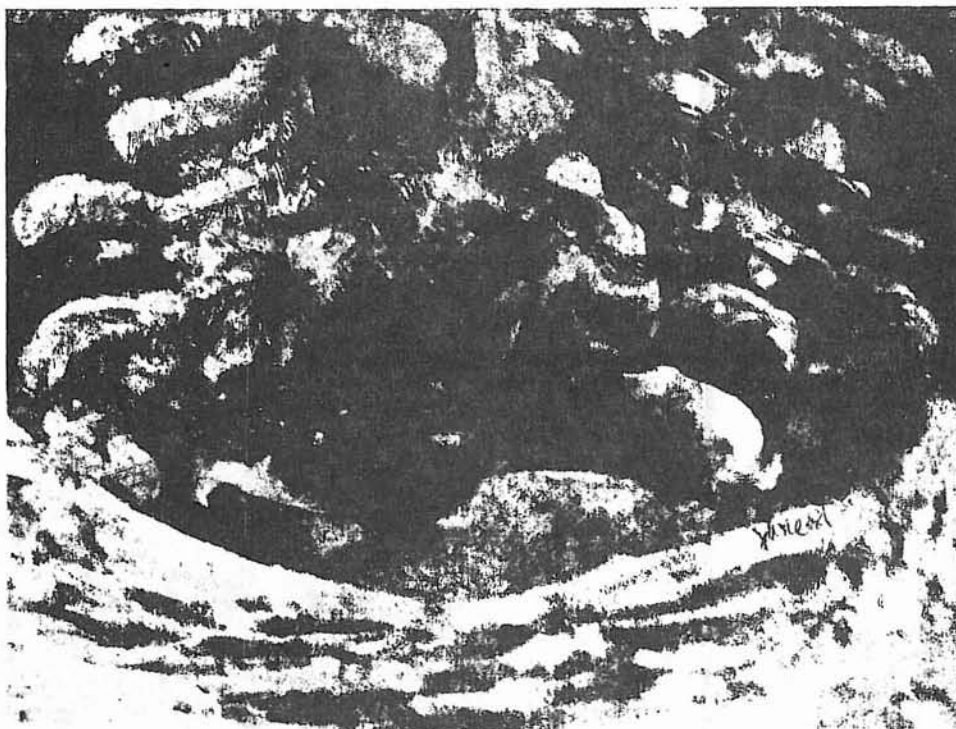
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# CHRISTMAS 1984

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Peter Fiore

*The tree closed its branches, forming an impenetrable wall behind which the fawn huddled out of the gale.*

## Why Christmas Trees Are Not Perfect

By **DICK SCHNEIDER** They say that if you creep into an evergreen forest late at night you can hear the trees talking. In the whisper of the wind you'll catch the older pines explaining to the younger ones why they'll never be perfectly shaped.

There will always be a bent branch here, a gap there . . .

Long, long ago evergreens *were* perfect, with each taking pride in branches sloping evenly from crown to symmetrical skirt.

This was particularly true in a small kingdom deep in Europe beyond the Carpathian mountains.

On the first Saturday of Advent the Queen's woodsmen would search the royal evergreen forest for the most perfect tree. It would then reign in honor in the great castle hall, shimmering with silver balls and gold angels that sparkled in the light of thousands of candles. While a huge Yule log chuckled and crackled, the royal family and villagers together would dance and sing around the tree in celebration.

Out in the hushed forest every evergreen vied for this honor, each endeavoring to grow its branches and needles to perfection. All strained at the task, fully concentrating on their form and appearance.

One cold night when a bright white moon glittered on the crusty snow as if it were strewn with millions of diamonds, a small rabbit limped into a grove of evergreens, its sides heaving in panic. Beyond the hill rose the yelping of village dogs in the thrill of the hunt.

The rabbit, eyes wide with fright, frantically searched for cover but found nothing among the dark trunks extending upward into branches that were artfully lifted from the snow.

Faster and faster the cottontail circled as the excited yelping sounded louder and louder. The trees looked askance at this

interruption of their evening (when growing was at its best).

And then a small pine shuddered. Of all the young trees, it had the promise of being the finest of the forest. Everything about it from its deep sea-green color to the curl of its branches was perfect.

But now . . . its lower branches began to dip, down, down to the ground. And in that instant before the slaving dogs broke into the clearing, the rabbit found safety within the evergreen screen. In the morning the bunny found its burrow. But the little pine could not quite lift its branches. But no matter, perhaps a little irregularity in a tree so beautiful would not be noticed.

Then a powerful blizzard lashed the land. The villagers slammed shutters closed while the birds and animals huddled in nests and dens. A small wren, blown astray, desperately sought sanctuary in the evergreens. But each she approached clenched its branches tight like a fist.

Finally, in exhaustion, she fell into the little pine. The pine's heart opened and so did its branches, and the wren slept within them, warm and secure. But the pine had difficulty rearranging its branches. There would be a gap evermore.

Weeks passed and winter deepened, bringing a gale such as never before experienced in the mountains. It caught a small fawn who had wandered from its mother. Head down, blinded by snow, it inched into the evergreen seeking a windbreak. But the trees held their branches open so the wind could whistle through them without dangerously bending or breaking their limbs.

Again the little pine took pity and now tightly closed its branches, forming an impenetrable wall behind which the fawn huddled out of the gale. But alas, when the wind ceased, the small pine had been

severely and permanently bent out of shape.

A tear of pine gum oozed from a branch tip. Now it could never hope for the honor it had longed for since a seedling.

Lost in despair, the little pine did not see the good Queen come into the forest. She had come to choose the finest tree herself.

As her royal sleigh slowly passed through the forest, her practiced eye scanned the evergreens now preening themselves. When she saw the little pine, a flush of anger filled her. What right had a tree with such defects to be in the royal forest? Reminding herself to have a woodsman dispose of it, she drove on, but then stopped and glanced back at it. As she gazed on it, she noticed the tracks of small animals that had found shelter under it and a downy feather within its branches where a bird had nested. And as she studied the gaping hole in its side and its wind-whipped trunk, understanding filled her heart.

"This one," she said. Her attendants gasped. And to the astonishment of the forest, the little pine was borne to the great hall. And everyone who danced and sang around it said it was the finest Christmas yet. For in looking at its gnarled and worn branches many saw the protecting arm of their father, others the comforting bosom of a mother, and some, as did the Queen, saw the love of Christ expressed on earth.

So if you walk among evergreens today, you will find, along with rabbits, birds and other happy living things, drooped branches providing cover, gaps offering nesting places, forms bent from wrestling winter winds.

For as have many of us, the trees have learned that the scars suffered for the sake of others make one most beautiful in the eyes of God.

WD



## Kings & Coiners

Reprinted from COINS magazine

By  
Dorothy and  
Clifton Potter

### Scotland's problem

The destinies of England and Scotland had been closely intertwined ever since the reign of David I, 1124-1153, whose mother was an English princess. By the 16th century, however, the relationship between the two kingdoms had become increasingly more complicated.

The Tudors were never, as we have seen, a very prolific family, and their nearest relations were their Stuart cousins. The end of the dynasty begun by Henry VII paved the way for the union of the two crowns in his great-great-grandson James I of England and VI of Scotland.

In 1503, James IV of Scotland had married Henry VII's daughter, Margaret Tudor. A prudent, well-educated man, James felt it in his interest to maintain an alliance with his wily father-in-law, although he also cultivated ties with France, Scotland's traditional ally.

The treaty with England was unpopular with most Scots, and with the accession of Henry VIII, good relations came to an end. James was killed at Flodden Field in 1513 fighting, as so many of his ancestors had done, against the English.

His son James V was but a year old at the time of his father's death. It was the curse of the Scottish monarchy that time after time the king would die with only a child-heir. This left the country prey to lawlessness and unscrupulous ambitions of the nobility. James V did not rule in his own right until 1528, and in December 1542 he died of a fever, leaving an infant daughter named Mary who was only a week old.

Henry VIII, ever the opportunist, attempted to arrange a marriage of the infant queen to his son Prince Edward, a child of five, but negotiations fell through. War soon followed, and Mary's mother, a French princess, took her daughter to France, where she was brought up with her royal cousins in the Catholic faith.

In 1558, 16-year-old Mary was married to Francis, the dauphin (heir to the French throne), and she seemed on the

verge of a brilliant career as queen of Scotland and France. To most Catholics, she was also queen of England, because Elizabeth I was considered illegitimate and, therefore, a usurper.

Once more ill-fate intervened. Francis died in 1560. In August 1561 the young widow left the culture and refinement of the French court, where she had passed most of her short life, and returned to the comparative wildness of an increasingly Protestant Scotland led by the fiery preacher, John Knox.

It is impossible to separate the changes in Mary's coinage from the important events in her life. A wide variety of coins had been struck in her name before her first marriage. Most bore the crowned shield of Scotland, with its lion, crosses, or her initial.

The gold three-pound pieces and 30-shilling pieces showed a fine profile portrait of the young queen, her hair pulled back from her face and set with jewels in classic Renaissance style.

Less successful were the crowned profile bust on the silver testoon (Type I),

and the so-called "infant head" on the billon penny (an alloy of silver and copper), which made little attempt at actual portraiture.

Mary's second coinage, during the brief period she was married to Francis, was of necessity less extensive, but equally interesting. On the gold ducat worth 60 shillings Mary and Francis faced each other with a crown above them in a style very reminiscent of Mary Tudor and Philip of Spain.

The reverse featured a design of dolphins — the dauphin's symbol — eight of them linked in the shape of a cross, with crosses of Lorraine — Mary's symbol through her mother — at angles to them. The use of a dolphin, showing Scotland's ties with France, was repeated on Mary's lesser coinage, the groat or "nonsunt," and the "lion," a small billon coin worth 1.5 pence.

Once the queen was reestablished in Scotland, a third series of coins began to issue from the Edinburgh Mint. A gold crown, or ecu, with Mary's arms on a shield (showing both the Scottish lion and the lilies of France), and four crowned M's on the reverse alternating with thistles proved to be the last of her gold coins.

Even more attractive were her testoons and half testoons of 1561 and 1562. The widowed queen is shown in profile, wearing a high-necked dress with a ruffled collar and a little cap on the back of her head. Her face is seious and intelligent, and there is a hint of the long Stuart nose that would appear again in her grandson Charles I. At a recent auction, one of these portrait testoons was offered for sale for \$3,150.

No one doubted that Mary would marry again for the sake of the Catholic cause — and the ultimate hope of the English crown — and to gain the support of a husband who could help her deal with the turbulent Scottish nobility. She was a royal prize with a goodly number of suitors. During 1564 and the spring of 1565, the question throughout Scotland and England was: Who would be her choice? @



A portrait of Mary appears on this silver testoon of Scotland struck in 1561.

## In Memoriam

In memory of a friend, LOUISE M. GRAHAM, who following a lengthy illness passed away at the North York General Hospital, on Thursday, November 1, 1984. Louise Horan (age 85 years), wife of the late Frank, mother of Keith Graham of Niagara Falls and Douglas Graham of Richmond Hill. Survived by her grandchildren.



— LOUISE GRAHAM —

LOUISE HORAN was born on October 20th, 1899, on the fourth line in Albion, north of Toronto. Her grandparents lived on one side and her great-grandparents on the other. All born in Ireland, they were the pioneers of the Albion line.

She moved to Winnipeg in 1901, while Louise was still a baby. There, she was brought up and educated.

She became a collector at the tender age of 2½ years. At that age she was taken to Donald Tobin's barber shop for a haircut. Mr. Tobin set her up on the chair with a board, put an apron around her, put a dab of soap on her chin and then put a Tobin Token in each of her hands. At one time she owned 20 Tobin pieces. She also collected bread and various other tokens.

Her father bought her a piggy bank which was about eight inches high and four inches square, a replica of the Bank of Montreal. She put all her tokens in it.

None of the chums she played with collected money (1902), but she hung onto the tokens she had until she was nine.

A friend of the family was a streetcar conductor in Winnipeg. If he had a coin she didn't have, she could have it. This continued for some time.

Her father died when she was eight and there was nobody else to help her. At that time her uncle put the tokens in envelopes, cashed them in, and bought her a kewpie doll. (Probably the most expensive doll ever purchased.)

In Winnipeg in 1920 she married Doug Graham, who was with C.P.R. Hotels. In 1929 Doug was transferred to Toronto to open the Royal York Hotel and it was there they came in touch with numismatics for the first time.

Doug went down to Bay Street one day and bought his first coin catalogue, issued by Max Mehl. That was the first catalogue they'd ever seen. It showed some Canadian coins. After that they would visit all the pawnshops and other places in search of coins. Still they had never met another coin collector.

One Saturday morning at the Royal York Hotel, Doug got the function sheet on his desk, noted that the function sheet read 'Toronto Coin Club Meeting, 1:30 P.M. in the York Room'. He immediately phoned Louise and told her he wasn't coming home as he was staying at the hotel for the meeting. He went to the meeting and joined at that time. There were only 12 people there. Toronto Coin Club had a table at the Hobby Show at the Exhibition - not to buy or sell, just for display.

Louise ultimately joined the club, rather reluctantly as she was the only woman there. Until 1953 when they started holding meetings at the Royal York there wasn't one lady member present. In the meantime she had met Hector Mayes who didn't live too far from them. When she did join the Toronto Coin Club, Hector was watching for her. Still being the only female representative she was elected into office as Treasurer at that meeting. That's how her numismatic career began.

One day the club members started talking "Convention". It took a while and a couple of trips to Ottawa. L. J. P. Brunet was the C.N.A. president at the time and they became friends with him and Doug Ferguson. Should they have a C.N.A. Convention? Brunet said, "We'd be happy to do it." She and Doug convinced the C.N.A. executive. They got the OK at the end of February and put on the first C.N.A. Convention in 1954. There was no way it could be arranged to be held at the Royal York. They were booked way ahead, so it was held at the King Edward Hotel.

At the time the Toronto Coin Club had \$26 in the bank. They borrowed \$50 from Toronto Coin Club president Robillard, and \$76 is what they ran the first convention with. It was successful and they even made money.

They didn't even have enough money to put out for a silver medal, so they persuaded the King Edward to pay for half the die. That's why the King Edward is on the reverse.

They only had about 20 members when they had the first convention. The one dealer who came from Mexico was sold out by 12 noon and Louise sold his table instantly as people were waiting for tables.

There was even a banquet where the women joined in, some of whom Louise hadn't met before. There were 97 at the banquet and 101 registered.

A while later Louise was nominated and elected secretary of the C.N.A. After that she had all the honours bestowed upon her that anyone could have because of all the work she had done for numismatics in general.

She received the O.N.A. Medal of Merit in 1972 and was awarded the Ferguson Medal in 1977.

She was Chairlady of the O.N.A. Convention in 1976, served as President of North York Coin Club and is still actively participating.

She was responsible for involving a lot of women in numismatics, going to meetings, etc. She was President of the Toronto Coin Club, and the first woman to hold office of the President of the C.N.A.

**Indeed the Grand Lady of Canadian Numismatics!**

To all of us you gave your best.  
Gcd grant you peace and rest.  
You will be missed.....

Executives of the  
Ontario Numismatic Association



# THE AUTOMOBILE DOLLAR

by Ed Reiter

*Editor's Note — Some authorities contest the fact that General Chow Hsi-ch'en was actually the military governor of Kweichow in 1928. It should also be noted that no one knows just where the province's first road was located.*

Coins enjoy a good reputation, for the most part, among people who put stock in superstition. Many carry "lucky pennies," for example, or cast coins into wishing wells.

Superstition worked in reverse, however, in the case of an intriguing Chinese coin — the so-called "automobile dollar." Chinese soothsayers blamed the coin for the death of the man who had it made.

The story dates back to the late 1920's, when Gen. Chow Hsi-ch'en (or Si-keng, in Anglicized form) became governor of Kweichow Province in the Republic of China. Gen. Chow was an ardent advocate of road building, and he set out to create an extensive system of motor highways in his province.

To popularize his program, he ordered the minting of a provincial coin featuring an automobile as its central device. The coin, issued in 1928, was 90 per cent silver, had a value of one yuan in Chinese money, and was about the size of the U.S. silver dollar.

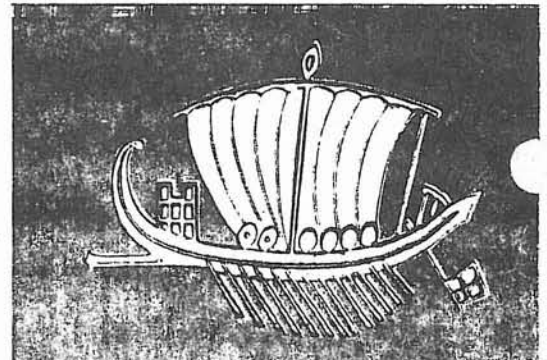
It seems clear that the general intended the coin as a tribute not only to the automobile, but also

to himself. He dared not place his own profile on it, for that would have breached the Chinese code of modesty. But he got his point across by placing his personal name, "Si-ch'en," beneath the automobile, in Chinese characters cleverly disguised as vegetation.

The soothsayers viewed this as an unseemly display of pride, so the story goes, and issued a dire prediction: Gen. Chow would die a violent death in a motor car accident.

Those who believe in superstition — and in soothsayers — will not be surprised at the way the story ends. The general was riding in a motor car at the head of his troops when disaster struck, during a campaign against a military rival in 1929. His car got too far ahead of his forces, an enemy advance guard surrounded it, and he was slain.

Gen. Chow's misfortune may have discouraged other rulers from displaying the automobile on their coins, for his is the only coin in the world with a motor car as its centerpiece. The car it features is a closed



## WHAT'S THE STORY

If you believe you can correctly identify the coin element illustrated above, and write an interesting story about its history or your interest in it, put the story down on paper and get it to us no later than January 25. The winning entry will be published in the April issue, with the author receiving a framed copy plus a one year subscription to *Coins*. Two runners-up will each be given subscriptions. The maximum story length is 600 words, or about two double spaced typewritten pages, and we would prefer that a minimum of 500 be offered. Address to What's The Story, *Coins Magazine*, Iola, Wis. 54945.

sedan — perhaps the very kind that carried him to his death.

The automobile appears on the reverse of the coin. It is surrounded by a pearl ring, outside of which there are Chinese characters stating that the coin was made by the Kweichow government. The obverse features a crest, around which there are four Chinese characters identifying the "dollar" as a Kweichow silver coin worth one yuan.

The crest is a type that appears on coins made in Szechuen (or Szechwan) Province, which adjoins Kweichow in southern China. The coin almost certainly was struck there, since Kweichow had no mint of its own until 1939.

How many "automobile dollars" were made? Exact figures are unavailable, but the coin does not appear to be a great rarity. On the other hand, it does seem to be scarce, and its fascinating history enhances its appeal and its value. An extra fine specimen, sold at auction recently by Stack's in New York, brought \$250.

All things considered, owning one of these coins could pose quite a problem for someone who's superstitious. Knowing its history, he would never carry it as a "lucky dollar." Yet, knowing its value, he wouldn't want to throw it down a well. □

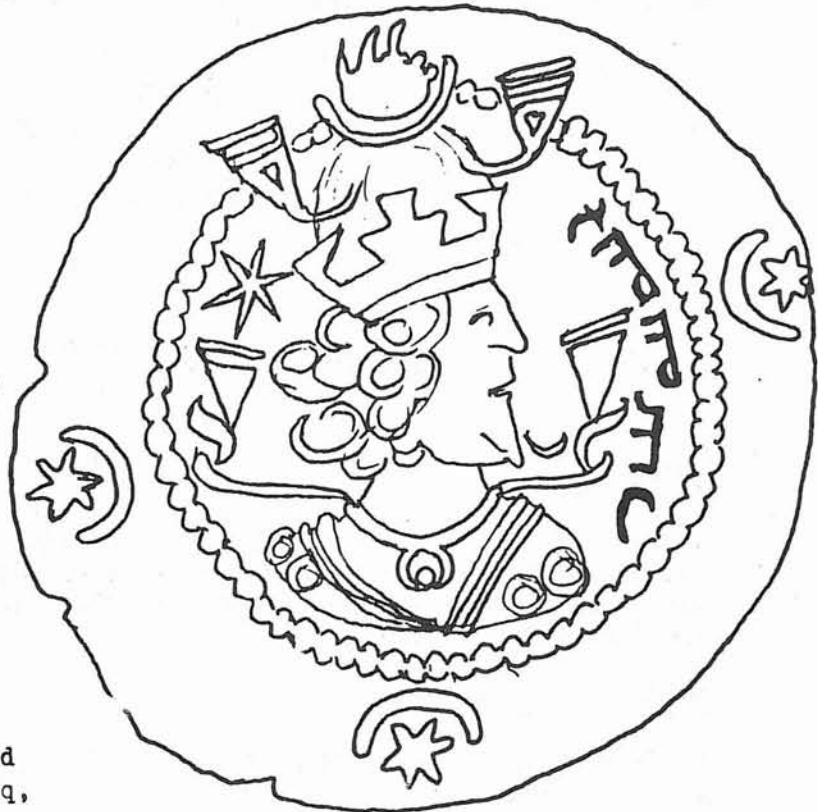
## RUNNERS-UP

Phil Hux  
Harold A. Kahler  
Ken Purdy

This silver dirhem, issued in AD 505, was the first type of the second reign of King Kobad I (AD 490-530) of the Sassanian kingdom.

The Greek equivalent of his name was Cavade I, and his surname was Nebrai (The Wise). He was the 19th king of the dynasty that was established by Ardashir, a descendent of the ancient Achaemenian kings, who fought and defeated the last Parthian prince in AD 228.

The Sassanian kingdom, at its greatest, extended from the Red Sea to the Caspian, from the Black Sea to the Syr River, and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus River. Thus it covered all of present day Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan & Israel, as well as much of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Lower U.S.S.R.



Sketched from a photograph enlarged 3.5 diameters

The Sassanians were overthrown by Arab aggressions in AD 636. The Arab onslaughts followed the establishment of the Islamic faith, and its guiding document, the Qur'an, by Mohammed, the prophet of Allah; usually dated from his flight (Hajira) from Mecca to Medina in mid-July AD 622.

The obverse face of the coin shows King Kobad wearing an ornate mural crown topped by a flaming orb in a crescent moon and flanked by a pair of wings. The king also bears a pair of wings over his shoulders, and has his guiding star in the field behind him. The Pehlevi legend on the right reads: KAYAT AFZUNI, i.e., "May Fobad increase" (presumably in power and success).

There are three star and crescent motifs in the margin. This emblem was adopted by the Arabs and other Muslim followers as their symbol. It appears on the flags and coins of many countries today. This symbol could have political implications (arced rt. ☾ : waxing; arced lt. ☽ : waning). This was reacted to by some Muslim countries, ignored by others, and avoided by still others, by placing the crescent below the star. All, of course, are astronomically impossible!

The coin's reverse features the characteristic Sassanian fire altar flanked by two stylized guards. The left legend **𐭮𐭲𐭱𐭮** SIJDEH "Sixteen" gives the regnal year of issue, and the right legend **𐭮𐭲𐭱𐭮** AH(MALANA) identifies the mint of origin as Hamadan, in west central Iran.

The most significant reference for this report was Mr. H. Valentine's delightful handwritten notes. Books on history, flags, symbols and languages were also consulted.



**J. DOUGLAS FERGUSON HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**



Established 1971

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS ANNUAL AWARDS

OBJECTIVE

By means of an annual essay contest, to select two eligible and deserving young numismatists to participate on an expense-paid basis in the ANA SUMMER SEMINAR in order to acquire further knowledge and understanding of numismatics.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

The John McKay-Clements Memorial Fund of the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation.

ELEGIBILITY

Any Canadian aged 16\* to under 18.

\*Special consideration will be given to those under 16. Young numismatists under 16 must be accompanied by parents or guardian.

SELECTION

A panel of qualified judges will select the two best essays on a subject approved by the Foundation's Board of Governors. The essay must be at least 3,000 words. Literary skills while important will not be the dominant criteria used in the selection process - numismatic knowledge will be emphasized.

1985 SUBJECT

The subject for the 1985 essay contest will be

THE EFFECTS OF CONFEDERATION ON CANADIAN CURRENCY -  
A COLLECTORS VIEWPOINT.

JUDGES

The judges for the 1985 Awards will be:

Margaret McKay-Clements  
Sheldon S. Carroll  
Ross Irwin  
Jack Veffer

**Young Numismatists Annual Awards.....**CLOSING DATE

All essays must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation before February 1, 1985.

ANA SUMMER SEMINAR

The 1985 Seminar will take place in July at the Colorado College, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is a week-long seminar that includes key subjects in numismatics taught by recognized leaders in each field. Students live in the college residence facilities.

WINNERS' CLUB

The numismatic club (if any) to which each winner belongs will receive a cash donation of \$50.00 as an incentive to encourage and help young numismatists to participate in the contest.

OTHER CONDITIONS

The parents or guardians must formally authorize the winners to participate in the Seminar. The copyright to all essays entered will become the property of the Foundation and may be published at the Foundation's discretion.

HOW TO APPLY

Obtain an application form from the Secretary-Treasurer (see below) and submit it together with the completed essay. There are no application fees or payments to make.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information including an application form, please write to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation:

Ruth McQuade, Secretary-Treasurer,  
J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation  
183, Island Park Drive  
Ottawa, Ont. Canada  
K1Y 0A3

\*\*\*\*\*

SPECIAL NOTICE.....

The reason is that you received the December issue of the Numismatist early and with the November issue is that I received the envelopes for the November mailing late and I will be in the hospital in Toronto from Nov. 22 to the later Dec.

*Bruce R. Watt*

Bruce R. Watt  
GNA Editor

Frank Fesco  
City of Ottawa Coin Club

1. The use of body-building chemicals and other mind and muscle stimulating drugs by athletes is receiving media and political attention recently. The ends justify the means appears to have been the morality of sport, as it is in other activities. This philosophy of fairness used to be restricted to love and war. War games have been supplemented by other games and so the "all's fair" concept expands. It has already entered another game or hobby as aptly stated by Arthur Schweid of Los Angeles in a recent issue of Coin World, i.e:

"I am always amazed at how stupid greed makes people. Olympic coins are minted for one reason, to make as much money as possible for the people who run the Olympics. These are not numismatic items. They are money makers. To make money you sell as much as you can. In the last 18 months there have been umpteen articles on how much money these coins were going to make. The U.S. Mint has practiced no deception that I can think of. It is charged with making as much money as it could from Olympic coin sales and it is doing it".

Perhaps they are numismatic items on a historical time-scale to support future sociologists contentions of the evolving degeneracy of man's endeavours in love, war, sport, coinage, etc.... a grim thought, n'est ce pas?

2. The US Olympic coin design was also commented upon in the same edition of Coin World. This time by Ken Fisher of Miami, i.e:

"Well I've seen the final design for the 1984 Olympic dollar but is it Hansel and Gretel, Jack and Jill or Barbie and Ken? A facetitious question, I realize, but its my way of adding another voice to those proposing a return to more traditional values in our coinage designs".

He concludes his letter to the editor by saying: "In any event, somehow or other, we've got to get away from the "streetcar token" design mentality that has given us our recent coinage".

Do these letters have a familiar ring, or are we trying to forget our own sad coinage experience of 1976. Sadder yet is the consideration of the changing role of sport in life. Being called a "good sport" used to be a compliment, just as being called a "numismatist". Is it still?

3. Jim Charlton is reestablished as Canadian coin trend editor of Coin World International. In an extract from his views on the Canadian Market he speaks of dealers thus: "...there does appear to be more emphasis on integrity and pleasing customers than getting rich quickly, as was the case with some dealers in the boom years of the early 1960's and the more recent silver melt days". This is always welcome, from a collector's point of view.

4. China in Peking Mandarin Chinese is Chung Kuo, 中國 or "middle country". It considered itself to be the centre of the World, surrounded by barbarian bands. The first character for middle, 中 evolved from an illustration of an archery target with an arrow in its centre. 中

(As an aside, Coin World reported that an estimated \$4 million in shredded Federal reserve notes were found in a local park in Hackensack, N.J. The 400-pound sack apparently came from an archery tournament where it had been used for target practice.)

The second character, Kuo 國 depicts a company of armed men in an enclosure. This refers to the square world of China guarded against the barbarians. There is a conscious effort in China to simplify its script system by reducing the number of strokes in each complex character. This character is shown in modern Chinese textbooks as 国 or 國 which shows a ruler in an enclosure.

I thought that this script revision had been standardized, but was astonished to find three representations of KUO on a set of 1982 proof coins from China. The 1, 2 & 5 fen magnalium coins bore the formal character 國, the 1, 2 & 5 jiao cupro-zinc coins and the 1 yuan cupro-nickel coin bore the abbreviated 国, and the package label bore a strange version 𠄎 with which I was not familiar. This portrays a small spear in an enclosure.

Upon reflection I realized that we are not consistent in our western scripts either. Take for example the 7th letter "g" sometimes written ɡ; or the elimination of the letter "u" from such words as colour, humour, etc. There were other character differences, but this perhaps is enough for one news item.

5. Token collectors will have 24 additions available by a proposed series of transportation tokens for the 1984 U.S. Olympics. They will depict a variety of the competitive sports. Composition will be 70% cu 30% zn (brass); diameter 31.75 mm (1.25 in), reeded edge, 10-10.7 gms, tentative price \$25, from Markelcom Group of St. Louis (address ?).

6. The November 16 issue (p.60) of Coin World devoted over six inches of column space to our COCC activities - particularly the results of our September Coin Fair display results.
7. The 17th Edition 1984 COIN Year Book has been published. Its cover features an attractive silvered enlargement of the British 20-pence coin which was one of the nominations as 1982 Coin of the Year by our club. Other contenders are:
  - (a) Canada's new 12-sided coin which produced significant metal saving without excessive adverse public reaction.
  - (b) Italy's new 500-lire stainless-steel coin with brass disc insert, which includes the denomination in Braille dots for the blind.
  - (c) Netherland's new modernistic coins of Queen Beatrix.
  - (d) Canada's "Constitution" dollar.
  - (e) U.S. copper-plated zinc 1-cent coin.

If anyone has additional coins to nominate, please do so soon, so that we can vote upon them. The general conditions are that the coin must have been introduced in 1982 and should have some novel, attractive or innovative feature.

8. The Singapore Mint has recently opened a Coin Gallery which shows the history of the country's coinage from its founding in 1819 to the present day. A specially constructed coin press is available to visitors who wish to mint their own souvenirs - a fine Do-it-yourself idea!
9. The Isle of Man has come up with yet another coin marketing ploy. As a pilot scheme they have introduced a new "noble" containing an ounce of platinum. Prices are expected to fluctuate as gold does under speculative market pressures. 25,000 will be struck to test their appeal to investors.
10. The Canadian "shinplaster" (25-cent note) once was a popular Christmas gift - as was the Canadian silver dollar later. But when gift coins were not readily available at the banks this custom faded away. Some collectors have struck their own greeting tokens (e.g. Fred Bowman & Elizabeth Wynn Wood), and Jerry Remick is trying to revive interest in doing so. Christmas medals have been struck by Spain, Portugal and Germany.

Britain had the same situation with crown coins as gifts, particularly since the persistence of leading numismatists of the day revived interest by persuading the minting of the 1927 style crown. The Isle of Man started a Christmas crown fad in 1979 which led to distinctively designed 50 p coins designated "Christmas". The Kingdom of Tonga has also adopted the idea with a Christmas pa'anga. Israel produces Hanukkah coins and Panama has a poinsetta coin.

Now, if we could only create the right spirit to go with the coins, perhaps the cradle of the Christian, Judaic and Islamic faiths might not rock as violently.

11. Ken Jacobs and Eli Levine have produced an outstanding new book entitled, "Coins of South Africa". A review of it, by Dr. Richard Bickel in the Dec 14 issue of Coin World International states very emphatically:

"To my knowledge, nowhere in the world is there or has there been a book on coins which can equal the beauty and quality of this one".

"A glance at the table of contents reveals a foreword by Eli Levine, a preface by Gerald Hoberman, an historical outline and an introduction by Ken Jacobs. Then follows statistical information and a superb photograph of the obverse and reverse of each type coin ever minted in this country from 1874 to the present".

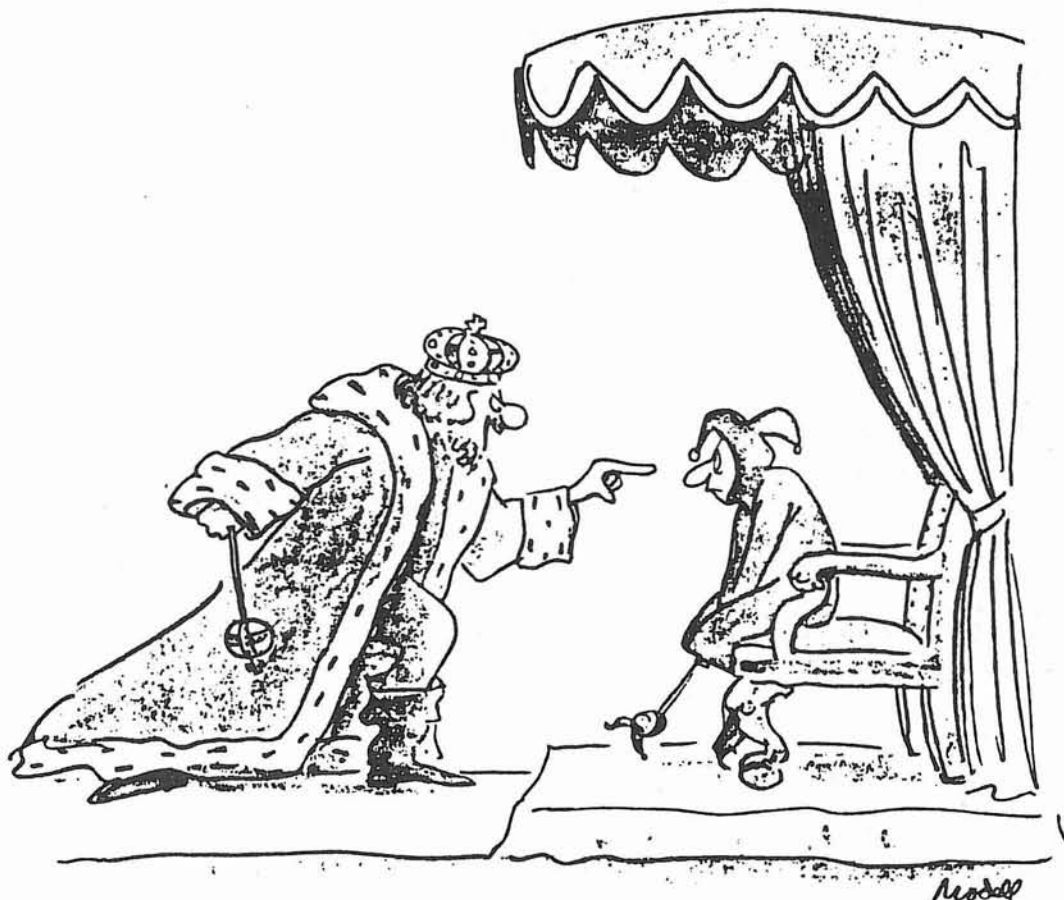
This Rolls Royce of numismatic publications was developed from a complete 216 coin type set in "Mint" (sic) condition. 250 leather-bound copies will sell for \$305 each and 1000 standard copies for \$90 each (plus \$15 air freight). They are available from The South African Gold Exchange, P.O. Box 10588, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

12. The November/December 1983 issue of Science and Mechanics (p 41) has a short article on a new acoustic microscope which "sees" through metal with sound waves at frequencies much higher than human hearing (actually in the V.H.F. range, i.e. 100 MHz). Water, rather than air is used as the transmission medium, and the image is recorded as an electrostatic printout. A clear illustration of the obverse (Lincoln head) of a US cent, recorded through the reverse of the coin, appears with the article.

This could possibly be an aid in counterfeit detection, in quality assurance and control of laminated coin flans, and in numismatic metallurgical research.

It would be interesting to know whether varying metal densities from a coin's initial striking are detectable when a coin is used as the planchet for a second and different coin. I suspect that this might have occurred with Denmark's C47, 1 skilling of 1771, although I have not detected it visually. Italy's use of the 1894-1895 20 centesimi as a planchet for the newer designed 20 centesimi of 1918-1920 would also prove interesting, as would the Chinese 10 cash provincial coins struck on Korean 5-Fun coins (for fun?!)

13. I am not sure whether I am being accused of inappropriate levity, or of having too low a perspective by implication of this cartoon I received (original source unknown). Or could it be that I unduly suggest there should be more appreciation of the majesty of numismatics?! I rebut that neither jester nor monarch have ideal vision but merely play their roles. This is subtle satire indeed. I would prefer more outspoken criticism, if that is what was intended.



*"See, things look a lot less funny sitting there, don't they?"*

14. Jim Zagon, one of Ottawa's outstanding professional photographers, recently had a well received and reviewed exhibition of a selection of his international subjects at the Architectural Bookstore. Jim does the cover photographs for the Bank of Canada's monthly Review and has created the official visual record of the many thousands of coins, tokens and notes in the Bank's Currency Museum.

# SHOW AND BOURSE

237

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CENTRAL OTTAWA COIN SHOW


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## Clad Coinage and Modern Rarities

When a group of experienced collectors gather and begin speaking in hushed tones about a great numismatic rarity, they are probably discussing an 1804 silver dollar, a 1913 Liberty Head nickel, a gold Brasher doubloon or any of the highpowered coins which, when sold, can be expected to bring \$100,000 to \$1 million and more. Yet, the term "rarity" does not have to be synonymous with "expensive" — there are a number of coins struck since 1960 which can be considered rare.

These modern rarities are coins — seen in the light of annual mintages of one billion pieces or more — which are popular among collectors and investors because of their relative scarcity. And yet, with just a few exceptions, these modern rarities are available in quantities large enough to keep prices reasonable and within the grasp of most collectors.

Probably the most famous of these modern rarities is the 1972 Doubled Die cent, a coin produced in error with a widely doubled image on the side bearing Lincoln's portrait, with two distinct yet overlapping images of the mottoes IN GOD WE TRUST, LIBERTY and the date. Several varieties are known, although only the most extremely doubled variety is considered a true modern rarity.

A second, widely sought-after modern rarity is the 1970-D Kennedy half dollar, available only to those who had foresight or were lucky enough to have purchased the 1970 Uncirculated sets packaged and sold by the U.S. Mint. No half dollars were struck that year for circulation, so collectors wanting to fill a hole in their albums need the 1970-D coin, and need the set. Many sets were broken up by collector and dealer alike, and both the individual coin and Uncirculated set are desirable items.

A similar event took place in 1973, when the only clad Philadelphia and Denver Eisenhower dollars available were again packaged in Uncirculated sets sold by the Mint. The 40 percent silver 1973 S Proof Eisenhower dollar is even more desirable, and brings among the highest prices of any modern rarity. It was sold by the Mint originally for \$10, a price that outraged many collectors at that time as being too high.

The year 1960 was a good one for modern rarities. Two distinct varieties of cents were struck that year, the scarcest bearing a Small Date, the most common a Large Date; on the Small Date, the upper tail of the digit 6 is rather short and stubby, while on the Large Date the tail is longer. The Proof 1960 Small Date cent is the rarest, although some collectors in the know are always on the lookout for the variety which bears a Large Date superimposed over a Small Date on the same coin.

Another modern rarity that is readily available to the collector or investor is the Bicentennial



A surplus of half dollars in circulation in 1970 made the striking of the denomination unnecessary. However, Denver Mint specimens were included in the 1970 Uncirculated sets sold to collectors.

Unplanned, but not unwanted, is the 1972 Doubled Die cent, an error coin which represents just one of the many modern numismatic rarities.





What happened to this coin? Collectors saw a Proof set of the new Bicentennial coinage at the 1974 ANA convention, but the unmintmarked coins were apparently returned to the Mint and destroyed.

quarter bearing the dual dates of 1776-1976 and struck at the San Francisco Mint in 40 percent silver. Struck expressly for collectors in Proof and Uncirculated versions, the coins are the only 40 percent silver quarters ever struck, and the only silver quarters struck since 1964.

Then there are the modern rarities that are less available and thus have higher prices. Since 1968, all Proof coins have been struck bearing the S Mint mark representing the San Francisco Mint. However, during certain years, some Proof coins were struck without the Mint marks, and intact sets in which these coins appear are quite valuable. Among these S-less Proofs are 1968, 1970 and 1975 dimes, and 1971 nickels. However, since circulation strikes of all these coins were struck with no Mint marks, care must be taken in purchasing any set purporting to contain one of these rarities.

The rarest two coins of the modern era, however, are probably the 1974 aluminum cent and the 1966 Proof Jefferson nickel.

In 1973, many thousands of trial aluminum cents dated 1974 were struck by the Mint because of the high copper prices prevailing at the time. However, the Mint did not receive Congressional approval to issue the coins, and most were melted down. However, 14 coins turned over to Congressional staff members disappeared. Some were eventually returned to the Mint for destruction; one went to the Smithsonian Institution for posterity's sake, and the remaining few are still missing. They are illegal to own as well.

The rarest of rare are the two 1966 Proof Jefferson nickels struck in a year when no other Proof coins were produced. These coins bear the FS initials of the coin's designer, Felix Schlag, which were added that year; one of the two coins was presented to him, and remains in his estate to this day. The other was retained by the Mint.

Other trial coins have been struck at the Mint in recent years from time to time. These include trial alloys for the Lincoln cent, Eisenhower and Anthony dollars, as well as possibly for the Frank Gasparro designed Flowing Hair Liberty-Flying Eagle design first proposed for the reduced size dollar coin. These are all regarded as government property and are illegal to own.

There remain to be discussed the "phantom" coins — coins which were struck at the U.S. Mint but which are unknown in collections today. These include the 1964 silver Peace dollar, struck at the Denver Mint in great quantities, but never released to circulation and remelted. Also in this category are the unmintmarked silver Bicentennial Proofs struck and placed on display at the American Numismatic Association convention in Miami in August, 1974.

Other modern coins can claim the distinction of rarity, notably the many Proof only San Francisco issues struck since the resumption of Proof coinage in 1968, but those mentioned above are the best known. Some are easily obtainable, some may never reach anyone but the richest of collectors. But they do prove that a coin doesn't have to be old to be rare.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

### C39 Thistletown Coin and Stamp Club

The Thistletown Coin and Stamp Club has found a new meeting place. It now meets in the cafeteria at Thistletown Community School, 925 Albion Rd., just east of Isling Ave. in Rexdale. Now in its 20th year, the club meets on the second Tuesday of each month between September and June, at 7 p.m. Admission is free and meetings are open to the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

### C59 Ingersoll Coin Club

The Ingersoll Coin Club meets the 3rd Monday of each month except July & August in the Senior Citizen Room, Lion Hall, Thames Street, South, Ingersoll. Mailing address is, T. Masters, 823 Van Street, London, Ontario.

\*\*\*\*\*

### C1 Waterloo Coin Society

The Waterloo Coin Society meets the third Tuesday of each month, except July and August, in the Waterloo Public library on the lower floor, 35 Albert Street, Waterloo, Ontario at 8 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following information is for members and friends who will visit the Gulf Coast of Florida this winter.

### Coin club meetings

**Clearwater Coin Club**, second and fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Women's Garden Club, N Fort Harrison Avenue and Seminole Street, Clearwater.

**Gulfport Coin Club of St. Petersburg Inc.**, fourth Friday, 7:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, 1520 Fourth St. N.

**Largo Coin Club**, third Wednesday, 7:45 p.m., Freedom Savings and Loan Building, E Bay Drive at Keene Plaza, Largo.

**St. Petersburg Coin Club**, second Friday, 6 p.m. American Legion Hall, 1520 Fourth St. N.

**Sarasota Coin Club**, third Monday, 7 p.m., United Federal Savings and Loan Building, 3550 South Trail, Sarasota.

**Tampa Bay AINA Coin Club**, third Monday, 7 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2808 Horatio St., Tampa.

**Tampa Coin Club**, second Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Community Room of Tampa Bay Center, W Buffalo Avenue, Tampa.

**West Pasco Coin Club**, fourth Thursday, 7:15 p.m., Ellis Bank, U.S. 19, New Port Richey.

Changes or additions to the Coin Club listings should be sent to Coins, Newsfeatures Department, St. Petersburg Times, P.O. Box 1121, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33731.



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## Gold coin sales show new sparkle

Gold coin sales are booming as investors seek a hedge against the possible return of inflation.

Canada's Maple Leaf figures in the third quarter of this year are believed to be 80% ahead of last year.

And Krugerrand sales were up 55.2% on the third quarter a year ago.

The Krugerrand Gold Coin Centre in Toronto noted that the recent increase came at a time when sales of gold bullion have been flat.

General manager Christine Yorke said: "The price of gold was relatively



Gold Maple Leaf coin sales surged 80% in the third quarter of this year. low during the summer months yet many leading investment experts are predicting a substantial rise in the near future.

Royal Canadian Mint director Jack Julien believes uncertainty about the world's unsettled economy is pushing investors into gold coins.

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