



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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## The "Chas. B. Laister Trophy"

donated to the Ontario Numismatic Association for Annual Competition of O.N.A. Member Club Displays, will be up for competition again, at the 15th Annual O.N.A. Convention, to be hosted by the Oshawa District Coin Club, May 13-14-15, 1977 at the Holiday Inn, 1011 Bloor St. E., Oshawa, Ontario.

The trophy will be awarded for the best display from any O.N.A. Member Club in Ontario that is in good standing at Convention time. The display can be put in as a Club project, or by a member of an Ontario Club, but only in the name of the Club he or she are a member of.

Only one display will be allowed from each member club. The space or area allowed will be that of one, two or three O.N.A. cases. The category will be of any category that the Club wish to put in. But all displays in this competition will be competitive and none of these displays will be allowed to compete in any other O.N.A. categories.

The Club that has the best display will get the "Laister Trophy" till the next O.N.A. Convention. At that time the Trophy has to come back to the O.N.A. Annual Convention for the next competition. So start getting your Club Display ready NOW.

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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THE 1943 ONE CENT PIECE

by Ross W. Irwin.

Coin Club programs tend to be somewhat sterile mainly due to the lethargy of the members and the attitude that "they" can do a better job than "I". "They" are now getting tired, are looked on as experts, and feel they have made their contributions. In the face of an existing establishment it is difficult for the average member to get up enough nerve to ask to be a part of the program. What is needed is the initiative of many people to make up interesting programs which will in turn encourage a better attendance. The key to interest is involvement. Why not ask a member who has never made a formal talk to present one. You will either scare him to death, or you will generate a more active member. The program chairman must be quite specific about the title of the talk as half the battle is deciding what the title should be, don't leave it up to the speaker.

As an example, I have chosen to discuss the 1943 Canadian one cent piece. What coin could possibly be less attractive? What in the world can you say about it? Well, let's see.

To do anything in this world you need a plan. Our plan is to say what the coin looks like, what are its physical properties, why was it struck, is it of any value, are they all the same, how did it develop? I am sure you could add to this list of questions. Maybe you could have a panel on one coin and one person discuss one question!

Physical properties and appearance.

The 1943 Canadian one cent piece is circular and three-quarters of an inch in diameter (19.05 mm). It has a plain edge, that is, there is no graining or milling. To say something of its composition we should review its history. In 1857 (20 Vic. c.18) an Act was passed by the Province of Canada to keep their accounts in decimal currency and provided for the striking of a coinage. An order was placed for 10 million one cent pieces, some were delivered in 1858 but the majority in 1859. These coins were one inch in diameter (25.4 mm), weighed 4.536 grams and was composed of 95 parts copper, 4 parts tin and 1 part zinc. In 1876 the Dominion of Canada issued a new series of one cent pieces, these were of the same size and composition but were heavier at 5.67 grams (87½ coins per pound). The composition and size continued without change until the great need for copper was experienced toward the end of World War I.

The size of the one cent piece was reduced to that of the U.S.A. one cent piece, at three quarters of an inch, but it was heavier at a standard weight of 50 grains or 140 to the pound (3.24 grams). The small cent was legally authorized (9-10 Geo. V. c.16) and was placed in circulation May 21, 1920. The thickness of the coin is 1.5 mm. The composition was changed to 95.5 parts copper, 3 parts tin and 1.5 parts zinc. Everything went well without change until the Japanese siezed the tin mines in Malayasia and in 1942 the coinage was changed

to 98 parts copper, 1.5 parts tin and 0.5 parts zinc. The 1943 one cent piece is of this composition.

### What does it look like?

The coin is of course a copper colour when minted and turns dark due to oxidation in the air and the acids of handling. The obverse, that is, the side of the coin bearing the principle design or authority for issue, shows George VI facing left. Note that he is uncrowned like the British coinage which signified that Canada was no longer a colony. Only the British colonies and territories traditionally used a crowned coinage, for example the Newfoundland coinage of 1943 is a crowned effigy.

The inscription reads:- GEORGIVS VI D:G: REX ET IND: IMP: which in its expanded form means George VI, Die Gratia (By the Grace of God which establishes the fact the King exists by God's grace); Rex et Indiae Imperator means King and Emperor of India. Queen Victoria was made Empress of India in 1877 and the words were first used on the coinage of 1893 although in Canada it was the George V coinage. In 1948 India obtained Independence and the title was dropped. The design was by T. Humphrey Paget of the Royal Mint staff and was chosen by George VI for coinage use. The designers initials H.P. are in the field below the truncation of the bust.

The reverse is what is termed medal design, that is, when the obverse is vertical and the coin is turned about its vertical axis the reverse is also vertical. The reverse design features a two-leaved twig of Maple, the words "ICENT" is above and "CANADA" below. The date is "1943". Both the obverse and reverse contain tongue shaped border beads. The reverse was designed by George Kruger-Gray and was used from 1937. He died in 1943. The initials K.G. are in the field.

### Why was it Struck?

The one cent coin is legal tender to 25 cents, that is, an offer to pay money is a legal tender which a creditor must accept. He need not accept more than 25 one cent pieces. It was struck to provide a coin which served as one unit of decimal currency.

### Is It Of Any Value?

In 1943 the mint was operating for 24 hours per day on shifts and minted the highest number of one cent pieces up until that time, indeed the quantity was not surpassed until 1957. There were 89,111,969 one cent coins minted and 88,130,000 issued. With such a large number in circulation it is no wonder the listed price for the coin in any condition has not changed over the years materially, and really reflect the dealers cost of doing business. In other words the coin has no numismatic value.

### Are They All The Same?

There are no varieties for this coin; however, with nearly 90 million minted there are many oddities created by die wear.

Approximately 20 types of oddity exist with die breaks, metal blobs and off metal. These are of interest to some collectors but are really a reflection of the lack of quality control at the mint.

Challenge:

I am sure many others can add to this story which is about long enough for a coin club meeting. My purpose was really not to provide much information, as a matter of fact it all came from readily available sources, the purpose was to show that with a title, a plan and a desire to be of service, anyone can produce a reasonably interesting program. May I encourage you to help your coin club in this way.

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# Membership

New Members:

The following applications have been received and if no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the April issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

- I042 Donald M. Brown, 4563 Pinedale Dr., Niagara Falls, Ont. L2E 6M6
- J1043 George S. Cuhaj, 31 - 50 33 Street, Long Island City, N.Y. 11106  
U.S.A.
- I044 Douglas Palmer, 3057 Jean Bouillet, St. Laurent, Quebec.
- I045 Daniel T. Bowyer, 1200 York Mills #1509, Don Mills, Ont. M3A 1X8
- I046 Alessandro J. Gualtieri, 756 Guthrie Dr., Sarnia, Ont. N7V 1X9
- I047 Rev. V.J. Monk, 3 Woodland Cr., Tillsonburg, Ont.

The following members have been transferred from regular membership to Life Membership.

- LM 44 Floyd E. Roadhouse, Guelph, Ont. N1G 2A6
- LM 45 Thomas Masters, London, Ont. N5Z 1M8

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SMILE : The trouble with being a leader today is that you can't tell whether people are following you or chasing you.

- Wife: "My husband thinks he's a parking meter."
- Psychiatrist: "Why doesn't he speak for himself?"
- Wife: "What, with all those dimes in his mouth?"

THE PROPER METHODS OF HANDLING, CLEANING AND  
STORING YOUR COIN COLLECTION.



BY Raymond Gregory - President of the Newmarket  
Numismatic Society.

The proper method of handling your coins is with a glove on your hands and then still by holding the coin by it's edge. The worst possible thing to happen to your coin is to have your finger imprint forever imbedded into the field of your coin. The salty sweat that come from the pours of your fingers will combine with your coin and cause a chemical reaction, thus causing permanent markings. This is especially true with the modern proof coins. By wearing a glove made of soft washable material, or a vinyl glove (never use a rubber glove) it isn't as bad if you happen to put a thumb or finger on the field of a coin, because the glove will absorb or protect the coin from any moisture. Try not to drop your coins, or have them rub together, because of course this will ding the edge, or scratch their surface and thus devalue the coin.

Now, to clean or not to clean? This question can only be answered by you, the owner of the coin. Unless you have seen it done, or have had previous experience then I suggest you seek professional advice. A dealer or an experienced numismatist can always detect a cleaned coin. Remember - an uncleaned coin can always be cleaned by someone else, a cleaned coin can not be uncleaned. When you have decided to clean your coin then the following information should help in aiding you in the proper method. Otherwise your coin could turn odd colours or become just a scratched piece of metal.

First, try to detect the difference between dirt and natural patina. A toned coin will always be valued above a new shiny coin, simply because the natural tone proves to the prospective buyer the coin has been left untouched to form a patina through natural causes. Natural patina is a result in the chemical build up of carbon hydrates which forms on the surface of the coin, from the gases in the air and the amount of humidity. A slowly oxidized copper coin, slowly turns a pure chocolate colour.

There are methods certain people do to their coins which causes an artificial patina. They dip them into metallic salts such as antomium or by placing a coin near a burning fire. Because of the shortness of time that the North American collector has been engaged in this hobby he still likethe look of the fresh shinning coin, whereas the European collector who has already seasoned in his study of coins, values the patina on a coin, as a true sense of beauty.

Before you start to clean your coin, make sure what you are using isn't going to harm the surface. Some people just use warm soapy water and a fine tooth brush to get the dirt out of the lines, but I

DON'T recommend this method as the best for results. There are several silver dips on the market which are quite acceptable providing their used with caution. Don't leave your coin in the solution more than fifteen seconds, and don't get your fingers in the solution either. Then proceed to rinse your coin off with cool water. Other solutions recommended by numismatist in the past are amonia, soda, vinegar or cream of tartar. Which ever you use always rinse with cool water afterwards. Then don't stop there. Put your coin into a last rinse in either benzene or ether. Neither of these chemicals contain oxygen, thus they have a neautralizing effect. But be careful these chemicals are highly flameable and caution should be used. Then after this has been accomplished follow through by putting your coin into a dry storage. When drying your coin off, simply place the coin between two absorbent tissues, or a soft cloth, and dap dry, DON'T RUB THE COIN, for this will scratch the surface of the coin. For the cleaning of copper coins, use an olive oil solution. Then dap it dry, and store. Chemicals that are too strong may turn your copper green or in the case of silver dip, it turns it red.

Now, for the storing of the coins, the final a crucial stage in the preservation of your collection. Choose a material that will not omit moisture of chemicals into the air under dry or humid conditions. For wooden cabinets, if your wealthy enough to afford one, either fruit wood or mahogany are the safest of woods to use. Neither will produce toxic substances that will produce an unnatural tone to your coin. Paper envelopes contain sulphur which is harmful to silver. It is recommended the envelopes to be used for the transporting of coins but not the prolonged storage. Albums with the holes to place the coins are alright for display purposes, but with the long exposure to oxygen, here again lengthy periods of storage are not recommended. Coin tubes and the like, are not recommended for uncirculated coins, because they rub together. According to some sourses, even the uncirculated coins that come in rolls from the mint, should be cleaned with a soft cloth before any lengthy storage, due to the fatty substance which is used in the oiling of the machines in the minting process. By cleaning them off it will retard any further reaction with the coins metal. This does not apply of course to the PROOF coins. The surface of these coins, are extremely fine in their finish and should be handled with extreme care. There are three types of plastics which are recommended for the storage of coinage; polyenthylene, polystrene, and ethycellulose. These are the three inert plastics which don't form oxidation, thus causing tarnishing on your coins. Flexiglass and lucit are the second best choice of plastics, since they are not fully absent of inert properties. Most plastic page albums on the market today, even though they do not state their exact plastic content are believed to be the best storage for your coins. The two by two plastic U-do its placed into the pockets of the twenty page plastic page inserts are also a safe way to store your coins. Another point to consider is the lighting that effects coins. It has been found unwise to leave coins under neon light which tend to darken them, whereas it is considered safe under florescent lighting.

In summing up, remember look after the coins while they are in your possession. They will be someone elses pride and joy in the future. In using brushes for the removal of dirt, only those produced

OF GOATS HAIRS are safe for usage. Remember, to rinse that coin in either benzene or ether, because any chemical or agent containing oxygen will eventually tarnish your coin if not neutralized. Laquering coins is done, but it is very rare. It looks very unnatural, and devalues the coin. Don't let these ideas tend to confuse or discourage you. If you have any doubt about the cleaning of coinage, the best advice is don't do it. But if you are so inclined these methods done properly will make your time and effort in this hobby a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

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Ontario Numismatist        Vol 14 April 1975.

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THE CANADIAN FIVE CENT PIECE - 1943 by Lloyd T. Smith.

The "V" Victory reverse design on the reverse of the 1943 five cent piece was introduced with the aim of furthering the war effort. They were made of Tombac (88% copper, 12% zinc) and were twelve sided as were the 1942 tombac five cent coins.

The obverse is the same as the 1942 issue, except that rim denticles were added. The torch and V on the reverse symbolize sacrifice and victory. Instead of rim denticles like the obverse, a dot-dash pattern forms the inner rim. The dot-dash pattern forms the International Code message, "WE WIN WHEN WE WORK WILLINGLY," starting below the N in cents. The designer was the Royal Canadian Mint's chief engraver, Thomas Shingles (TS at right of the torch), who cut the master matrix entirely by hand -- a feat few present-day engravers can accomplish.

This issue may be considered a tribute to Samuel B. Morse, the inventor of the Morse Code and the telegraph system (1843). The tombac five cent of 1943 was issued just 100 years after Mr. Samuel B. Morse was granted a patent on his invention. The message on the coins is in the international or Continental Code though and not the Morse Code.

This is also the first die made entirely at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. It is interesting that the 12-sided position differs from the English 12-sided threepence coins by a 15 degree turn.

The tombac alloy was replaced with chromium-plated steel in 1944-45 because the copper and zinc were needed for the war effort.

(Thanks to the London Numismatic Society Bulletin and reprinted from the Ontario Numismatist of April 1972).

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 Club's Show, to ensure that your date does not conflict with any other coin show.

- Mar. 12 - N.Y.C.C. Annual Coin Show, Displays, White Elephant and Book Sale, Auction by Frank Rose. Enquiries: North York Coin Club, Box 294, Station A, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P0
- Mar. 19 - A one-day Symposium and Exhibit will be sponsored by the Ancient Coin Society, at the Academy of Medecine, New Quarters, Toronto, Ontario. Further information from Mr. Stanley Clute, P.O. Box 672, Station B, Willowdale, Ont.
- April 14 - 17th., Torex '77, Spring Show at the Westbury Hotel, 475 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario. For enqiries write to Torex, 347 Bay St., Suite 1000, Toronto, Ontario.M5H 2R7
- May 1st The Nickel Belt Coin Club's Annual Coin Show, to be held at the President Motor Hotel, from 10 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. in Sudbury, Ont. For enquiries write to Gerry Albert, 158 Dunvegan Crt., Sudbury, Ont.
- May 13 - 15th., The Ontario Numismatic Association Convention for 1977 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Oshawa. All enquiries re Bourse etc., should be sent to the Oshawa Coin Club, P.O. Box 212, Oshawa, Ontario.
- June 19 Brantford Centennial Coin Show - Senior Citizen's Centre, Bourse - Exhebiticn - Auction - 25 Charlotte St., Brantford.
- Aug. 3 - 7 The 1977 C.N.A. Convention and Show will be held in Vancouver. More details next month.
- Oct. 22 The St. Catharines Annual Coin Show and Banquet will be held on this date. More details will follow later. This will be their eighteenth consecutive Show.

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Smile : Motorist filling out an accident report: " I was backing out of a parking space and by the time I backed out far enough to see what was coming, it already had."

Small boy to mother: "Can I help daddy fix the flat tire? I know all the words from the last time."



Smallest, Largest, Oldest, Rarest, Most Beautiful, by Lloyd T. Smith  
and reprinted from the London Numismatic Society Aug. Bulletin.

Have you ever wondered about the names of the smallest, largest, oldest, rarest and most beautiful coins in the world? Do you actually own any of these coins? We might not be able to own the rarest coins, but we could certainly own some of the others.

Most of the smallest coins were made of gold, the very smallest being a type used in Colpata, southern India in 1880. These little pieces, known as "pinhead" coins weighed only one grain, or 1/480 of a troy ounce. It would require about 253 of these little pieces just to equal the weight of the gold content of Canada's 1967 Centennial \$20. gold coin.

Another small gold coin is the 1/32 ducat of Regensburg, issued about 1750, during the reign of the Holy Roman Emperor Francis I. This beautiful little coin with the double-headed eagle is only 6mm's in diameter and weighs only 1.69 grains. I have one of these in my collection and have estimated that it would take 379 of these to equal the weight of the Mexican 50 pesos coin. Its original value was a mere 7 cents in U. S. Coin. There was also a 1/100 gold mohar of Nepal and a 1/32 ducat of Nurenburg.

Small silver coins would include the chuckram of Travancore, minted from 1860-1880 and measuring only 5 1/2 millimeters in diameter; and, the 2 1/2 centesimo of Panama, dated 1904. This piece is often called the "Panama Pill", measures 10 millimeters in diameter and is less than two millimeters thick.

Small bronze coins known as "cash" were minted by the State of Travancore in India as late as the mid 1940's. These little coins, depicting a conch shell within an eight-pointed star, are only 11 millimeters in diameter. A bronze Amman cash of the Indian State of Pudukotah depicts a Hindu God on its 12 mm flan.

If we include primitive exchange tokens, the largest money is the fei or stone money from Yap Island. Yap stone money is made of limestone or calcite, measures from six to 12 feet in diameter and sometimes weighs as much as five tons. A center hole about one-sixth of the stone's diameter, through which a pole is inserted, is made for easier transportation of these huge pieces. The stone would remain in one spot on the island, even though they were used to buy things and ownership would change.

In 1644, Sweden issued huge copper 10 daler pieces known as "plate" money. These pieces attained a weight up to 38 1/2 pounds.

The Brunswick duchies of Europe and also Saxe-Lauenburg minted large silvercoins in multiples of up to 12 talers during the 17th century. A single taler weighs about 29 grams, so a 12 taler would weigh 348 grams, or almost as much as 15 Canadian silver dollars.

Though no specimen is known to have survived, the largest gold coin was the 200 mohurs of India. Issued under the rule of Shah Jahan, 1628-1658, the 200 mohur measured 133 millimeters.

Though there is some controversy today, the oldest coins are usually attributed to the electrum (an alloy of gold and silver) staters of Lydia, in Asia Minor (now Turkey). These were coined around 700 B.C. Chinese primitive money known as "pu" or spade money may have been in use as early as 1,000 B.C., but this date is still uncertain.

In seeking the rarest coin in the world, one must not be confused by record prices as demand is a factor that increases value. For instance, the 1804 Idler specimen U.S. Silver dollar is listed as the second most valuable coin in the world, but there 15-known specimens. The rarest coin is probably a silver decadrachm of Athens, Greece, issued in 470 B.C. Weighing 42.90 grams, it depicts the head of Athena as obverse and an owl on the reverse. This specimen was found at Sparta, Attica in 1922.

Other "unique" issues would include the Hungary gold 50 ducats issued in 1677, 78 mm in diameter; the U.S. 1823/22 quarter dollar with wire edge and issued in proof-like quality; a Roman gold 10 aurei issued by Maximianus I, in 303 A.D.; the Salzburg 1590 gold 20 ducats, struck by Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau; and the U.S. 1866 quarter with no motto.

I am sure that I have missed some of the other unique coins and, we would probably like to think that the 1911 Canada silver dollar is one of the rarest coins, but it would have to come way down on the list as we would have to mention all issues where two specimens are actually known to exist.

Personal opinion will undoubtedly influence the choice of the most beautiful coins in the world but the results of a survey to determine "the world's most beautiful crown" issued since 1900 was conducted by Julius Weiss of Cleveland, Ohio with the following results:

The most popular beautiful was voted to be a silver coin of Hungary, the five peso denomination, issued in 1938 in commemoration of the 900th anniversary of the death of St. Stephen. This piece has been given the Yeoman number of 48 and is listed in the Standard Catalogue of World Coins by Chester Krause and Clifford Mishler as having a value of only \$25.00 in proof.

Second place was won by the popular Mexican "Ferrocarril" five peso silver alloy coin, marking the opening of Mexico's Southeast Railway in 1950. This piece is shown as Yeoman #66, with a value of \$42.50 in uncirculated condition in the same Catalogue.

Third choice was the "Five Kings" 30 drachma piece of Greece, a 1963 issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of the then-current Greek Royal dynasty. This is #47, with a value of only \$6.00 in uncirculated condition!

He also lists the obverse of the St. Gaudens U.S. \$20 gold piece and the Barber design of the U.S. half dollar introduced in 1892.

There may be some bias to the choices in this contest as many of the voters were U.S. collectors, and, it does not include many beautiful coins issued before 1900. It is a matter of personal choice.

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I have no room for personal observations this month, but will make it up next month. g.j.a.