



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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TWO MEN AND A MEDAL

By Michael R. Curry, F.R.N.S.; C.O.C.C.

In 1816, Britain had a new mint and a new coinage. This was the direct result of the work of two men, William Wellesley Pole and Benedetto Pistrucchi.

William Wellesley Pole was a politician who had obtained the post of "Master Worker of the Mint", as a political plum. He was a brother of the Duke of Wellington and the Marquess of Wellesley, the Governor General of India, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Pole supervised a complete change in the mint's physical and personal character. It was Pole who set up the Mint Museum as a storage place for all coinages struck in the mint and dies, etc. Pole himself collected Greek coins and it was from the reverse of a stater of Terina, in his collection, that Thomas Wyon had to design a reverse for the Waterloo medal.

Pole's reorganization of the mint was completed just in time to start on the re-coinage of 1816. He had obtained new equipment from Boulton and Watt's Soho Foundry and Mint in Birmingham, and in the end would borrow workers as well. As part of his work, Pole had to engage engravers and designers. At the same time he had to cooperate with a Mint Committee, but he appears to have been of sufficiently strong stuff to win most encounters with the Mint Committee.

It was Pole who recognized and appreciated Pistrucchi's talent and commissioned him to make some models for a new coinage. Pistrucchi, born in Rome on May 9, 1784, was a skilled gem and seal cutter, but was unfamiliar with the art of coin production. Since his youth, he had displayed a remarkable talent in gem cutting and through a number of disputes with various employers (he was of a sensitive and excitable nature to the time of his death), he crossed Europe and came to England. Quite rightly he

help but feel that Pistrucchi, as he cut these dies, was moved by very real sentiments such as these. He was indeed losing a friend who had helped and protected him in a period of English history that was notorious for political intrigue and the importance of influence. Lord Maryborough himself was a victim of political changes.

This bronze medal is an important piece in the history of Britain and British coinage and brings together on the same piece two men who were to create a coinage of beauty and excellence, that is still legal tender, and has lived on in the reverse of the modern sovereign, a slightly modified version of Pistrucchi's immortal design.

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

Listed below are the proposed coin club annual show dates and banquets. Please check these dates to see if any of the dates will conflict with your club's proposed show.

1973

- Feb. 3-4 - Central Coin Club 2-day show mostly for the Junior members information. Displays for Juniors only. Full details from Frank Lieshout, P.O. Box 841, Station "K", Toronto 315, Ont.
- Mar. 23-24 - The Torex Show - Joint Convention at the Holiday Inn, downtown Toronto, in conjunction with the Central Coin Club. Full details from Frank Lieshout, P.O. Box 841, Station "K", Toronto 315, Ontario.
- Mar. 10 - North York Coin Club Annual Show, Bourse, Book and White Elephant Sale in the North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. For information write to - North York Coin Club, P.O. Box 294, Willowdale, Ontario.
- Apr. 14-15 - Ontario Numismatic Association Annual Convention at the Waterloo Motor Inn, Waterloo, Ontario. Information re Bourse, Displays, reservations, etc., to Mr. Wilf Erb, P.O. Box 41, Waterloo, Ontario.
- May 5-6 - City of Ottawa Coin Club annual Coin and Stamp Show., R.A Centre, Ottawa. Details later re Bourwe, displays, etc., later.

NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

YE ED'S NOTE -

You will note that many of the clubs have been omitted this month due to the fact that no December Bulletins have been received in time for this printing, we have purposely delayed typing the Bulletin to enable club secretaries to get their December news to us by the end of December. Unfortunately many have failed to do this, so please, will you try to have your club news in the mail at the latest the 24th of the month. Thank you.

GALT AND AREA COIN CLUB -

This was the last meeting before the club's name was changed to the Cambridge Coin Club. The President welcomed 23 members and guests. The event of the evening was a talk with coloured slides by Peter Russell of Kitchener on the subject of ore, mines,

minerals, etc. of Ontario. The speaker also had a display of rock and ore samples with the minerals shown in their natural formation. This talk was very much enjoyed.

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB

At the last meeting several items of interest were brought up. Clifford Shipman mentioned he had received a book on "Maundy Money" which is very comprehensive. Mr. Dagenais reported he had received from the Royal Canadian Mint back issues of coin newspapers to be used as reference material. This was followed by a sharp lively auction.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB -

The last meeting took the form of a dinner at which 53 sat down. The highlight of the evening was an amusing movie on Laurel and Hardie shown by Mr. Bill Gage. This was followed by an interesting auction.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB

At the last meeting the attendance was 26 members and guests. Bruce Brace stepped into the breach when the guest speaker did not show up and gave an interesting talk on U.S. double struck cents. The executive for 1973 is as follows-President-A. Hill, Vice-President-C. Fincher, Secretary-Alan Hunter, Treasurer-T. Roach, Editor-Terry Roach.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

At the last meeting the main subject of interest was voting on a couple of changes in the constitution which is a very important matter to any club. The entertainment part of the meeting was a film called "Out West" featuring Laurel and Hardie. A slate of officers for 1973 will be presented at the next meeting.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB -

The last meeting was attended by 17 members and guests. The Guest speaker, Len. Coles, gave a talk and showed slides on "DIAMONDS" which was greatly enjoyed. The President of the O.N.A., Charlie Laister, presented Mr. Coles with a medal for his work as a speaker over the years.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

There were 35 members and guests at the last meeting who listened to some lively discussions concerning some statements in an article by Alex Sweeten and the outcome was that Mr. Sweeten will be making a correction in their next Bulletin. This discussion was very informative and showed an interest by all members of the club in numismatic information. A vote took place which resulted in Mr. Brooker and Mr. Sweeten being elected as Directors.

STRATFORD COIN CLUB

At the last meeting 16 members and guests enjoyed a talk on St. Bernard dogs. The guest speaker, Mike Walton, brought along a pup and a full grown dog to add interest to the talk. While this was not on numismatics it was enjoyed by all. This was followed by a lively auction.

TIMMINS COIN CLUB

The last meeting was attended by 14 members and guests. The main interest in the program was an audio-visual slides on "Coins of Roman Britain". This was very much enjoyed. Several members had also brought British coins to show. Nice to hear from Timmins. Keep it up!

TORONTO COIN CLUB

At the last meeting the guest speaker, May Bunnett, gave an excellent talk with slides on the work of Emanuel Hahn and Elizabeth Wyn Wood. The following are the officers for 1973:- Pres.- Charles Danby, Vice-Pres.-Louise Graham, 2nd Vice-Pres.-Stanley Clute, Sec.-Ingrid Smith, Treas.-Harvey Farrow, Directors-Dr. Wilkinson, Ray Pleau and Dr. Kay, Librarian-Gordon Vanson, Receptionist-Retta Frampton.

FROM THISTLETOWN COIN CLUB - COIN COLLECTORS NOTES

The season of Chanukah, or Feast of Lights, which is celebrated by the Jewish community, begins at sundown, December 21. The first Chanukah was celebrated over 2,000 years ago, at the successful conclusion of the revolt of the Jews against their Greek overlords.

Although the Jews were outnumbered by the Greeks, the mercenaries in the Greek army couldn't match the zeal of the Jews. After three years Jerusalem was captured by the Jews and purification of the Holy City and the Temple was undertaken.

When purification of the Temple was completed and the menorah (the seven-branched candlestick which has become the Chanukah symbol) was about to be lighted, it was found that there was only one day's supply of oil which had not been defiled. By a miracle, it remained alight for eight days. Since that time, Chanukah has been celebrated as a time of rejoicing and is regarded as a national, as well as a religious holiday.

The traditional gift for children at this season has been a silver coin. What more appropriate gift than a set of modern Israeli coins? Sets of small denomination coins are available, inexpensive, and usually packaged in blue and white, the national colours of Israel.

The modern Israeli coins are rich in symbolism, with the emblems taken from ancient Jewish coins. The wreath of leaves which appears on the reverse of all coins except the commemoratives, is copied from coins of the Bar-Kokhba War of 132-135 A.D.

DID YOU KNOW -

AEGVPTO CAPTA - TO EGYPT THE CONQUERRED, reads a silver denarius struck by Octavius while consul for the sixth time. On the reverse of the coin, we see the conqueror's head facing right, the legend CAESAR and the term as consul, whereas on the reverse, we see the inscription AEGVPTO CAPTA and a crocodile crawling right and holding its mouth open. By using these types, Octavius celebrated his victory over the Ptolemaic house in 30 B.C.

(the Cornucopiae, Vol. 7, No. 7.)

FUNNY BONE -

The preacher was finishing admonishing his congregation about the evils of greediness for wealth. "Remember, my friends," he said, "there will be no buying or selling in Heaven."

Whereupon a coin dealer seated in the back row of the church was heard to grumble, "That's not where business has gone, anyway."

(Thanks to North York Coin Club)

By R. C. Willey, F.R.N.S., F.C.N.R.S.

THE JARGON OF THE HOBBY

In numismatics, as in any other hobby or livelihood, it is important to know the meanings of the special terms used. The specialized vocabulary of coin collecting is large, but beginners and young collectors need learn only the most widely used terms at first.

To begin with, there is the jaw-breaking word "numismatics". What does it mean? This is the name for the serious and systematic collection and study of coins, tokens, medals and paper money. A numismatist is a coin collector who not only collects but studies his coins and shares his knowledge with others.

Next is to distinguish between coins, medals and tokens. A coin is a piece of metal, usually struck from a die, impressed with a design and issued by a government for circulation as money. It may or may not have a numeral or inscription of value. Canadian coins all bear the value in words or numbers. The best example of a coin without any expression of value on it is the British gold sovereign.

A token is a piece of metal resembling a coin, but issued by a bank, some business firm, a private individual, or a local authority such as a city or county. Tokens may be issued to circulate as money or to be used to pay for goods and services. Such pieces are good only in the community where the issuer does business, or at best only in one province or colony. Most of the Canadian tokens issued before Confederation were issued to circulate as money, and were good in the colony or province of issue. Tokens issued after Confederation were good only at the place of business of the issuer, and were payable in goods and services. Such pieces are inscribed "Good for 5¢ in trade at the store" or "Good for one drink at the bar" or "Good for a shave".

A medal is a piece of metal, struck like a coin, but never intended for use as money or to be redeemed in goods and services. Medals are struck as awards for scholastic achievements, military valour, civilian heroism and similar merits. They are also struck to commemorate great events and to honour famous people.

In case anyone wants a concise definition of money, here it is. Money is what you buy things with. For those who want a more sophisticated definition, money is a medium of exchange, in which the value of all things is expressed.

The piece of metal on which the design is impressed to produce a coin is called a blank, a flan or a planchet.

The side of a coin bearing the principal design is the obverse. In Canada the obverse bears the Queen's head; hence the expression "heads". The opposite side of a coin is the reverse, popularly called "tails". In Canada, the reverse bears the date, the value and the word Canada as inscriptions.

The main design on either side of a coin is called the type. Smaller things shown on some coins are called symbols. The lighthouse and ship in the background of an English penny are good examples of symbols. The figure of Britannia, of course, is the type. Inscriptions are often called legends. The bottom of a coin, which often has the date is the exergue. It is sometimes divided from the type by a horizontal line. The best example of an exergue is seen on the reverse of an English penny, on which the date is in just such a space below Britannia.

Most coins have a border on each side, which consists of very small beads or fine teeth. The portion of the coin outside the border is the rim, which is formed by the pressure of striking. A high and narrow rim is called a wire rim, as is seen on the silver dollars from 1935 to 1953. The rim of a coin is not to be confused with the edge. The edge may be plain, as on our cents and nickels, or reeded as on the silver coins. The fine lines on the edges of our silver coins are called reeding, It is incorrect to refer to them as milling!

A proof is a special striking on polished blanks from polished dies. A proof is struck by gentle squeezing pressure, each coin being struck three or four times. This brings out every detail in the design, showing the design at its best. Most proofs have a mirror-like background, or field, with a frosted type. Proofs were originally made to show a design at its best to those who had the right to choose the design of a coinage. They were presented to the sovereign, the government officials, foreign ambassadors, the mint master and the designer and engraver, usually. They often entered the coin market after the owners died, and were much sought after by collectors because of their beauty. In modern times proofs were struck for sale to collectors, usually on some important occasion. For example, a proof set was struck in England in 1953 on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, for sale to collectors. Canada has struck no proofs since 1937.

A pattern is a suggested design not adopted for the coinage. Whenever there is a plan to change the design of the coinage, artists and engravers submit designs to the mint. Dies are made, and the designs struck in proof. Such pieces, if the designs are not chosen for the coinage, are called patterns. Patterns were also presented to the sovereign and important officials connected in any way with the coinage. They are generally very rare.

The condition of coins is most important. Condition is state of preservation. The better the condition, the more a coin is worth. This was covered in the July issue.

This is the final article in this series. Thanks, Bob Willey.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A JUNIOR COIN CLUB

By Paul R. Johnson,

Promotion of new Junior coin clubs are becoming a much talked about idea among collectors in Canada. At present there are only a handful of junior clubs, including school clubs, operating in our country to-day. I, for one, am interested in seeing more of these clubs become established which will be of great value to the younger members involved. Whether you are a Junior or Senior coin collector, you can help begin a Junior club in your area. The Peterborough Junior Coin Club, in which I am so interested and one of the two Junior advisors, began in 1970 and has been extremely successful since its beginning. This is a prime example of the fact that a Junior coin club can operate successfully in Canada.

The idea of forming a new club can appear difficult, but often it actually proves to be the most easily achieved objective during the entire life of the club. To attract and maintain a group of keen active and enthusiastic young members is the big challenge, and is accomplished only by the constant work and co-operation between the

executive and members. A club of this type is usually best started by two or three avid collectors who are responsible and dedicated towards this goal.

The first step for founding seems to begin with six to ten young collectors wanting to join a junior coin club. These collectors may be members of the Senior club in their city. My experience has found it best to meet in a member's home for the monthly meetings but this can be changed when the membership increases in number. An introductory meeting should be planned with the interested collectors in attendance. In many instances, the founder, as chairman of this meeting, becomes president and if officers are not decided in advance, elections take place. A regular meeting night suitable for most members has to be approved as well as other such things as age limits, membership cards, dues and a constitution.

The installed executive can be left to sort out details, to present its suggestions at the next regular meeting, and to prepare outlines of programming meetings. One or two Junior advisors are very important in a Junior coin club. They are responsible for seeing that the elected officers do their jobs and that everything in the club is running smoothly.

Therefore a new Junior coin club is born. This, however, is only the beginning, the worst may be yet to come. Even an old established club can very easily slip into a rut through negligence, and requires more work than ever for elevation to its previous level.

A Junior club meeting that consists only of a long drawn out business meeting, followed by an auction of common and low grade material is failing its members. I must stress that an appealing educational program must be presented at each meeting or the young members will become disinterested and quit the club. This, however, has never happened in the Peterborough Junior Coin Club. The Executive, including the Junior advisors, must be alert and active, conscious of its obligations to plan and provide pleasant, informative and inspiring meetings.

A Junior coin club provides more knowledge for the young collector than the idea of acquiring a lot of numismatic items for their collections. The Senior clubs provide this service and all Junior club members should be heartily encouraged to join the local Senior club.

Most Junior collectors constantly seek new knowledge, be it about recent price changes or the procedure followed in making coins at the Mint. Guest speakers from the Senior club could be invited to provide this feature. Members can take turns each month discussing a favourite phase of numismatics or their own interests. Slide presentations should be shown three or four times yearly and such contests as a coin quiz and coin grading always provide different programs.

Special events should be included in the Junior coin club's yearly schedule. Examples could include an Exhibit Night with prizes for the winners; a Junior Night at the Senior club where the Junior club members control the complete meeting and present the program; a special excursion to an out-of-town Coin Show as a group.

Refreshments at each meeting is another bright spot which never fails to increase attendance if mentioned in the advance club bulletin. Speaking of a club bulletin, one should be prepared monthly by an elected member, containing a summary of the past meeting, highlights of the

next meeting and any interesting points of numismatic importance (eg. Coin Show dates, short articles, member achievements).

An auction committee should be appointed early in the club's existence to set the auction rules and check to confirm grading of individual coins prior to the meeting. One disadvantage is that most members don't have any duplicate coins to sell since they are Juniors. I might suggest that Senior club members put coins in the Junior club auction where a wider variety of material will be available at the Junior meetings.

These are the main points in organizing a successful Junior Coin Club and I strongly advise that you think about beginning a club of this type in your town or city or at least, suggest the idea! The collectors are surely available, but it's up to you to do the rest. I would certainly appreciate any comments or feedback you might make in relation to this article that could benefit both you and myself.

(Thanks, Paul, hope we get some comments)

JUNIOR SYMPOSIUM AND LUNCHEON

By Ted Banning

On Saturday, October 28th, 1972, the Toronto Coin Club Fall Rally featured a Junior Symposium along with a bourse, displays and auction. The show was held in the Confederation and Tudor Rooms of the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

At 9.30 a.m. in the Tudor Room, an address to the executive of clubs on junior collectors was scheduled. Then, at 11.00 A.M., again in the Tudor Room, a symposium on "The Junior Collector" was held. With Frederick C. Jewett as moderator, Paul Johnson of Peterborough, the main speaker, gave a talk on "The Junior Collector"--what his needs are from a club". Paul Johnson is the junior program committee chairman of the Canadian Numismatic Association. Pat Lambert, St. Catharines, William English, Waterloo, and Norm Williams, New Westminster, B.C. also spoke at the symposium. (Ye Ed's note-Pat was unable to attend due to illness, so sorry to have missed it)

Paul Johnson spoke about the ways in which both local and regional clubs can develop the interests of the junior collector. Further discussion came from members of the audience who participated in the talk.

After the symposium, some of the juniors in attendance went to the Toronto-Dominion Centre for a luncheon meeting similar to one held there at the time of the C.N.A. Convention on August 5th. Paul Johnson and Ted Banning were again in attendance, with Robin Caldwell and Dale White of Peterborough, Allyson Elgie, Dennis Feuchuck and Mark Drake of Toronto and Richard Whitelaw of Weston, attending for the first time. It is possible that a third in this series of Junior Luncheons will be held during the Torex-Central Coin Club Show in March.

Junior numismatic activity is increasing in Ontario. The next junior event on schedule will probably be the Central Coin Club Junior Show in February. It looks like there will be more to come.

(Let's all get behind this drive to help the Junior Collector. He is the numismatist of the future. Ye Ed).

THIS 'N THAT

Our readers will note that this issue has favoured the Junior members of our hobby and I hope our adult collectors will bear with me, next month, Feb. 3rd. and 4th is to be a special -- in fact very special -- Junior Show, put on by the Central Coin Club, and in keeping with this thought, we felt it appropriate that our Association should also try to contribute to this excellent idea by making our January Bulletin "Juniors' Month", in the hope we can arouse even more interest in the Show and, of course, help make it the success we are hoping for -- your executive are certainly in full agreement with anything which will promote our hobby among the younger members, hence our active participation -- We wish Central Coin Club every success in their efforts-- I am happy to report that the Niagara Falls Coin Club elected Howard Hill as their new President -- Congrats to Howard and best wishes to a fine numismatic year -- We also want to wish all the best to all the new Executives and Presidents of Clubs all over our fair Province--- May your efforts be crowned with success -- but a word of caution -- be prepared to work hard and long ---- Choose your Directors carefully and be assured of adequate help and guidance from an active and hard-working executive ---- This month sees the end of the Junior articles, reprinted by courtesy of the C.N.A. Journal, so ably written by one of Canada's hard-working numismatic "enthusiasts", Bob Willey --- May I place on record here how much we owe to folk like Bob Willey who readily and willingly spend many hours researching and writing articles of this nature; they are real dedicated numismatists in every sense of the word and long may they flourish, "Ye Eds", all over Canada and the U.S. would be "Sore Put" to produce interesting items without the aid and help of these very knowledgeable people, to Bob and the many kind folk who take time and trouble to produce such articles may I say how very thankful we are for such kindly folk --- I do hope that many of our readers will come to the Central Coin Club Show on Feb. 3rd and 4th in Toronto, your active support can contribute to the success it deserves --- Do hope to see many of you then, in the meantime may we, Mrs. Ye Ed and Myself wish all our readers "ALL YOU WISH YOURSELVES IN 1973" ---" HAVE A HAPPY 1973"

Ye Ed