



# ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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www.ontario-numismatic.org

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## President's Message

Here we stand on the doorstep of yet another numismatic season. Those clubs that took a break for the summer months, as well as those that enjoyed meetings during the warm weather, will all be organizing meeting space, planning their programs and generally getting back into their familiar cycles. I have often observed that September is far more a time of fresh starts than is January 1... New Year's is an interruption and break from activities that are already going on.

In this spirit of fresh starts, my message to you is about some changes coming to this Association. Change certainly is necessary, and this is evident to those members who attended and paid close attention to the financial reports at our Annual General Meetings in 2011 and 2012.

Over these past two years we have depleted 13% of our financial reserves. The challenge we now face is to stop this bleeding, reverse it, and return the Association to financial health.

At a major meeting of your O.N.A. executive, held in mid-August at the annual Paris S.W.O.N. show, there was some very good discussion of our financial situation. A set of six positive and aggressively responsive actions was agreed to unanimously. I extend a thank you to Ted Bailey for providing the space for us to meet and to the members of the executive who participated at the meeting.

### HERE ARE THE DETAILS OF THE SIX ACTION ITEMS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

1. Effective immediately we have stopped the practice of issuing executive honorariums in favour of reimbursement of legitimate business expenses, returning the O.N.A. to a purely volunteer organization.
2. At the 2012 Annual General Meeting Brent Mackie, our Treasurer, recommended that a budget-setting exercise be undertaken for 2013 and that a chartered accountant perform a review of the Association's books, as is the practice of the R.C.N.A. This will be implemented.
3. Due to continually increasing costs, we find it necessary to raise membership rates in each category by \$5 per year. This will primarily offset increased production costs of the Ontario Numismatist. This is the first increase in 15 years and there have been several jumps in postal rates

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**Mr. Bruce H. Raszmann, 1934 – 2011**

*Bruce served this Association for nearly 50 years. His exemplary administrative service will long be remembered.*

**Mr. Tom Rogers, 1942 – 2012**

*Tom was the Association's Immediate Past President, serving as President from 2003–2009.*

**APPOINTED COMMITTEE**

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webmaster@ontario-numismatist.org

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Regular Membership	- \$ 15.00
Husband & Wife (1 Journal)	- \$ 17.00
Junior (up to age 18)	- \$ 5.00
Club Membership	- \$ 20.00
Life Membership†	- \$ 450.00

† Life memberships are applicable only after one year of regular membership

Send money-order or cheque (payable to the ONA) for membership to:

Brent W. J. Mackie, ONA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 40033, RPO Waterloo Square,  
Waterloo, ON, N2J 4V1

during this time! However, to give members the option of staying with existing rates, we are introducing a new “Digital Membership” level for those who prefer to receive their Ontario Numismatist by download from our website. (See the membership rates announcement elsewhere in this issue for detailed information.)

4. Many of our members fall into the Life category. These members won't be affected by these changes. Individuals seeking a new Life Membership also have an available “Digital Membership” option to reduce their cost.

5. The Club Insurance premiums are increased by \$10, meaning the amounts are \$100 if paid by November 1, or \$120 if paid after this date. The O.N.A. continues to subsidize this program to the sum of about \$400 per year.

6. The O.N.A. is now pursuing incorporation as a non-profit organization. This will allow the Association to take legal ownership of all its assets. As it is now, individuals own the assets on behalf of the Association.

After having a banner year with the success of our Good as Gold draw in 2012, I must inform you that some legal problems have cropped up and that all plans for a draw at our 2013 convention are currently on hold and under review. The draw was a source of revenue to both O.N.A. member clubs and to the O.N.A. itself. Robb McPherson is continuing to investigate the possibilities for a draw, but there are currently no prospects of a definite plan. It was Ken Wilmot who first introduced the draw in March of 1980 and then it took on the familiar “Dream Vacation” format in 1984. We hope that our very successful 2012 Good As Gold draw is not the end of the line, but we will just have to see.

So, there you have it. Changes are coming; the executive and myself hope you understand that they are both necessary and reasonable. I have the support of the O.N.A. executive. I do hope that the O.N.A. can count on your continued support as well.

Until next time,

*Paul Petch*  
ONA President

[ p.petch@rogers.com; 416-303-4417 ]



## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 40033,  
RPO Waterloo Square  
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4V1



Richard Johnson – Editor  
Ontario Numismatist

August 29, 2012

Dear Richard:

Membership

The applications for membership that appeared in the July- August 2012 issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

We welcome:

J2091 Emily Tsui, Toronto, Ontario  
2092 Derek McClean, Thorndale, Ontario

The following application has been received.

2093 Robert George Baglier, Toronto, Ontario

David Bawcutt  
Membership Chairman ONA

### *Numismatic Donations Solicited — for Young Numismatists*

*Better quality items to be used for  
youth events at the 2013 O.N.A. and  
R.C.N.A. Conventions*

*Please contact the undersigned, or send donations to:*

**Mr. Chris Boyer,**  
c/o Franklin Public School  
371 Franklin Street North,  
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*Email: [coinman@sympatico.ca](mailto:coinman@sympatico.ca)  
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# ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Announces Rate Increases

Hello, everyone...

In my President's Message I mention that due to continually increasing costs over the past 15 years it has become necessary for your Association to raise its annual membership fees, in each category, by \$5 per year. This will primarily offset increased production costs of the Ontario Numismatist. However, we are sensitive to our members' personal budgets and have given members the option of staying with existing rates by introducing a new "Digital Membership" level for those who prefer to receive their Ontario Numismatist by download from our website.

Paul Petch

## Annual membership fees (Canadian funds):

Type	Digital	Regular
Regular Member	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00
Couple (one journal)	\$ 17.00	\$ 22.00
Junior* (up to age 18) - renewal	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00
Lifetime Membership (subject to ONA by-laws)	\$ 450.00	\$ 600.00
Club Membership†	n/a	\$30.00

\* Junior (up to age 18) - Albert Kasman Junior Scholarship -- for the first year of junior membership (based on calendar year). Through the generosity of Albert Kasman, F.O.N.A., the first year of junior (up to age 18) membership is covered by scholarship paid directly to the ONA.

† For clubs who renew membership prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> the early-bird rate of \$25.00 applies.

## YOUNG NUMISMATISTS' ESSAY CONTEST AND FREE WEBSITE HOSTING FOR COIN CLUBS

BY RICK JOHNSON

In the last issue of Ontario Numismatist the existence of an essay contest for young numismatists was brought to light thanks to Robb McPherson. The contest is sponsored by Heritage Auctions of the United States but is open to young Canadians as well. Quarterly winners are announced and the contest is ongoing. In the most recent quarter a Canadian entry received honourable mention. E-mail [Korver@HA.com](mailto:Korver@HA.com) for information or to submit an essay. Many of the essay submissions to date can be viewed at <http://coins.ha.com/c/content.zx?content=ynessay>

Heritage Auctions has also just announced that they are offering free website hosting for coin clubs. The details of this interesting initiative can be found at the following link: <http://thecollectingcommunity.com>.

We would like to thank Heritage Auctions for their efforts in promoting the numismatic hobby.

# COMING EVENTS

## **SEPT. 9, Brampton, ON**

**Brampton Coin Show**, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E. Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, featuring coins, medals, tokens, paper money, trade dollars, militaria. Children's table. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$3, under 14 free. Free parking. Funds raised for Children's Charities. Sponsor/Affiliate: B&W Coins & Tokens and the Brampton Rotary Club. For more information, contact B&W Coins & Tokens, Willard Burton telephone 905-450-2870, email b\_and\_w@sympatico.ca.

## **SEPT. 15 - 16, Cambridge, ON**

**TL Coin Show**, Cambridge Conference Centre, 700 Hespeler Rd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$4, students and seniors \$2, under 12 free. Free parking, draw for gold coin. For more information, contact Linda Robinson, telephone 289-235-9288, email lindarobinson@cogeco.ca; or Tom Kennedy, telephone 519-271-8825. Website: <http://www.tlcoinshow.com>.

## **SEPT. 23, London, ON**

**20th Annual Coin Show**, Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd., just off 401. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact Ted Leitch, telephone 519-472-9679.

## **SEPT. 28 - 29, Toronto, ON**

**Toronto Coin Expo**, The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon located at the Toronto Reference Library, 2nd Floor, 789 Yonge St. Bourse hours: Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Canada's premium coin, bank note and collectible show. More than 30 dealers in attendance. Partnering with numismatic auction house Geoffrey Bell Auctions. Auction Sept. 28. For more information contact Jared Stapleton, email: [torontocoinexpo@gmail.com](mailto:torontocoinexpo@gmail.com), telephone: 647-403-7334.

## **SEPT. 29 - 30, Toronto, ON**

**UKRAINPEX 2012**, St. Demetrius the Great Martyr Church, 135 La Rose Ave. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ukrainian stamps, coins and collectibles exhibition and bourse. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto). For more information contact Jerry Kalyn, email [ucst@upns.org](mailto:ucst@upns.org), telephone 416-251-6898.

## **OCT. 7, Ancaster, ON**

**Ancaster Nostalgia Show And Sale**, Marritt Hall, on the new Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Admission \$5 per person, children under 12 admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Featuring coins, paper money, tokens, military collectibles, small antiques, old toys, dolls, tins, bottles, vintage paper, postcards, old photos, old books, vintage magazines, automobile advertising, gas station memorabilia, stamps and much more. For more information contact Ian Ward, telephone 519-426-8875, email [toyshow@kwic.com](mailto:toyshow@kwic.com). Website: <http://www.ancastershow.blogspot.com>.

## **OCT. 13, Guelph, ON**

**Guelph's Fall Coin Show**, Colonel John McCrae Legion, 57 Watson Parkway. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, under 16 years free. Legendary lunch counter, free draw for gold coin. More than 40 Dealer tables. Coins, banknotes, tokens, medals, and more. Free parking, fully accessible.

Sponsor/Affiliate: South Wellington Coin Society. For more information, contact Mike Hollingshead, email [cholling@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cholling@uoguelph.ca), telephone 519-823-2646.

## **OCT. 14, Hwy 19, Mount Elgin, ON**

**50th Annual Tillsonburg Coin Show**, Mount Elgin Community Centre. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission \$2, hourly draws, lunch available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Tillsonburg Coin Club. For more information contact Ralph Harrison, telephone 519-842-8790, email [rchar@sympatico.ca](mailto:rchar@sympatico.ca).

## **OCT. 20, Oshawa, ON**

**Coin-A-Rama**, Five Points Mall. Show Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free dealer membership, hourly public draws. Free admission. Featuring paper, coins, tokens, medals and many other items. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oshawa and District Coin Club. For more information, contact Sharon Maclean, telephone 905-728-1352, email [papman@bell.net](mailto:papman@bell.net).

## **OCT. 21, Stratford, ON**

**Stratford Coin Club**, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$2 admission, 16 and under free. Buy sell coins, paper money, tokens. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stratford Coin Club. For more information contact Larry Walker, telephone 519-271-3352, email [iswalker@cyg.net](mailto:iswalker@cyg.net).

## **OCT. 27 - 28, Toronto, ON**

**Torex - Canada's National Coin Show**, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Rd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Under 16 free! Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. The Hilton Toronto Airport hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. For more information call 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

## **NOV. 2 - 4, Montreal, QC**

**Nuphilex: Canada's Largest Coin and Stamp Show**, Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke West. Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3 Fri. and Sat., Sun. free. More than 74 dealer tables of coins, stamps, paper money, tokens, military medals, jewelry and watches will be showcased. Come buy, sell, trade or appraise your valuables. Coin auction conducted by Lower Canada Auction in the Gouverner Room. For more information contact Gabriel, telephone 1-514-842-4411, email [nuphilex@bellnet.ca](mailto:nuphilex@bellnet.ca). Website: <http://www.nuphilex.com>.

## **NOV. 3, Scarborough, ON**

**16th Annual Scarborough Coin Club Show**, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd.. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission and draws, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Scarborough Coin Club. For more information contact Dick Dunn, email [cpms@idirect.com](mailto:cpms@idirect.com), or PO Box 562, Pickering, ON L1V 2R7.

## **NOV. 17, Niagara Falls, ON**

**Niagara Falls Coin Club Coin Show**, 6944 Stanley Ave. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking. \$2 admission includes ticket on gold coin draw; coins, tokens, paper money and more. Sponsor/Affiliate: Niagara Falls Coin Club. For more information contact Todd Hume, telephone 905-871-2451.

## **DEC. 2, Brampton, ON**

**Brampton Coin Show**, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E. Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, featuring coins, medals, tokens, paper money, trade dollars, militaria. Children's table. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$3, under 14 free. Free parking. Funds raised for Children's Charities. Sponsor/Affiliate: B&W Coins & Tokens and the Brampton Rotary Club. For more information, contact B&W Coins & Tokens, Willard Burton telephone 905-450-2870, email b\_and\_w@sympatico.ca.

# O.N.A. CLUB NEWS

by John Regitko

After an absence in the previous issue due to travelling to various exotic destinations (if Ohio and New Jersey can be called that), I am pleased to include the Club News column again.

## OPENING COMMENTS

One of the best ways to dispose of your duplicates, as well as material that you no longer wish to collect, is to man a table at a local club meeting. I don't understand why more members don't do it!

I don't know of a single club that charges members for bringing material to a club meeting, placing it on a table and attempting to sell it, so there is absolutely no overhead cost. Both you and the buyer are bound to benefit.

The buyer obtains another item for his/her collection at a good price, because you can afford to sell it at a very competitive price. You convert unwanted items to cash to either acquire something else for your collection, or you get to keep 100% of the proceeds since you do not have to replenish your inventory, as a dealer must to stay in business.

Chances are that you are not in competition with dealers who have taken the time to attend a meeting, since they tend to have, with some exceptions, mainly Canadian decimal coins or RCM non-circulating material in their holdings. I found from personal experience (I have set up at Waterloo, North York, Mississauga-Etobicoke and South Wellington rather regularly, as well as some annual shows) that material other than Canadian decimal sells quite well. This includes my duplicates or otherwise unwanted municipal trade dollars, video arcade tokens, casino tokens, transportation material, odd & curious currency, spare books from my numismatic library and errors & varieties, just to name a few.

Placing a few items into the auction might also be considered. However, you are bound to have more than a few items to dispose of and it would take you years to go that route exclusively.

## CLUB NEWS

### SOUTH WELLINGTON COIN SOCIETY (first Wednesday)

Editor Judy Blackman keeps turning out interesting articles in the numerous bulletins she has agreed to edit.



A perfect example is the recent 10-page bulletin of the SWCS, where background information was published on Viking Landing at L'Anse-aux-Meadows and the Canadian Viking Settlement \$5; Sir Casimir Gzowski and The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers' Gzowski Medal (photo); the background of Professor Ross Irwin, one of the club's active members and, at age 91, one of their wisest; and the recent RCNA Convention, along with the usual Minutes, auction listing, coming events, etc.

### NORTH YORK COIN CLUB (fourth Tuesday)

A recent NYCC bulletin featured a 4-page article on the History of Money (including mention of Kublai Khan's "invention" of paper money), "Canada's Loonie reaches a milestone" on Robert-Ralph Carmichael's Loonie design of 25 years ago through the various designs over the years; "The London 2012 Olympic Medals"



design by David Watkins (photo). The write-up is complemented with fantastically clear illustrations of designs of previous medals of London Games. (All of which are reprinted in the bulletin issue.)

Their bulletin also reported on the controversy raised about the Bank of Canada's decision to change the appearance of the individual on the new polymer \$100 note when some people commented that it looked "Asian."

There was great participation at the show-and-tell program at the recent meeting, with presentations by David Bawcutt, Jared Stapleton, Bill O'Brien, Paul Petch, Mary T., Roger Fox and Marvin Kay.

Although the current NYCC meeting room at the Edithvale Community Centre is spacious and has great lighting, the club is moving from the second floor to an even more spacious room on the first floor. The doors open into the parking lot, making it easy to bring in display cases, dealer inventory and coffee break supplies.

### **SCARBOROUGH COIN CLUB (first Wednesday)**

The SCC's BBQ had many members and guests show up prior to closing for the summer. The September meeting featured a PowerPoint presentation as well as a report on the RCNA Convention by Dick Dunn.

A recent bulletin reported on the Toronto police drive to collect 1-cent coins for the Toronto Police Veterans Association. They collected half a tonne of not only the about-to-be-discontinued cents, but also a few banknotes, totalling \$2,600.

The bulletin also mentioned an unusual new medallion: a copper medallion with a shell on one side and a silhouette of Cape Cod on the other side. What caught my eye is the fact that websites selling this and other copper medallions are describing them as ".999 fine copper." The day when people will agree with me that copper is a precious metal, along with gold and silver, can't be too far off.

The club has issued wooden tokens over the years, with a few sets of 38 different still available for only \$11.00.

### **INGERSOLL COIN CLUB (third Monday)**

The program of the Ingersoll Coin Club after returning from the summer hiatus featured a presentation by representatives of the Thames Valley Children's Centre. The attendance was phenomenal with 53 people in attendance. The Ingersoll Coin Club has donated tens of thousands of dollars to local charities over the years. At the recent meeting, the club donated another \$560 to the children's centre.

Tom Masters, who is currently vice-president and assistant editor, and his wife, Ida, celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary. I remember reading Tom Masters'

club bulletins over the many, many years when he was its editor. He always included articles on a tremendous variety of numismatic material, although a lot of them dealt with U.S. coins. In its day, he had to type every word (on a manual typewriter, if memory serves me right), make corrections the old-fashioned way (remember White Out?) and paste illustrations into his artwork.

The club's current editor, Lorne Barnes, incorporated his own style and has improved the appearance considerably, thanks to the use of computer layout and images and using colour illustrations.

A recent bulletin featured details about a gold buyer, Treasure Hunters Roadshow Associates (THR) and other names, that ran gold buying events in hotels across the USA and Canada. They were forced to shut down amid a fraud probe after an expose by CBS-2 investigators uncovered fraudulent business practices including misleading consumers about the value of their gold and jewellery and bounced cheques (amounting to \$1.7 million dollars in April alone). CBS undercover "customers" in three cities were told 18 karat pieces were only 10 or 14 karats and were offered less than a quarter of the gold's actual value. The company racked up \$330 million in sales last year even with their low payout.

London Gold Buyers, of London, Ontario, was offered \$292.50 by THR for gold jewellery and silver coins that they had purchased for \$1,260 on February 28, 2012. To make the public aware, London Gold Buyer published an ad in the London Free Press titled "Don't get RIPPED OFF by a Roadshow."

### **WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY (second Tuesday)**

At a recent meeting in Waterloo, Senior Analyst Vanessa Stergulc of the Bank of Canada explained the security features on the yet to be released \$20 polymer notes. She passed around new \$20 bills, but insisted they be returned to her (I managed to photograph the note on my cell phone, but I do not have e-mail and Internet capability nor the right sockets to plug it into a computer, so I cannot copy it into a larger format viewing screen - you will have to wait until CCN shows it or when you receive one in change).

She was followed by Cpl. Tim Lawrence of the RCMP, who spoke on the work of the Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement Team, recalling some of the ingenuity the counterfeiters used to reproduce large quantities of high quality fakes and the interesting ways they apprehended criminals in their undercover operations.

The club has announced a design competition for the 2013 ONA Convention metal hosted by the Waterloo Coin Society. Ben Dettweiler was appointed to head the selection committee. The club is also soliciting volunteers for the many positions that have to be filled to run a good convention.

If you wish to volunteer to assist at the convention, contact Robb McPherson, convention chairman through [www.waterloocoinsociety.com](http://www.waterloocoinsociety.com).



Many members look forward to the September coffee break, when Vera Shartun prepares the most delicious peaches and ice cream dessert. She is assisted in their distribution by Peter Becker (on her right in photo) and Robb McPherson.

As usual, their door draws consisted of the best draw prizes I know of: a number of Canadian, US and foreign proof sets and individual proof coins.

Members and guests who have attended meetings over the past months have received free wooden nickels from the collection of the late Bruce Raszmann. His wooden token collection was given to the Waterloo Coin Society for dispersal. Following the October meeting, the remaining woods will be donated to CAWMC.

### CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

The highlight of the recent “Timber Talk” bulletin was the compliments and congratulations heaped on its editor, Judy Blackman. She received the RCNA Best Regional/National Newsletter Editor of the Year Award when Timber Talk was chosen by the RCNA’s judging committee as being the best bulletin in 2011.

Other than for obvious reasons, it is pointed out that the key that helped cinch Timber Talk in receiving the award was the number of articles submitted by a

number of members.



The recent bulletin further illustrated 32 of the new woods that were issued at the recent RCNA Convention, one of which is illustrated here. Blackman points out that a further 4 pages of convention woods will appear in upcoming issues of Timber Talk.

Articles published recently include “The Woods of Matthew Sztym” by John Regitko (one of which is



illustrated here); “Munro Convention Wood” by Ross Kingdon featuring a Stampede design; “CNS/RCNA Youth Woods” by Neil Probert on the eight woods that were presented to young collectors if they participated in various activities at the 2012 RCNA Convention; “A Fine Return” by Les Copan about a wood issued by him



to commemorate the birth of his first grandchild; and “Les Copan, Still Alive and Forever Part of Canadian History” by Judy Blackman on the life of Copan. (Copan, born 1926, appears in a recent photo on the previous page.)

It was also announced that the Dedicated Wooden Money Collectors, a U.S. based organization, have donated \$500 to CAWMC so that they could continue their good work, including subsidizing the annual breakfast meeting held in conjunction with RCNA Conventions.

## ROYAL CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

In addition to the RCNA’s “Journal,” issued 10 times a year to all its members (which now includes more colour than in the past), the RCNA also e-mails an e-bulletin to anyone requesting to receive it at [ebulletin@rcna.ca](mailto:ebulletin@rcna.ca). Its editor, Judy Blackman, includes a variety of content that is interesting and quite often unusual.

Probably its most appealing quality is her research and publishing of all the things that we don’t know about our fellow coin collectors. For example, the last issue of “RCNA NumisNotes,” as the e-bulletin is known, includes a detailed background on ONA member Ed Anstett.



The photo of Mary and Ed Anstett was taken by Lindy Drong at the Brantford Numismatic Society’s 2011 Christmas dinner.

In addition to all the volunteer work Anstett has done over many years for the Brantford Coin Club, he was usually the first person you met over the past 25 years if you were a dealer and arrived at the club’s annual show venue. He, along with his assistants, reminded dealers that they had to park off-site in the school yard

next door. The parking lot was reserved strictly for their customers. Alas, now 82, it is my understanding that he is giving up show business. Finally, he can attend the show and relax.



The other photo of Anstett, with ONA “Club News” columnist John Regitko, was published in the local Brantford newspaper following the club’s annual show.

For further information about the RCNA and the “NumisNotes” e-bulletin, go to [www.rcna.ca](http://www.rcna.ca).

## TIP OF THE MONTH

At the last dozen or so club meetings that I have attended, I have not purchased draw tickets. When I arrive early, I usually unload my material and set up shop, which includes heavy boxes of supplies, catalogues and an assortment of medals, tokens and unusual numismatic material. I completely forget about going to the club table at the front of the room to sign the attendance register, buy draw tickets, participate in the Pandora’s Box draw, etc. What have I done?

I deprived the club of funds to carry on operations, such as paying the rent, buying material for the coffee break, acquiring better draw prizes and still build up a kitty.

I lost out on prizes that I could add to my collection as keepsakes, or resell and invest the proceeds in other numismatic material that I want or buy more draw tickets at future meetings.

I deprive people the pleasure of booing me when my number is drawn and I walk up to the front of the room to claim my prize.

But it was not to be, due to my negligence.

So if you hear the phrase “Don’t do a John Regitko” at your next meeting, they are encouraging you not to forget to buy draw tickets!

*Creemore Springs Brewery Limited 25th Anniversary!*



June 2012 message from **Ross Kingdon**: “I, this weekend, just discovered a new wood from Creemore, Ontario. This wood is to be distributed on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Creemore “Copper Kettle Festival” and was made for the **Creemore Springs Brewery**, for this upcoming 2012 festival, in recognition of the Brewery’s **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. How they are to be distributed has yet to be decided. There were 1,000 woods made. They are 38mm in diameter and black in colour (both sides). Will there be 1,000 mugs of beer given away or sold at a discount? I don’t know and the three people I talked to (at the Brewery), also did not know. I might just attend to find out.”



The Village of Creemore is a charming village nestled in a valley between the Mad and Noisy Rivers. A place where the air is clear, the birds sing and time goes by slowly. Creemore Springs Brewery will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this summer and to mark the occasion the brewery has teamed up with **Zum Schlüssel** – a 162-year-old brewery brewpub in Düsseldorf, Germany – to create a new beer for the Ontario market.

Creemore brewmaster **Gordon Fuller** and head brewer **Bryan Egan** made their way to Zam Schlüssel where they brewed on location over a two day period to help gain some insight and to get some inspiration. The pair came back to Ontario, with some yeast, and will brew an Altbier, which Zam Schlüssel is best known for, and will be launched in the summer during the brewery's annual Cooper Kettle Festival to highlight their anniversary.

In a press release sent out yesterday (May 2012), Creemore's Director of Marketing, **Karen Gaudino**, had this to say about the project - “**Zum Schlüssel** is a perfect partner for us to collaborate with, they have been brewing Altbiers for about 160 years. This is a rare style, not often seen outside its’ local market of Düsseldorf. We are fortunate to have an expert partner to collaborate with.”

The press release also provides some historical information about Zam Schlüssel: **Zum Schlüssel**, which has been an institution in Düsseldorf since 1850, is located in Düsseldorf’s old town of narrow cobble stone streets and charming medieval half-timbered houses in a building that was first mentioned in documents in 1632. Today it is run by the Gatzweiler family whose members have been in the brewing trade since the year 1313, only 25 years after Düsseldorf received its city charter!

You were able to follow **Fuller** and **Egan** as they travel to Dusseldorf (with stops in Brussels and Köln) as Creemore will be using the following social media sites (Untappd, Foursquare, Facebook and Twitter) to capture their trip.

Message from their trip blog: “...We then enjoyed a nice lunch with **Karl-Heinz Gatzweiler**, owner of the **Zum Schlüssel**, and the third generation of the **Gatzweiler** family to control the brewery. **Mr Gatzweiler**, as well as **Dirk Rouenhoff**, the brewmaster, were full of questions about Canada. It sounds like they are pretty excited to visit us in Creemore this coming August to help celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After lunch **Dirk** and **Gord** went over some of the fine print for this collaborative effort and were able to seal the deal as only brewers could—with a beer and a handshake...”  
“... We spent a good portion of the morning with **Dirk**, the brewmaster at **Zum Schlüssel**, who explained a great deal to us about the Altbier market



## COURTESY OF CAWMC TIMBER TALK — VOLUME 38, NO. 8, PAGE 5

place in Düsseldorf, Altbier in general, as well as his brewery. Eventually **Dirk's** other work commitments required some of his attention, and that's when the real fun started. That's when he left us in the good hands of the two working brewers of the day..."

The Annual August Copper Kettle Festival – A Celebration of all things 100 years behind the times! (free admission) in Creemore includes a old-time village fair, special exhibits, street festival, entertainment, local fare and specialty foods, beer garden near the main stage at the brewery, Creemore's Farmers' Market, Brewery Tours, Kids' Activities, Petting Zoo and Pony Rides, Class Car Show (Historic Mill Street), Purple Hills Studio Tour, Wagon Rides, artists' gallery, pipe and drum bands, Creemore Copper Kettle Dash 5 and 10k Road Race, and other events that were popular many years ago.



All across Southern Ontario, licensees who choose to offer the finest suds are proud to pour Creemore. These purveyors are the cognoscente of the trade. They know the importance of maintaining their draft lines ...they know the optimum serving temperature of a well-poured Creemore (6 degrees Celsius)... and they want to ensure their skilled staff stay up to snuff. That's why the brewery established the Proud to Pour Creemore program.

If Creemore is your favourite brew – or, let's just say, right up there on your list of the finer things in life – then you are a Frothquaffer. A Frothquaffer is one of the thousands of stalwart devotees of the pride of Creemore, Ontario, Creemore Springs Premium Lager. Collectively, they are known as a Loyal Order, due to their noble dedication to, in the words of the founding president of the order, "spread the good word about a beer as fine as Creemore Springs!"



**Gordon Fuller**, the long-time Brewmaster with **Creemore Springs Brewery Ltd.** is pictured here. He is the man behind the scenes, working the copper kettle, consistently churning out terrific Creemore products like the Traditional Premium Lager, Pilsner, UrBock, and just recently, an exceptional Kellerbier. **Gord** is 23 in the industry and started making beer at home before he was old enough to buy it. He's been brewing for Creemore 20 year. Before Creemore he was with Amsterdam Brasserie and Brewpub, Rotterdam Brewing Company. Creemore was founded by 3 retirees: an advertising / marketing executive, a fittler / welder, and a glass bottle manufacturing executive. The spring is on land once owned by the bottle manufacturing executive.

Ownership was passed to two octogenarian financiers from Toronto in 2000. Molson bought the brewery in 2005. The flagship brand, Premium Lager (their best-selling beer), was the only beer Creemore made until 1997, when UrBock was introduced as a seasonal (seasonals have been



very successful for the brewery) in celebration of the brewery's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pilsner came along in 2007 to celebrate 20 years. Creemore prides themselves on the consistency of their beers and dedication to excellent service (they service Ontario, Alberta and Quebec). **Gord** spend his childhood summers in the bush in the North West Territories at his father's biological research station. **Gord's** favourite beer style is Czech Pilsner and he feels beer goes with just about any type of food. He says he will drink Creemore Premium Lager forever, and the best time for a pint is a hot sunny afternoon in the garden. **Gord** says the highlight of his brewing career was when Creemore needed a new brewhouse. He designed it and oversaw the installation and commissioning. At the Rotterdam, he made 12 different beers in 12 months – that was fun too.



Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society

to promote the arts and conserve the heritage of Creemore and the surrounding area

*The Lakeshore Coin Club 50th Anniversary* by Barry Uman



The **Lakeshore Coin Club** located in Pointe Claire, Quebec, celebrated their **50th Golden Anniversary** at Stewart Hall in Pointe Claire on May 15th, 2012. This date was also another anniversary for the founding of the first coin club in Canada, "Societe Numismatique De Montreal or The Numismatic Society of Montreal", which was established in 1862 and it was only the third numismatic society that existed in North America.

The Lakeshore Coin Club celebrated their anniversary at a banquet held at Stewart Hall. There were about 50 members and guests present including **Paul Petch**, O.N.A. President; **Louis Chevrier**, R.C.N.A. Director for Montreal; **David Bergeron**, Curator of the Bank of Canada Museum; and many more distinguished guests and members. The club's President, **Michael Joffre**, introduced the guests and then he thanked the club's executive members for their contribution and dedication to the club. He accepted an award from the R.C.N.A. Director **Louis Chevrier**, who presented a plaque on behalf of the association on the club's achievement of reaching the 50 year milestone.

**David Bergeron** presented a very interesting paper on how the War of 1812 was financed. He complimented his talk with a PowerPoint that supported this historical background. There was also a numismatic display of the club's previously issued medals, banquet woods, medal awards, club pins, etc. There were old club pictures and a hand-framed wood certificate that was presented to one of the club founders, **Fred Bowman**, that was donated back to the club by the family heirs. The Lakeshore Coin Club



## COURTESY OF CAWMC TIMBER TALK — VOLUME 38, NO. 8, PAGE 7

issued many souvenir numismatic items to commemorate their golden anniversary. A one ounce medal in gold, silver and copper was struck showing the club's logo, a schooner, on the obverse and the City of Pointe Claire logo, a windmill, on the reverse with the dates 1962-2012. Only 2 gold, 25 silver and 100 copper pieces were made. Members of the club were given a souvenir copper medal. There are only a few copper medals available at \$20 plus postage. The gold and silver medals have all been sold.

The club also had a souvenir banquet wood made which was given to every member and guest. Only 100 were made. The reverse was designed by **Barry Ulman**. There are a few left at \$3 each. There was also one wood made with the inscription, "Banquet 2012 Souvenir", but the design was rejected. The approved design was smaller and had a more complete inscription, "Golden Anniversary / 1962-2012 / Banquet Souvenir / Stewart Hall—Pointe Claire, QC", on the reverse while the obverse has the standard club logo of a schooner with the date, "Founded 1962".

As an additional bonus each person was given a souvenir 1962 mint cent in a small plastic bag with a paper script stating, "The Lakeshore Coin Club was formed 50 years ago in 1962". These were donated by the club founders, **Bunny** and **Pat Turner**, whom were not able to travel from Nova Scotia.

Lakeshore Coin Club meets every third Tuesday from September to November and from January to May at 7:00 p.m. at Stewart Hall in Pointe Claire. There is a program each meeting that may include a video presentation, an exhibit or a guest speaker. Our aim is to educate our members in a friendly environment where one can meet fellow collectors. There are hot beverages and cookies available at every meeting. For further information please contact the President, **Michael Joffre**, at 514-289-9761, e-mail sales@carsleys.com, or write to Lakeshore Coin Club, P.O. Box 1137, Pointe Claire Branch, Pointe Claire, QC H9S 4H9, Canada.



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*Phila-Coin Company*

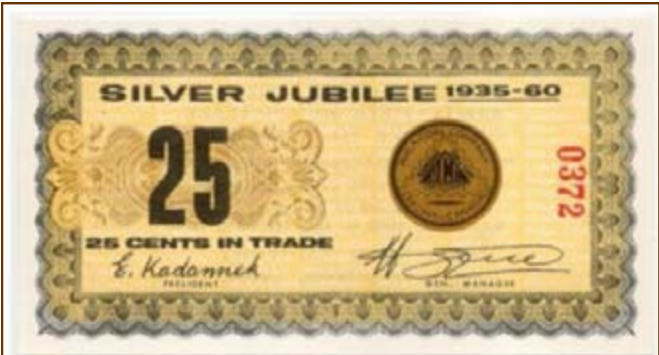
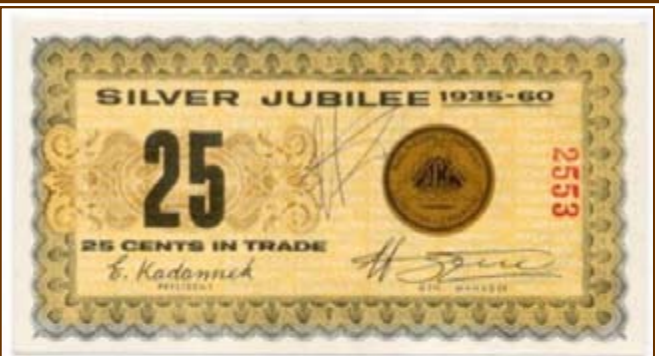


This wood is in **Norm's** catalogue as 7800-001, 200 qtr, 38mm bl/bl.

This Trade Note or Scrip was issued by **Phila-Coin Company** in Regina Saskatchewan in 1960 to celebrate their 25th anniversary and was good for 25 cents. This is the variety with serial number. THIS ONE ALSO HAS THE STAMP ON THE REVERSE in BLACK FROM THE LATTA COIN CO. LTD. These are becoming more difficult to find as many have been destroyed. This Lot of 3 Trade Notes or Scrip were issued by **Phila-Coin Company** in Regina Saskatchewan in 1960 to celebrate their 25th anniversary and was good for 25 cents. This is the variety without the serial number. This is a very interesting group of 3 notes that have had the dates changed, initialled, and signatures changed so they could be used for different things. It appears to have been done by the stamp department. This Trade Note or Scrip was issued by **Phila-Coin Company** in Regina Saskatchewan in 1960 to celebrate their 25th anniversary and was good for 25 cents. This is the variety with serial number. These are becoming more difficult to find as many have been destroyed. Serial number may be different than illustrated.

[Ref. Hans Zoell – A Biography by **Henry Nienhuis**] **Hans Zoell** [1906-1982] CNA LM30 was born on May 20<sup>th</sup> 1906 in Rheinland, Germany, the eldest son of eleven children. In 1928 he emigrated to Regina, Saskatchewan (Canada), and by 1935 **Hans** had established a stamp and supply business to which a year later he expanded his inventory to include foreign coins. In 1938 **Hans** married and went on to father three sons and a daughter. After a business interruption as a result of WWII, in 1953 **Hans** opened **Phila-Coin Company** with a speciality in error and variety coins. He created several catalogues and when ill health in 1963 forced him to sell his business, he concentrated on building and publishing

his extensive catalogues. In 1969 **Hans** relocated to Toronto and opened **Hobby Publications** on Jarvis Street (coin shop and publishing business). He assisted the **Coin Irregularities Association of Canada** through his monthly newsletter **The Kayak** for 16 months (1971-1972). **Hans** returned to Regina in 1972 to live out the balance of his life battling illness. [Ref. **George Manz Auction Oct. 2007**] **George Manz Auction** was proud to offer Part II of the **Roy Miller Collection**. **Roy** was a long-time Regina coin collector and dealer who passed away in 2006. Having collected coins since he was a child, in January 1953 **Roy** became one of the founding members of the **Regina Coin Club** (Member No. 10). **Roy** later purchased legendary Regina coin dealer and coin variety publisher **Hans Zoell's** coin and stamp business, **Phila-Coin Company**. During **Roy's** lifetime, he



sold many of the greatest Canadian and American rarities known to some of the hobby's most noted collectors, including **John Pittman**. **George Manz Auctions** thanked **Roy's** widow, **Priscilla Miller**, for allowing them the privilege of auctioning off Part II of **Roy's** fabulous collection. Examples of auction of **Roy's** collection included **CNA Life Membership** brass plaque Number 30 to Hans Zoell; and a set of 2 Phila-Coin Company plates used in printing by Hans Zoell (included negatives and positives). The picture of Hans (below left) is from Numicanada.com—May 2008, and the Roy Pittmann picture (lower right) is from George Manz Auction catalogue.



### Canadian Cream Ale



[Ref. Excerpts from *The Canadian Cream Ale Puzzle* - TAPS Magazine Spring 2011]

The cream ale is a defined historical style of beer. A cursory research on its character will point to a golden-coloured, light-flavoured, malty and refreshing ale. Historical notes will explain that ale breweries in the U.S. developed cream ales sometime in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in order to compete with the increasing popularity of lagers. The cream ale style is still quite popular in North America.



Perhaps the best-known Canadian example is Sleeman Cream Ale, whose recipe can actually be traced back to the late 1800s, when George Sleeman was brewing in Guelph. Although the Sleeman Cream Ale is widely distributed in Canada, beer lovers travelling to Québec or B.C. might have come across entirely different cream ales on the craft beer circuit. These beers are labeled as cream ales, but they do not fit the historical description of the cream ale. Instead, they have their own distinct regional character. A craft-brewed cream ale in La Belle Province is likely to have a lot more bitterness than the historical North American style and will be amber in colour. This style of cream ale can be found at a range of brewpubs including Le Réservoir in Montréal, Le Gambrinus in Trois-Rivières and Archibald, just north of Québec





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City. In British Columbia, one might be surprised to receive a deep amber or brown, richly-flavoured ale when ordering cream ale. In fact, a number of the cream ales in B.C. including the R&B Raven Cream Ale and the Russell Brewing Cream Ale are brewed in the style of an English Mild. Nowadays, both in Québec and British Columbia, the historical versions and local interpretations of cream ale exist side by side. As an increasing number of consumers become more familiar with historical beer styles, like McNutt in Montréal and Hill in Vancouver, they are raising questions about inconsistencies in style.

Considering that both regional cream ale interpretations have survived over fifteen years and are brewed in a number of local establishments, perhaps it's time to embrace and celebrate the Montréal-style cream ale and the Vancouver-style cream ale for what they are: recognized regional styles of their own!

This is a 1950's Canadian Cream Ale Wooden Bottle Opener in good condition despite the decals have some wear due to age. Bottle opener measures 4 3/16" tall x 1" diameter at the bottom of the bottle.



## Wishing Trees

Stephen Pradier forwarded this interesting article from *The Daily Mail* about tree trunks people have studded with coins for luck. They say money doesn't grow on trees. But it certainly appears to do so on the mysterious coin-studded trunks dotted around the UK's woodland. The strange phenomenon of gnarled old trees with coins embedded all over their bark has been spotted on trails from the Peak District to the Scottish Highlands. The coins are usually knocked into felled tree trunks using stones by passers-by, who hope it will bring them good fortune.

These fascinating spectacles often have coins from centuries ago buried deep in their bark and warped by the passage of time. The tradition of making offerings to deities at wishing trees dates back hundreds of years, but this combination of the man-made and the natural is far more rare. The act is reminiscent of tossing money into ponds for good luck, or the trend for couples to attach 'love padlocks' to bridges and fences to symbolize lasting romance. Some pubs, such as the Punch Bowl in Askham, Cumbria, have old beams with splits in them into which coins are forced for luck. There are seven felled tree trunks with coins pushed into them in the picturesque village of Portmeirion, in Wales.

Meurig Jones, an estate manager at the tourist destination, told the BBC: 'We had no idea why it was being done when we first noticed the tree trunk was being filled with coins.' I did some detective work and discovered that trees were sometimes used as "wishing trees". 'In Britain it dates back to the 1700s - there is one tree in Scotland somewhere which apparently has a florin stuck into it.' He said that a sick person could press a coin into a tree and their illness would go away. 'If someone then takes the coin out though, it's said they then become ill.' Have any of our readers seen or pushed a coin into one of these wishing trees?

[Previously printed in *The E-Sylum eNewsletter Archive*, Volume 14, Number 39, September 18, 2011, Numismatic Bibliomania Society.]



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MONEY

OR, HOW WE LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND EMBRACE THE ABSTRACTION

by James Surowiecki, from the IEEE Spectrum Internet site, June 2012

To read the complete article on the Internet with references and links, visit <http://spectrum.ieee.org/at-work/innovation/a-brief-history-of-money>

In the 13th century, the Chinese emperor Kublai Khan embarked on a bold experiment. China at the time was divided into different regions, many of which issued their own coins, discouraging trade within the empire. So Kublai Khan decreed that henceforth money would take the form of paper.

It was not an entirely original idea. Earlier rulers had sanctioned paper money, but always alongside coins, which had been around for centuries. Kublai's daring notion was to make paper money (the *chao*) the dominant form of currency. And when the Italian merchant Marco Polo visited China not long after, he marveled at the spectacle of people exchanging their labor and goods for mere pieces of paper. It was as if value were being created out of thin air.

Kublai Khan was ahead of his time: He recognized that what matters about money is not what it looks like, or even what it's backed by, but whether people believe in it enough to use it. Today, that concept is the foundation of all modern monetary systems, which are built on nothing more than governments' support of and people's faith in them. Money is, in other words, a complete abstraction—one that we are all intimately familiar with but whose growing complexity defies our comprehension.

Today, many people long for simpler times. It's a natural reaction to a world in which money is becoming not just more abstract but more digital and virtual as well, in which sophisticated computer algorithms execute microsecond market transactions with no human intervention at all, in which below-the-radar economies are springing up around their own alternative currencies, and in which global financial crises are brought on for reasons difficult to parse without a Ph.D. Back in the day, the thinking goes, money stood for something: Gold doubloons and cowrie shells had real value, and so they didn't need a government to stand behind them.

In fact, though, money has never been that simple. And while its uses and meanings have shifted and evolved throughout history, the fact that it is no longer anchored to any one substance is actually a good thing. Here's why.

**Let's start with what money is used for.** Modern economists typically define it by the three roles it plays in an economy:

It's a store of value, meaning that money allows you to defer consumption until a later date.

It's a unit of account, meaning that it allows you to assign a value to different goods without having to compare them. So instead of saying that a Rolex watch is worth six cows, you can just say it (or the cows) cost \$10 000.

And it's a medium of exchange—an easy and efficient way for you and me and others to trade goods and services with one another.

All of these roles have to do with buying and selling, and that's how the modern world thinks of money—so much so that it seems



### About the Author

James Surowiecki writes *The New Yorker's* popular business column "The Financial Page." He is also the author of the best seller *The Wisdom of Crowds* (Doubleday, 2004). He found the task of condensing a few millennia's worth of material into one magazine article challenging, but also incredibly compelling. "Money is one of those things that's completely familiar and completely mysterious," he says, "and that makes it a great subject."

peculiar to conceive of money in any other way.

Yet in tribal and other "primitive" economies, money served a very different purpose—less a store of value or medium of exchange, much more a social lubricant. As the anthropologist David Graeber puts it in his recent book *Debt: The First 5000 Years* (Melville House, 2011), money in those societies was a way "to arrange marriages, establish the paternity of children, head off feuds, console mourners at funerals, seek forgiveness in the case of crimes, negotiate treaties, acquire followers." Money, then, was not for buying and selling stuff but for helping to define the structure of social relations.

How, then, did money become the basis of trade? By the time money makes its first appearance in written records, in Mesopotamia during the third millennium B.C.E., that society already had a sophisticated financial structure in place, and merchants were using silver as a standard of value to balance their accounts. But cash was still not widely used.

It's really in the seventh century B.C.E., when the small kingdom of Lydia introduced the world's first standardized metal coins, that you start to see money being used in a recognizable way. Located in what is now Turkey, Lydia sat on the cusp between the Mediterranean and the Near East, and commerce with foreign travelers was common. And that, it turns out, is just the kind of situation in which money is quite useful.

To understand why, imagine doing a trade in the absence of money—that is, through barter. (Let's leave aside the fact that no

society has ever relied solely or even largely on barter; it's still an instructive concept.) The chief problem with barter is what economist William Stanley Jevons called the "double coincidence of wants." Say you have a bunch of bananas and would like a pair of shoes; it's not enough to find someone who has some shoes or someone who wants some bananas. To make the trade, you need to find someone who has shoes he's willing to trade and wants bananas. That's a tough task.

With a common currency, though, the task becomes easy: You just sell your bananas to someone in exchange for money, with which you then buy shoes from someone else. And if, as in Lydia, you have foreigners from whom you'd like to buy or to whom you'd like to sell, having a common medium of exchange is obviously valuable. That is, money is especially useful when dealing with people you don't know and may never see again.

The Lydian system's breakthrough was the standardized metal coin. Made of a gold-silver alloy called electrum, one coin was exactly like another—unlike, say, cattle. Also unlike cattle, the coins didn't age or die or otherwise change over time. And they were much easier to carry around. Other kingdoms followed Lydia's example, and coins became ubiquitous throughout the Mediterranean, with kingdoms stamping their insignia on the coins they minted. This had a dual effect: It facilitated the flow of trade, and it established the authority of the state.

Modern governments still like to place their stamp upon money, and not just on bills and coins. In general, they prefer that money—whether physical cash or digital—be issued and controlled only by official entities and that financial transactions (especially international ones) be traceable. And so the recent rise of an alternative currency like Bitcoin [see "The Cryptoanarchists' Answer to Cash," in this issue], which is based on a cryptographic code that allows for anonymous transactions and that so far has proved to be uncrackable, is the kind of thing that tends to make governments very unhappy.

**The spread of money throughout the Mediterranean** didn't mean that it was universally used. Far from it. Most people were still subsistence farmers and existed largely outside the money economy.

But as money became more common, it encouraged the spread of markets. This, in fact, is one of the enduring lessons of history: Once even a small part of your economy is taken over by markets and money, they tend to colonize the rest of the economy, gradually forcing out barter, feudalism, and other economic arrangements. In part this is because money makes market transactions so much easier, and in part because using money seems to redefine what people value, pushing them to view things in economic, rather than social, terms.

Governments were quick to embrace hard currency because it facilitated the collection of taxes and the building of military forces. In the third century B.C.E., with the rise of Rome, money became an important tool for unifying and expanding the empire, reducing the costs of trade, and funding the armies that kept the emperors in power.

The decline of the Roman Empire, starting in the third century C.E., saw a decline in the use of money as well, at least in the West.

Parts of the former empire, like Britain, simply stopped using coins. Elsewhere people still used money to balance accounts and keep track of debts, and many small kingdoms minted their own coins. But in general, the circulation of money became less central, as cities shrank in size and commerce dwindled.

The rise of feudal society also undercut money's role. The basic relationship between master and vassal was mediated not by payment for services rendered but rather by an oath of loyalty and a promise of support. Land was not bought and sold; it belonged, ultimately, to the king, who granted use of the land to his lords, who in turn provided plots of land to their vassals. And feudalism discouraged trade; a feudal estate, or fief, was often a closed community that aimed to be self-sufficient. In such a setting, money had little use.

Money's decline in feudal times is worth noting for what it reveals about money's essential nature. For one thing, money is impersonal. With it, you can cut a deal with, say, a guy named Jeff Bezos, whom you don't know and will probably never meet—and that's okay. As long as your money and his products are good, you two can do business. Similarly, money fosters a curious kind of equality: As long as you have sufficient cash, all doors are open to you. Finally, money seems to encourage people to value things solely in terms of their market value, to reduce their worth to a single number.

These characteristics make money invaluable to modern financial systems: They encourage trade and the division of labor, they reduce transaction costs—that is, the cost incurred in executing an economic exchange—and they make economies more efficient and productive. These same qualities, though, are why money tends to corrode traditional social orders, and why it is commonly believed that when money enters the picture, economic relationships trump all other kinds.

It's unsurprising, then, that feudal lords had little use for the stuff. In their world, maintaining the social hierarchy was far more important than economic growth (or, for that matter, economic freedom or social mobility). The widespread use of money, with its impersonal transactions, its equalizing effect, and its calculated values, would have upended that order.

**Money's decline didn't last, of course.** By the 12th century, even as the Chinese were experimenting with paper currency, Europeans began to embrace a new view of money: Instead of being something to hoard or spend, money became something to invest, to be put to work in order to make more money.

This idea came with a renewed interest in commerce. Trade fairs sprang up across Europe, frequented by a community of merchants who had begun to do business across the continent. This period also saw the emergence of a banking industry in the city-states of Italy. These new institutions introduced a host of financial innovations that we still use today, including municipal bonds and insurance. The banks fostered the use of credit and debt, which became ever more central to the economy as kings borrowed to finance their military adventures and merchants borrowed to fund their long-range trades.

The invention of the bill of exchange, which laid the groundwork

Continued next page...

### *A BRIEF HISTORY OF MONEY (CONT.) ...*

Of course, clever financial minds will always find an end run around the rules. Having a gold standard, it turns out, didn't completely limit the growth of money. Banks could still make loans against their gold reserves, and they did so freely. Economic historians now believe that the amount of paper currency in circulation dwarfed the actual amount of gold and silver that banks had on hand. And so, while money was still tethered to gold in people's minds, it had already begun to become unhooked.

**What finally derailed the gold standard** was World War I. Governments needed more money for their militaries than they had in gold, and so they simply began printing it. And though many countries tried to return to the gold standard after the war, the Great Depression ended that experiment for good.

The result? Currencies today are "fiat" currencies, meaning they're backed by the authority of the issuing government, and nothing more. In the United States, for example, that means the government accepts only dollars as payment for taxes and requires its creditors to accept dollars in payment for debts. But if people were to lose faith in the dollar and stop accepting it in everyday transactions, it would eventually become worthless.

Many people find this situation unnerving, which is why there are perennial calls to return to the gold standard. The reliance on fiat money, we're told, gives too much power to the government, which can recklessly print as much money as it wants. Yet the truth is that this has always been possible. Even with the gold standard, governments revalued their currencies from time to time, in effect dictating a new price for gold, or they ignored the standard when it proved too limiting, as during the First World War.

What's more, the notion that gold is somehow more "real" than paper is, well, a mirage. Gold is valuable because we've collectively decided that it's valuable and that we'll accept goods and services in exchange for it. And that's no different, ultimately, from our collective decision that colorful rectangles of paper are valuable and that we'll accept goods and services in exchange for them.

The reality is that it's a good thing that we've moved away from the gold standard and the idea that money needs to be tied to something else. In the first place, it's honest: As soon as we left behind the habit of trading cattle for barley (both of which had intrinsic value), money became a social convention, and paper money just makes that convention obvious. These days, instead of worrying about where we're going to find more gold and silver, we can focus on how to wisely manage the money supply for the greater good.

Second, and more important, abandoning the gold standard has given central banks much more flexibility in dealing with economic downturns. Recessions are downward spirals: Instead of spending and investing, people and businesses hold on to their cash, which shrinks overall demand, which forces businesses to cut back, which creates unemployment, which shrinks demand even more.

One solution is for governments to make up the difference by spending more. But it's also important for interest rates to drop and for the money supply to increase, thereby making it easier for people to borrow money and helping overcome their reluctance to spend. Such actions are easier for the folks at the Federal Reserve

and other central banks to pull off when they don't have to worry about maintaining the gold standard. And recessions have been shorter and less painful since the gold standard was abandoned. Even the most recent global downturn, severe as it was, was minor compared to the Great Depression.

Of course, all this talk of central bankers tinkering with the money supply is precisely what critics of the fiat money system dread, because they believe it will inevitably lead to runaway inflation. And history does show that when a government massively and carelessly expands the money supply, it ends up with hyperinflation and a worthless currency, as happened in Weimar Germany in 1923 and in Zimbabwe just a few years ago.

But such episodes are rare. In the past 90 years, the United States and Europe have had just one sustained bout of high inflation—in the 1970s. That track record should engender some faith; on the whole, central bankers act responsibly, and healthy industrial economies aren't prone to regular inflationary spirals. But that faith is apparently hard to muster; instead, it feels to many of us as if inflation is always about to soar out of control.

This irrational fear is ultimately a legacy of the way money evolved: We cling to the belief that money needs to be backed by something "solid." In that sense, we're just like Marco Polo—still a bit amazed by the thought that you can base an entire economy on little pieces of paper.

And yet we do. For more than 80 years, we've been living in a world in which money can be created, in effect, out of thin air. As we've already discussed, the central banks can create money, but so can ordinary banks. When a bank makes a loan, it typically just puts the money into the borrower's bank account, whether or not it has that money on hand—banks are allowed to lend more money than they have in their reserves. And so with each home equity loan, car loan, and mortgage, banks add incrementally to the money supply.

There is, to be sure, something a bit eerie about all this, and periods like the recent housing bubble, when banks made an extraordinary number of bad loans, should remind us of the dangers of runaway credit. But it's a mistake to yearn for a more "solid" foundation for the monetary system. Money is a social creation, just like language. It's a tool that can be used well or poorly, and it's preferable that we have more freedom to use that tool than less.

Over the course of history, the material substance of money has become less important, to the point that these days people talk easily about the possibility of a cashless society. The powerful combination of computers and telecommunications, of smartphones and social media, of cryptography and virtual economies, is what fuels such talk. And that progression makes sense because what matters most about money is not what it is, but what it does. Successful currencies, after all, are those that people use: They lubricate commerce, allow people to exchange goods and services, and thus encourage people to work and create. The German sociologist Georg Simmel described money as "pure interaction," and that description seems apt—when money is working as it should, it is not so much a thing as it is a process.

This, perhaps, is what Kublai Khan understood seven centuries ago. It's what we're still trying to understand today.

for the emergence of paper money in the West, also occurred during this period. The bill of exchange was a sort of precursor to the traveler's check: a document representing a quantity of gold that could be exchanged for the real thing in a different city. Traveling merchants liked the bills because they could be carried around with far less risk (and exertion) than the precious metal.

By the 16th century in Europe, many of the ideas about money that shape our thinking today were in place. Still, money remained a physical thing—that thing being a piece of gold or silver. A gold coin wasn't a symbol of value; it was an embodiment of it, because everyone believed that the gold had intrinsic worth. Likewise, the amount of money in the economy was still a function of how much gold and silver was available. The rulers of Spain and Portugal didn't quite appreciate the limits of this system, however, which led them to plunder their New World colonies and accumulate vast hoards of precious metals, which in turn triggered periods of rampant inflation and enormous tumult in the European economy.

These days, countries have central banks to oversee their money supplies, as well as to set interest rates, combat inflation, and otherwise control their monetary policy. The United States has the Federal Reserve System, the Eurozone has the European Central Bank, the Maldives has the Maldives Monetary Authority, and so on. When the Federal Reserve wants to increase the money supply, it doesn't have to go looking for El Dorado. Neither does it phone up the United States Mint and order it to start printing more dollars; in fact, only about 10 percent of the U.S. money supply—about \$1 trillion of the roughly \$10 trillion total—exists in the form of paper cash and coins.

Instead, the Fed buys government securities, such as treasury bills, on the open market, typically from regular private banks, and then credits the banks' accounts with the money. As the banks lend, invest, and otherwise spend this new money, the overall money supply that's circulating increases. If, on the other hand, the Reserve wants to decrease the money supply, it does the opposite: It sells government bonds on the open market, again typically to private banks, and then deducts the sales price from the banks' accounts. The banks have less money to spend, and the money supply shrinks.

The sophisticated and relatively opaque machinations by which central banks keep economies afloat may make the Spanish Empire's inflationary foibles look quaintly naive. But in fact the fine-tuning of monetary policy—the delicate juggling of interest rates, money supply, and other financial mechanisms so that an economy keeps expanding at a steady, manageable rate, without excessive inflation, unemployment, debt, or boom and bust cycles—is still a work in progress, as the ongoing economic woes in both Europe and the United States demonstrate.

**Back to the 1600s:** The view of money as commodity began to shift only with the widespread adoption of paper currency, which found the warmest welcome in the American colonies. In 1690, for instance, the Massachusetts Bay Colony issued paper money to fund a military campaign, and did so without explicitly promising to redeem the bills for gold or silver.

Later, during the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress printed "continentals" to pay for the new country's war debts. These bills were in principle backed by gold, but so many

were issued that their collective value far exceeded the available gold. When soldiers and merchants discovered they'd been paid in near-worthless scrip, it inspired a backlash against paper money; the U.S. Constitution, for instance, prohibited states from using any other money than gold and silver coins. It wasn't until 1862, during the Civil War, that Congress finally passed a law allowing the government to print paper money, or "greenbacks."

That's not to say that paper money was unavailable before then. Even as the U.S. government minted nothing but coins, private banks, often called "wildcats" [PDF], began issuing what in effect became thousands of currencies. Like the wartime continentals, these bank notes were in theory backed by gold, but it was hard to know whether a bank actually had enough gold to back up its notes, bank regulation being pretty much nonexistent at the time. Unsurprisingly, the wildcat era was fertile ground for fraud. What is surprising perhaps is that most banks did a reasonable job of keeping their currency and their gold reserves in balance, and the U.S. economy grew briskly.

The Bank of England, meanwhile, took a far more sober approach. In 1821, it adopted the gold standard, promising to redeem its notes for gold upon request. As other countries followed suit, the gold standard became the general rule for developed economies. The discovery of major new gold fields over the course of the 19th century ensured that the money supply kept growing.

The gold standard, as it was intended to do, brought stability to prices and was enormously beneficial to property holders and lenders. However, it also brought deflation—that is, prices generally fell—because as countries' populations and economies grew, their governments had no easy way to increase the money supply short of mining more gold, and so money in effect became more scarce. Deflation was hard on farmers and borrowers, who longed for a little inflation to help them with their debts; when money gradually loses some of its value, so, too, do people's debts.

The gold standard also didn't prevent economies from falling into recession, and when they did—as during the worldwide slump known as the Long Depression, which lasted from 1873 to 1896—adherence to the standard made it difficult to do any of the things that might have quickly set things right, like cutting interest rates or pumping more money into the economy. As a result, economies took a long time to recover from downturns.



## CANADA'S LOONIE REACHES A MILESTONE



The Royal Canadian Mint is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Loonie with a fine silver coin. The reverse image, designed by Robert-Ralph Carmichael, who designed the original circulation Loonie in 1987, offers a meaningful twist. With a low mintage of only 15,000 coins, this special keepsake became available on July 16.

The Mint has also released other special 25th anniversary Loonie products like the 2012 Specimen Set and the Silver-Plated 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Loonie Coin.

### A CHANGE IN CANADA'S COINAGE

It has been a quarter of a century since Canadians said goodbye to one-dollar banknotes and welcomed the new coin in their pockets and change purses. At that time, it was the most significant change to Canada's coinage system in over 50 years.

The Government of Canada introduced the one-dollar coin into circulation on June 30, 1987 as a cost-saving measure. The coin was instantly dubbed the "Loonie," after the solitary loon that graces the coin's reverse side. The nickname caught on and Canadians have been using it ever since.

### A CANADIAN ICON IS BORN

Initially, the Loonie as we know it was never meant to be. The original master dies of the one-dollar coins, which depicted the motif of a voyageur, were lost in transit on their way to Winnipeg in November 1986. (A different version of this story says they were lost during transit from the Sherrit Mint to the RCM Winnipeg facility ... Ed.) To preserve the integrity of the Canadian coinage system, the Government of Canada authorized a new design of the coin, which was of the loon.

The loon design was created by noted Northern Ontario wildlife artist Robert-Ralph Carmichael and was engraved by the Mint's own Terrence N.E. Smith.

The one-dollar coin is eleven sided and is produced at the Mint's Winnipeg facility, along with the rest of Canada's circulation coins. Since 1987, 1.5 billion one-dollar coins have been produced.

*This page was adapted from an information item on the Royal Canadian Mint's web site.*

## THE LOONIE THROUGH THE YEARS . . .



Including the original loon, several different designs have appeared on the reverse of Canada's one-dollar coin since 1987. Here are some of the most notable designs . . . How many have you found in your change?



### CANADA'S 125<sup>TH</sup>

For the 125th anniversary of Confederation, a special design was also introduced in 1992. It featured the centre block of the Parliament Buildings and three children seated on the ground.



### CANADA'S PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS

In 1995, the Mint issued a special Peacekeeping design on the one-dollar coin. It commemorated Canada's commitment to world peace, and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.



### TERRY FOX'S MARATHON OF HOPE

In 2005, Terry Fox became the first Canadian-born individual featured on a Canadian circulation coin when the Mint issued a one-dollar coin commemorating the 25th anniversary of his Marathon of Hope.



### CENTENNIAL OF THE MONTREAL CANADIENS

In 2009, the Mint issued a one-dollar coin commemorating the centennial of the Montreal Canadiens hockey club. This commemorative circulation coin featured the Canadiens' official centennial logo and the dates 1909–2009.



### CENTENNIAL OF THE SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

In celebration of the centennial of the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders and the unique tradition of Canadian football, the Mint issued a commemorative one-dollar coin featuring the team's official logo in 2010.



### CANADA'S OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC PRIDE

A tradition since the Athens 2004 Games, the Mint has proudly issued Lucky Loonies in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 to wish our athletes luck while representing Canada at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Pictured is the Lucky Loonie bearing the official "Inukshuk" logo of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.



### CANADA'S LEGENDARY NATURE

In 2011, The Mint issued a one-dollar coin celebrating the centennial of Parks Canada. It featured a number of iconic design elements capturing the core achievements of our national parks system.

## ROBERT-RALPH CARMICHAEL'S LOONIE MARKS 25 YEARS

by Brian Kelly, Sault Star, June 30

His artwork of a loon on Canada's one-dollar coin has been minted 1.5 billion times since it first took flight on June 30, 1987, just in time for the 120th anniversary of Confederation. In 2011, 25 million loonies were minted.

"It's lovely that there's so many images out there," said Carmichael, 74, in an interview earlier this week.

"I do enjoy seeing it on the television when they put up a big loonie when they're talking finance. It's kind of fun to see it."

Royal Canadian Mint hails the loonie's launch as the most significant development in Canadian coinage since designs now used, including the maple leaf on the penny and woodland caribou on the quarter, were introduced in 1937.

Carmichael's design was chosen after the master dies for the original selection of a voyageur went missing while in transit from Ottawa to Winnipeg.

"The loonie design has stood the test of time due to its simplicity in depicting an icon of Canadian wildlife," said Christine Aquino, the mint's director of communications in an e-mail. "It is instantly recognizable."

In 2011, Royal Canadian Mint approached Carmichael to create a new loon design for a 25th anniversary fine silver one-dollar coin. Fifteen thousand were made.

"Two common loons swim majestically past one another, one admiring the loonie's eventful journey while the other looks to the future and the many adventures to come," reads a mint release.

The number 25 appears in the coin's middle. Carmichael's wife, Gwen Keatley, assisted in the design.

While coin collectors, or numismatists do not besiege Carmichael, clamouring to be photographed with him, the artist does hear from Canadians curious about the landform in his original design's background.

"I have had a number of e-mails asking me if that island is the one that they know from their lake," he laughed. "It's a generic island."

The loon was the first design by Carmichael to be accepted by Royal Canadian Mint after 10 years of effort.



Photo by Brian Tremblay Photography

Robert-Ralph Carmichael, an artist who lives in Sylvan Valley east of Sault Ste. Marie, created the artwork for Canada's one-dollar coin, or loonie. Royal Canadian Mint asked him to submit a new design for a limited edition silver coin marking the loonie's 25th anniversary.

"The loon dollar was the first, and I suppose the greatest," he said.

"You couldn't ask for a better introduction to having your work produced as a coin than that one. Everything followed that."

A monument marking Carmichael's accomplishment was erected in Echo Bay in 1992 as part of the Township of MacDonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional's centennial.



Carmichael's association with the mint has continued for more than 30 years.

His artwork is featured on about 15 different coins, including a \$100 coin marking the 100th anniversary of the Library of Parliament (2001), a silver dollar commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Saint-Maurice Ironworks (1988) and a silver dollar celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement in North America (2004).

Each design must be created within an eight-inch circle.

"Capturing the essence of a theme or particular emotion on such a small canvas is a unique talent," said Aquino.

Carmichael welcomes the research needed to create each work. Stepping back into time is easier now with Internet access at his home. In earlier years, he'd have to hit the books at libraries in Sault Ste. Marie.

"Now you've got the whole world as your image base," he said.

Carmichael is preparing more than 30 of his paintings for an upcoming exhibition at Art Gallery of Algoma. *Walking Spirits* runs July 26 to Sept. 23.

The paintings, created over more than a 30-year span from the late 1960s to the past decade, include new works not previously shown.

Carmichael describes the title painting as "an anthology, if you like, of many of the pieces that I've done in the past."

He works "pretty well" daily and has about six works underway.

Carmichael hopes when he dies his accomplishments are considered more broadly than the 12-sided coin commonly used to feed vending machines, parking meters and transit collection boxes.

"The coin designing business is important to me, but it isn't my life's achievement," said Carmichael.

"I have faith that the paintings will take on a life of their own too."

"The mint felt that the best way to celebrate this anniversary was to offer special commemorative coins that Canadians from coast-to-coast can collect as a special keepsake," said Aquino.

## THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC MEDALS

Designed especially for each Games, the medals are what every athlete strives to win. The medals at the London 2012 Olympic Games were awarded during a total of 302 Victory Ceremonies, taking place at venues across the UK.

They were designed by David Watkins, an established artist in the field of decorative art, and were produced at the Royal Mint headquarters in Llantrisant, South Wales. It was arguably the most coveted design contract in the country for 64 years—and Wolverhampton's David Watkins took a bow after crossing the line first to take gold, silver and bronze.



David Watkinstook

The 71-year-old, born and bred in the city, has designed the medals which the world's top athletes would be fighting to get their hands on at the London Games, the first Olympics to be staged in Britain since 1948.

Designer Mr Watkins has produced work for renowned collections at prestigious museums throughout the world including the Victoria & Albert in London, Metropolitan in New York and National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo.

His design has been hailed “a work of art” by previous Olympians while the president of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, gave the medals his seal of approval, declaring them a “fitting reward.”

Mr Watkins chose to depict the image of Nike, the Greek Goddess of Victory, stepping out of Greek temple The Parthenon to arrive in the host city on the front of the medal.

On the rear, the Olympic logo is centred with an impression of the Thames flowing through the emblem from left to right and diagonal lines cutting through in every direction.



### The story behind the medal

The Olympic medals' circular form is a metaphor for the world. The front of the medal always depicts the same imagery at the Summer Games—the Greek Goddess of Victory, Nike, stepping out of the depiction of the Parthenon to arrive in the Host City.

The design for the reverse features five symbolic elements:

- The curved background implies a bowl similar to the design of an amphitheatre.
- The core emblem is an architectural expression, a metaphor for the modern city, and is deliberately jewel-like.
- The grid suggests both a pulling together and a sense of outreach—an image of radiating energy that represents the athletes' efforts.
- The River Thames in the background is a symbol for London and also suggests a fluttering baroque ribbon, adding a sense of celebration.
- The square is the final balancing motif of the design, opposing the overall circularity of the design, emphasising its focus on the centre and reinforcing the sense of ‘place’ as in a map inset.



Obverse Master Hub

### Medal specification

- The London 2012 Olympic medals weigh 375–400g, are 85mm in diameter and 7mm thick.
- The gold medal is made up of 92.5% silver and 1.34% gold, with the remainder copper (a minimum of 6g of gold).
- The silver medal is made up of 92.5% silver, with the remainder copper.
- The bronze medal is made up of 97.0% copper, 2.5% zinc and 0.5% tin.

The precious ore for the medals has been supplied by London 2012 sponsor Rio Tinto and was mined at Kennecott Utah Copper Mine near Salt Lake City in America, as well as from the Oyu Tolgoi project in Mongolia. For the small amount of non-precious elements that make up the bronze medals, the zinc was sourced from a mine in Australia as well as from recycled stock, while the tin originates from a mine in Cornwall.

### How the designs were chosen

When creating the brief, the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) Victory Ceremonies team worked closely with the British Museum's Keeper of Coins and Medals, Philip Attwood, to look at the symbolic history of medals in Europe in the last century.

An independent panel of Sir John Sorrel (chair), Sir Mark Jones, Catherine Johnson, Ade Adepitan (deputy chair), Iwona Blazwick OBE, Niccy Hallifax and Martin Green was set up to look at the designs submitted by over 100 artists. The LOCOG Athletes' Committee, chaired by Jonathan Edwards, and the British Olympic Association (BOA) were also involved throughout the process.

The medals were on display at the British Museum throughout the Games.

... AND MEDALS OF THE 1908 AND 1948 LONDON GAMES



The medal of the 1908 Olympic Games showing the obverse of the gold medal with two women crowning an athlete with a laurel wreath and the reverse of the silver medal showing St. George, the patron saint of England. 33mm, 21 g, Quantity 250  
They were the work of the Australian sculptor Bertram Mackennal, who designed the King George V image utilized on coins and stamps. Image enlarged 50%

The commemorative medal of the 1908 Olympic Games showing the obverse (Fame standing upon the globe with trumpet and palm branches) in silver and the reverse (a quadriga driven by two standing figures with victory flying above) in gold. 50mm by Bertram Mackennal. The medal was sold during the games.



The medal of the 1948 Olympic Games showing the obverse of the gold medal with the goddess Nike with a laurel wreath and the reverse of the silver medal showing a winning athlete being carried by the crowd. 51.4 mm, 60 g, Quantity 300  
The Florentine sculptor and painter Giuseppe Cassioli won a competition set by the International Olympic Committee and designed the medals of the games from 1928 to 1968.

The bronze commemorative medal of the 1948 Olympic Games showing the obverse (a view of the Houses of Parliament and "Big Ben" within a semi-circle) and the reverse, which repeats the Bertram Mackennal design used on the 1908 commemorative medal. The work of the firm J.R. Pinches.

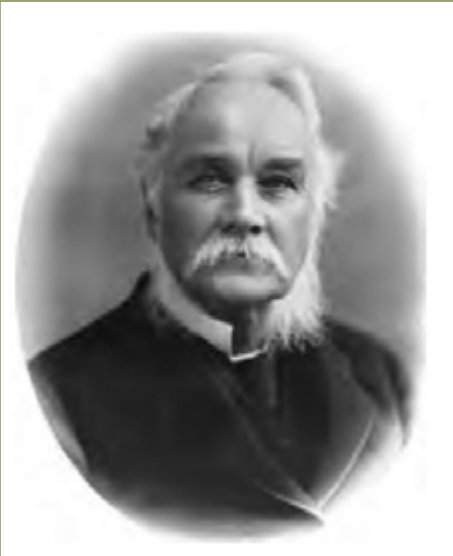


*All items shown here are listed in British Historical Medals 1760-1960 by Lawrence Brown*

## ***Sir Casimir S. Gzowski and The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers***

by Scott E. Douglas, FCNRS; FRCNA

**Did you know.....** ...that one of the most striking medals of the late nineteenth century has to be the Gzowski Medal? This medal is noted in Breton as #104 and LeRoux 1526F. The medal was designed by Rolph, Smith and Co. of Toronto and likely struck by P.W. Ellis and Co.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski was born in St. Petersburg, Russia on March 3, 1813. His father, Count Stanislaus Gzowski was a Polish nobleman and a captain in the Imperial Guard. When Casimir was 9 years old he entered the Military Engineering College where he remained for 9 years studying 3 languages and literature along with architecture, medicine, and surveying. Upon graduation in 1830, at the age of 17, his father found him a place of service with the Imperial Corp. of Engineers. In late 1830 a struggle for Poland's independence from Russian czarist rule found Casimir Gzowski, now an officer in the Polish Corp., in the middle of a bittersweet conflict. Poland had a fleeting period of independence before the Russian army regrouped and battled at the gates of Warsaw. Seven months later the city was captured. Casimir Gzowski, who had suffered minor injuries a few months earlier, was in an Austrian prison along with 4,000 of his fellow rebels. For 2 years the rebels were moved from fort to fort until the Austrian government finally allowed the rebel prisoners to be transported into permanent exile in the United States. In March of 1834 Casimir Gzowski landed in New York harbour with \$40 in his pocket from the Austrian government. Gzowski made his way to Pittsfield, Massachusetts and landed a job as a clerk in a law office. Gzowski could not speak any English but supported himself by teaching French and German, drafting and swordsmanship (fencing) in return for learning English and enough money to get by. After mastering the English language quite quickly Gzowski served an apprenticeship at law and became an American citizen. He accomplished all of this in just 3 years. In 1837 and just 24 years of

age, Gzowski headed for Pennsylvania to hang his shingle. Armed with letters of recommendation he quickly gained admission to the Pennsylvania bar and established a practice in the small town of Beaver, Pa. In 1839 Gzowski met and then married a doctor's daughter from Erie, Pa, Maria Beebe.

Pennsylvania, alive with internal improvements involving roads, bridges, and canals captured the notice of Gzowski and his skill as a military engineer soon came into play. Aligning himself with William Milnor Roberts, the chief engineer of many of these canal projects, Gzowski found himself heading across Lake Erie to Canada and the possibility of working on the reconstruction of the Welland canal. Although his efforts to win the contract for Roberts failed a chance encounter with Governor Charles Bagot, an acquaintance of Gzowski's father would lead to Casimir Gzowski remaining in Canada for the rest of his life. In 1842 Gzowski moved his family, 2 daughters and a son, to London, Ontario where he immediately began construction on roads, bridges, lighthouses throughout southern Ontario as well as building 2 harbours, each in Port Stanley and Rond Eau (Rondeau). Gzowski began working out of Toronto in 1845 when he took charge of improvements to Yonge Street north all the way to Lake Simcoe.

Introduction of the Guarantee Act by the provincial legislature in the spring of 1849 revived many railway projects. Gzowski's talent was sought after by many different firms. Soon Gzowski formed his own contracting firm known as C.S. Gzowski and Company. In November 1852 Gzowski and Company won the contract to build the Toronto and Guelph Railway. Their bid of £355,600 (or £7,350 per mile) was accepted and as the saying goes Casimir Gzowski was on his way. With the railway boom firmly underway Gzowski would do quite well in the many projects he participated in. There was controversy at times to the tendering and execution of contracts and subsequent railway mergers and takeovers. Allegations of stock 'manipulation' cropped up from time to time but little came of it. Gzowski's final triumph came in 1870 when he and long time business associate David Macpherson contracted to build a railway bridge across the Niagara River linking Fort Erie and Buffalo. This project proved to be very challenging and over the next 4 years Gzowski showed why he was considered one of the best ever. His engineering ingenuity was brilliant as he met difficulty after difficulty head on. The 3,651 foot bridge opened on October 27, 1873. At the dedication the General Manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, Charles Brydges, declared "*There is no other man in this country who could have carried on the work of this bridge or gone through the daily and hourly anxiety which it entailed during the past four years save for Colonel Gzowski.*"

Gzowski avoided participating in politics all his life and yet he could not escape the notice of Sir John A Macdonald. However, Macdonald did get him to agree to head a royal commission on canals and later serve as organizer and trustee for a \$67,000 trust fund to provide the prime minister with a regular income commensurate with his position. Later, Macdonald named Gzowski honorary aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. In 1890, on the recommendation of Macdonald, Gzowski was awarded a knighthood by Queen Victoria. He was made a KCMG in recognition of "*valuable services rendered to the Dominion of Canada.*"

Gzowski in his later years would assume many symbolic roles. He was the first chairman of the Niagara Fall Parks Commission, first President of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, Vice-President of the Ontario Bank, President of the Corporation of Wycliffe College and President of the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Company to name a few. He was a generous benefactor to many institutions and charities.

In 1887 Gzowski helped form the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. He served as President from 1889 to 1891. In September 1890 Gzowski and the Society announced an endowment in the form of a silver medal to be awarded annually for the best paper on an engineering subject. The *Rules for the Award* expressed by the Society state in part;

*“A silver medal, to be called the ‘Gzowski medal’, shall be struck each year from the annual proceeds of the fund, provided for that purpose, by Colonel Sir Casimir Gzowski.”*

In 1918 the Society was renamed the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) with the goal of representing all branches of engineering in Canada. In 1970 the Institute converted into a federation of independent member societies. In 1972 the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering re-established under the EIC federation effectively retaining the history of the original Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

When the EIC was formed in 1918 the Gzowski medal underwent some changes and became a smaller medal, 32mm in size but made of 10 karat gold. The modifications show a shield with a beaver and the reverse has wording describing what the award is for. In 1978 the metal composition was changed to gilt silver.

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering still exists today and the gold Gzowski medal described above is still awarded annually for the best technical paper.

Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski died at 6am Aug. 24, 1898 at his home in Toronto.



**Obverse:** Sir Casimir S. Gzowski, facing forward in the uniform of a Colonel. The words GZOWSKI MEDAL in the upper field and the designer ROLPH, SMITH & Co. at the base.

**Reverse:** Inscription within a wreath of maple; The/Canadian Society/of/Civil Engineers/Incorporated/June 23 rd 1887.

Besides the official silver award medal founded in 1890 the above Gzowski medal is known in bronze (scarce) and copper plated white metal but is most commonly found in white metal. It is unknown to this author to have ever been struck in gold.

### Bibliography:

- 1) The Globe newspaper August 25, 1898 and August 27, 1898.
- 2) The transactions of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers several volumes from 1888-1895
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**Scott** writes for *CCN, RCNA CN Journal, ONA Ontario Numismatist*, and our club newsletter *Did You Know...*”.

We appreciate his valuable contribution.

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# A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE

BY FRED FREEMAN



Whenever I hear the above remark it reminds me of the golfer who was having a bad day and he told his caddy that he was the worst caddy in the whole world. The caddy replied “Now that would be a remarkable coincidence.” A more remarkable coincidence occurred over the Civic Holiday week-end when I attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my home town of Iroquois Falls, Ontario (near Timmins).

Actually it was the same anniversary year of nearby Matheson and Timmins. Rather than drive the 500 or so miles (I am still not used to km) it was necessary to fly to Timmins airport and rent a car for the 1 1/2 hour drive to Iroquois Falls. The population in town is nearly 5000 persons and thank goodness there was a Tim Hortons open 24 hours a day over the holiday weekend. The Centennial Committee outdid themselves with a lavish banquet on Saturday and numerous historical displays around town.

Iroquois Falls was the first planned community in Canada and no expense was spared to plan for pleasant living of the town folk. For instance, there is a nine hole golf course in the centre of town and every amenity one could wish for. The banquet was held in the modern arena and about 780 guests and townsfolk sat down to a delicious buffet meal.

Several months ago, I was requested to speak to the dinner guests which at that time was estimated to be about 400 persons. However it soon increased to 780, the capacity of the large all purpose hall. The talk was to be about life in the town during the Great Depression as experienced by the children. I felt like Rip Van Winkle returning after many years, but it was 20 years for him and 70 years for myself. Luckily, a member of the sound crew was seated nearby and said that as long as the ‘mike’ was continually held about an inch from one’s lips, the sound would be heard all over the hall. Looking around, there was nothing but a sea of faces as far as the eye could see. So I held the ‘mike’ with my right hand in the suggested position and apparently the sound carried to all reaches of the hall.

Betty cautioned me about too many jokes so they were kept to a minimum. One incident as a twelve

year old at the beginning of the Second world War was well received. Cigarettes were packaged as 10 for a dime. Soon the numbers were reduced to 9 and then 8 and lastly to 7. The next price increase was when the package of 7 was increased to 12 cents. This was the final straw, I realized that smoking was now costing me real money so I gave up smoking for all time.

Probably by this time you are wondering about the title of this article. So here it is. On Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> there was a bus tour around town where all the homes of various paper mill officials were pointed out to us and the story of various points of interest were explained by a chap who was the high school principal by the name of Bill Allan assisted by his wife. This chap was so articulate and knowledgeable that just as we were leaving the tour, I gave him a replica of the first Bank Of Canada 20 dollar bank note that includes the picture of our gracious Queen as a pretty 8 year old princess. This particular bank note is one of many that I duplicate in colour and of course includes the wording-”SPECIMEN” to satisfy legal requirements. Bill Allan then said he was from Woodstock and was formerly a student at the Woodstock Collegiate.

Now comes the “remarkable coincidence.” He mentioned that as an eighteen year old he joined the Woodstock Coin Club when Jack Griffin was the President. Jack Griffin is well known in the Canadian Numismatic community, having written books on coins and exhibited at numerous coin shows. Jack Griffin and I were also close friends and so was Bill Allan at an earlier time period. So here I was 500 miles from home and just by chance met another numismatist.

Incidentally, I recently became interested in Canada’s bank note history and am finding it to be a very exciting story. For instance, there was a long struggle between the Federal government and the banks for the lucrative right to issue bank notes. When the Bank of Canada issued their first bank notes in 1935, Canada’s banks were given a ten year period to stop issuing their own bank notes. So in 1945, the banks were no longer allowed to issue bank notes. Let’s keep in mind that the banks were the ones with the money in the earlier days of our country and played a vital part in Canada’s growth when the Federal government was in dire straits financially, paying for such necessary projects as the Wetland Canal and the railway to B.C.



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