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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

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WANTED - MEMBERS

AN OPEN LETTER By Bill Gage

Several times in the past numismatic newspapers have publicized the fact that subscriptions are on the increase. Coin shows throughout the province report a better than average attendance. Coin Clubs announce substantial increases in monthly attendance. From all of this, it would appear that the hobby is healthy and vibrant.

It is a sad fact that since there appears to be an increase in the numbers of persons entering the hobby, many of these newer, as well as the older members, are not interested in joining either the Provincial or National Numismatic Associations. In Ontario alone, it is said that there is more than a thousand collectors, yet the Provincial body, The Ontario Numismatic Association, reports only a small fraction of this number are members.

Is there a reason why these collectors many of whom are exhibitors, shy away from joining the Ontario Numismatic Association? Or is it just a lack of communications on the part of the local clubs from publicizing the fact that the O.N.A. does exist? Or is it just because people are too busy to take on another membership for lack of time available? Whatever the reason perhaps this article will inspire someone to write in and perhaps give us a clue why the O.N.A. are not attracting members as it should.

In the meantime, how can we communicate with members in local clubs to invite them to join? What are the clubs doing to publicize the O.N.A.?

As a suggestion, perhaps the clubs could designate the month of February as O.N.A. month. In picking the month of February, it is usually just a short time away from an O.N.A. Convention, therefore it seems an ideal time to arouse interest

THE SILVER WEDDING COINS OF ELIZABETH II

By Ruth McQuade

It seems natural to assume the issue of coins, such as these, captures the romantic imagination of the world. These coins are not just bought by collectors, but by everyone. They are the sort of coins that people buy and tuck away, or give to a favourite niece or nephew. The designs are very interesting, and they make a very lovely collection.

The crown size coins of Britain, Guernsey, Isle of Man and Gibraltar were issued in both cupro nickel and .925 silver. Bermuda issued a .500 and .925 crown. The Cayman Islands issued two coins, a .925 silver and a gold coin - both in proof and uncirculated. The .925 silver coins of Britain, Guernsey, Isle of Man and Bermuda were a proof issue.

Jersey issued nine coins, in proof and uncirculated, four of them in silver and five in gold. While they are all beautiful coins, I personally feel that this large number is not in keeping with the spirit of the occasion they commemorate.

The coins of the Cayman Islands, Isle of Man and Bermuda were all made at the Royal Canadian Mint, while the British, Guernsey and Gibraltar were made at the Royal Mint.

The Jersey coins were made by York Stampings. York Stampings could be called a new mint. It is in Birmingham and has been currently producing stampings and pressings of such things as jewelry and metal parts.

On Nov. 20, 1972, all the banks in G.B. had the British silver wedding coin in cupro nickel on sale at its face value of 25 pence (60¢ Canadian). This issue was sold out. Britain also made available 100,000 of these coins in .925 silver proof and they were sold very quickly. This coin has on the obverse the Arnold Machin portrait, which is found on all other silver Wedding coins except Guernsey. It was 38.6 mm, 28.36 grams with a reeded edge. Arnold Machin also designed the reverse which has the letters EP on a background of foliage with the figure of Eros between, surmounted by a Royal crown, with the legend, "Elizabeth and Philip 20 Nov. 1947-1972". The silver issue of this coin was the first sterling silver crown to be issued since 1902.

Michael Rizzello designed the reverse of the BERMUDA coin showing a map of Bermuda with the Royal Cypher to the left and the Royal Cypher of Philip to the lower right. Legend "Silver Wedding 1972 one dollar". A Royal Canadian Mint production.

Arnold Machin designed the reverse of the GUERNSEY coin showing Eros, God of Love, standing on the Guernsey lily. Legend "Elizabeth and Philip 1947-1972". Made at the Royal Mint.

Stuart Devlin designed the reverse of the GIBRALTAR coin showing gartered coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip with date 1947 above 1972 below. Legend, "Silver Wedding Anniversary 25 new pence." Made at the Royal Mint.

Stuart Devlin designed the reverse of the ISLE OF MAN coin showing conjoint arms of H.R.H. and Prince Philip, with a celtic ring chain. The legend, "Silver Wedding Anniversary 25 pence". Produced by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Michael Rizzello designed the conjoint portraits of Queen Eliza-

beth and Prince Philip on the reverse of the Cayman Islands coins. Legend, "Silver Wedding Anniversary 1947-1972 twenty-five dollars".

Norman Stillman designed the reverses of all the JERSEY coins. The 50 pence shows the Royal Mace; £1 shows the Jersey Lily; £2 shows the ship "Alexandre"; £2.50 shows a Lobster; £5 (gold) shows a lesser white toothed shrew; £10 (gold) a gold torque; £20 an Ormer shell; £25 the arms of Queen Elizabeth I; £50 shows the arms of the Bailiwick of Jersey. All with the same legend, "Queen Elizabeth the Second Silver Wedding 1972".

The COOK ISLANDS issued 7 coins on Nov. 20, 1972, which they say was to commemorate the Silver Wedding of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. It is a pity that no mention was made of this in the legend. On the obverse it says "Elizabeth II Cook Islands 1972", and there are no legends on the reverses. All the reverses were designed by James Berry, and the coins were made at the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra. It is interesting to note that on the \$2.00 coin issued this year by the Cook Islands, it tells in the legend on the reverse what it commemorates.

If these Cook Islands coins are included, it makes a total of 23 coins.

Soon, this once in a lifetime issue of Queen Elizabeth Silver Wedding coins will go into hiding. They could be used for legal tender but I am sure none of them will. In about five years nobody will remember the designs - I mean nobody but the coin collectors - and how many of them will?

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NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

At the last meeting Art Bruner had a display of Communion Tokens and gave an interesting account of each piece. The club has forwarded a pair of the 10th Anniversary medallions to the National Archives in Ottawa. The Royal Mint has stated that the OLYMPIC coins will be available in December. They will consist of a pair of Five's and Ten Dollars in sterling silver.

CENTRAL COIN CLUB

At the last meeting President Frank Lieshout welcomed 54 members and guests and spoke about the coin exhibit at the C.N.E. asking how many had seen it and their thoughts about it. At the close of the meeting a lively auction was conducted by Al. Bliman.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB

The highlight of the last meeting was a talk entitled "Medal Collecting" presented by Brian Sim, a Lieutenant-Quartermaster of the Elgin Regiment. He had two cases of medals on display including a Victoria Cross with the Citation which created much interest. Len Coles also told of medals awarded to men of Oxford County units. It was all very interesting.

GOLDEN PORCUPINE COIN CLUB

At the last meeting there were 14 members present to hear Don Docherty give a most interesting report on the C.N.E. Convention in Saskatoon. He displayed a few broken bank notes he had recently acquired. Don Smith displayed a Cobalt silver medallion and a bronze medal for the 300th anniversary of the founding of Moose Factory. A goodly number of juniors were present.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB

At the last meeting the club was pleased to welcome Mrs. Louise Graham, President of the C.N.A. and Mr. & Mrs. Alex Munroe Ontario director. There were also 23 members present. An interesting report was given by Mildred McLennan and Tom Roach on the C.N.A. Convention in Saskatoon. All in all it was a good meeting.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

At the last meeting the O.N.A. slide "The Ultimate Achievement" was shown and enjoyed by all. A report was given on the show held in the Mall and it would seem to have been a success both financially and numismatically. The meeting closed with the usual lively auction.

NIAGARA FALLS COIN CLUB

The main feature of the last meeting was a report by Mr. Mel Fiske, the Chairman for the 1974 O.N.A. Convention on the progress being made. Flyers have been distributed and some bourse applications received. A lively auction concluded the meeting.

NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

This was a special meeting for the club, being the One Hundred and Fiftieth Meeting. There were two speakers for the evening, Mr. E. Victor Snell, of St. Catharines who spoke on "Canadian Coins Struck at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa", and Dr. Wilkinson who gave a delightful review of the major North American numismatic conventions of 1973. Guests were present from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Calgary, Sask., St. Catharines, Toronto and all had a lovely evening.

CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB

The last meeting was taken up with a report by Jack Roberts on the A.N.A. Convention which proved very interesting. The club are hoping to host the 1976 C.N.A. Convention and have tentatively booked the Chateau for July 7, 8 and 9 of that year. There were 25 members and guests present at the meeting, and they enjoyed a informative talk on tokens by Dr. Haxby who illustrated his lecture with slides.

PORT CREDIT COIN CLUB

The Port Credit Coin Club now meet at a new location, namely, Fairview Public School, Joan Drive, Mississauga, Ontario. At the last meeting there was a "Pandora's Box" for the Juniors. Please remeber the new location.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB

At the last meeting there were twenty-two members and guests present. Among the guests were Tony Gordon, Area Director of the O.N.A. who spoke briefly on that organization, and Al Bliman, Vice-President of the Canadian Paper Money Society who also said a few words.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

At the last meeting Mr. Tom Masters, in his own inimitable fashion gave an interesting talk on display cases at exhibitions and shows, the manner each individual presents his display for the public and the judges. This was very interesting.

WATERLOO COIN CLUB

At the last meeting 25 members and guests heard a very interesting talk by Bruce Brace of Ancaster on "Roman Coins" with slides to make the talk more interesting.

PORTRAITS ON COINS

Thanks to Champlain Coin Club

Portraits on coins provide one of the most extensive fields of specialization in numismatics. Beginning with the Greek Coinage portraying Alexander the Great (336-323) B.C. actually struck after his death, one can include Ptolemy Soter (324-284 B.C.) founder of the dynasty which ruled Egypt for two and a half centuries. Ptolemy Soter was the first to place his own head on coins purely as a portrait type of ruler. The portrait continued to appear on all coins of successive rulers of Egypt, down to the time of the Roman Conquest. In 44 B.C. the Roman Senate decreed that Caesar should be the first honoured by placing his portrait on the denarius. Many others quickly followed.

It was not until the latter half of the 10th century that portraits began to appear on Anglo-Saxon coins but most reigning monarchs appear on the obverse of English coins to the present.

Beautiful portrait coins have and are being minted throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. Modern issues reflect the ability of coiners, engravers and mintmasters to balance design with area or field and a better knowledge of metal usage with high speed presses.

Though the collecting of portraits on coins is a vast field, it will provide the enthusiastic collector with more knowledge of history, geography, lineage and economics than almost any other field of numismatics. Anyone in search of a new field of collecting should not overlook this one.

REPORT OF THE MASTER OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

There is always a wealth of interesting facts to learn from a Mint report. The 1972 issue of the Royal Canadian Mint report has now been released.

If you are one that looks at the pictures first, you will see a glaring mistake below the first picture, but then, it is inevitable, in a report like this, where so many are involved, that some mistakes are made.

The 1972 production of domestic coins increased by 48%. The numismatic trade was down from 3 million to 2.3 million, but they were busy with orders for coins from Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Iran, Bermuda and Isle of Man.

9,931 medals were struck, 594,215,417 pieces of Canadian coins were issued. \$341,581.00 was collected for Silver dollars issued separately, and \$143,392.00 was collected for Nickel dollars issued separately.

Toronto received the largest amount of coin, followed by Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa.

Of the uncirculated coins issued since 1963, 1969 had the lowest figure with 1972 coming second.

ATTENTION ALL AUCTIONEERS - Further to last month's article on the O.N.A. auction, CONVENTION '74, I would appreciate hearing from you within the next few weeks. Please give this your serious consideration and send me your bids. Thank you.

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

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

1974

Mar. 9 -- North York Coin Club Annual Show, Bourse, Book & White Elephant Sale in the North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge St., Willowdale, Ont. From 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Coin Appraisal table. Information from P.O. Box 294, Willowdale, Ontario.

Mar. 30-31-- O.N.A. Convention at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ont. Details re Bourse, etc. to Howard Hill, 1 Hayes St., St.Catharines. Write to the Hotel re reservations for rooms.

*****x*****

C. Y. N.

The show in the Royal York went off very well. It was extremely well planned except for one or two minor problems which every show experiences. Here let me say how much the kindness and thoughtfulness of Central Coin Club, to mention one of those clubs who loaned exhibit cases to these enthusiastic juniors. It would have been a poor show indeed had these clubs not helped. The exhibits were very good which always means a lot of work for the judges. To complicate matters we had a tie of Best of Show, even after re-judging three times by different judges, so the Chairman and Co-chairman of the show, at the recommendation of the Head Judge and his judges, decided to award two Best of Show Awards - something that to the best of my knowledge has never been done before. The attendance could have been larger, I believe, but I hear that the show was a success in every way. For the first effort I am sure these youngsters can congratulate themselves on a job well done.

Finally let me say here how very much I appreciated my Honourary Membership in C.Y.N., a most pleasant ending to a most pleasant visit. The first of many in the future, I hope,

Ye Ed

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ROYAL CANADIAN MINT PRODUCTION TO JULY 31, 1973

	<u>DENOMINATION</u>	<u>MONTH OF JULY/73</u>	<u>TO JULY 31, 1973</u>
Silver	\$1.00	75,047	263,151
Nickel	\$1.00	477,047	2,749,751
	.50¢	26,727	1,208,606
	.25¢	9,949,550	64,621,281
	.10¢	19,235,550	70,158,519
	.05¢	5,071,550	32,734,519
Bronze	.01¢	31,474,030	248,975,111
		66,309,501	420,710,938

Included in the above figures is the following production by the Numismatic Section: 18,344 sets at \$12.00; 13,142 sets @ \$6.50; 79,784 sets at \$4.00; 246,243 Silver dollars; and 47,938 Nickel dollars.

The vast amount of specially minted coins and medals coming on the market these days carry the term "Proof-Struck", "Proof-Like", etc. and a museum raises the point on just what is meant by the term "Proof-Struck", "Proof-Like", etc., and I remember reading some years ago an article by a very learned numismatist and author, R. S. Yeoman, which commented on this very subject and was a most interesting commentary on it. I am sure Mr. Yeoman will permit me the privilege of repeating it, as will the C.N.A. Editor of those days, my good friend, E. Victor Snell. So without further ado, here is the article--

IN SEARCH

Of A Numismatic-Like Term

We are frequently bothered by the term "proof-like". What our hobby needs at the moment is a good, acceptable term that would describe once and for all the state of quality that means choice, tops, select, near perfect, or something of the kind. Unquestionably, Canadian and Israeli mint set quality can be called "select uncirculated". Moreover, these coins are handled with tender, loving care and are attractively packaged for the souvenir buyer or numismatist. Whatever the present acceptance of terminology may be, these specimens convey an honest, legitimate attempt to supply coins in the best obtainable standard mint-run condition. Plans are afoot to improve their present quality to a still higher level. This can be expected when the new mint facilities are fully established. Meanwhile, the numismatic profession ought to establish a universally acceptable term to fit this grade of perfection and drop forever any relationship with the term "proof", which is another method of manufacture entirely.

Here is a good place to express this editor's understanding and use of the label "proof". It is simply a special procedure of die-making and preparation of blanks followed by stamping in a special way with special equipment. It is not a grade or condition: it is a proof. A mishandled proof may receive any degree of damage and thereby earn the term "impaired proof". It's still a proof. Some numismatists accept the same grading standards for these coins as for regular coins for the purpose of evaluating such specimens. Nevertheless and notwithstanding, such a piece is and will remain a proof specimen.

Unfortunately, the term "proof-like" has crept into our Canadian and United States vernacular. It was originated, innocently to be sure, to embellish and enhance the desirability of nice, cleanly struck business strikes selected from run-of-the-mint coins. These are honestly worth more and bring more. But they are not in any sense proofs, or like proofs. In short, proof is not a grade. It's a method of manufacture. To describe a coin as proof-like is therefore misleading because it implies that it was somehow made in a manner to imitate a proof, which it was not. Unfortunately, the hyphenated word is now a commercial gimmick to turn the collector's mind just a wee bit gently into a thought trap, the resulting thought emerging slightly off the beam of reality.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN

The personnel director of a large furniture factory received a government questionnaire which asked, among other things, "How many employees do you have, broken down by sex". The director wrote: "Liquor is more of a problem with us."

BRICK TEA MONEY

THANKS TO LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Was there such a thing as "brick tea" money? Yes, there was and it was used in Siberia, Tibet, Turkestan, Mongolia and China. It is actually one of our best examples of a commodity money was accepted as true money.

It is not known exactly when tea money was first used, but it appears to have circulated for at least three centuries. Its use persisted until very recently, having been found in northwestern China, Tibet and Mongolia during World War II.

During its peak of use, millions of pounds of brick tea money were carried by yak, and horse caravans over practically all the central and northern part of Asia, serving as the main standard of exchange medium.

Japan's entrance into Mongolia, its retaking by Russian troops and its occupation by the Red Chinese in 1946, the annihilation of Tibet by the Chinese and the revamping by communist control of China and Siberia, has left little trace of this fantastic trade money. Only a few scattered examples remain and these are mostly in museums.

Over the years, the value of the brick tea money fluctuated considerably, depending upon increases and decreases in local supply; but this disadvantage was ultimately offset by the fact that its trade value could never go below its commodity value, when it could be broken into pieces, ground up and converted into a drink.

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THIS 'N THAT

Here we are, nearly 1st Nov. and everyone getting set for Winter Club activities. Most coin clubs have had their annual shows -- Ye Ed and Mrs. have attended about ten or twelve the past few weekends-- all very nice shows -- and can truly report an upsurge in the interest in our hobby -- We seem to have more bourse dealers at each of the club shows -- certainly more exhibitors are attending and participating -- How else do you think I keep my girlish figure than tramping up and down the aisles judging exhibits!! Boy, what a man won't do to keep his figure --Talk about women (Mrs. We Ed) --We have seen a great deal of successful shows, for which congratulations to those, in most cases, unsung heroes who do all the work, year in and year out, to put on a first class show, but let's not get too self-satisfied--Some of the things I've seen at most of the shows which worries me somewhat is the rather poor facilities for the Most Important Person at any Club or National or Provincial Show -- "Mr. Exhibitor"--Himself -- I believe many of the clubs should give more thought and effort to the Exhibitor, particularly in the presentation -- by way of nice display area, good overhead lighting, to myself as a judge and a former exhibitor, the most important item, good bright lighting does enhance the Main part of any show- or should I say Should Be --You will note the clubs do everything to accomodate the Bourse Dealer, and rightly so, he is paying for this privilege--but surely the exhibitor should get the same accomodation, after all he is important to the success of the show too, isn't he? So starting in 1974 I would like to see an improvement in the lighting facilities and better situated exhibiting area so that the exhibits will be, next to the registration desk, the first thing that catches the visitor's eye... No more room for anymore "yak", see you in time for Crhristmas -- So Long --- Ye Ed.