



ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 45
November/December 2004
Pages 102 - 117

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION ISSN 0048-1815

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President's Message

At this time I would like to welcome our newest coin club being "Leamington" the President is Larry Verbeke, the ONA executive and myself look forward to working with you and assisting in any way we can, welcome aboard.

In review of the past year we try to look both ways, forward and backwards. We review the events of the past year and give thanks for our successes and give due credit to those who deserve it, be it family, friends or co-workers. I know I have a great deal of people to thank this past year for assisting me as president to carry on. I truly love the numismatic hobby and all facets of collecting, but meeting with new fellow members and learning of new ways to improve the hobby always has my attention. So please do write your comments, suggestions and concerns to our editor Richard Johnson or to myself.

It's Renewal Time for 2005

Just a friendly reminder to let you all know its time to renew your O.N.A. membership for the coming year.

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Tenders

To all interested auctioneers the O.N.A. are inviting you to tender for the 2005 Convention held April 16th, 05 in Sudbury hosted by the Nickel Belt Coin Club

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From the O.N.A. Executive

We would like at this time to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and hope that 2005 will be a year of Good Health, Good Fortune and Good Times.

NOTE:

May we all, whatever our position collectively and co-operatively, lend our time, talent and ability that Numismatics may continue to be the "GREATEST HOBBY".

A Humorous Definition of Money

Workers earn it.
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Taxes take it.
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Heirs receive it.
Thrifty save it.
Misers crave it.
Robbers seize it.
Rich increase it.
Gamblers lose it.
I could use it.
Submitted by Lois Rogers

Membership Report

The applications for membership which appeared in the September/October issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted. We welcome Kierra Gibson, James Antonio & the Kingston Coin & Currency Club.

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

J1830 Paul Stevens, Garden Village, Ontario
J1831 Thomas Stevens, Garden Village, Ontario
C124 Leamington & District Coin Club, Leamington, Ontario

Bruce Raszmann,
ONA Membership Chair

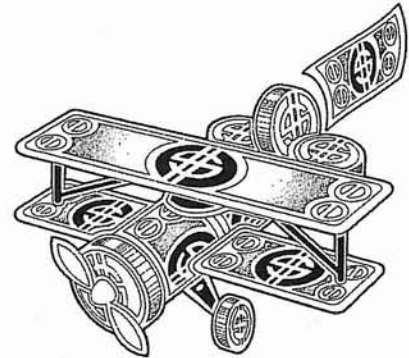
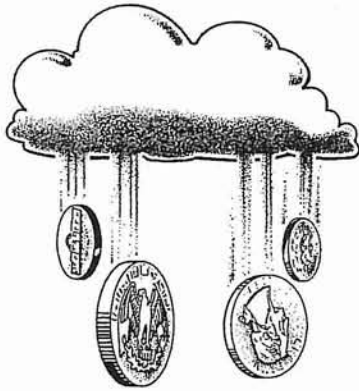
From The Editor

Here is my second volume. Thanks to all who submitted articles for this issue. I also appreciate the number of newsletters that have come my way already. Two of the best so far came from the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club and the South Wellington Coin Society. I will glean whatever information I can from every bulletin that I feel will be of interest or use to other clubs and ONA members. This information will be found in a new section called **Club Reports**.

Thanks everyone! Keep the material coming.

Rick Johnson
ONA Bulletin, Editor

UPCOMING SHOWS



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. 14, Windsor

The Windsor Coin Club will hold its 53rd Annual Fall Show at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue, Windsor, Ontario. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission of \$1 includes draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize. Juniors are admitted free. Lots of free parking. For more information contact Margaret Clarke at (519) 735-0727 or email: mclarke@wincom.net.

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.

2005

Jan. 28-30, Hamilton

7th Annual CAND Show, Howard Johnson Royal Connaught Hotel, 112 King St. E.

Mar. 19, Cambridge

The 14th Annual Cambridge Coin show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Road, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Over 40 Tables, of Coins, Tokens, Paper Money, Trade Dollars, Militaria, CTC Coupons. Free Admission. Directions: From 401, take Hwy 24 (Hespeler Rd.) South to Dunbar Rd. (3 km - 8 traffic lights) & turn left, 2nd Building RH. For more information, contact: Wolfe at wolfed@sympatico.ca

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.

Mint Issues Commemorative Silver Dollar

This 2004 Silver Dollar commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement in North America (1604-2004).

Designed by Canadian artist Robert-Ralph Carmichael, the coin depicts a 17th century ship and Champlain's drawing of the island settlement. The obverse features the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by Susanna Blunt.

"As Canadians prepare to celebrate the establishment of the first French settlement in the New World, this coin will serve as a lasting reminder of the significant contribution of the region's Acadian community to Canada's rich culture and history," said the Honourable Stan Keyes, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Sport).

"The Acadian people make up an integral part of the vibrancy of New Brunswick," said The Honourable Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

"I believe this coin represents the successes – and the struggles – of all Acadians. My hope is that it serves to educate Canadians about this important anniversary, and all we have achieved since 1604."

Sainte-Croix lies in a river that serves as a natural border between New Brunswick and Maine, it is a modest island that yielded significant influence on North American history. Founded in June of 1604 as Île Sainte-Croix by Samuel de Champlain and

Pierre du Gua, sieur de Monts, it was home to the first settlement that France established in order to claim its rights to this region of the New World.

By late September, the settlement was built just in time for the snow that began to fall a few days later. The river quickly filled with ice floes, cutting the colony off from the mainland. They were

surrounded by salt water, with very little food or firewood for heat. When spring finally arrived, only 44 of the original 79 men remained alive. The settlement was relocated, but the historic impact of this small island would endure for centuries to come.

"The Mint takes great pride in commemorating unique moments in Canadian history," said David C. Dingwall, President and C.E.O. of the Royal Canadian Mint. "We are proud to offer a stunning design for the 2004 Silver Dollar that celebrates the epic pursuit of the New World."

"I am pleased with the decision of the Royal Canadian Mint to commemorate the historic 400th anniversary of the first French

settlement in North America in a very special way," said Percy Mockler, Minister of Intergovernmental and International Relations and the Minister responsible for the 2004 Celebrations.

"The Celebrations provide an excellent opportunity for each and every one of us to rediscover the cultural wealth of New Brunswick and all of Canada."



2004 - 1604 Silver dollar - proof / reverse

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Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company

By Barry Uman

One of the most beautiful and rare Canadian transportation tokens is the one for the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company. It is not listed in Breton's, "Popular Illustrated Guide to Canadian Coins, Medals, etc.", but is listed as no. 1072g in Leroux's, "The Canadian Coin Cabinet". It is also listed in Atwood-Coffee Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens as Ontario 675A and is the only horsecar token issued in Canada. It is made of brass, round and is 25mm wide.

**Ottawa City / Passenger / Railway / Company
Good For / [horsecar] / One Fare**

The Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company was incorporated on August 15, 1866. It operated from July 21, 1870 to June 1, 1894. It operated on a single 6.5 km line from the Chaudiere Bridge [which crosses the Ottawa River to Hull, Quebec] past the Parliament buildings through Lower Town to New Edinburgh. The company had 10 horse drawn streetcars, 15 sleighs and 10 omnibuses. The summer trip took 15 minutes. The omnibuses were used in the spring and autumn when the mud made the track impassable. The sleighs were



used only on the frozen roads. It was amalgamated with the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company on March 26, 1894 and was renamed the Ottawa Electric Railway Company which ran from June 1, 1894 to August 13, 1948. The first electric streetcar operated on Sparks Street only on July 26, 1893. The token is made of brass and is round with a diameter of 25mm. It was probably struck by Pritchard and Andrews, a well known Ottawa manufacturer of quality tokens and medals. The quantity struck is unknown but probably did not exceed a few hundred tokens due to the small operation and limited market. It can now be considered a very scarce, hard to find token and it rarely appears on the market.

References

1. "The Atwood-Coffee Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens", by John M. Coffee Jr. and Harold V. Ford, 5th edition, 1996.
2. "Transit History of Ottawa", taken from the internet compiled by David A. Wyatt.
3. Various information extracted from the, "C. Robert Craiq Memorial Library", Ottawa, Ontario from David Knowles, Librarian.

Mint Unveils 25th Anniversary Gold Maple Leaf



The Royal Canadian Mint unveils a special 25 anniversary commemorative design for its iconic Gold Maple Leaf bullion coin, unveiled on August 18 at the 2004 World's Fair of Money. Left to right are the Royal Canadian Mint's President and C.E.O. Mr. David C. Dingwall, Barrick Gold Corporation Founder and Chairman, Mr. Peter Munk and the A.N.A. Executive Director, Mr. Christopher Cipoletti.

PITTSBURGH, PA - The Royal Canadian Mint today unveiled a special commemorative design for its iconic Gold Maple Leaf bullion coin, in celebration of 25 years as a world leader in bullion production. The unveiling took place at a special reception held during the World's Fair of Money in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Royal Canadian Mint's President and C.E.O. David C. Dingwall co-hosted the event with Barrick Gold Corporation Founder and Chairman Peter Munk. Attending the event were representatives from the international mint community, American Numismatic Association, and coin and currency dealers as well as distributors.

"The Mint's Gold Maple Leaf coin has assumed a great degree of significance within the global bullion market," said Mr. Dingwall.

"Our introduction of the purest gold bullion product took the investment world by storm, setting the standard in 1979, selling more than 18 million troy ounces, and continuing to serve as a benchmark for bullion."

Peter Munk Chairman of Barrick Gold Corporation agreed. "Canadian gold is a valued commodity among the discerning gold investor," he said. "The Royal Canadian Mint has ably demonstrated the importance of quality on the world bullion markets, with over 25 successful years in the bullion coin business and nearly a century in the refinery business."

Designed by Royal Canadian Mint Chief Engraver Cosme Saffioti, the 2004 design features a laureate wreath of maple leaves surrounding a single maple leaf. Mintage is limited to 10,000 world-wide.

Made of 99.99% pure gold, Gold Maple Leaf coins come in five sizes ranging from 1 oz. to 1/20 oz. The Royal Canadian Mint was the first world mint to commercially produce 99.99% pure gold bullion coins in 1982, generating instant recognition for the Gold Maple Leaf. It remains the most well-recognized and sought after bullion coin on the market today.

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Message From The Audio/Visual Lending Library

Ken Koch has submitted the following list of Library materials that have been lent out and not returned. These have all been out for at least six months. Ken is asking that all clubs check their storage areas or coin drawers to see if any of these items are in your possession. Please contact Ken if any of these are found. His contact information is on page 2 of the bulletin.

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DATE LAST OUT
V-026-A VCR	Collecting Credit Cards	May-05-2003
V-014-A VCR	Dora De Pedery-Hunt - Hear early Years	Apr-17-2004
V-034-A VCR	The life of Emanuel Hahn	Apr-17-2004
V-042-B VCR	Coin Process and Mint Errors	Apr-17-2004
V-047-A VCR	Treasure: The Money Pit of Oak Island	Apr-17-2004
V-007-A VCR	The Money Man	Apr-13-2003
S-028-A SLIDE	Newfoundland Coinage	May-05-1999
*B-6 SLIDE	Not Known	1980's

*This Program was lost long before I took over

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**Friday, Nov. 19 • 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 20 • 9:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 21 • 9:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

Admission \$4.00

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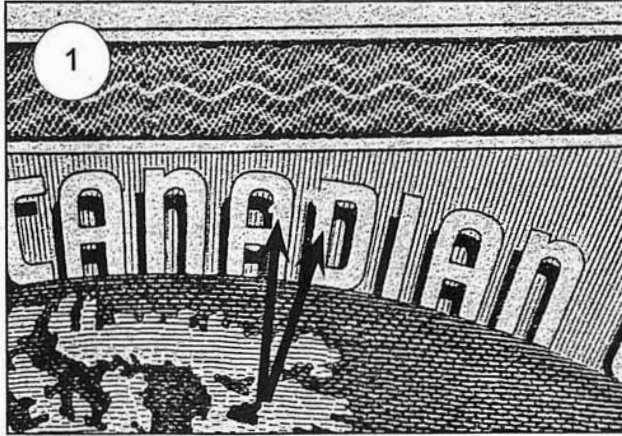
For show information call 1-866-747-COIN (2646) or email teds.s.w.o.n.22@sympatico.ca

Boomerang Gas Bar Variety

by Don Bradt

One of the more prolific varieties to be found on 10¢ Gas Bar coupons is the Boomerang variety (bbo). It is found on the back of 10¢ coupons in the CTC 7 and CTC 8 series. This variety is comprised of two white blobs which, looked at together, have roughly the same shape as a boomerang. See Figure 1. This variety is quite common, so that anyone

with a few coupons probably has some. It occurs in the series CTC 7-B, B1, B2 and CTC 8-B, B1, B2. There is a variation of this variety on CTC 7-B2 coupons that have a green blob the size of a planchet under the left corner of the boomerang as shown in Figure 2. I have found this variety with serial numbers T0977xxx and T0978xxx, so it's a bit hard to find.



While you're looking for this variety, you might as well check your CTC 7-B1 coupons for another glitch in the same "A". See Figure 3. Also while looking through your CTC 8-B coupons, check for a red spot in the same area (brs2) as shown in Figure 4. There is also a white line that moves

around on some Boomerang CTC 7-B2 coupons in the T0078xxx and T0079xxx range. See Figure 5. Also, while you're in the neighbourhood, check out Figure 6 (brs10). "rs" stands for Ray Spot.



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The Weinmans: Arbiters of Taste in U.S. Coinage

By Ed Reiter

If Augustus Saint-Gaudens was the gold standard for U.S. coinage artistry, Adolph Alexander Weinman was surely the silver standard.

Weinman designed two silver coins that tower above all others issued in that metal by the United States Mint: the Winged Liberty (or "Mercury") dime and the Walking Liberty half dollar. Both were winners in a limited coin design competition staged by the U.S. Treasury in 1915, and both have remained winners ever since with collectors and connoisseurs of U.S. coinage art.

That contest and those coins both seem far ago, but Weinman's artistic legacy endured in flesh and blood until very recently: His son Robert, born by serendipity in that same year of 1915, died on Sept. 7, 2003, after a life similarly devoted to lofty artistic pursuits.

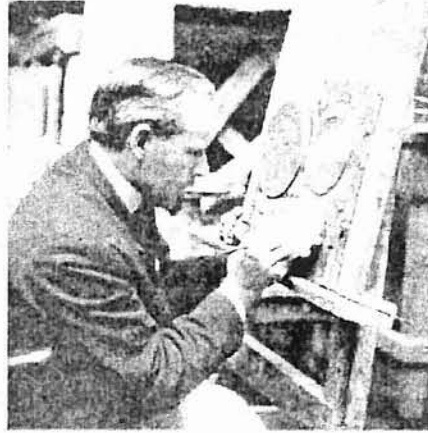
Robert Weinman, like his father, gained acclaim as a sculptor and medalist – and like his father, he left a mark, though admittedly a smaller one, on U.S. coinage art: He served as chairman of the judging panel that chose the special designs for the three Bicentennial coins of 1975-76.

Shortly after the Bicentennial contest in 1974, I visited Bob Weinman at his rustic studio in an outbuilding of his home in Bedford, N.Y., and interviewed him in depth about both the contest and his memories of his father. His responses were frank and insightful. It was, in fact, quite possibly the most intriguing interview I have ever conducted as a numismatic writer.

My immediate objective was to get Weinman's views on the entries and the winners in the Bicentennial contest – and his bluntness startled me.

"I really don't think what we got was a great bargain," Weinman remarked. "Nothing we selected was a real winner I'd fight to the death for. In terms of what we had to work with, though, I think we did the best we could."

The judges had been confronted with nearly 900 entries – and since the contest was open to all Americans, many of them came from rank amateurs, including young children. They featured such preposterous themes as President Richard Nixon (the man in the White House at the time) talking with Henry Kissinger on the telephone, hula dancers swaying to and fro, and various people and animals on the Moon. There was even one design depicting the



nation – presumably 200 years earlier – as a fetus inside its mother's womb

"An easy 500 just weren't worth wasting anybody's time," Weinman told me, "and even among the better ones, it was a struggle. I think naively I was hoping for a half dozen to really grab me by the lapels and say, 'This is it, take me home.' I was a little surprised the sculptors hadn't done better."

Then again, there were precious few sculptors – or professional artists of any type – among the entrants. Most were either busy with other commissions (the Bicentennial being a busy time for medallistic artists) or just didn't consider the creative effort worthwhile

because of the open nature and uncertainty of the contest.

The eventual winners were Jack Ahr, whose Colonial drummer boy appeared on the Bicentennial quarter; Seth Huntington, whose portrait of Independence Hall graced the half dollar, and Dennis Williams, whose depiction of the Liberty Bell superimposed on the Moon won a place on the Eisenhower dollar.

In retrospect, all three designs have stood the test of time rather well – and all look far more like "winners" today than most of the 50-state quarters are likely to look artistically 30 years from now.

Robert Weinman wasn't a crusader for upgrading coinage art, but he was plain-spoken when asked for his opinion on the subject.

"The current U.S. coin designs leave much to be desired," he told me in that interview three decades ago. "It's kind of pathetic that such an allegedly great nation is satisfied with such positively lousy coinage."

Weinman saw merit in some of the current designs; for instance, he liked the portraits of Thomas Jefferson on the nickel and John F. Kennedy on the half dollar. For the most part, however, he found U.S. coins static – even stagnant – as works of art. And he saw two principal reasons: the Treasury's reluctance to change designs and its practice in recent decades – with the notable exception of the Bicentennial contest – of excluding outside sculptors on the all-too-infrequent occasions when new designs do come along.

"The problem is an old one," he observed. "It goes back, I suppose, to the days of Charles Barber, when he was Mint engraver and President Teddy Roosevelt called on Augustus Saint-Gaudens to...

Continued on next page.

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Continued... The Weinmans

Continued from previous page... model U.S. coins on the Greek classics. Objections were raised from the start: The coins wouldn't stack, they wore too rapidly, and so forth. The aesthetes lost that round to the technicians, and we've had an uphill battle ever since." Weinman's most fascinating comments concerned his famous father. It was clear that he had been in awe of "the old man" while growing up, and that a sort of love-hate relationship existed between the pair.

Life with their German-born father wasn't always easy for young Bob Weinman and his two older siblings, brother Howard and sister Katherine.

"As a parent... if he didn't like the way you were obeying the rules, why, he'd set up a new set of rules. Right or wrong, you couldn't win. He was always right.

"I always had the feeling we were poor, because to get a nickel out of that guy for an ice cream cone or a movie, you had to take so much guff. I thought, 'Jeez, we must be starving.' He certainly had me cowed. In fact, it wasn't until I went in the Army in 1942

that I finally began to realize, 'Hey, I don't have two heads after all. The world isn't that complicated and I'm not innately bad.' It took one Adolf [Hitler] to get me over the other Adolph."

Young Weinman encountered the same kind of attitude when he worked in his father's studio as an apprentice. "For the client, nothing was too good; for the employee, *everything* was too good. And as far as the family was concerned, that varied with the barometric pressure."

He hastened to add, however, that A.A. Weinman had positive qualities, too – and not just his unquestioned gift for turning out superior works of art.

"Dad was a tower of ethical strength," he exclaimed. "As far as honesty goes, he was strictly beyond reproach. If he were judging art works, or serving on a committee to select a portrait statue for East Dubuque, Iowa, or the like, he would do impeccably.

"He also was very generous to young artists. And that wasn't always the case with other leading figures in the field. It always seemed to me that if [James Earle] Fraser,

for example, had six years' work in the studio and another job came in, he'd take it – and six years later, it might come out of the studio. But Adolph would parcel it out to one of the younger men, so they could earn while they learned."

For all the adulation his coin designs have received over the years, Adolph Weinman never seemed overly impressed with them, his son recalled.

"He never really spoke about the coins, nor did he particularly save them," Robert Weinman said. "I think he was very satisfied with what he had done; I had the feeling that he was very pleased to have done it. But, from his standpoint, it was just another job – and to a workaholic like him, it was always the next job that was really pressing."

According to Bob Weinman, his father preferred to work on larger-scale projects and thought of himself primarily as an architectural sculptor.

"One time," he told me, "one of Dad's students said she had studied with 'Adolph Weinman, the medalist.' When he heard about it, he was furious. 'Medalist!' he thundered. 'I'm no medalist!'"

There are striking similarities between the striding figure of Liberty on the Walking Liberty half dollar and the French coinage figure of the "Sower" fashioned a few years earlier by Louis Oscar Roty. Some have suggested that A.A. Weinman used the earlier

coin as a model – and they didn't get much of an argument from his son.

"I never heard of that or associated it until somewhere in the last decade," the younger Weinman told me in 1974, "and it certainly did strike a responsive chord. You know, they seem to be cousins. As to whether Dad actually used it, I can't answer. The only thing I *can* say is that oftentimes, I think, an artist is guiltless in such situations. He may see something in 1897 that strikes his fancy, and all of a sudden it pops up unannounced two decades later. Is it a steal? Has it been cooking in his subconscious? It's hard to say. They're *close*, certainly, but I do think the Walking Liberty is distinctly American in appearance."

Robert Weinman himself had few reservations about the artistic quality of his father's two coins.

"The Liberty Head on the dime would have benefited, I think, by being a little softer in its treatment of the neck," he observed. "It's a little too bolt-upright – hence, I think, too masculine. But everybody should make mistakes like that! As for the 50-cent piece, I have absolutely no quarrel. I feel that A.A. did handsomely by both sides. For handling all the elements in the design, it can't be beaten, I feel."

Weinman regarded the dime's reverse as "a startling instance of the triumph of such an intangible thing as taste."

"It seems to me," he said, "all the elements on that reverse have dignity – and, if you will, niceness – whereas on the back of the Roosevelt dime, the torch kind of looks like an ice cream cone. It's just the difference, I think, between a finer talent and a lesser talent."

To the best of his son's knowledge, A.A. Weinman never made a point of setting aside examples of his coins.

"After Dad's death in 1952, we found a couple of verdigrised 50-cent pieces in one of the desk drawers at his studio, but that was about it," he related. "The only real collection he had was a set of his Liberty dimes, which a neighbor had given him a few years earlier – possibly for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary in 1948."

In a number of important respects, Robert Weinman's career paralleled that of his father. A.A. Weinman served as president of the National Sculpture Society for three years; so did his son. In 1920, the American Numismatic Society honored the elder Weinman with its J. Sanford Saltus Award for distinction in the field of medallion art; in 1964, it similarly honored his son.

Still, Adolph Weinman cast a long shadow – and even near the end of his long and distinguished career, Robert Weinman found himself dealing with a sort of identity crisis. That, in fact, prompted him to decline an invitation to take part in the contest aimed at obtaining designs for the 1988 U.S. commemorative coins honoring that year's Olympians.

"There's too much of an old-man bugaboo about that whole coin thing," he said. "Dad did so well. And it's like too much of my life, where everybody's saying, 'Oh, he's been there first.'"

"He's a tough act to follow."

In terms of artistic achievement, A.A. Weinman was indeed a tough act for *anyone* – let alone his own son – to follow. His two exceptional coins have only grown in stature as masterworks of numismatic art. In his own way, however, Robert Weinman practiced and perpetuated the same dedication to excellence as his father. And he made his own enduring mark despite his father's shadow.

Between them, they have left a remarkable legacy.

Challenge Coins

By Melanie Cummings
Canadian Coin News

By day, Chris Boyer is a schoolteacher in Waterloo, Ontario. After hours he's a typical numismatist, avidly searching out Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) material, among other coin interests. Scratch that. Boyer was a typical collector. He's just launched his own RCMP regimental coin, commonly called a "challenge" coin. It's a word that aptly describes Boyer and his success in taking an idea for a coin from conceptualization to manifestation.

All the hoops he's had to jump through and plentiful, time-consuming details to iron out have produced a 38 mm (one-inch) coin in either gold (on brass) or antiqued silver plated (on copper). The design was the easiest part. The reverse depicts a member of the RCMP Musical Ride on horseback, which is superimposed on a maple leaf with the founding date 1873 and fused letters MP. The obverse features the regimental crest of the RCMP. It illustrates a bison head, which is symbolic of the early Canadian west where the Canadian police force's roots begin. (Originally the RCMP was known as the Northwest Mounted Police).

The design also has the motto "Maintiens le Droit" (Uphold the Right), which has been used by the force from its early beginnings. Twelve maple leaves represent all the provinces and territories (except the newly formed Nunavut) and the crown is representational of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Below these images there is space to engrave a member's regimental number, thereby personalizing the coin. (Number 00001 was given to Boyer's dad who inspired his fascination for the RCMP and also supported this endeavor.)

In about 2002 a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed in Vancouver, BC introduced him to challenge coins. By their very nature, challenge coins are steeped in history.

They first appeared during the First World War and were only circulated among members of a regiment. The coin signified inclusion. The term challenge coin came about from the games of frivolity that come with ownership of these coins. One example of a friendly ultimatum involves a round of beverages as the wager. If one member isn't carrying their coin with them at the time, they are on the hook and must buy a round of drinks. But if everyone challenged does lay down their coins on the table, the challenger is

stuck with the bar bill.

Challenge coins are staggeringly popular in the U.S. "Virtually every branch and unit of the Armed forces have their own challenge coins as do many firefighters, police officers and paramedics," said Boyer.

They also continue to be popular among many Canadian military units, police and fire departments, although they're a bit more scarce here. Boyer's coin is the only one approved for release to the general public. "The RCMP regimental coin will appeal to serving and retired members of the Mounties and to collectors, as a graduation or retirement gift, or token of special recognition," he said.

And the challenge coin's club scene is about to gain mass appeal. Membership is bound to be varied and the challenges equally diverse perhaps. Boyer had 1,000 coins minted by Pressed Metal Products in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The process of getting this idea off the ground for Boyer proved just as compelling as collecting such coins.

First, he applied to the Mounted Police Foundation for licensing permission. "The application was so long and needed someone with heaps of experience in commerce," he said. He muddled through it successfully by leaning on his RCMP and numismatic knowledge.

Discussions with a lawyer for a company name search and the legalities associated with setting up a business, as well as meetings with bank managers who were sought out for a capital investment, followed. The

company name is The Coinman; a befitting moniker for Boyer considering he's long used it as his email address. "Sorting out the packaging was probably the biggest headache in retrospect," said Boyer. It appears that maxim about not judging books by their cover, is an untruth in the world of marketing. "The dilemma centred on attractively packaging the coin while still ensuring it would be sold at a reasonable cost," said Boyer. The end result is a color-coded box: a silver box for the silver coin, gold for the gold. A bilingual card is enclosed and the coin itself is tucked inside a small suede pouch with a drawstring. The pouch serves three purposes: it's attractive, easily carried and protects the coin.

Contact with dealers to sell the coins came next in the process. With the launch of his coin in early May, he erected a website to increase interest and sales, at www.coinman.ca. He's also busy hooking up with e-Bay and arranging advertising.

Boyer has come a long way from his boyhood fascination for the RCMP. It began with his dad who was head mechanic of "D" division Post Garage in Winnipeg, Manitoba for 38 years. "I often accompanied him to work and got to check out all the police cars," said Boyer. Before a career in teaching grabbed hold, Boyer tried his hand as a student police officer.

With this coin in the marketplace, and hopefully flooding it soon, Boyer has visions of subsequent challenge coins. For Boyer it's a new hat to don in the off hours when he's not teaching, collecting, and being a family man. It's one that he's thrilled to be wearing too.

For more information call (519) 884-4788, or write to P.O. Box 41006, 373 Bridge St. W., Waterloo, Ont., N2K 3K0.



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Club Reports

Lakeshore Coin Club, Pointe Claire, QC. The club has reinstated their "Member of the Year" Award. The recipient to be selected by a consensus of the Executive. The award is named after **Bob Pallen**.

South Wellington Coin Society, Rockwood, ON. The October bulletin had a great piece on the new \$20 bill. Included was a complete explanation of the various components. The feature was done with full colour graphics and included a pictorial history of Canadian bank notes in full colour. The editor is Dwayne Barnett-Ritcey (email: jackandjoey@sympatico.ca). He might be willing to email the material to interested parties.

Timmins Coin Club, Timmins, ON. Looks like they are getting excited about the ONA Convention in Sudbury next year. It's being referred to as the biggest coin show coming to Northern Ontario in 34 years.

St. Thomas Numismatic Association, St. Thomas, ON. The October meeting featured a 43 lot auction.

Kent Coin Club, Chatham, ON. At the October meeting President Lou Wagenaer gave members in attendance a 2004 USA Lewis & Clark Comm. 5 cent coin.

Nickel Belt Coin Club, Sudbury, ON. Everyone is getting geared up for the ONA Convention. The club will be 50 years old in 2006. In January, 1975 they were the largest club in Canada with 122 members. These folks had a 66 item auction in October.

Waterloo Coin Society, Waterloo, ON. The club will be holding its 500th meeting in December. To encourage prompt payment of annual dues they enter everyone who pays before December 31 into a draw for a 1/20th ounce gold coin.

Ingersoll Coin Club, Ingersoll, ON. The October Bulletin featured articles on shinplasters and the US 2 cent piece.

Woodstock Coin Club, Woodstock, ON. The club is doing some great work to promote junior Collectors into the hobby. They are working with the CNA to develop "An Introductory coin course" which will be available as a correspondence course.

Stratford Coin Club, Stratford, ON. The club hosts a Christmas Party each December that features a chicken dinner, games and prizes. It is free to all members and guests. They also contribute a cash donation towards the local Christmas Hamper Campaign.

The Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club. Their bulletin comes out four times a year. It contains some great material, one of which can be found in this bulletin. You can contact Jerome Fourre by email at jayfourre@videotron.ca for more information.

Send your club newsletter and important news to the Ontario Numismatist c/o Rick Johnson at inside@primus.ca.

Funnies

Letter from an Irish mother to her son overseas.

Dear Son;

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. You won't know the house when you get home--- we have moved.

About your father, he has a lovely new job. He has 500 men under him. He cuts grass at the Vet's Cemetery.

There was a washing machine at the new house when we moved in, but it hasn't been working too good. Last week I put in 14 shirts, pulled the chain, and haven't seen the shirts since.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning, but I haven't found out whether it is a boy or a girl, so I don't know if you are an uncle or an aunt.

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Dublin brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.

Q: I have two Canadian coins that have a total amount of 30 cents and one of them is not a nickel.

A: The one that isn't a nickel is a quarter and the other is a nickel.

I went to the doctor on Thursday and your Father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for 20 minutes, your father offered to buy it from him.

It rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday it was so windy that one of the chickens laid the same egg four times. We had a letter from the undertaker yesterday. He said if we didn't pay the next instalment on Grandma's plot, up she comes.

Well, goodbye for now Son. I would have put \$10.00 in this letter but the envelope was already sealed.

Love,
Mother

Submitted by Oshawa & District Coin Club

Q. You have a match and you go into a house and there is an oil lamp a stove and a fire place all ready to be started... what do you light first?

A. The Match!

How Enamelled Coins Are Made

By Len Buth

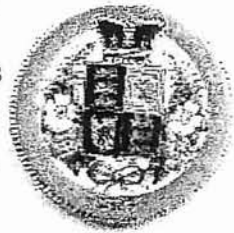
London Numismatic Society

"In the course of preparing my presentation to the London Numismatic Society on *Coins as Tools, Jewelry & Other Uses*, I became curious how enamelled coins were made. The only data I was able to locate was an internet web site known as World Collectors Net Magazine, found at www.worldcollectorsnet.com/magazine (out of the UK) which in their April 1999 magazine had the article that follows below. I thought other members would find this interesting."

A Short History of Enamelled Coins

by I W Chick

There seems to be a little confusion as to the origin of enamelled coins, and the subsequent artists who created and designed them. The craft sprang from the Victorian love of unusual jewellery. Enamel buttons were popular, and the skills of enamelling could be transferred to coins. Being decorative and not functional, these could feature elaborate designs. The main year of production was 1887, Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee "The magic year of enamelling". The year saw a huge growth in the demand and production for Royal memorabilia.



The majority of enamelled coins are based on the existing design of the original coin. The first task in the production process was to take out all the background of the coin, leaving the letters and pattern in. In some cases the letters and design were even removed. The enamel was then applied in layers, fired and then ground down to enable the colours to come through in varying shades. This process was often done in more than one stage to enable the intricate colours and painted effect to be perfected.



It was most usual to enamel on just one side of the coin, but some coins are enamelled on both sides. These are considerably rarer, and leaves the question: How did they get the enamel to flow on the second side without the first side dropping off? As it was assumed that all enamel would fuse at about the same temperature. The art has now disappeared, so we cannot answer this question.

Popular designs included leaves and flower, coats of arms, Britannia and of course Queen Victoria. In some the bust of the monarch are completely removed and replaced in enamels. The coin pictured top right by an unknown designer features many of the popular designs in one coin. The rarest enamel coins are those of gold. Few examples can be seen today, and those that do exist are mainly made from dated sovereigns.



Two of the finest coin enamellers were William Henry Probert and the Steel family. The earliest enamelled coins were thought to have been produced by William Henry Probert in his Birmingham workshop. His initial designs were very plain with no more than three colours used. However, the coins were expertly engraved. As the coins became more popular his designs became more colourful and elaborate. Pictured above left is an early coin by William Henry Probert.

Edward Steele, was a well known engraver and enameller, who started a venture in his own name designing enamelled coins. His son Edwin and later Edwin's son Henry carried on the business of manufacturing coin jewellery. Edwin's enamel coins are thought to be the finest, with engraving under the enamel to enable light to filter through the enamel. This created superb variations to the reflections. Pictured above right is an enamelled coin featuring Queen Victoria by Edwin Steel.

Convention Medal Design
2005 Sudbury

Designed by Gerry and Roland Albert of the Nickel Belt Coin Club. Gerry is the current President and Roland is the Past President. The design depicts the Big Nickel Mine with a mining train in the foreground.





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