



# ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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## President's Message

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

Many 2004 summer events are now history, Olympics are now over and you all got your new Olympic lucky loon coin!

At this time I would like to welcome our new editor Richard Johnson. Richard is no stranger to numismatics as he is the Past President of the Stratford Coin Club as well as a collector himself for many years. Please give him a helping hand by sending in articles of interest from your clubs, and information you would like to share with other numismatists.

## O.N.A. Editor

#4- 285 Lorne Ave. E.  
Box 23016 Stratford, Ont.  
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I would like to thank the other numismatists for applying for the editors position and I am sorry that we can't have more than one. I do hope that the other applicants will send articles to the editor for publication, he will appreciate them.

This month I am looking forward to going to Sudbury and following up on the 2005 O.N.A. Convention that our Nickel Belt Coin Club has been working on.

Let's help support our coin dealers and the clubs that put shows on for the benefit of our members. You can find all this information in the Canadian Coin News, your local coin club bulletins and the Ontario Numismatist.

Any O.N.A. member who is a dealer and would like to put an ad in the Ontario Numismatist please contact the editor for he also looks after this.

Tom Rogers  
O.N.A. President

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## From The Editor

*My wife Nancy, and I publish a weekly community newspaper in Stratford, Ontario, called Inside Stratford/Perth.*

*I joined the Stratford Coin Club in 1995 and went to my first ONA Convention in Windsor. Since then I have served as President and am currently the Bulletin Editor and Treasurer. With the ONA I serve as a director for Area 5.*

*It is my hope to be able to produce a Bulletin that maintains the high standards set by John Regitho, who developed the Ontario Numismatist and my predecessor, Linda Robinson. I encourage input and can be reached by letter, telephone, fax or e-mail. Several coin club Bulletins and articles have found their way to me already. Put me on your Club Bulletin mailing list.*

Rick Johnson  
Editor

## Membership Report

The applications for membership which appeared in the May/June issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

**We welcome  
Dave Hill & O.H. Galan**

The following applications for membership have been received. If there are no objections, they will be accepted into ONA Membership and their acceptance will be published in the next bulletin.

**J1828 - Kierra Gibson, Kitchener, ON**

**1829 - James Antonio, Niagara Falls, ON**

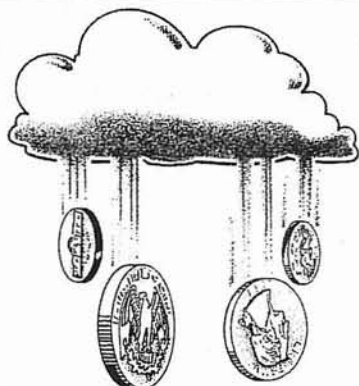
**C123 - Kingston Coin & Currency Club, Kingston, ON**

Bruce H. Raszmann  
ONA Treas. & Membership Chairman

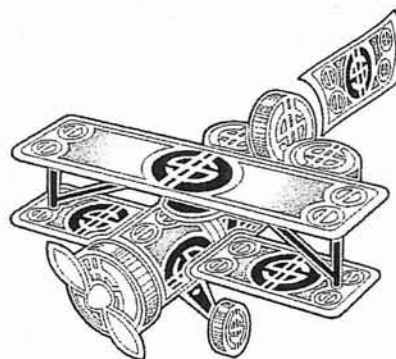
## IN MEMORIUM

*We offer our condolences to the family of Lloyd T. Smith who passed away recently. He served as President of the London Numismatic Society 1974-75, wrote a column called "coin comments" for the London Free Press and was 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President of the ONA. Lloyd's contributions to our hobby are highly regarded and he will be greatly missed.*

# UPCOMING SHOWS



October



## **Oct. 2, Guelph**

SOUTH WELLINGTON & WATERLOO COIN SOCIETIES COIN SHOW - Colonel John Macrae Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, 919 York St. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission and parking, 40 or more dealer tables, penny draw prizes, displays and lunch counter. For more information, contact SWCS Bob Zmija at (519) 853-0868.

## **Oct. 3, Tillsonburg**

TILLSONBURG COIN SHOW - Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy St. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1 admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Tillsonburg Coin Club. For more information, contact Wayne MacFarlane at (519) 842-6666.

## **Oct. 16, Oshawa**

COIN-A-RAMA - 5 Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd. E. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free admission. Featuring coins, paper money, tokens and medals. Free dealer, member and public draws. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oshawa District Coin Club. For more information, contact Sharon or Earl MacLean at (905) 728-1352 or email papman@idirect.com.

## **Oct. 24, Stratford**

STRATFORD COIN CLUB ANNUAL SHOW - Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission, penny sale, 50/50 draw. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stratford Coin Club. For more information, contact Larry Walker at (519) 271-3352.

## **Oct. 30-31, Toronto**

Torex Coin Show & Auction, Novotel Toronto - Centre. Dealers in Canadian, ancient and foreign coins, paper money, reference books and hobby supplies. Hours: Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sun 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Auction viewing starts on Thursday. Daily admission \$6, Children 16 and under free! For more information, contact Brian R. Smith - brian@torex.net. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

November

## **Nov. 6, Scarborough**

8th ANNUAL SCARBOROUGH COIN CLUB SHOW - Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission, free draws, Sponsor/Affiliate: Scarborough Coin Club. For more information, contact Dick Dunn at PO Box 562, Pickering, ON L1V 2R7 or email cpms@idirect.com.

## **Nov. 27, Niagara Falls**

COIN-A-RAMA - Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Coins, tokens, jewellery, paper money, medals and more. Free parking. \$2.00 for admission. Free Gold Draw. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bourse info: NCIF (905) 356-5006.

## **Apr. 10, Chatham**

CHATHAM COIN CLUB ANNUAL SHOW - Wheels Inn, Corner of #2 Highway & Keil Dr. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## New Catalogue Covers Ontario Tokens

The first edition of "ONTARIO TOKEN HANDBOOK" by Jack Sauchenko was published in August 2004. The 160 page "Handbook" is on 8 1/2 X 11-inch pages with spiral binding. The "Handbook" catalogues 4,594 tokens, including merchant tokens, advertising tokens, arcade tokens, and check tokens, machine tokens, due bills and other types of tokens.

The following data is given for each token: complete text on both sides, diameter and a valuation. Pictures are given for some tokens.

Tokens are listed under the name of the issuer and issuers are listed in alphabetical order under the municipality in which they are situated. Municipalities are listed in alphabetical order.

The "ONTARIO TOKEN HANDBOOK" is

available to Canadian residents at \$39.95 plus GST or HST and postage. The cost of the "Handbook" for United States residents is \$29.95 plus postage. For postal cost and ordering the "Handbook" please contact Jack Sauchenko, 13559-124A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. T5L 3B4 and phone (403) 455-1566.

By Jerry Remick ONA #1239

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# COIN KIDS PROPOSAL

August/2004

At the CNA Convention in Windsor in 2003, Geoff Bell, the then president of CNA asked three members active in teaching youngsters to bring forth a proposal to interest young Canadians in numismatics. Each of the three were taking a different approach but were requested to combine their ideas and propose how best to accomplish the aim of interesting young Canadians.

Chris Boyer of Kitchener was teaching a large number of students in the primary school system in the noon hour at the library, once a week. His method was to show slides, have draws and when the students were leaving the room, they were all given a foreign coin.

Ron Darbyshire in Edmonton, talked to large audiences of students and teachers. Ron has been very active with his coin activities and has distributed many coins and numismatic books over many years. Ron has probably been the most active in this endeavour of any of the three appointed CNA members.

Fred Freeman of Woodstock, the third member, took a different approach. His method has been to develop a course of study that requires the class to find the answers in the current Charlton catalogue. After four different classes in a two year period, the course of study has been modified several times to not only keep it interesting but to impart knowledge in a simple way. The dues have been a loonie each day of the course to show commitment on their part. Each day a different coin is discussed and they are given that particular coin for their own collection. At the conclusion of the course, the students are enrolled in the CNA and the ONA, using their dues money.

Our committee has reached the conclusion that our efforts are only benefiting a limited number of local students. Our recommendations therefore are outlined below-

- a) That a correspondence course be developed by our committee, as soon as possible.
- b) This course would be sponsored by the CNA, ONA, RCM and the Canadian Coin News.
- c) The term YN would not be used, but the more descriptive term, Coin Kids be adopted.
- d) The Coin Kids course would be a beginner course and the present CNA course would be promoted as a more advanced numismatic course.
- e) The financial involvement of the RCM would be minimal. They would be requested to mention the existence of the Coin Kids course in certain advertisements, such as MacLeans
- f) The Canadian Coin News would be requested to perhaps donate a six month subscription to the graduates of the Kids Coin Course and give editorial support.
- g) The CNA and the ONA would not be requested for any start-up funds until the course has proved its viability.
- h) All three members of the Coin Kids program would continue to expand the proposed coin course and report back to all mentioned groups with more detailed proposals.

We trust that our suggestions meet with your approval. Your constructive suggestions are invited.

Ron Darbyshire, Edmonton      Chris Boyer, Kitchener, ON      Fred Freeman, Woodstock, ON

## COIN KIDS OF INGERSOLL

*By Fred Freeman*

Thanks to the help of the Suzuki Center where we have our monthly meetings, a group of boys from Ingersoll and Woodstock have been active this summer, learning about our chosen hobby. Twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm our group of Coin Kids have learned more about coins, instructed by Fred Freeman and assisted by Tom Rogers on occasion. This was an abbreviated coin course formerly taught in three Woodstock schools at the end of the school day. The Coin Kids are given a coin that ties into that day's lesson. At the end of the summer, they have a

Charlton book for themselves and a notebook with many coins held in the familiar 2x2s and enclosed in the appropriate 20 place plastic pouches. They were shown how to properly secure the coins and how to determine their mintage, present value, etc. It was decided at the beginning of the coin course not to charge a loonie, as was the practice in the previous classes.



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## **BC boy wins National Coin Design Contest** *Canada Day Coin was given to new Canadians during Celebrate Canada Week*

Mr. Tim Spiegel, Member, Board of Directors, Royal Canadian Mint, was in Brentwood Bay, BC, in June to unveil the 2004 Canada Day Coin, which was given to all new Canadians sworn in during Celebrate Canada Week

Nick Wooster, aged 11, of Saanichton, British Columbia, submitted the winning design in a contest held earlier in the year and was also on hand to witness the public introduction of his design. The contest was held in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Interestingly, Citizenship and Immigration Minister, the Honourable Denis Coderre, had launched the national contest at Bayside Middle School in October of 2003.

"The Royal Canadian Mint was delighted to launch its 2004 Canada Day Coin in Brentwood Bay, and to offer our congratulations to Nick Wooster, the young artist who won the design contest" said Mr. Spiegel. "The playful design celebrates and emphasizes a playful humour, which is shared among all Canadians through kindness, regardless of language, culture or religion".

When thousands of new Canadians receive their citizenship certificates next week, they will also receive the 2004 Canada Day coin. Since 2001, all new Canadians sworn in during Celebrate Canada Week (the week leading up to Canada Day) have received the limited edition Canada Day coins.

The 2004 Canada Day 25-cent collector coins can be purchased directly from the Royal Canadian Mint by calling 1-800-267-1871, online at the Mint's Web site at [www.mint.ca](http://www.mint.ca) and at over 6,500 participating Canada Post outlets. They are also available from the Royal Canadian Mint's global network of dealers and distributors.

**National Coin Design Contest**  
**The 2004 Canada Day 25-cent collector coin.**  
**(CANADANEWSWIRE**  
**PHOTO/Royal Canadian Mint)**



**11-year old Nick Wooster of Saanichton, BC, stands beside his winning design that appears on the Mint's annual collectible "Canada Day" 25-cent coin. Nick's design was chosen over 600 others from across Canada to become the Mint's official birthday present for Canada's anniversary. (CANADANEWSWIRE PHOTO/Royal Canadian Mint)**

## A STORY OF A TRUE COLLECTOR

Hubert Grimminck can remember the exact date on which he started to collect coins.

It was March 1, 1996. He had just run his pregnant wife Betsy to the hospital but it turned out to be false labour. The couple was expecting their first child and admittedly, a bit antsy about the ordeal.

"I couldn't sleep that night, so I cracked open a roll of pennies to pass the time away and hooked," Grimminck said.

It was an inexpensive yet entertaining pastime. Both were prerequisites passed down from childhood in Holland where Grimminck was one of 15 siblings. Cigar bands were a popular collectible and so was sitting on the side of the road recording licence plates on cars that infrequently passed by. "We'd compare notes with our buddies on the plates we saw. Cars were still a novelty then."

Nearly four decades later, the self-described "hoarder" has expanded his numismatic interests to include trade dollars, Canadian Tire money, Pioneer Bonus Bucks, world currencies and annual Royal Canadian Mint sets.

The mint collectibles are more for his four children and 13 grandchildren. Grimminck has built a set for each, beginning with their birth year issue and adding to each annually. He plans to continue this routine of charting each lifeline through coins until he dies.

In the Meantime, he's hoping to live long enough to see his own children generate an interest in numismatics.

"Right now, they're young and don't have time to devote to this hobby, yet." Said Grimminck.

They've been exposed to their dad's hobby all their lives. Even, while on the summertime cross-country journeys by car, coin searches infiltrated the holiday. In every stopover city or town, the first stop was always the local chamber of commerce or information booth where Grimminck would inevitably ask if any trade dollars were on hand.

The special edition coins are issued usually to honour a town or city's anniversary. Unique attributes and home-spun designs make them especially appealing to collectors.

After exploring every nook and cranny of the country three times with his family, Grimminck has amassed about 1,000 different trade dollars.

"My basic metals Canadian trade dollar collection is about 95% complete," he added.

The elusive ones are a 1975 silver jubilee Whitehorse, YK trade dollar and a Rimbey, AB no sleeve – a varietal coin in which one of the shaking hands is missing the wrist cuff.

Grimminck's successful quest for a trade dollar that hailed from Trail, BC came into his collection through the generosity of the local newspaper's editor.

The woman had helped him find it after Grimminck had made three visits there.

"She mailed it to me and it got to my house well before we did."

Since 1993 Grimminck has turned his attention to Canadian Tire money. It has become his main passion of late and is about 90% complete.

The collecting started after he saw a news clip that indicated the company was eliminating its gas bar versions leaving only the bills that were usable for store merchandise purchases.

At the time, true to my hoarding nature, I had wads of Canadian Tire money and when I flipped through what I had, I found a lot of interesting bills. The collection just snowballed from then on."

Building it up meant heading to his local franchise at Christmas time and on other special consumer-focused holidays to ask customers if they'd trade him cash for their Canadian Tire bills.

The intrigue and similarities are on par with Canadian currency, said Grimminck. There are 29 to 30 varieties to look for, several denominations, printed in the same manner with embossing and security features, and replacements are issued in the same manner with the numbers 9, 1 or an asterisk.

The company began issuing its own currency in 1958 with 5-, 10-, 25- and 50-cent values, as well as the \$1 bill.

The year 1962 would prove an ever-changing one. It started out with the denominations changed to 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-cent amounts. Then it changed back to the original values (5, 10, 25, 50 cents and \$1), but by year's end the count would run at intervals of five, beginning with 5- and running to 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, 35-, 40-, 45-, 50-, and 60 cent coupons. Having 11 denominations proved impractical because there wasn't enough room in the cash register tills to accommodate them all.

Except for a 3-cent bill brought on board in 1991, the company returned to the original run adding the \$2 bill in 1989. It has remained in the lineup since then. Multiplier coupons and products coupons came on the scene in 1989.

The only time coins were ever introduced was during the 20-year anniversary of the Quebec City, QC franchise's celebrations, as well as at another one in Winnipeg, MB.

Next year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club to which Grimminck belongs (he's also a member of the Canadian Numismatic Association, Ontario branch, and clubs in Chatham, Ingersoll, Sarnia, and Woodstock.

Grimminck is hoping to have his 40-by30-foot workshop in London, ON cleared out and temporarily converted into a mock Canadian Tire store by then. He wants to host a come-one-come-all swap meet in this setting.

It is because his collection is near completion that he has added Pioneer Bonus Bucks to his numismatic pastimes. And more recently, he's included international currencies in his hobby. Encased within custom designed wood frames handmade by the retired carpenter, he is organizing the world coins and bills by continent, as more of an educational tool for school children. He hopes to have all seven continents completed within the next two years.

I'd have to be really depressed to ever stop collecting," said Grimminck.

He also has no idea about the dollar value of his collection.

If I did, I'd probably be too scared of it, wouldn't enjoy it and would worry about it all the time."

For now, he's contented to wait for one of his children or grandchildren to share in his love of numismatics.

Written by Melanie Cummings for Canadian Coin News.



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**The 1865 SS Republic Shipwreck Coins**  
*A history-making collection of Civil War Era*  
*U.S. silver coins released!*

Some 138 years ago, the steam-driven paddle wheeler the SS Republic was trapped in a fierce hurricane off the coast of Georgia. After two days, the passengers and crew were saved, but the entire treasure ship, including thousands of U.S. silver and gold coins, sunk to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. And late last year, the crew of the famed ocean exploration ship, the Odyssey, found the historic SS Republic shipwreck using advanced technology and remote control robots.

Using state-of-the-art side sonar technology, a remote mini-sub, and their extraordinary experience in recent shipwreck finds they located the SS Republic. Along with the ship, they found an unmatched collection of U.S. coins minted from the 1840's through 1865.

Such a wide variety of rare coins and artifacts has been documented and recovered that many experts have declared this to be one of the most valuable and historically significant archeological finds of our generation.

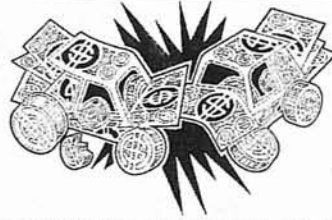
Aboard the S.S. Republic were thousands of coins. A few were exceptionally rare, high quality Pre-Civil War Era gold coins. Many of these U.S. coins were never known to exist in such superb, mint condition until they were recovered from the ocean floor and their surfaces carefully conserved removing all traces of time.



The majority of the coins visible at the shipwreck site were gold, but the find of a variety of the silver coins, in particular Scated Liberty Half Dollars dating from the 1840's to 1861 was a thrilling surprise. Many of the silver coins were reported to be in such fine condition that you could actually still see the original mint luster on the surface of each coin. Many of the gold coins exhibited a slight dark, yellow film that rinsed away easily, revealing amazingly beautiful, uncirculated coin surfaces beneath.

The SS Republic shipwreck site offers a historic "time capsule" that is a rare glimpse into one of the most fascinating periods of American history, the Post-Civil War Era.

Little of the ship's hull remains, yet the rudder, parts of the paddlewheels, and steam engine are left relatively intact. Thousands of artifacts have emerged in wonderful condition—including the ship's bell, shoes, clothing, jars of pickled fruit in addition to one of the richest shipwreck cargoes of coins ever recovered.



## THE AUTOMOBILE DOLLAR

by *Ed Reiter*

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-che'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-chen," 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 believed 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 the motor car as its centerpiece. The car it features is a closed 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 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 was sold at auction recently by Stack's in New York. All things considered, owning one of these coins could pose quite a problem for someone who's superstitious. Knowing the history, he would never carry it as a "lucky dollar". Yet, knowing its value, he wouldn't want to throw it down a well.

*Article contributed by Ingersoll Coin Club*



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