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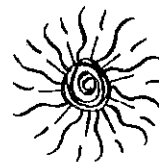
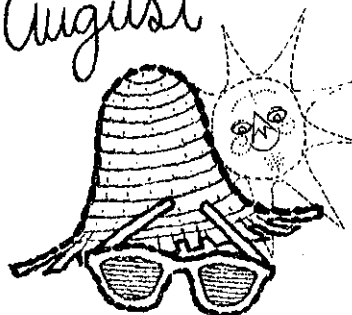
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July



August



THE DAYS OF SUMMER

ENJOY THEM ALL

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication can be obtained with membership in one of the following categories: Regular Membership \$5.00 annually, Husband and Wife (one journal) \$7.00 annually, Junior (up to 18) \$3.00 annually, Club Membership \$10.00 annually. Life Memberships available for \$50.00 after 3 years of regular membership. O.N.A. Silver Lapel Pins \$2.50 each.

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DETECTIVES AND COUNTERFEITERS

PRESENTED TO THE

O.N.A. CONVENTION, TORONTO, ANNUAL BANQUET MAY 16, 1976.

by Major Sheldon S. Carroll, Chief Curator, Bank of Canada, Ottawa.

It is a great pleasure to be here to-day as your luncheon speaker and to bring you greetings from the National Currency Collection and the Bank of Canada. When Pat Lambert invited me last fall to speak to-day I accepted without hesitation as it is both a privilege and an honour to be invited to address the largest and most active regional numismatic organization in Canada.

This is the second time that I have been the speaker at your annual banquet. The last time was at the 1967 convention in Kitchener, just nine years ago. A great deal has happened during those nine years both to the O.N.A. and to numismatics in general. The O.N.A. has gone steadily ahead while numismatics has had its ups and downs but by and large progress has been positive. One of the negative aspects is the great increase in counterfeiting. Now counterfeiting is not a new disease, it has been with us for many centuries. As a matter of fact, it was probably invented the day after the first coin was made. Its effects can vary all the way from being just a nuisance to collectors to creating such serious economic consequences that it has resulted in the fall of governments. Examples of the counterfeit coins and counterfeit paper money from past generations have survived to bedevil collectors and to keep them alert and on their toes. Collecting these early historical counterfeits can even be an interesting side-line to our hobby.

A few weeks ago I was in Frankfurt in West Germany visiting the magnificent currency collection of the Deutsche Bundesbank. They showed me their counterfeiting museum which fills a large exhibition room in their head office building. I saw hundreds and hundreds of counterfeit coins and of counterfeit bank notes, some so crude that you wonder how they could have fooled anyone and others so good that only experts with elaborate laboratory equipment could prove that they were not genuine. In addition, they had cases and cases of counterfeiting equipment which had been seized over the years by the German authorities.

To-day the counterfeiting of coins is not of such great concern to governments but it is of very great concern to numismatists because during the last few years it has become a very serious threat to our hobby. Not only are gold coins being counterfeited in great quantities to plague collectors, hoarders and speculators but coins of numismatic rarity and value are being counterfeited to the consternation of numismatists, collectors and investors. Anyone who buys a rare or expensive coin to-day without first having it authenticated is very foolish. It has been estimated, by people who know, that almost one-third of the gold coins in the hands of collectors and dealers to-day are not genuine. The term "dealers" includes not only numismatic dealers but dealers in precious metals and foreign exchange, including some chartered banks. Very few of these dealers have anyone on their staff who can tell a good

coin from a bad one. The subject of counterfeiting and how to cure it is far too big and complicated to cover in a talk of this kind. Instead I'm going to tell you a story, a true story about a great Canadian whose very name struck fear into counterfeiters about a century ago.

His name was John Wilson Murray. No radio or television programmes have been produced about him, as far as I know, but at least one book has been written about his life and career. It is called "Memoirs of a Great Detective" by Victor Speer, published in Toronto in 1905. The author writes of him as follows: "John Wilson Murray, Inspector of the Department of Criminal Investigation of the Department of Justice, Toronto, was Inspector for almost thirty years, and, in that time, murders by the dozen, burglaries by the score, crimes of all kinds, totalling thousands, were solved by him, and the perpetrators apprehended. His career was a record of events outrivalling the detective tales of fiction. The cases he solved ranged through every variety of crime known to the police records of the world. He ran down counterfeiters of \$1,000,000.00 and more; he unravelled the mysteries of murder where life was taken for as little as eighty cents."

John Wilson Murray was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1840. His father was a well-to-do sea captain. When young Murray was five years old the family moved to New York. Six years later his mother returned to Scotland because of ill health and took her son with her, placing him in a private school in Edinburgh which he disliked intensely. At the age of thirteen he ran away to sea but was brought back after a short voyage to Liverpool. His mother returned with him to the United States and he was enrolled in the Georgetown Academy in Washington. He stayed for two years and then decided to run away again to sea. He shipped aboard a freighter carrying fruit from the West Indies for a few months and then served on two sailing ships, making one voyage around Cape Horn. His father finally caught up with him and took him back to school. In 1857, at the age of seventeen he ran away again for the third and last time. This time he enlisted as a seaman in the U.S. Navy and served on the Great Lakes on the U.S.S. Michigan until the American Civil War broke out in 1861. He was sent to the officers training school in Washington, did well and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He served throughout the Civil War, saw plenty of action and also got his first experience working as an undercover man.

When the war was over he resigned from the Navy and entered the U.S. Secret Service where he served as a special agent to the Navy Department for two years. It was this experience that decided Murray that he should make a life-time career as a detective. In 1868, at the age of 28 he joined the police force in Erie, Pennsylvania as a detective. His work there soon brought him to the attention of officials of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. He shortly became acquainted with William L. Scott, the railroad magnate, who built the Canada Southern Railroad, now known as the Michigan Central Railroad running through Southern Ontario from Detroit and Windsor to Fort Erie. In 1873 Murray was appointed head of detectives of the Canadian Southern Railroad. He was so successful in solving crimes associated with the railroad that two years later he was invited by Sir Oliver Mowat, who was then the Attorney-General of Ontario, to become the Inspector of Criminal Investigation of the Department of Justice. At that time there was no Provincial Police Force and so for over 30 years Murray was practically a one-man Provincial Police Force.

It is of interest to us that the first case which Murray undertook as an employee of the Ontario Department of Justice dealt with counterfeiting. For a long time counterfeiters had been known to be at work in the Owen Sound and vicinity. They had grown wealthy and had influential connections. Murray quietly went to the area and shortly became acquainted with some of the men who were passing the counterfeit money, bonds and mortgages. He was soon able to arrest the leaders of the gang who included some of the most respectable men in the community.

In 1875 Murray handled an investigation, involving a Mr. Pettit, a prosperous farmer who distrusted banks and who kept all his money in his home in the form of gold coins. One night four armed men broke into his home and stole his fortune which consisted of \$10,500 in gold coins. Murray was called in and set out on the trail. He found that the gang had rented a wagon in Hamilton then driven to Brantford where they split up the gold. By tracing the gold in the places where it turned up Murray learned that the ring leader was Charles Mills, of Hamilton. Mills fled to Texas but with the help of one of Mills former girl friends Murray was able to lure him back to Canada where he was promptly arrested. Mills was tried, convicted and sentenced to five years in prison.

The longest chase of a criminal ever undertaken by Murray involved a private banker by the name of Henry Charles Aitken. Aitken came of a prominent Hamilton family and had for a number of years worked at the head office of the Bank of Hamilton. Later he was appointed manager of the branch at Tottenham, Ontario. When the bank decided to close the branch, Aitken took over the business and opened a private bank. He built up a thriving business and was highly respected in the community. His one weakness was playing the stock market in which he was not successful. Finally he ran into serious financial difficulties so he cleaned out his vault of all his depositors funds and fled the country. Bank inspectors found that he had fled with roughly \$90,000 in cash and negotiable securities. Murray was called in and took up the chase. He followed Aitken to Mexico, across the isthmus of Panama, down the west coast of South America, through Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Chile across the Andes on mule-back, through Argentina, down the Rio Plata to Montevideo and thence to Rio de Janeiro. Did he catch the fleeing banker? No! Aitken died in Rio de Janeiro of yellow fever.

Another case involved a private banking firm and this time rare coins added spice to the story. In November, 1894 an armed gang broke into the banking house of Hartman and Wilgress, in Clarksburg, near Thornbury, Ontario. The thieves were unable to open the main vault but they did manage to break into the outer vault. In it was stored a large quantity of valuable silver ware, the wedding presents of Mr. and Mrs. Wilgress and a number of "exceedingly rare and high-priced coins" owned by Mr. Hartman. Inspector Murray traced the gang to Toronto. He found that the wedding presents had been melted down into an ingot and sold to a Toronto jeweller but it was the rare coins which gave the thieves away. The leader of the gang showed one of the rare coins to a bar-tender and later gave it to him. The bar-tender was able to identify the man and Murray arrested him.

The last case I will tell you about is Murray's most famous case concerning counterfeiting. It was known as the Case of the Million Dollar Counterfeiters. In the spring of 1880 Canada was flooded with

the most dangerous counterfeit bills ever put into circulation up to that time. Banks took the bogus banknotes over their own counters and could not tell they were not genuine. Officials whose signatures were forged could not tell the forged signatures from their own genuine signatures. Good and bad bills were laid side by side and experts had to resort to scientific methods to tell which was which. The bills appeared all over Canada and it was determined eventually that bills with a face value of \$1,000,000 were put into circulation. That was a very, very large sum in those days. It was also learned later that \$2000,000 of the counterfeit bills were sent to northwest Canada in payment for furs. Twenty-five years later these counterfeit notes were still turning up and were being accepted as genuine. The notes that were being counterfeited were the following:

Canadian Bank of Commerce, \$5 and \$10 notes of 1871
Bank of British North America, \$5 note of 1875
Ontario Bank, \$10 note of 1870
Dominion Bank, \$4 note of 1871
Dominion of Canada, \$1 note of 1870

At the same time Treasury officials in the United States discovered that counterfeits of their \$5 note of the 1875 series were appearing all over the U.S.A. and some in Canada. This note was of the same high quality and seemed to be coming from the same source as the Canadian counterfeits. Both the Canadian Government and the Canadian banks were greatly concerned and Murray was immediately put to work on the case. It was important not only to apprehend the counterfeiters but also to seize the very dangerous printing plates that were being used. Murray immediately went to Washington in order to co-ordinate his search with that of the U.S. Secret Service. Then he visited New York, Philadelphia and Chicago taking with him examples of all the counterfeit notes. He met with several former counterfeiters and showed them the bills. Counterfeiters could frequently recognize the work of other experts in their trade. Finally by a process of elimination they agreed that the only man who could have engraved the plates was Edwin Johnson, a master engraver.

Johnson was an Englishman by birth, an educated man who had married an educated Englishwoman. He learned the trade of engraver and then the young couple moved to the United States. He worked at his trade and was believed to be honest but during the American Civil War some one made a fortune out of counterfeit \$20, \$50 and \$100 bank-notes and Johnson was believed to have been involved. Through an ex-counterfeiter in Chicago Murray learned that the Johnson's had been last heard of in Indianapolis. Murray went to Indianapolis and found that the Johnson's had lived there until six years previously, in a large house with horses, carriages, a coachman, a footman and a retinue of servants. They now had a family of two beautiful girls and five boys. The Johnsons spent money lavishly and Mr. Johnson built up a reputation as a heavy drinker. Finally word got around Indianapolis that the Johnsons were involved in counterfeiting and they suddenly left town. Murray traced the family to Cincinnati, to Kentucky, to Connecticut to Massachusetts. There he lost the trail. After giving the matter long thought he decided that there was a possibility that the Johnsons might be in Toronto directing the distribution of their excellent counterfeits. He took the train to Toronto arriving in the evening dead tired. He walked across

the street to a saloon to have a drink before going home. To his great amazement the first figure he saw at the bar was Johnny Johnson, one of the Johnson boys. Fortunately Johnny didn't see Murray. When he left Murray followed him down Bay Street, north on Bloor Street to Avenue Road and finally to a large brick house on Hazelton Avenue. Murray made arrangements with the occupants of an adjacent house so that he could stay there and keep the Johnson house under surveillance. Finally after many days Edwin Johnson, the king of counterfeiters, came out. Murray trailed him from saloon to saloon but each time Johnson paid for his drinks with good money. Then he went to the railroad station and bought a ticket to Markham. Murray followed him. On arriving in Markham, Johnson went into a saloon. He paid for his drink with a \$1 bill. When he left Murray bought the bill from the bar-tender and it was a counterfeit Dominion of Canada \$1 note of 1870. He had his man. Johnson visited many places in Markham making small purchases and each time tendering a counterfeit note in payment. In one store he bought a necktie with a counterfeit Dominion Bank, \$4 note of 1871. In the evening he returned to Toronto with Murray following him. When they arrived in Toronto Murray arrested him. When he was searched more counterfeit money was found in his wallet. Drink had been his downfall. Johnson did not normally pass any of his own counterfeits. The shovers or passers and the middlemen did not know him at all. He dealt only with the wholesalers. Only when he was drinking was he so indiscreet as to pass any of his own counterfeits. Johnson tried to buy Murray off, he told him to name his own price and he would pay it - in good money, Murray would have none of it. After several days in jail Johnson finally agreed to hand over the plates. They hired a cab and drove to a woods just north of Toronto where the plates were dug up. They were in two packages the size of two bricks - remember that it took fourteen steel plates to print seven notes. The plates were wrapped in oiled cloth covered with beeswax. Johnson said that they had cost over forty thousand dollars to make. The plates were taken to the office of the Attorney General where each plate was defaced by having diagonal lines scored across its face. The plates were still in existence in 1905 when this book was published. Impressions from five of the plates were included as an appendix to the book. Johnson revealed that although he had engraved the plates it was his two daughters who had forged the signatures. They had been trained in forging signatures since childhood. They would spend hours a day duplicating a single signature and would work at the one name for months, writing it countless thousands of times. Edwin Johnson and his daughters were tried and convicted in Toronto in 1880 and then sent to the United States to face further charges there. Eventually the entire family served penitentiary terms for this and subsequent counterfeiting crimes. They were never able to enjoy the results of their genius. We have in our collection of old historical counterfeit notes quite a number which were the work of Edwin Johnson, the king of counterfeiters, and his family. I think that it would be fitting if the Canadian Paper Money Society were to make Edwin Johnson, an Honorary Member. Don't you agree ?

Editors Note : I would at this time like to thank Major Sheldon S. Carroll for a most interesting article, for allowing us to use it, and for giving us permission to edit same. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I did.

Ye Ed.

Membership

New Members

Applications published in the June 1976 issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted. The following applications have been received and if nowritten objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the September issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- IO18 Donald C. Owens, P.O.Box 112, Stroud, Ontario. LOL 2M0
- IO19 Robert L. Hunter, Box 185, Toronto Dominion Centre, Toronto, Ont. M5K 1H9
- IO20 Lauriant Beaulne, 273 Higginson St., Hawkesbury, Ont. K6A IG8
- IO21 John Oldershaw, 133 Rosethorn Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6N 3K9
- IO22 Mrs. E.P. Ruch, 907 Hutchison Ave., Whitby, Ont. LIN 2A3
- JIO23 Bruce Colwell, Jr., Solina Rd., RR#2, Bowmanville, Ont. LIC 3K3
- IO24 Bruce Colwell, Solina Rd., RR#2, Bowmanville, Ont. LIC 3K3
- IO25 H.F. Anderson, 272 Ritson Rd.N., Oshawa, Ontario. LIG 5P8
- IO26 Terry W. Monk, 34 Southview Pl., London, Ontario. N6J IS2
- IO27 Miss Eleanor T. Rattenbury, IO10 - 5170 Lakeshore Rd., Burlington, Ontario. L7L IC4
- IO28 Robin C. Reader, 159 Corinthian Blvd., Agincourt, Ont. MIW IB7

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CHEER UP!

A man walked into a plush hotel, crossed the lobby and went up to the desk clerk. He picked up a pen and asked: "What have you got for \$20.00?" "You're holding it," the clerk replied.

"You look tired." "I am. I've been all over town trying to get something for my husband." "Had any offers."

Some people's finances are in such a mess, you'd think they were getting advice from the government.

A wife was telling her neighbor about her fishing trip with her husband. "I did everything wrong on the trip. I talked too loud, I made too much noise, I used the wrong bait, I reeled in too soon, and I caught more fish than he did."

While money still talks, it appears to be becoming increasingly incoherent.

CONVENTION

CALENDAR

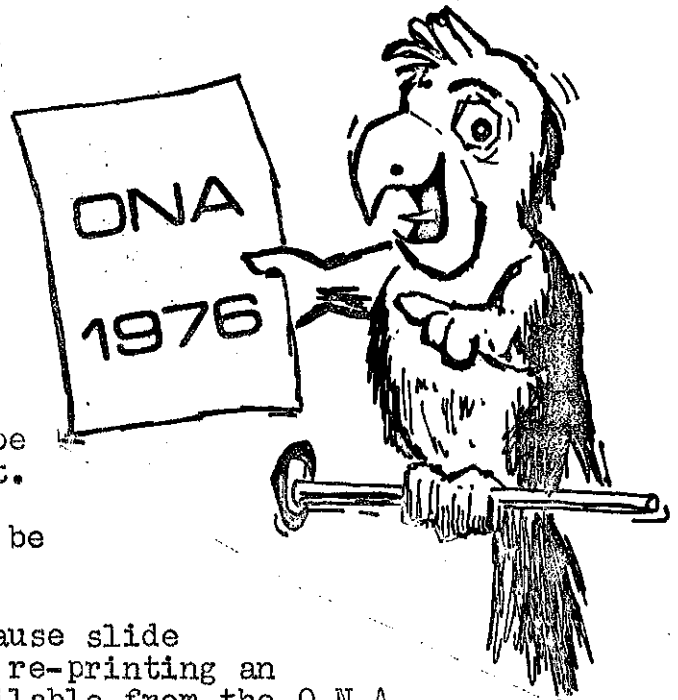
Proposed Coin Shows

The following are the Annual Coin Shows proposed for the next few months, that we have received notices for, or taken from Club bulletins. We advise you to check this list as you debate the date of your own Club's Show, to ensure that your date does not conflict with any other coin Shows.

- July 8-10 The 1976 C.N.A. Convention will be held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa. For information write- Ottawa Coin Club, 183 Island Park Drive, Ottawa, Ontario. KIY 0A3
- Aug. 7 Collingwood & District Numismatic Association Second Annual Coin-Stamp-Hobby Show, at the Lion's Den, 10 am. to 6 pm. Enquiries to P.O. Box 565 Collingwood, Ontario.
- Sept. 11 Huronia Numismatic Association 16th Annual Coin Show. Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St., Barrie, Ontario. Enquiries to P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario.
- Sept. 19 Waterloo Coin Society Annual Coin Show, to be held at the Waterloo Knights of Columbus Hall, 105 University Ave. E., Waterloo, Ontario. Time - 10 am to 6 pm.
- Oct. 2nd London Numismatic Society - Coin Show and Bourse - at St. Georges Presbyterian Church Hall, 1475 Dundas St. Enquiries to Box 6221, Station "D" London, Ont. N5V 2Y8
- Oct. 3 Sarnia Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show, at the Travel Lodge on the Golden Mile, Hwy.7. Enquiries to D.W. Park, Show Chairman, 308 Savoy St., Sarnia, Ontario.
- Oct. 9 Richmond Hill Coin Club 12th Annual Coin Show, to be held at Hillcrest Mall (Yonge St.) Richmond Hill, Ontario.
- Oct. 16 Thistletown Coin & Stamp Club Annual Coin-Stamp Show. To be held at the Public Library, Albion Rd. and Kipling Ave. across from the Shoppers World, Albion Mall.
- Oct. 23 St. Catharines Annual Coin Show, at the Westminster United Church, 180 Queenston St., St. Catharines. Enquiries to Chairman S.L. Aaroe, 7 Rivercrest Dr., St. Catharines, Ont.
- Oct. 31 Stratford's 1st. Combined Coin & Stamp Show, at Stratford's Legion Hall, corner St. Patrick & Church Sts., 10am to 7pm. Enquire- Stratford Coin Club, Box 262, Stratford, Ont. N5A6T1

CLUB PROGRAMS :

Presenting a new and different program at each club meeting is very important to the running of a coin club. A program chairperson should be appointed by the executive. Different members should be challenged to provide a program that is original. Meeting programs should be varied, not the same year in, year out. Programs should be entertaining and educational, so that all members will be interested.



For these reasons and because slide programs are always enjoyable, we are re-printing an updated copy of the Slide Programs available from the O.N.A. Audio Visual Chairman.

It's not too early to plan your fall and winter programs now. If you do send for a slide program, just enclose \$1.00 (to cover the cost of mailing) for each set to Mr. Chas. B. Laister, No. 3 Highway, Tillsonburg, Ontario. N4G 3J1

O.N.A. Library Slide Sets of the Audio-Visual Service
\$1.00 fee each set of slides with application

A.V. #B1	Romance of World Coins	by Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #B2	Wampum to Decimal Coins in Canada, Wampum Card Money and Coinage Part 1 : Of the French Regime.	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #B3	Wampum to Decimal Coins in Canada, Part 2 : The Tokens of Quebec.	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #B4	Wampum to Decimal Coins in Canada, Part 3 : The Bouquet Sous and a Few Upper Canada Tokens	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #B5	Coins of Roman Britain	Rod Rekofski
A.V. #B7	What's My Coin - Part I - for less experienced collectors.	Rod Rekofski
A.V. #B7	What's My Coin - Part 2 - For advanced Numismatists	Rod Rekofski
A.V. #B9	Canadian Silver Dollars	Wm. English
A.V. #B10	Canadian Fractional Currency	Wm. English
A.V. #B11	Canadian Coat of Arms	David Ashe
A.V. #B12	Wampum to Decimal Coins in Canada Part 4 : Tokens of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I., Newfoundland.	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #B13	Lundy Island and World Famous Order's Part 1 :	David Ashe
A.V. #B14	The Eddystone Lighthouse and World Order's - Part 2 :	David Ashe.
A.V. #B15	The Waitangi Crown & Ye Old Famous Cartwheel	David Ashe.

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A.V. #BI6	Canadian Voyageur Dollar	Mrs. C. Pelkey
A.V. #BI7	What's My Coin - Part 3	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #BI8	Odd and Curious Money	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. #BI9	"Seafaring" Development of a Ship	Alex L. Munro
A.V. #B20	Canadian Coin Quiz - Part I	David Ashe
A.V. #B21	Coins of the Bible	Lloyd D. Smith B.A.B.D.
A.V. #B22	Collecting Church Medallions	Allen Macnab
A.B. #B23	Canadian Large Cents	Kitchener Coin Club
A.V. #B24	Canadian Five Cents Silver	B.C. Num. Society
A.V. #B25	Large Canadian Five Cent Pieces	B.C. Num. Society
A.B. #B26	Numismatic Items	B.C. Num. Society
A.V. #B27	Yukon Trading Tokens	B.C. Num. Society
A.V. #B28	Newfoundland Coinage	B.C. Num. Society
A.V. #B29	State Medals of Israel	Art Leff
A.V. #B30	Bank of Newfoundland Paper	C.P.M.S. & C.N.A.
A.V. #B31	Coinage of the Maritime Provinces	C.N.A.
A.V. #B32	Coin Collecting has many Fields	Lloyd T. Smith
A.V. MIOI	The Ultimate Achievement	Franklin Mint
	16 MM Color Sound \$2.00 Fee.	

All of these are available through our O.N.A. Audio Visual Service. Keep this form handy and order some for your next meeting.



I've really enjoyed writing this portion of the bulletin each month for the past year..... Imagine It's already been a year since I took over as your Editor.... There has been a few changes and there will be a few more before the New Editor takes over.

Yes when I took over the job as Editor of the Ontario Numismatist, I committed myself for 2 years or until I became Governor in Lions. Well the time has just flown and by April 1977, I will be holding that position. There is now way possible that I can do both at the same time. I have informed the Executive of the O.N.A. that the April 1977 issue will be last issue I will produce, and this information is just to see if one of our good members might seriously consider taking over YeEds job at that time.... More on this later.

THE DAYS OF SUMMER Each Summer, there are beautiful sunny and warm days in which we can enjoy soaking up the sun, swimming, water-skiing, and outside picnics.... Some days are windy and cloudy which are good for sailing, picking blueberries and so on....

But some days are rainy and dull - how about making those dull days enjoyable too - plan little projects like researching a numismatic item - or how about writing an article or a short story for the fall issues of the Numismatist. Lets make those dull days bright & profitable.