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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

1971 - 1973

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COLLECTING CANADIAN DECIMAL COINS

BY TYPE

By Lloyd T. Smith.

We may choose any one of several methods of collecting numismatic items. Sometimes, the method is decided by the kind of collection. For instance, if one were to start collecting world Commemoratives, World Crowns or World Proof Sets, he would try to acquire every possible different issue in the particular field.

If our choice of collection is Coins of the World, we may decide that just too many coins have been issued or, that prices for many specimens are beyond our means; so, we must decide which coins to collect and which to leave for the other collector. We may decide to collect only coins made of a certain metal, coins of a certain size, one example in each metal for each coinage of the countries of the world, or, only coins of a given period in history. The methods are many and I am sure that some may have chosen a different field from those mentioned.

The reason for this limited method of collecting is mainly a matter of dollars and cents, and applies with equal importance to our Canadian decimal coins. For about the past 20 years, almost all collectors in this country have collected Canadian coins by series; that is, an example of each denomination for every date of issue, plus most of the recognized varieties. Now how many collectors do we know who can boast of owning a complete set of Canadian decimal coins? How many of these complete sets would grade even VF or better for every coin? I do not mean those who can say "Yes, I have all but 4 or 5 of those very rare dates." I mean absolutely complete by dates at least.

The slogan that has been used by passenger ship lines in their competition with the airlines which claims that half the fun is getting there, is also applicable to coin collecting. Much of the fun of collect-

ing is in building your collection, but if you know before you start that you will not likely complete the series, it is rather frustrating and, just as you would not plan a sea voyage if you knew beforehand that you wouldn't quite complete the trip, so, many would-be collectors have dropped this hobby when they realized that they could not likely complete the Canadian decimal series.

Fortunately, we do have an alternative and I would advise any collector who cannot afford the rare Canadian coins, and all the new collectors of Canadian coins to give serious consideration to collecting by type. The main advantages are: (1) You will be able to complete your collection; (2) You do not require most of those high priced dates; (3) You will be able to buy all specimens in better condition; (4) It will cost you less to keep the type collection up to date; (5) You will be able to use the money saved by this method for other fields of collecting.

What is a type collection of Canadian decimal coins? Basically, a type collection consists of one example of each denomination of coin issued for each reigning monarch, plus any other changes in design, shape, metallic content, mint letters or legend and all commemorative issues. One can also include any major varieties, patterns, mint errors or any other variation from normal production. We see now that what might be termed a complete type set could later be expanded according to the wishes and finances of the individual collector.

For many years, the governments of both Upper and Lower Canada had experienced much difficulty in the coinage field. Any student of the tokens of Canada will know of the many varieties of tokens that were in circulation and the problems of counterfeits, unofficial strikes of many lightweight imitations and, particularly, the lack of a coinage standardization. Serious attempts to meet the demand for good coinage based on the British standard resulted in large issues of pennies and half-pennies, but in many areas, the use of old tokens and even many different foreign coins still persisted.

The decision by the Province of Canada to adopt a decimal system of coinage resulted in 1858 issues of 1¢, 5¢, 10¢ and 20¢ values. Large quantities of the 1¢ value were also issued in 1859. These pieces constitute the complete type issue for the Province of Canada and are usually included in both type and series collections of the Dominion of Canada.

The obverses of all Canadian decimal coins carry the portrait of the British reigning monarchs, so we should collect one example for each monarch, plus a few extra specimens with obverse changes which we shall also mention.

The first obverse change is found in the Victoria large cent issues; those for the Province of Canada show Queen Victoria with a wreath in her hair and the Dominion of Canada issues show her with a tiara; so, we should have examples of both types. Of course, we must have a specimen of the 20¢ value as this is Canada's only year of

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issue for this value.

For those who would extend their collection to include some varieties, there are two re-engraved and two over-strike examples in the 1859 date of the 1¢ value and, large and small dates in the 1858 5¢ value. In the Dominion of Canada issues for Victoria we must include the 25¢ and 50¢ denominations and can now include examples to show the H mint mark for the Heaton Mint in Birmingham, England. Date varieties in this group are the 1¢ of 1891; 5¢ of 1874 and 1900; 10¢ of 1893 and 1899 and 25¢ of 1880. Other varieties include the 5¢ of 1870 with Flat and Raised borders; 10¢ of 1891 with 21 and 22 leaves and 50¢ of 1870 with and without the LCW initials under the bust on the obverse.

Edward VII issues are less eventful and besides the obverse example need only include a specimen of each denomination for reverses and possibly an H mint example, the 5¢ of 1902 with large and small H's and the 10¢ of 1909 with small and large leaves.

For George V we have three different obverses, one for 1911 with the words DEI GRATIA omitted, sometimes called the Godless or Graceless coins, an example showing the words restored and a 1935 silver dollar, Canada's first commemorative coin, marking the 25th year of the reign of King George V. Reverses should include the large and small cents, 5¢ in silver and nickel, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and a silver dollar. Reverse varieties include the 5¢ of 1926 with near and far 6, 10¢ of 1913 with large and small leaves and the 1936 dot 25¢.

You will note here, that I list the 1936 dot 25¢ as a variety type, but do not list the 1¢ or 10¢ dot for 1936. This is a good example of the difference in cost between type and series collecting and the greater possibility of completing your type set. The 1¢ and 10¢ values are almost unobtainable at any price, but we do not need them because the 25¢ with dot represents the dot type and a nice specimen is within the reach of most collectors. The same applies to the 50¢ type for George V; the series collector would be required to pay almost \$7,000.00 for an extremely fine specimen of the 1921 date; but the type collector needs only a specimen that will represent the type, so he would buy one dated 1929 at a cost of about \$20. in EF. That is a saving of \$6,980.00 on one type, enough to complete your basic type collection in EF.

The George VI coinage has the largest number of types, but fortunately, most of them are relatively inexpensive. We will need two obverses, one before and one after 1948. This was the year India gained independence and the words ET IND IMP were dropped from the coinage. Reverse include one example for each denomination plus a coin dated 1947 with the small maple leaf indicating that the coins were issued in 1948 before the new dies were ready.

For the 5¢ value we see many changes, from the 1937 dot to the 12-sided tombac with beaver of 1942, a result of nickel scarcity; 1943 tombac with V and torch and the border motto in International code, "We Win When We Work Willingly"; the 1944-45 chromium-plated steel and the 1951 nickel commemorative with the 1851-1951 dates. Some may wish to include the 1947 dot 5¢ or 25¢. There were also four different 50¢ issues for 1947; Straight 7, Curved 7, and each of these with a small maple leaf added, but one example with curved 7 and one with straight 7 and maple leaf could suffice for type.

The silver dollars should include the 1939 commemorative with Parliament Buildings, marking the visit of King George VI and Queen

Elizabeth to Canada, and the 1949 commemorative with John Cabot's ship the Matthew, on the entry of Newfoundland as a province of Canada. The different types of the 1947 issue and different water-line types for 1950 and 1952 could also be included.

Several changes have occurred in the Elizabeth II coinage, so that we need two obverses, a young head and older head; and some may wish to collect examples of the 1953 no shoulder strap and shoulder strap varieties. For reverses, besides regular denomination values, we need steel and nickel 12-sided 5¢ and round 5¢; examples of silver and nickel metals in other denominations; old and new designs of Armorial Bearings of Canada on the 50¢; the regular canoe reverse dollar and five commemorative dollars, the 1958 totem pole type for the British Columbia 100th anniversary, the Charlottetown-Quebec 1864-1964 Confederation talks type, 1967 Confederation with 1867-1967 dates, 1970 Manitoba with 1870-1970 dates and the new 1971 British Columbia dollar in .500 fine silver to commemorate the entry of this province into Confederation 100 years ago. Examples of the smaller size of 50¢ and \$1 values as issued since 1968 should be included.

Varieties of Elizabeth II reverses could also include examples of bead types on the 1¢ and \$1 values for 1965; the two types of 10¢ issued in 1968, Philadelphia Mint with flat cavity edge and Ottawa Mint with V-shaped cavity edge; the 10¢ of 1969 with re-designed smaller ship and rounded figures in date; 25¢ of 1967 struck in both .800 and .500 fine silver; wire rim and flat rim examples of one of the higher denominations for 1953; possibly a 10¢ specimen of 1956 with dot under the date.

A complete set of the 1967 issue should be included as all reverses were different for that year and the set includes the \$20. gold piece issue. I would also include one example of either a \$5. or \$10. gold reverse of George V. Though the sovereigns are not decimal coins and not considered a Canadian issue by some collectors, examples of these for Edward VII and George V may be included if purchased at a reasonable price.

Any collector of type coins can include other mint errors or variants according to his own wishes, but we see from the types listed that we do not require many of the rare and expensive coins. It is now possible for many more collectors to complete a representative collection of our Canadian coins. Not only that, we can complete the collection in far better average condition.

It is not sour grapes, but good numismatic reasoning when a collector prefers to own and display an uncirculated common coin rather than a poor example of a rare coin. If one wishes to consider his collection partly as an investment, there is no reason at all why he could not buy the most expensive coins for type; but we should aim first to buy the nicest specimen we can afford, even if it is not the rarest in a series.

P.S. The 1971 nickel dollar is also a commemorative and should be included. Sorry I missed this one.

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Don't forget the C.N.A.'s 21st birthday convention to be held in Vancouver, Aug. 26-28. Be sure you contact W. E. Perry, P.O. Box 5093, Vancouver 13, B.C. for details re bourse, exhibits, and reservations. See you all in Vancouver this summer.

The following is a letter received by Ye Ed and which seems to tell its own story and from which we can learn something and maybe go and do likewise:-

R.R. # 1, Millgrove, Ont.
May 21, 1971

Mr. Pat Lambert,

Dear Sir:

On Thursday, May 13th, I had the distinct pleasure of giving a talk on coins to a Grade V class at Elizabeth Gardens School in Burlington. This was arranged by my son who teaches the class. Approximately forty children, age ten, both boys and girls, listened very attentively to my talk and bombarded me with questions for an hour afterwards.

My talk covered the origin of coins, the Spanish pieces of eight and Canadian coins. I talked for about three-quarters of an hour and left about twenty minutes (20 mins. to 4) for them to view the displays I had set up. They didn't finish looking and asking questions till 4.45 p.m.

My displays consisted of sets of Canadian coins, including mint sets, world sets, proof sets, crowns, tokens, oddities and some bills. Their many questions indicated a real thirst for knowledge and I was able to answer them to their satisfaction.

The result of this adventure in numismatics is that I want to recommend it to all collectors who want to enjoy a most rewarding experience and encourage our younger generation in the art of numismatics. I intend to write to the Royal Canadian Mint and request that they send all bulletins on coins to the school for posting on the bulletin board.

I was able to give this talk as I was recovering from a back operation. I hope to be able to give another talk in June providing I'm not back at work.

Hoping my experience will encourage other collectors to do their thing for the future of numismatics by encouraging our youth to collect our Canadian coins.

Yours sincerely,
Signed: Arthur F. Haley O.N.A.#686

DISPLAY

You display some coins in an old glass box
The people all come to stare and gawk.
You display some shiny, some old, some new,
Some worth a fortune, but only to you;
Some with a future, but more with a past
Like a book on a shelf that you read at last.

A coin tells a story of Kings and Queens
Of countries that were and are.
Some show the past and things that last
Some show the future, some not so far
And there are many stories we learn from the past.

(Thanks to Tom Sullivan, Ottawa Coin Club)

THE BREAD TOKENS OF ONTARIO - continued from June issue)BROCKVILLE

Good for one/small/loaf/Campbell's/Bakery
(Blank) (Dotted Ring) A-R-26

Wm. Hunt/Confectioner/Brockville
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-R-25

BRONTE

Bronte's Model Bakery/J. Dobson/Prop,
Good for/1/loaf/of bread B-R-25
Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf/of bread A-R-25
Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf/of bread B-R-25

BRUSSELS

At/Ballantyne's/Bakery/Brussels.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-33x19

G. Thomson,/Baker/Brussels, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-Sc4-29

CALEDONIA

A.E. Jones/Baker/Caledonia, Ont.
(Curved)
(Small letters)
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-33x19

A.E. Jones/Baker/Caledonia, Ont.
(Straight)
(large letters)
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-33x19
(Star before & after "1")

A.E. Jones/Baker/Caledonia.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-33x19

Albert E. Jones/Baker,/Caledonia.
Good for/one/loaf of bread A-RE-33x19

Seldon's/Bakery/and/Confectionery
Good for/one/loaf of bread A-Sc8-29

CARLETON PLACE

H.R. Bowland.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-32 $\frac{1}{2}$ x20

We sell/flour/and/groceries/W. Jenkins
High Street Bakery/Good for/1/loaf A-Oc-27

CHATHAM

J.H. Bogart/Grocer & Baker/203 Queen St./
Chatham, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-32x19

Joseph Waterhouse/Park St./Chatham,/Ont.
Good for/5/loaves/of/bread A-Oc-25
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-R-25

Ask for/Wing's Bread/Chatham, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf/of/bread A-Sc4-28

CHEESLEY

Buckley's/Chesley/Ontario/Bakery
Good for/one/half/loaf of bread A-R-20

(Closely spaced "Chesley")
Wm. Buckley,/Chesley,/Ont.
Good for/one/half/loaf of bread A-S-20

(Widely spaced "Chesley")
Wm. Buckley,/Chesley,/Ont.
Good for/one/half/loaf of bread A-S-20

CHESTERVILLE

The Chesterville/Dairy
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-Oc-27

CLARENCE CREEK

Francis Barbeau/Boulangier/Clarence Creek, Ont.
Bon pour/un/gros pain A-RE-32x19
Bon pour/un/petit pain A-Sc8-25

CLIFFORD

G.E. Scott/Baker/&/Confectioner/Clifford, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf/of/bread A-Sc4-29

CLINTON

Bartliff's Bakery/Phone 1/Clinton
Loaf of bread/Good for/1 A-Oc-28

COBALT

Crown/Bakery/Cobalt
Good for/one loaf/bread A-Oc-29

L. Zanin/Cobalt,
Good for/1/loaf of bread A-RE-33x20

COLDWATER

J.C. Parker,/Baker/&/Grocer/Coldwater
Good for/1/loaf A-Sc8-29

COLLINGWOOD

Brown Bros./Leading/Bakers/&/
Confectioners/Collingwood, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf/of/bread A-Sc4-28½

Brown Bros./Leading Bakers/&/Confectioners/
Collingwood, Ont.
Good for/½/loaf of bread A-Ov-30x21

Ditson Bros./Bakers/Collingwood, Ont.
Good for/½/loaf of bread A-S-23

COOKSTOWN

W.J. Broley/Baker/Cookstown
Good for/½/loaf A-Sc8-30
Good for/1/large loaf A-R-25

COURTRIGHT

Kerr's/Bakery/Courtright/Ont.
Good for/one/loaf/bread

A-R-25

DELHI

J.M. Wilson/Delhi, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread

A-RE-32x19

DESERONTO

R. Marrigan/Baker/Deseronto
Good for/ $\frac{1}{2}$ /loaf of bread
Good for/1/loaf/of bread

A-R-25
A-R-28

R. Marrigan/Baker/Deseronto (c/s"Void")
Good for/1/loaf/of bread

A-R-28

DRESDEN

J.B. Baxter & Son/Bakers/Dresden.
Good for/1/loaf of bread

A-RE-32x19 $\frac{1}{2}$

N. Perry,/The/People's/Baker/Dresden.
Good for/one/loaf

A-0c-22

DINDAS

Geo. Lees/Baker/Dundas.
Good for/1/loaf of bread
Good for/one/loaf/of/bread
Good for/half/loaf/bread

A-R-25
A-R-25
A-R-19

DUNNVILLE

M.J. Cleary,/Baker/&/Confectioner/1900
Good for/one loaf,/M.J. Cleary.

B-R-24 $\frac{1}{2}$

V.E. Griffin/General and Fancy/Grocery/Dunnville, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread

A-0v-31x22

(Note: Error - Should be "J.E. Griffin"
Not "V.E. Griffin"

DURHAM

E.A. Rowe/Baker/Durham, Ont.
Good for/1/loaf of bread

A-RE-32 $\frac{1}{2}$ x19 $\frac{1}{2}$

DUTTON

C.W. Hodder/Dutton, Ont.
Good for/2/loaves/of/bread

A-Sc8-29

(To be continued in September)

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

Listed below are the proposed coin club annual show dates and banquets. Check, please, to see if they conflict with your club's forthcoming show dates.

- July 16 & 17 - Hobby & Antique Show, Kiwanis Centre, Madoc, Ont.,
For information write 7-62 Hobby Shop, Madoc, Ont.
- Aug. 26-28 - Canadian Numismatic Association '71 Convention. As
this is the C.N.A.'s 21st birthday convention you can
be sure the Vancouver Club will do everything possible
to make this coming of age show one of the best. Det-
ails and application forms from exhibit chairman -
W. E. Perry, P.O. Box 5093, Vancouver 13, B.C.
- Sept. 18 - Huronia Numismatic Society 11th Annual Show and Ban-
quet at the Continental Inn, Highway 90 and 400,
Barrie, Ont. Contact Ken Prophet, 7 Newton St.,
Barrie, Ont.
- Sept. 19 - London Numismatic Society Coin Show from noon to 7.00
p.m. at the Carousel Motor Hotel, Wellington Road
South near Highway 401. For information re bourse, etc.
write Lloyd T. Smith, 123 Arundell St., London 41, Ont.
- Sep. 25 - Toronto Coin Club 35th Anniversary Coin Show and Banq-
uet. For details write to Robert Aaron, 80 King St.,
West, 4th Floor, Toronto 1, Ont., or Fred Jewett,
26 Davean Drive, Bayview Hills, Willowdale, Ont.
- Oct. 3 - Sarnia Bluewater International Coin Show at the Village
Inn, N., Christina St., Sarnia, Ont. Details re bourse,
etc., write Norm Scott, P.O. Box 89, Corunna, Ont.
- Oct. 9 - 10 - Kitchener Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet in the
Walper Hotel, Kitchener. More details later.
- Oct. 17 - Stratford Coin Club Annual Show at the Legion Hall,
207 St. Patrick St., Stratford. Details re bourse,
etc., to Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford,
- Oct. 23 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet to be
held in Westminster United Church Hall, Queenston St.,
St. Catharines. Details re bourse, etc., contact
President Howard Hill, 1 Hayes Ave., St. Catharines, Ont,
- Oct. 24 - Tillsonburg 9th Annual Coin Show and Hobby Show at the
Orange Hall, Brock St. East, Tillsonburg, Ont. For
details re bourse, etc. contact Charles Laister, No. 3,
Highway, Tillsonburg, Ont,
- Oct. 30 - Hamilton Coin Club Annual Show. Details in next
Club Bulletin.
- Nov. 13 - 14 - Windsor Coin Club Annual Show at the Norton Palmer
Hotel, Park St. at Pelissier. Details re bourse, etc.,
to Windsor Coin Club, Box 173, Sandwich P.O., Windsor 10,
Ont. Please make reservations early.
- Mar. 25 - 26 - Waterloo Coin Society Annual Show at the Holiday Inn,
No. 8 Highway, Kitchener, Ont. Further details in
future bukletins.

NEW MEMBERS

The applications which appeared in the June issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted. The following new applications have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the September issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- 814 - Roderick A. Walker 112 Ivon Ave. N., Hamilton 27, Ont.
- 815 - Mrs. George D. McQuade, 183 Island Park Dr., Ottawa, Ont.
K1Y0A3
- 816 - Dr. F. Cecil Pace, 412 Sparks St., Ottawa, Ont. K1R5A2
- C68 - Welland Coin Club, c/o Andre Guillemette, 51 Grange Avenue, Welland, Ont.

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THIS 'N THAT -

Here we are at another summer recess and it only remains for me to cogitate a little on the first half of the year 1971 -- it has been a fairly fruitful one - from the bulletin point of view anyway -- we have had many first class articles from enthusiastic numismatists and I use the word in its fullest sense -- Wes Hamm has done a great deal of research in his recent series on Canadian Trade (Bread) Tokens - the first part has now been completed - Wes has promised further chapters on this fascinating subject for our Sept. issue - so, Wes, don't you forget - also may I remind some other folk who have promised me an article - like say, Bill E., Allan McN., Ed. St., Don F., to mention only a few - the fact that our bulletin is widely read is due entirely to you folks who give up an hour or two of your time to give us your knowledge and researches into the mysteries of coins and the origin of the same - you know I'd like to hear from some of our lesser known members - Why don't you tell us about how you started in the hobby and why you find it so interesting -- I am positive - I use the word purposely - that I can suggest many of them who could write a short but most informative article on their collecting - how they started - who started them, etc. - So if you feel the mood of authorship coming over you - sit down with pen/pencil/paper and let the words flow where they may . --By the way - for those of you who have followed and contributed in no small way to - Project Brenda - will be interested in knowing about one case were we were able to really help and contribute in a small way at best - to the recovery of a sick young lady - age 13 years - who has had a serious spinal operation which means lying in bed for approximately 6-9 months - Ye Ed decided that here was a deserving case for our pet project and her enthusiasm upon receiving the coins from Project Brenda (thanks to Jack Wallace, its founder), more than recompensed any small efforts on behalf of this worthy cause - Ye Ed and Mrs. Ed will be going to see Diane Masonovitch this weekend and will convey the best wishes of all our contributors and supporters - by the way, send your donations to Jack Wallace, not to me please -- Members will note that this month we have not listed any coin clubs news - this was because very few clubs sent in their June notices so we decided to leave same until September - Ye Ed's typist and trouble and strife tells me to cut this short as the stencil is about full, so