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THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA

PRIMARY SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE ON CANADA'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE

By Alfred E. H. Petrie, Curator

The Public Archives of Canada, founded in 1872 to preserve essential government records, has expanded in scope of materials offered researchers with increasing speed since 1950, and more particularly since 1967 when extensive new premises and facilities opened in our present headquarters Building together with the National Library at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. In effect, this word "Archives" means the primary documents, down through the years, on which knowledge of our Country's history and heritage can be based; "Public" signifies all people qualified to understand and present these materials to interested persons through the media. To-day, these documents include not only government records of permanent interest to posterity, but also the significant papers of Canadians who have made important contributions to their Country and the World in all fields of creative endeavour - such as distinguished members of the medical and legal professions, leading scientists and their achievements - besides such illustrative materials as may be found in the National Film Archives, National Architectural Archives, and the National Map Collection. Thus, four main History Divisions - Manuscripts, Maps, Historical Illustrations of all kinds, and the specialized Archives Library - support the researcher. The documents and other primary materials may not be taken out on loan; they must be consulted by the specialist using them here in the Building, but our study halls (a quiet room, another where typewriters may be used, besides a third with microfilm reading machines) remain open 24 hours a day throughout the year for accredited students. When the doc-

umentary materials are on microfilm, these can be borrowed on inter-library loan, reproductions of materials preserved in the Archives may also be obtained at very reasonable rates. At present, too, illustrated folders are obtainable upon request, entitled: Public Archives of Canada; The Public Archive Library; The National Map Collection; Records Management Branch; along with brochures on - Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada; Protecting your Papers; and National Ethnic Archives. Topical and commemorative exhibitions follow one another in several display areas, lasting from a week for smaller loans of specialized materials - sometimes from other countries - to three months or more for more extensive presentations (which may travel, subsequently, to other, interested parts of Canada). Facilities and resources in all areas rate among the finest in the world, with a knowledgeable and dedicated staff of more than 500 to help enquirers and visitors get started upon their investigations. A Conservation Laboratory employs the best modern scientific techniques to preserve these various materials - whether documentary or illustrative.

The Public Archives Records Management Branch also provides an effective and economical storage and reference service. As a result of scheduling, large volumes of dormant or low-activity records are taken over from the government departments and placed in appropriate Records Centres now located at Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver as well as Ottawa; all of which come under the Branch's management. Some of these government records possess relatively short-term administrative value, but others are kept for long periods because of legal or fiscal considerations, or for the protection of rights. In our Records Centres, such materials are safely preserved, classified and indexed, and can be made available to the government at a few hours' notice. Reference services are rendered on these records with the permission of the government departments whence the papers originate; of course, they may be consulted by specialists qualified to understand and use them in preparing responsible presentations of their content. Two particular types of records are concentrated in Ottawa: those of service in the federal government, and the corresponding ones for the Armed Forces. While special assistance is limited in the case of the former, a variety of reference activities are carried out for the latter in relation to discharge certificates, validation of claims for hospitalization, pensions, immigration visas, employment applications, and honours and decorations. In Ottawa alone, our Records Management Branch stores over 73 miles of boxed records, and each year over 120,000 reference requests are actioned. Nearly as many records are stored and serviced in the regional centres. As authorized, the Branch also disposes annually of some 64,000 cubic feet of obsolete records, thereby liberating 12 miles of shelving for re-use.

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication can be obtained with membership in one of the following categories:- Life Membership - \$50., Regular Membership - \$4. annually, Juniors - \$3. annually (up to 18 years of age), Husband and Wife - \$6. annually, Club - \$10. annually.

Special O.N.A. Silver Lapel Pins - \$2.50.

Remittance made payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, C-o Mr. Bruce Raszmann, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario

Despite all these ramifications of a vast and growing enterprise, only a beginning has been made on the effective securing and preservation of Canada's essential records of her people's creative activity in all fields of achievement. Much of unique value perishes every day - old diaries, journals, business ledgers, maps, pictures, books, photograph albums with identifications, scrapbooks, medallion souvenirs (even lapel buttons or badges for particular events or societies) - when basements, attics, or garages are cleaned out or estates are broken up - and sent off as rubbish for destruction. Hence, you can, indeed, serve your Country by listing any old materials of the kind which appear to be of lasting historic interest that the Public Archives might be glad to obtain by gift, through purchase, or on temporary loan for microfilming any documents of importance should the possessor wish to retain originals. Simply write, giving details on the matter in hand, to: The Dominion Archivist, Public Archives, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, K1A 0N3, Canada.

During recent years, too, the Public Archives has become actively engaged in the assembling of an effective National Medal Collection to cover all areas of interest and types of material - historical, educational, religious, lapel badges, commemoratives of all kinds, honours and awards (both civil and military), as well as significant private collections - these in metals, plastic, glass, wood, cloth, even carton and paper among materials employed for them! In this regard, the Ontario Numismatic Association's presentation each year of its Convention Medals in Silver and Bronze, beautifully housed in a specially gold-inscribed plastic case - since 1962, when your fine Organization began - is greatly appreciated and valued. These may be seen upon request by interested O.N.A. members visiting Ottawa, and they will appear on public display more frequently as soon as this can be securely arranged.

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BUYING COINS

By Ken Wilmot Stratford Coin Club

Few true "collections" of coins, as distinguished from "accumulations" of coins, are built solely out of the specimens which are found in change, parking metres, church collections, banks and a variety of other similar sources. It's fun to look for a lucky find but it can also be a very time-consuming and disappointing experience. Unless you're the only collector around, which is highly unlikely, you'll find that "competition" has already removed the eggs from the nest.

If you are the recipient of a collection as a gift, no matter how modest, congratulations! You have a starting point. The next logical move is to buy those coins you want and can afford from one or more recognized dealers. If any are located in your area, you should become familiar with them, the kind of sales rooms they maintain, and their pricing policy. If they have plenty of patience with the novice, so much the better!

The advertisements of coin dealers in numismatic publications is among the best ways of learning what is available. These advertisements will also enable you to compare prices on coins of like condition. This is a desirable situation from your standpoint.

(Good work, Ken, look forward to more from your pen)

FOREIGN COINAGE STRUCK AT OTTAWA

By R. W. Irwin

If, for the purposes of this article, we define "foreign" to mean off-shore then a number of foreign coinages have been struck at the Ottawa mint.

The gold sovereigns of 1908 to 1919 with the "C" mint mark fit this definition. Since much has been written about this issue we will not dwell on it here.

From January 2, 1908 to December 1, 1931 the mint was the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Mint and struck coins under the Imperial Coinage Act of 1870. Coinages were largely assigned to the Ottawa Branch as a matter of convenience by the Royal Mint.

During World War 1 the Ottawa mint was very busy refining metal and doing other war work. This work declined in late 1918 and in November and December the Ottawa mint undertook to strike coins in copper-nickel for Jamaica. In late 1919 an additional striking was undertaken in amounts as shown below. The mint mark "C" was included in the design. The metal blanks were obtained from the United States.

	Number of Pieces Struck			Value
	Y-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	Y-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	Y-12 1d	£
1918	208,472	251,184	187,262	1515/9/7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1919	401,464	112,245	251,101	2061/14/1

Newfoundland coinages have been small but were undertaken by Ottawa, first as a Branch of the Royal Mint during World War 1 in 1917, 1918, 1919 and 1920. The Newfoundland 20¢ piece had long been a problem to Canada and in 1917 the opportunity was taken to refuse to strike it and to negotiate for new weights to conform to Canadian coins. The striking of 25¢ coins was initiated. The changes were sanctioned by Royal Proclamation March 30, 1917. Since the years and mintage are available to most collectors they will not be repeated here.

World War II was the means through which additional mintages were undertaken at Ottawa. These began in 1940 and continued through 1947, the last mintage for Newfoundland. Coins for Newfoundland struck at Ottawa all bear the "C" mint mark.

December 1, 1931 the mint became independent and was called the Royal Canadian Mint. Under this new organization there was no authority to strike foreign coinages.

A Proclamation dated September 9, 1937 under the Department of Finance and Treasury Board Act 1937 permitted the making of coins at the Royal Canadian Mint for other British dominions or colonies, or for a foreign state, and set forth the terms and conditions under which coins could be made. Important terms and conditions were:

1. The Minister of Finance should make an agreement if there was a formal request through the Department of External Affairs;
2. Subject to the approval of the Governor-General in Council;
3. Not interfere with the necessary work of the Royal Canadian Mint for the government of Canada.

A contract was offered by the Dominican Republic in 1937. The dies were made at the Royal Mint, no mint mark was included in the designs. Details of this 1937 issue follow:

- Oct 20 - St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet in Westminster United Church Parish Hall, Queenston St., St. Catharines, Ont. All enquiries to Howard Hill, 1 Hayes Street, St. Catharines, Ont.
- Oct. 21 - Stratford Coin Club annual show and auction. For bourse and display information write to Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ontario
- Oct. 27 - Toronto Coin Club Annual Show in the Royal York's Confederation and Tudor Rooms on the Main Mezzanine, Toronto. Bourse Chairman, Toronto Coin Club, 100 Front Street West, Toronto 1, Ontario for details.
- Nov. 1 - Champlain Coin Club annual banquet in St. Davids Anglican Church Hall, Orillia, Ontario.
- Nov. 4 - Windsor Coin Club annual show at the Holiday Inn, 480 Riverside Drive West, Windsor from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Details re bourse, etc. to Garth Kuentzel, 3429 Dominion Blvd., Windsor, Ontario.

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MAR. 30-31 - O.N.A. Convention at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls. Details re bourse, etc. to Howard Hill, 1 Hayes Street, St. Catharines. Details re reservations etc. next month.

C.N.A. CONVENTION - DELEGATE'S REPORT (Ye Ed)

Saskatoon, July, 1973, was the setting of one of the best C.N.A. Conventions I have ever attended. In all, there were approximately 30 clubs, associations and societies representing their various clubs. At the delegates meeting, it was quite obvious that the delegates showed keen interest in the convention and, it would appear, that the C.N.A. executive returned that interest. It was disappointing that Mr. Paul Sigers was unable to attend, who was responsible for the club program due to the pressures of business.

Mr. J. Douglas Ferguson, one of the most knowledgeable numismatists in attendance, addressed the meeting and brought out some very interesting points. Briefly, as follows:

- (a) after showing a slide program try to have some knowledgeable person available to answer questions on the slides.
- (b) if you have a guest speaker, limit his actual talk to a specific time in order to leave time for discussion on his subject.
- (c) senior and junior membership attendance at your meetings, try not to let your program be top-heavy in favour of either seniors or juniors. If juniors become extremely active suggests starting a junior club or meeting night.

No serious problems were forthcoming from delegates but certain club (and/or) associations mentioned reports on their activities. One worthy of mention was the Chas. B. Laister award of the O.N.A., given to the club for the best club display at the O.N.A. Convention.

One of the highlights of the Convention was the presentation of the J. Douglas Ferguson Award to Mr. E. Victor Snell of St. Catharines. This beautiful gold medal was presented to Victor who received a standing ovation. Although I was only there for four days every hour of the day and evening there was something to offer the collector, his wife and quite often both together, in all a first rate convention.

SIMPLIFIED GRADING GUIDE

For the benefit of C.Y.N. Junior collectors, we list below general grading terms and descriptions currently used by collectors and dealers in North America.

CONDITION OF COINS, TOKENS AND PAPER MONEY

The following are accepted definitions of condition classifications of coins, tokens and medals.

- PROOF - Specially struck from polished dies for collectors or for presentation purposes. These specimens have a mirror-like surface.
- PROOF-LIKE - Select choice specimens of regular strikings, especially handled and free of abrasions, nicks and scratches.
- B.U. - Brilliant Uncirculated. In new condition with full original mint lustre. May have minor bag abrasions.
- A. U. - About Uncirculated. Where a coin or token is between B.U. and E.F.
- E.F. - Extremely fine. Slightly circulated with only faint evidence of wear.
- V.F. - Very Fine. Shows only slight wear on higher parts of design, such as circlet of coronet on Victorian issues, and of crown on King George V issues; leaves are sharp on wreathed Victoria head.
- FINE - More wear on higher parts than in Very Fine. Lower left rim of circlet (Victoria) and circlet of George V crown worn almost through. Leaves on wreathed head all show, but not too sharp.
- V. G. - Very Good. Much wear but main features of design and legend clear. Little detail in circlet (Victoria), and only part of leaves showing on wreathed head.
- Gd - Good. Inscriptions and date considerably worn but legible.

The following are the accepted and familiar terms of grading of paper money as published in the Canadian Paper Money Society's official grading guide.

- Uncirculated - A perfect note, crisp and clean as when new and without any creases or blemishes. Colours have original brightness. (The grade CU is now used to indicate that a note in question is Crisp Uncirculated).
- Extremely Fine - Crisp and clean as when new, but with minor creases or blemishes. Colours have original brightness.
- Very Fine - Fairly crisp and clean, but with some creases and other signs of having been in circulation.
- Fine - A well circulated note, but still firm, a little soiling or fading of colours.
- Very Good - A whole note, with some signs of edge fraying, damaged corners and perhaps some soiling and fading of colours. Some wear evident at creases.
- Good-Poor - Unless very scarce, notes in these conditions are not usually collectible. They are very worn, dirty, faded and generally unattractive, often with tears or pieces missing.

(Thanks to the Canadian Numismatic Association Journal)

THE COINAGE OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

By Chris Brooker L.N.S.

The Fiji Islands group consists of 322 islands, situated about 1100 miles north of New Zealand and 3,000 miles east of Australia. Most of the islands are of volcanic origin with the remainder being coral atolls. Of the 106 populated islands, there are two main ones and the capital city, called Suva, is located on the island of Vite Levu.

The Fiji group was first discovered by the famous Dutch navigator Tasman in 1643. The islands cover an area of 7083 square miles, with forestry being the main industry. The production of bananas, coconuts, and sugar-cane being the secondary industry; but within the next few years, the tourist trade will certainly become the major industry.

British interest in the islands began in 1874, when, on October 10th, Fiji became a Crown Colony of the British Empire. It was not until 1934 that Fiji had its own coinage, the coinage of Australia being used from 1910, circulating at par with the British pound, until the different exchange rates between the British and Australian pounds necessitated a distinctive coinage for Fiji.

The first issue in 1934 consisted of a silver florin, shilling and sixpence, and a cupro-nickel penny and halfpenny. The obverse of the silver coins have the crowned bust of George V facing left, as on the coins of New Zealand; the reverse of the florin bears the coat-of-arms of the Colony; the shilling a native boat; and, the sixpence a turtle. The penny and halfpenny have a centre hole and no bust.

Fiji is one of the few countries to issue coinage for the reign of Edward VIII, which was issued prior to his abdication in December, 1936. This issue consisted of the one penny denomination and bears the legend EDWARD VIII KING EMPEROR.

The coinage of George VI continued with the same reverses as the previous reign, and, on the obverse, the crowned head facing left and bearing the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR. In 1942 and 1943, due to wartime shortages of nickel, the penny and halfpenny were struck in brass. The next issue, in 1949, reverting to cupro-nickel. In 1947 a new denomination was added which consisted of a twelve-sided three-penny piece, struck in brass, with the reverse showing a native hut. The legend was changed after 1947 to read GEORGE THE SIXTH KING.

The issues of Elizabeth II bear a crowned head facing right, with the legend ELIZABETH II QUEEN. The reverses follow the previous types. The halfpenny was withdrawn during the mid-fifties as a prior step to decimalization; also, the coins prior to the reign of Elizabeth were withdrawn for their bullion value. All the coins of Elizabeth were struck in cupro-nickel, with the exception of the three-pence. The coins prior to these were struck in .500 fine silver.

On January 13th, 1969 Fiji changed over to a decimal currency based on 100 cents to the dollar, a dollar being the equivalent of 10 shillings of the old currency, and issued in denominations of cupro-nickel \$1, 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents, plus bronze 2 cents and 1 cent. All coins feature the bust of Queen Elizabeth, by Arnold Machin, on the obverse; and the reverse designs are, \$1 -- the coat-of-arms; 20¢ -- a ceremonial whale tooth; 10¢ -- a throwing club; 5¢ -- a Fijian drum; 2¢ -- a Fijian fan; and 1¢ -- a Kava bowl. Kava being the national drink, which is made from the pounded root of the pepper plant.

All coins of Fiji have been struck at the Royal Mint, England, with the exception of the 1941 and 1942 dates, which were struck at the San Francisco Mint, U.S.A. None of the mintages are large and most of the coins having been withdrawn, a complete date set would be a challenge to complete, although the coin series started less than 40 years ago.

THE EFFECT OF WORLD WAR 11 ON CANADIAN COINS

By J. Dewyze

Anybody who was alive during World War 11 knows that there was a vast difference between living standards in Canada and in Britain or the U.S., and yet, while the coins of Britain were virtually unchanged during the war years, those of Canada were altered by wartime circumstances. These changes included new designs, new metals and the appearance of U.S. mint-marks.

Although there was no food rationing in Canada to the extent there was in Britain, and the war brought a great deal of prosperity to the home front even if some items like gasoline were hard to get, the nickel was radically changed no fewer than three times in as many years, and a distinctive wartime product in four years, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945.

The issue of these coins coincided with Canada's growing involvement in the war. A small Canadian force was overwhelmed at Hong Kong in late December, 1941. Canadians formed the majority of forces in the Dieppe raid of 1942, and by the fall of 1943 a Canadian corps was fighting in Italy. The major commitment came with D-Day and continued until the end of the war.

Late in 1942 nickel was abandoned for coinage and the Canadian 5-cent coin became "TOMBAC", an alloy of 88% copper and 12% zinc. Although the Ottawa Mint retained the old design, which had the King on the obverse and the beaver gracing the reverse, it changed the shape to 12-sided. This effectively prevented the new "nickel" being confused with the current cent. It also effectively kept the coin from circulating in the United States. The customary round "nickel" used to enter circulation in the States, even though Canadian Coins were not popular there at the time!

The following year the Ottawa Mint issued an unusual new design, a propaganda motif akin to contemporary reminders that there was a war going on. Thomas Shingles, chief engraver at Ottawa, produced a new reverse which featured a prominent V, within which was a flaming torch. Above the V and torch was "Canada", and below "cents". The V thus symbolized Victory while also indicating the value. Canada retained the brass alloy in 1943, but the next year substituted chromium-plated steel and kept that through 1945. In 1946 the "nickel" became nickel again.

The 1942 brass beaver is fairly scarce, the 1943 somewhat more common and the 1944 and 1945 steel coins are still in rather plentiful supply. The steel Canadian V coins have remained in use, although most of the brass were withdrawn or hoarded.

DID YOU KNOW

A Revolutionary Coin is a coin issued by an insurgent Government.

