

The PLANCHET



HMS
Shannon
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Does
This Coin
Make Me
Look Fat?
PAGE 11



Electrum Trites
PAGE 19

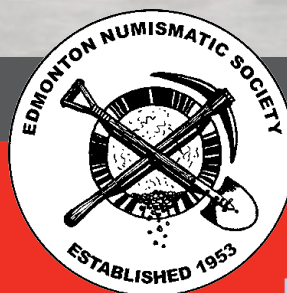


Wetaskiwin's
Trade Tokens
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Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 62 · Issue 4



December 2015

Inside:
2015 ENS Volunteer
Recognition Program



The **PLANCHET**

Volume 62 · Issue 4

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ON THE COVER

HMS Shannon \$2, 2012

Electrum Trites of Lydia and Ionia
(circa 625–580 BC)

Otacilia Severa Æ Sestertius, 248AD

Wetaskiwin Trade Dollar, 1978

Background: HMS Shannon and
USS Chesapeake in battle

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

December 2015

It's that time again, the "Holiday Season"... the time for rushing around, sorting through Christmas lists, office parties, or piling into packed shopping malls looking for last minute bargains for that special or not-so-special someone. It's the time for arguing with the post office, pleading with recalcitrant clerks, or maxing out your credit card for "stuff" that you're not even sure anyone needs. There are family parties to go to, relatives to put up with and someone's bad cooking to tolerate. It's a time to mind your Ps and Qs – as far as office politics or family politics goes. Time to watch out how much one imbibes in the eggnog; and then whether it's worth driving and losing one's license. There are gag gifts, re-gifts, and things you don't even know what to do with, where you are left to wonder just what someone was thinking when they gave you "this", whatever "this" is. There's competing with the neighbors for the most ostentatious holiday display – inflatable Santas and reindeer that all look like they're doing unspeakable things to each other as they spring a leak or the electric fans start to short out and fail. Or when your house electrical system gets overloaded when the TV is turned on and starts automatically shedding load due to that one last string of lights. Yes, it seems that the modern "Holiday Season" is all of that and then some, it can be quite overwhelming at times.

One begins to wonder if it's all worth it. Every year, the carols come even earlier, the sales and the obnoxious commercials start even sooner and seem to get louder. This year I was hearing about Black Friday sales accompanied with the usual nauseating sleigh bells

before Remembrance Day. That's a bit much. With every year, the meaning of the "Season" loses more and more meaning as more and more people decide that they are offended by its true meaning.

Then there are people like me, ancient and medieval coin collectors who study history and know the history and the story behind it all. We can put a very formal and rational spin on the whole event, along with proper timelines and mapped locations. So it's easy to lose sight of what Christmas is actually all about.

But we shouldn't lose sight of the original meaning of Christmas. It is a time of rejoicing, giving and charity, and it is a time to reflect and be thankful. It is a time to look towards the future, and celebrate the recent past. We're lucky we live here in Edmonton; for all of its lousy winter, we're at least safe from war, strife and famine. Ok, the economy is in the tank and there's a lot of unemployment around. There are a lot of people who aren't as fortunate as some are now, that's true. And maybe that's what we all need around here; a dose of reality

to take us out of the consumer hell I've described above (I'm sure Dante described something like that somewhere) and remind us what it is all really supposed to be about. So then it's up to the rest of us to help ensure that those less fortunate get a break and are able to celebrate Christmas too.

All throughout the year, quite a few of us spend a great deal of money chasing after the objects of our desire – shiny pieces of metal that are old or for whatever reason unique. Coin collecting by nature is a very solitary hobby, each collector has his or her own interests and desires when it comes to collecting. There's hardly an opportunity to "pay it forward" or give something back when you are alone with your collection, kind of like old Scrooge sitting there tabulating his shillings while his employees suffer. But we can change this. And besides, old Victorian shillings are for the most part worthless now. (He should have counted Guineas!)

As a coin club, we pool the proceeds from the December auction and donate to the charity of the membership's choice. At the



December meeting, prior to the auction, we put up the names of the charities our membership suggest and then vote on one which will get the proceeds. This is at least a start, this is at least one way we can as a club give something back. Over the past couple of years the results have been a bit disappointing, so bring your wallets and donate to a good cause.

As for club business goes, there isn't much new. All things considered, the club is doing very well. We had a good year. The Planchet is up and running again in the capable hands of Joe Kennedy. We've got money in the bank. We had a very successful show, everything clicked and worked out perfectly, thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers. And yes,

December is the month we run our "Go for the Gold" program and celebrate the achievement of all of our volunteers by awarding two of them a Sovereign. We also have to set up a nomination committee as elections are coming in March. If you've had an inkling or a desire to do something with this club, or, conversely, if you're tired of the way the current board runs the club, here's your chance to effect real change – run for a board position. We'd like to encourage anyone and everyone who is a member in good standing to sign up and run for a position. Oh yeah; that brings me to another point, memberships

are due this month. Please bring your dues, we accept cash, cheques, and if you prefer online, we accept PayPal. If you're going to be bringing cash, please, I implore you, bring me exact change, I almost always never have enough fives. So the basic adult or family renewal is unchanged from last year, it's still \$15.00.



And that's about it. So, in closing, I'm going to say it because I mean it, and if anyone is offended, well... On behalf of the ENS executive, and from my family to yours; I'd like to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas, and all the best for a prosperous New Year!**

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ENS Volunteer Recognition Program

Club Volunteers in 2015

The ENS Volunteer Recognition Program is unique in Canada's numismatic community. It is available to all current ENS members. The program was created to allow the ENS as a whole to publicly recognize the invaluable dedication and commitment of its volunteer members in their efforts to help the ENS realize its goal of being the most dynamic and vibrant collector society in Canada.

The ENS Volunteer Recognition Program is comprised of two parts.

The first is the **Silver Maple Leaf Volunteer Award**, which is awarded annually to each current ENS member who has dedicated a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time. Each qualifying ENS member is awarded a full 1 ounce Royal Canadian Mint Silver Maple Leaf – the world's highest quality and most sought after silver



bullion striking. A Silver Maple Leaf is awarded in three categories, namely: General Volunteer, The Planchet and the Board of Directors / Executive. Every current ENS member can participate in any one or all three of these categories.

The second part of the ENS Volunteer Recognition Program is the **Reach for the Gold**. Here each volunteer member's individual volunteer activity is additionally recognized by one entry into a draw for a gold coin per activity participated in. This gold coin will be a gold sovereign or its equivalent. There are two categories for entry into the Reach for the Gold, namely: **General Volunteer** and **The Planchet**. Every current ENS member can participate in one or both categories. The number of entries per volunteer member is solely dependent upon the number of individual volunteer activities that member participates in.

Silver Maple Leaf Volunteer Awards 2015

NAME	Mar. Show	Nov. Show	Presentations	Misc.	Total	Planchet
Ted Abbott	3	2			5	
Marv Berger	4	4			8	
Marc Bink	10	23		5	38	4
Hank Bos	1				1	
Gillian Budd	2	2			4	
Ron Cairns		1			1	
John Callaghan	10	9		10	29	
Lance Casagrande	2	2			4	
Kimberly Casagrande	2	2			4	
Terry Cheesman	2	2	1		5	4
Ermin Chow		3		2	5	
Ron Darbyshire	2	1			3	1
Pierre Driessen	41	42		26	109	4
Mike Dudas		1			1	
Mirko Dumanovic	4	3	1		8	1
Bob Eriksson	1	1			2	
Pat Eriksson	1	1			2	
Bob Fillman	3	2			5	
John Gallupe*		2			2	
Dorothy Gilbey		2			2	
Howard Gilbey	7	6			13	4
Dan Gosling	1	1	1		3	
Mitch Goudreau	1	5		15	21	
Don Griffith	2	1			3	
Roger Grove		1		2	3	
Chris Hale	1	2		5	8	4
Wayne Hansen	3	2	2		7	4
Bill Hladky	2	2			4	
Joe Kennedy		1			1	8
Del Keown	4	4			8	
Elmer Lupul	2	2			4	
Jac MacDonald	2	2			4	
Alan Mall		1			1	
Jeremy Martin	5	5		5	15	
Alex McPhee	5	3	1		9	1
Zoltan Miholy	4	5			9	
Kean Mitchell		1			1	
Markus Molenda*			1		1	4
Hans Nagowski		2			2	
Ray Neiman				1	1	
Seymour Neumann	2	2			4	
David Peter	2	2		22	26	
Kim Peter	1	2		20	23	
Larry Priestnall	2				2	
Paul Purdie	4	5			9	1
Jules Rach	2	2			4	
Wayne Schnick	1	1			2	
Arif Sheena	4	3			7	
Milan Stojanovic	2	2	1		5	
Matt Sztym	1	2			3	
Andy Vanderleest	4	4			8	
Jim Vanderleest	2	2			4	
Greg Wichman	13	12			25	

* **Reach for the Gold** winners

@ the Next Meeting

Edmonton Numismatic Society



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7 issues a year
for only \$15

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membership
in the Edmonton
Numismatic Society.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Royal Alberta Museum

12845 – 102 Avenue, Edmonton

Meeting Starts at 7:15

- Society Matters
- Presentation
- Show and tell
- Break for: coffee, pop and cookies
- Silent auction
- Door prize draws
- Bring a guest!

For information regarding events, or to add an item to the agenda, please send an email to editor_ens@yahoo.ca

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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. T5T 6A1



The ENS on facebook



Come visit us at

[http://www.facebook.com/
EdmontonNumismaticSociety](http://www.facebook.com/EdmontonNumismaticSociety)

- be our friend and 'like' us
- get up-to-date information on club news and coming events
- talk to other club members and take your club experience to another level

If you have any suggestions please talk to Ermin Chow or the Executive.



The ENS on twitter

Come follow us at

@ENSCoinClub

- get updates on coming events
- ask us numismatically related questions
- find other friends
- stay connected to the numismatic community.

About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

November 11, 2015 ENS Monthly Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:12 hrs and welcomed the members on this Remembrance Day.

November 7–8, 2015

Coin Show

- The show was a great success with a total admission of 1106. This was our highest attendance since 2009, when bullion prices were high.
- Marc went on to thank all the volunteers by name in the different fields critical to staging such an event. These areas include: setting-up and tearing-down the venue, the admission table, floor walkers, the appraisal table, both the silent and kid's auctions, displays, hospitality suite and all the other behind the scene tasks that had to be done.
- Our president also mentioned that the dealers brought great material to the show.

- David Peter, the ENS Vice-President, took this opportunity to thank Marc Bink for all of his hard work and dedication.

Club Matter

Pierre Driessen reminded everyone that the ENS Charity Auction will be held next month. In addition to bringing donations for the auction, we will also have to vote on which charity to support with the funds raised. Pierre then read a letter from the Edmonton Valley Zoo for us to consider them, leading up to next month's decision.

Presentation

The 50/50 prize was drawn before Marcus Molenda gave a presentation called "Encased Farthings and Other Nonsense".

Conclusion

The silent auction lots were sold, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:54 hrs.



2014–15 Executive

Marc Bink – **President**

David Peter – **Vice President**

Pierre Driessen – **Treasurer**

Mitch Goudreau – **Secretary**

Joe Kennedy – **Editor-In-Chief**

Jamie Horkulak – **Past President**

Directors

Wayne Hansen

Terence Cheesman

Howard Gilbey

Jeremy Martin

John Callaghan

Greg Wichman

Andy Vanderleest

Marv Berger

Mirko Dumanovic

Ermin Chow

Webmaster: Markus Molenda

Facebook: Ermin Chow

Twitter: Roger Grove

Librarian: Mitch Goudreau

Show Chair: David Peter

Social Activities: Pierre Driessen

Youth Director: Alex McPhee



**The ENS is
on the web**

www.EdmontonCoinClub.com

- get updates on coming events
- find out about us
- useful links

Edmonton Numismatic Society



PRIVACY POLICY

The Edmonton Numismatic Society (ENS) does not engage in the sale nor distribution of personal information to third parties for commercial purposes. All information collected is strictly for ENS internal use and purposes, to permit the ENS Executive and its agents to communicate with you about ENS related matters and to provide you with the full benefits of ENS membership.

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2016

Remember to renew your membership

As low as \$15 a year
for adult membership.

We accept cash,
cheques, and PayPal.

ENS Membership
Form is on page 35

Thank-you for your support!

Edmonton Numismatic Society



CLUB ACTIVITIES

December 9, 2015 ENS Monthly Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:18 hrs and welcomed the 37 members in attendance.

March 12–13, 2016 Coin Show

- Pierre Driessen reminded us that the March 2016 coin show is fast approaching. It seems that the spring show tends to sneak up on us, probably because we are distracted by the holiday season.
- The posters are out, and ready for distribution.
- Advance ticket booklets will be ready next week.
- Terence Cheesman will continue to be in charge of displays, assisted by Wayne Hansen.
- Howard Gilbey confirmed that he will once again organize a silent auction. He requires the auction lots from our membership no later than the February 9, 2016 monthly meeting.
- Ron Darbyshire will expand activities for children, by adding a games table and treasure hunt, in addition to the current kid's auction.
- The volunteer sign-up list will be at the January 13, 2016 meeting.

Club Matters

In preparation for the ENS March 2016 elections, Terence Cheesman

agreed to head the election committee.

Awards

- Our president thanked the ENS volunteers for all the great work done in 2015. The success of our society would not have been possible without them. Marc presented silver maple leaves to everyone who qualified for these .9999 fine silver coins through the *Go For Gold* program.
- To conclude the 2015 *Go For Gold* program, a draw was held to determine the winners of 2 gold sovereigns. John Gallupe won in the general volunteer category while Marcus Molenda was selected for his contributions to *The Planchet*.

Charity Auction

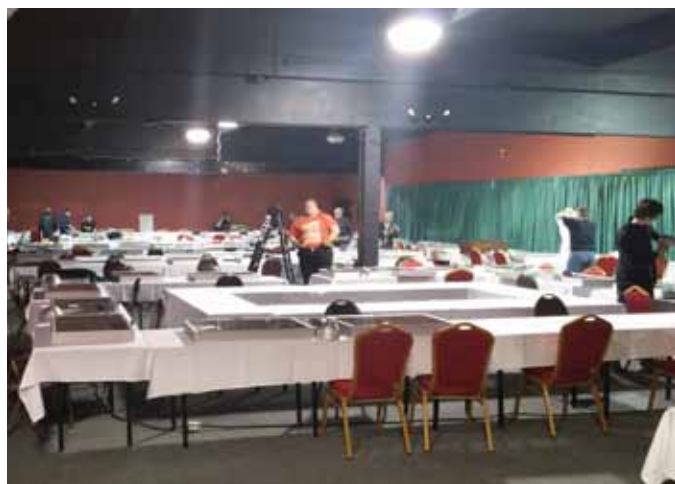
Howard Gilbey our auctioneer impressed everyone with his fast paced vocal skills, in selling all lots donated by ENS members, for our annual charity auction. A total of \$1032.00 was raised for the Edmonton Food Bank. Food donations were also accepted for the Edmonton Food Bank.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 21:20 hrs.



Fall 2015 ENS Show Pictures



**Top left & middle left:
Volunteers setting up the
ENS Show**

Photos by: David Peter

**Top right and middle right:
ENS Show Displays**

Photos by Mirko Dumanovic
and Wayne Hansen

**Bottom left:
ENS Show Set-up Volunteers:
Howard Gilbey sets up a case**

Photo by David Peter

**Bottom right:
ENS Show Set-up Volunteers:
Milan Stojanovic (left)
Elmer Lupul (foreground)
Mitch Goudreau (right)**

Photo by David Peter



Fall 2015 ENS Show Pictures



ENS Show Bourse

Photo by: Mitch Goudreau



Middle left:

ENS Show Bourse

Photo by: Mitch Goudreau

Middle right:

Sveto Kovacevic of Ancient Numismatic Enterprise

and Milan Stojanovic

Photo by: Mirko Dumanovic



Bottom:

ENS Show Bourse

Photo by: Mirko Dumanovic

Fall 2015 Kids on Coins Auction

by **Ron Darbyshire**

On November 7th we held our second *Kids on Coins* auction with the assistance of the Edmonton Coin show. The auction was comprised of 72 items divided into categories such as: Canadian coins, tokens, provincial coins, U.S. coins, books, ancients, etc. All items were actively bid on, with notably a \$20 for \$20 coin going for \$80 (*Kids on Coins* dollars) and a Roman coin going for the same amount.

The auction took place Saturday November 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the Howard Johnson hotel in the Windsor Room on the second floor. In attendance were 21 kids and 10 parents. Of the kids in attendance, 14 were from clubs that are run by *Kids on Coins*. The other 7 kids came because of either the *Kids on Coins* website, or a parent was coming to the show. When asked, all of the 7 were interested in joining a coin club, so they were given club meeting dates, times and locations.

I would like to thank Howard Gilbey and Jennifer Algot for helping us for the last 2 auctions this year.

I spoke to 5 adults about joining the ENS club, and directed them to the show desk at the main doors, since I had no membership forms in the sales room.

Donated items in the kid's auction came from: Howard Gilbey; Ron Thompson (Canada Coin and Paper Money); Ray Neiman (National Pride); and from myself. John Callaghan donated 5 items for the next auction. Thanks John!

I spoke to some show dealers on the bourse floor, but few were aware that a kid's auction was taking place. One out of town dealer said if they had known, they would have made a donation. They will be sending items for future *Kids on Coins* auctions.

Kids on Coins has run two successful auctions in 2015.



Kids on Coins Ron Darbyshire (organizer), Howard Gilbey (auctioneer) and Jennifer Algot



**Above: Kids examining coin lots.
Below left and right: live bidding.**



Spring 2016 Show

Canada's largest spring numismatic event

Sat. Mar. 12, 2016 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. Mar. 13, 2016 10:00am – 4:30pm

Howard Johnson Hotel

15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta. T5P 3Z2

780-484-3333 for hotel room reservations

Hotel room bookings: use code Edmonton Coin Show (for your special show rate)

Admission: \$5 at door (youth under 16 years of age free)

- ATM on premises. Bank nearby
- Parking: free (back of hotel, around sides of hotel and on street)
- Transportation: easy access, centrally located, bus service with Jasper Place transit hub nearby.
- Families Welcome !

Special events:

- **Free appraisals** of your coins, medals, paper money, tokens, watches and other time pieces
- Educational coin and medal **displays**
- **Door prizes** including gold coin draw
- **Silent auction** with bidding open to everyone
- **Kids Treasure Hunt**

The Edmonton Numismatic Society is sponsoring:

Coin Auction for Kids

Hosted by Kids-On-Coins

Saturday March 12, 2016

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (arrive by 12:45 pm)

Howard Johnson Hotel,
15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta

- participation is free, parents are welcome
– register at the Kids-On-Coins table prior to event!
- an excellent and fun introduction, in a non-pressure setting, to coin collecting and auctions
- all material for participation will be provided, including: catalogue and play money for bidding!



Sponsored by the Edmonton Numismatic Society

Does This Coin Make Me Look Fat?

A Numismatic Riddle

by **Terence Cheesman**

Since the first century B.C., Roman coins have been used to help spread political messages, first for the particular faction in charge of minting coin that year but later as one of the many tools used by Roman emperors to spread the message about their plans and programs.

Thus, the reverses on Roman coins offer a rich tapestry of information, by which we gain insight into the thinking of the Roman establishment and how they perceived the challenges facing their world. However modern scholarship still has to interpret what the Romans were trying to say, though not without controversy.

Roman propaganda was meant to address an immediate question, but it was never meant for us over 1400 years later.

The coinage of the mid third century A.D. was becoming very standardized. The coin reverses tended to stress very general themes with very few references to specific events. However one event stood out from the rest – the thousand year anniversary of the founding of the city of Rome. According to the Roman foundation myth, Romulus, after killing his brother Remus, founded the city on 21st of April 753 B.C. So in 248 A.D., Philip I began to mint a series of coins celebrating this event. The images chosen, except for a rather standard wolf and twins type, did not allude to the glorious history of the city. Instead, what was being depicted were animals, exotic or otherwise, that were being shown in the arena during the celebratory games. This makes the series rather different from the rest of the coinage that was being struck at the time.

As mentioned, before the coinage of the period was very standardized. This was to give it more of a universal appeal. When the Roman imperial coinage was started by Augustus early in the first century A.D., much of it

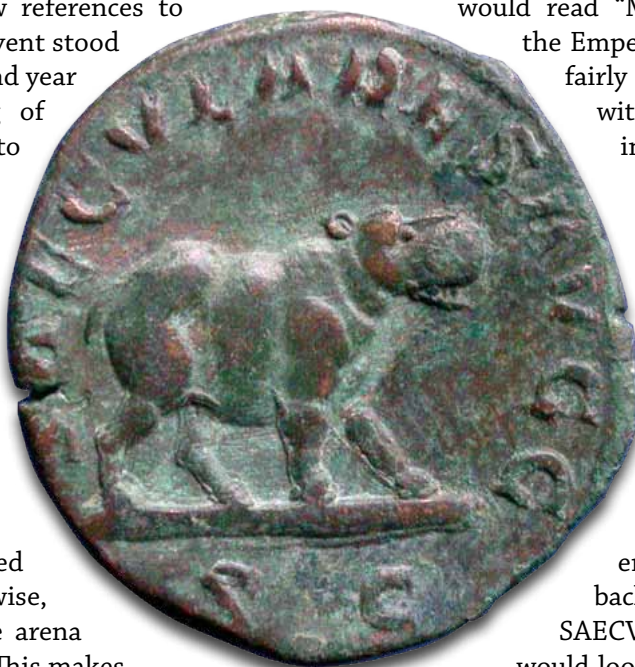
referred to events and policies that affected only the citizens of the capital city, Rome.

However, as the imperial coinage developed, images were adopted that would resonate with the wider population of the empire.

Thus the messages on the coinage became less specific and more general. However this series is a throwback to an earlier coinage, as only the citizens of, and visitors to the city of Rome could enjoy the spectacle being offered.

Which brings us to the coin.

The obverse inscription reads MARCIA OTACIL SEVERA AVG. In full this would read MARCIA OTACILIA SEVERA AVGVSTA. Roughly translated this would read “Marcia Otacilia Severa wife of the Emperor (Philip)”. This inscription is fairly straightforward and in keeping with the general tone of the coin inscriptions of her husband Philip. The portrait of Otacilia depicts her as an older woman, facing right, draped and wearing a diadem. She has a large fleshy cheek and jaw, though her chin is very weak. Her hair is arranged in the more or less standard design favoured by imperial women throughout the third century. It is a series of horizontal waves ending in a bun tied tightly to the back of the head. The reverse reads SAECVLARES AVGG. S.C. Again this would loosely translate as “the emperors, (Philip I and his son Philip) II celebrate the one thousand year anniversary of the founding of the city





Hippopotamus

of Rome". The S.C. stands for SENATVS CONSVLTO essentially meaning that the Senate of Rome has the authority to issue this coin. This part of the inscription is basically frozen, a throwback to the past. By this time it is very unlikely that the Senate had much to say about the minting of coinage.

The reverse features the image of a hippopotamus advancing left. The animal is depicted looking slightly up with its mouth agape. One can see at least two of the animals teeth. Overall, the animal is correctly drawn, and it seems very likely that the die cutter had actually seen a hippo. At the time of minting, the hippopotamus was still seen in Egypt, possibly as far north as the delta of the river Nile. Thus the Romans would not have had to travel too far in order to secure one or more of these large and dangerous animals to display in the Roman Colosseum. Which brings us to our mystery. A number of animals are depicted on this series of coins. Besides the hippopotamus, one can see lions, stags, antelope, goats (possibly a European moose) and gazelles. However the principal reverse of Otacilia is the hippo. The question is why?

It must be remembered that the standards of feminine beauty have changed a great deal over the last seventeen hundred years. Right now rather thin women are the desired norm. However there is evidence that suggests that rather plumper women were much more desirable. The reason for this is that prior to the implementation of modern agricultural methods, food was often very scarce, and cycles of famine were the norm. Thus thinner women would not be considered more beautiful. However, even though we cannot see Otacilia's body, the rather plump face would indicate a body type likely somewhat larger than even the norm for the ancient world.

The next problem is that we really do not know the Roman attitude to the hippopotamus. There is nothing about them in the ancient texts. In our culture, calling

someone a hippo is making a not too kind reference to his or her being overweight. There is no evidence that the Romans thought of or used this analogy at all. Despite being native to the Nile river, and thus within the boundaries of the Roman Empire, the hippopotamus would have been rarely seen by the average Roman citizen. The hippopotamus though docile looking, is a fearsome adversary, when attacked. This behavior may have been considered admirable by the Roman mob.

So we come back to the original question, Does this coin make Otacilia look fat? The second part of this question is why did she get paired up with the hippopotamus? We really cannot tell. It could be a message directed at either her or the Roman population at large, or it could simply be the result of bureaucratic indifference. The conversation at the mint of Rome could have gone like this...

Celator (the die cutter): *"I have finished the reverse die. The hippo looks great."*

Supervisor: *"It really does, good work. Anyone got an obverse die available?"*

Second Celator: *"I got one. It's for the Augusta, Otacilia."*

Supervisor: *"Great, use it."*

So in the end, we are no closer to answering the question than we were at the beginning. However, the little mysteries, like the one presented by this coin type, should give us some pause for reflection.

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AGENT FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

HMS Shannon

by Joe Kennedy & Paul Payson

In June of 2012 the Royal Canadian Mint released into circulation a two-dollar coin commemorating the ship *HMS Shannon*. The subject of the coin is part of a larger set of coins commemorating the war of 1812. Other circulation coins in the series are four twenty-five-cent coins honouring Sir Isaac Brock, Tecumseh, Charles-Michel de Salaberry and Laura Secord.

HMS Shannon

Although the battle that made the *HMS Shannon* famous or infamous (depending on whether you side with the British or the Americans) occurred in 1813, the portrait of this warship is painted on a much larger canvas of conflict in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Britain and France were often at war throughout much of the history of Europe. During the 18th century and early 19th centuries, the wars also involved the British and French colonies in North America. Prior to the Seven Years' War (1755–1764), the French laid claim to the Mississippi River Valley and tried to block the westward expansion of the British colonies in New England.

When war broke out in Europe, the British and French forces in North America also fought. The French won some early victories, but British naval superiority and army tactics eventually led to the defeat of the French forces both in the Mississippi Valley and in what would become Lower Canada. This gave the British control of all of eastern North America.

However, the New England colonies were growing increasingly unhappy with the taxation imposed by, and the lack of colonial representation in, the British government. The year after the Seven Years' War



HMS Shannon Commemorative Toonie

Reverse design by Bonnie Ross
Obverse design by Susanna Blunt



HMS Shannon by Bonnie Ross ©2015 Royal Canadian Mint. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

ended, this discontent gave rise to the American Revolutionary War (1765–1783). With the Americans declaring their independence in 1776, the war continued for another seven years. The Treaty of Paris ended the conflict. Following the war, many of the Americans who remained loyal to the British Crown were driven from their land. The refugees either returned to England or moved to the British colonies of Upper and Lower Canada.

Following the American Revolutionary War, the Americans began to expand westward. Their movement was opposed by the Native Americans in what would become Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The British were supplying arms to the Native Americans, which led to calls for a declaration of war against the British. The more strident advocates of war also recommended attacking Canada to remove any British threat to American expansion.

Beginning in 1803, Britain was also involved in the coalitions fighting Napoleon in Europe following the French Revolution. In order to restrict the flow of goods into France, Britain enacted a series of trade restrictions directed at France in 1807, which included trade with the Americans. The British navy blockaded French ports to enforce the restrictions. British warships were also stopping American merchant vessels and seizing sailors to use on their own ships. This further angered the Americans. In response, the United States Congress made it illegal to export any goods from the United States. This embargo was directed against both England and France to force them to recognize American neutrality and their right to trade with both sides.

The *HMS Shannon* enters the story with its launch in 1806. This British-built Leda-class frigate was based

on the design of what was originally a captured French frigate. The ship was designed to carry 38 cannons. The *Shannon* spent most of the following five years patrolling off the English coast and fighting the French during the Napoleonic Wars. Her captain was Philip Broke.



Sir Philip Broke

Broke trained his crews to a high level of naval gunnery by practicing up to three hours each day when the ship was at sea. In addition, Broke had the cannons and their mounts modified to make them more effective. Two examples are that the guns could be levelled with the horizon regardless of how much the ship was heeling over and that they could be angled to fire at a particular part of an enemy ship. Broke also added 14 more cannons, particularly smaller cannons that the ship's boys and younger midshipmen could use.

Because of the increasing tensions with the United States, the *Shannon* was sent to Halifax in 1811. The War of 1812 began on June 18, when the Americans declared war on Upper and Lower Canada. Broke was given command of a squadron responsible for blockading American ports in July of that year. The blockade, which was maintained until 1814, was intended to prevent the Americans from trading with the French.

As well, the British were protecting their shipping routes from Nova Scotia and the West Indies. The *Shannon* escorted convoys of British merchant ships during the blockade while they were near the Atlantic seaboard to prevent them from being attacked.

Because they were outnumbered, the American navy used hit-and-run tactics to try to concentrate the British in areas that would allow American merchant vessels to get to port. The advantage that the Americans had was that they built larger warships.

The early naval battles of the War of 1812 did not go well for the British. The Americans scored many victories and captured 219 British vessels in the first four months of the war.

The British also captured many American vessels. The *Shannon's* crew captured several ships while blockading the New York Harbour. Two of them were sent to Halifax, and the rest were burned because Captain Broke could not afford to send any more of his crew with the captured ships.

In 1813, Captain Robert Oliver assumed command of the squadron from Captain Broke and sent the *Shannon* to watch Boston Harbour. Broke's crew saw three American frigates in the harbour (*Congress*, *President*, and *Constitution*) and returned to the squadron to report. While *Shannon* was gone, the frigate *Chesapeake* under Captain James Lawrence joined the other three in Boston Harbour.

When the *Shannon* returned to its station off Boston, Broke challenged the *Chesapeake* to single combat, but the American ship sailed before receiving the challenge. When he sailed, Captain Lawrence intended to engage *Shannon*, believing that the British ship could be easily taken.



Captain James Lawrence

The two ships met 37 kilometres east of Boston on June 1, 1813. Although the *Chesapeake* was better armed and carried more men, the crew was not well trained and had not worked together for very long. In contrast, Broke had a highly trained gunnery crew who inflicted severe damage from the beginning of the battle. Many members of the *Chesapeake's* gunnery crews and most of the officers were killed or wounded in the opening salvos. One of the *Shannon's* gunnery crews also destroyed the *Chesapeake's* wheel, which rendered the boat unmanageable. However, the Americans did inflict significant damage on the *Shannon* in the engagement.

Because the *Chesapeake* could no longer be steered, it was at the mercy of the *Shannon*. Eventually the two ships collided, and orders were given on both sides to board the other ship. However, only the British crew successfully crossed to the other ship. The heavy bombardment of the *Chesapeake's* decks by the *Shannon's* gun crews meant that the boarding party encountered little initial resistance.

During the fighting, Captain Lawrence was mortally wounded and was carried below decks.

Captain Broke received a severe head wound. When he was taken to his ship's surgeon, he was initially told the wound would be fatal, but he survived to return to England.

The battle lasted only 11 minutes but took a great toll on both sides: 23 killed and 56 wounded aboard the *Shannon* and 48 killed and 99 wounded aboard the *Chesapeake*. This brief, violent battle was rated among the highest for casualties on sailing ships in single combat.

Although Broke survived, he turned the command of the *Shannon* over to Lieutenant Provo Wallis, who sailed her back to Halifax along with the captured *Chesapeake*. Captain Lawrence was buried in Halifax with full military honours because of his gallantry during the battle.

While recuperating in Halifax, Captain Broke received word from England that he had been made a baronet in honour of his victory.

Broke returned to England in October 1813 aboard the *Shannon*. Although he partially recovered from his injuries, he suffered headaches and neurological problems for the remainder of his life. However, he continued to serve in the navy, first becoming a naval gunnery specialist. In 1830, he was promoted to rear admiral, a position that he held until his death in 1841.

The *Chesapeake* was reflagged as a British warship and put into service until 1819, when she was sold and broken up in Portsmouth, England.

The *Shannon* continued to sail until the middle of the 19th century. The ship was renamed the Saint Lawrence in 1844 and was finally broken up in Chatham, England, in 1859.

The capture of the *Chesapeake* represented a turning point in the naval battles of the War of 1812. Prior to this battle, the Americans



**Captain Philip Broke
Copper Halfpenny Token**

Halifax, Nova Scotia. 1814

Reverse: Bust of Captain Broke
Obverse: Britannia seated

Issued by a consortium of Halifax merchants late in the summer of 1814. This token was minted in Halifax in celebration of the achievement of Captain Broke's capture of the USS *Chesapeake*.

had defeated the British; however, the *Shannon's* victory improved the morale of the British Navy.

The War of 1812 was ended by the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in December 1814. The treaty was ratified by the British later in December and by the Americans in February of the following year. Both sides were weary of the war, the British and French became allies after the final defeat of Napoleon, and the British government was eager to resume trade with the Americans.

About the Coin

The two-dollar coin with the ship *HMS Shannon* stands out within the 'toonie' denomination series for a number of reasons. First off, it has a wonderful image of a sailing ship. World coin collectors would snap up this coin for a topical collection of ships – a popular theme.

Being made in mid-2012, the *HMS Shannon* is the first Canadian commemorative toonie to include new structural and security features. In 2012 the RCM began making toonies using a new composition multi-ply nickel plated steel ring. Previously, the rings were made of nickel. The core composition is now specified as multi-ply brass plated aluminum bronze. Security features such as latent images of two maple leaves were added to the top of the reverse design, and two etched maple leaves to the bottom. A lettered edge was also introduced in 2012.

The reverse design (by Bonnie Ross) is well executed and attractive. The design fills the space nicely and selective frosting has been added to the ships sails to enhance the design.

The selective frosting process has led to a secondary variety for this coin. On some coins, frosting has been added between the ship's rigging and the 'flying jib' (triangular sail at the front of the ship). This variety is mentioned in online discussion sites, and can sometimes be found for sale online for about \$15 or so. It has not been published in the *Charlton Standard Catalog of Canadian Coins*. The delicate frosting might not be visible in coins pulled from circulation, but if you're searching for this variety in rolls or dealer's stock, it can be noticed fairly easily with an un-aided eye on uncirculated coins.

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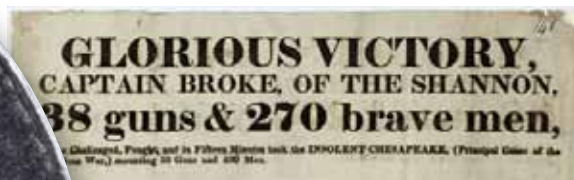
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HMS Shannon Commemorative Toonie Uncatalogued Variety
Extra Frosting (circled area) between the Rigging and the Flying Jib



Boarding and Taking the Chesapeake
Painting by M. Dubourg

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The Lion and The Star

Early Electrum Trites of Lydia and Ionia

by **Wayne Hansen**



**Electrum Trites
of Lydia and Ionia**
(circa 625-580 BC)

Think of mellow, golden hews. Imagine yourself as a swarthy merchant trader, clad in finely woven, but rugged garments, striding along sunny, cobbled streets in the scented morning air. After greeting the food sellers in the agora and seeking favors from the goddess of Fortune at the makeshift shrine, you return to your sturdy house near the harbor to check recent sale proceeds. You reach into a leather pouch hung around your neck, eagerly wanting to gaze at the marvelous, new little lumps of yellow electrum that you received for that last shipment of wine. There they are, glowing so prettily in your hand – eight good-sized, bright golden ones that the buyer called ‘thirds’, plus a scattering of tiny, smooth, round ones that look like so many grain seeds. Each has a sharp little punch pressed into one side. It was a gamble to take them in trade but you heard others saying the metal is good, and they are so easy to count and carry. With Apollo’s help, and the blessings of goddess Fortune, perhaps life will soon be better...

(Author’s vignette)

Trites are the largest of the readily available electrum coinages that were struck at the very beginning of coin production, starting circa 625 BC. Electrum is a natural or man-made alloy of gold and silver, while a trite is one-third of a full stater. Staters are the largest, and usually rarest, of the electrum denominations. The scarce, early issues of the electrum lion head trite are considered by many to be the first of the world’s true coins, although there is room to think that some electrum examples with geometric patterns, or those with

less-defined types, could also be contenders (see my article in *The Planchet*, August 2014, “*The Allure of Striated Electrum*” for a discussion of the less-defined types).

In this article, I am presenting two of the world’s first group of defined electrum trites that have markedly different obverse/reverse designs, different reverse die approaches, different weight standards and likely a small difference in the gold alloy proportions. We know that these coins were minted in western

Asia Minor, however the differences noted, plus find data, lead scholars to believe that they were struck in separate regions – Sardis in Lydia for the lion trite and an unconfirmed location in Ionia for the geometric trite. Though minted independently, we also know from the similar fabric and the striking method used in their production that they were roughly contemporary. The nature and dating of the two coins makes them extremely important to the understanding and chronology of all early Greek coinage.

When an anonymous Alberta coin collector decided to change focus and consign a large variety of ancient Greek coins to a dealer in a nearby city, I had an opportunity to purchase a few of his previously collected ancients. This was interesting, because many of the consigned coins were originally acquired over ten years ago when many hoards of quality coins were becoming available in the marketplace. When a hoard was found in those days, the coins would usually show up individually via auctions, dealers or the internet for a relatively brief period, then they essentially disappeared until the original purchasers died or cashed out (a lot of people have the notion that you can't take it with you). So here was a group of coins from this local consignor that was basically a snapshot of many coins available ten to fifteen years ago. Several of the consignor's coins were present as multiples of the same type, and they were in the same great condition, as if they were found together in particular hoards. So far, so good, but of course prices for similar good coins have risen considerably in the meantime.

Among the coins I purchased were three electrum trites – the two shown above which are the subject of this article, and a second, more compact geometric trite that I have included for information in the article Addendum. All three are good examples of their type. As a mid-series issue, the lion coin is fairly common, though it can still be relatively expensive as a result of its somewhat misplaced 'first coin' reputation and its animalistic motif. On the other hand, the geometric trites are quite rare and often reasonably priced, considering their importance.

To begin the discussion, I will quickly indicate more specifically



Figure 1 – Map Showing Lydia and Ionia in Asia Minor

These maps roughly describe the location of the ancient regions of Lydia and Ionia, within current west-central Turkey. Mints in the interior city of Sardis in Lydia, and in the coastal cities of Ephesos and Miletos in Ionia, are thought to have struck the world's first proto and true coins using a remixed alloy of locally available natural electrum. Greek colonists emigrated directly across the Aegean Sea from Greece in the 8th–7th century BC to establish many of the coastal cities in Asia Minor.

where the featured coins were likely struck and review their early context.

Trites Minted in Lydia and Ionia

The two trites illustrated in the introduction would have been minted in two of the larger population centers within the west-central region of Asia Minor in the late 7th to early 6th centuries BC, since large centers would offer the necessary wealth to engage in coin production and the expertise needed to develop a minting technology. Outside such tribal settlements or colonial cities, the region would have been loosely governed at the time given the localized nature of the archaic power structure – that is, at least until the Persian Empire swept into Asia Minor from the East in 547 BC. Along the west-central coastline of the territory, Greek colonists had already established independent Greek settlements starting in the 8th century BC, however, interior areas were occupied by local tribes and ruled by their own dynastic kings. The map in Figure 1 illustrates the adjacency of Lydia and Ionia, the specific west-central districts renowned for

having invented the first coinages and the districts favored for the minting of these featured trites. Production of the geometric trite would have been initiated by one of the newly established, large Ionian Greek coastal settlements, while the first lion head trites would have been struck by a dynastic king in Lydia. Trites were essentially the most commonly struck larger coins at the time, and they were for all practical purposes the de facto stater in commerce. They were almost certainly composed of a manufactured electrum alloy in order to assure a basic intrinsic value, but also perhaps to mislead as to their true composition and ensure profits. It has been noted that Lydian electrum was composed of 45-55% gold, whereas natural electrum in that area was 70-90% gold. The geometric trites from Ionia have been analyzed consistently at approximately 40% gold, although with electrum, there is generally some variation in the color from any particular mint. Wherever the new coinages were first struck, other nearby centers would have quickly adopted the practice.

Origin of the Featured Lion Head Coin

It is widely accepted that the lengthy series of lion head electrum coins was minted in the capital city of Sardis in the district of Lydia, starting sometime around 610 BC. Lydia was important because it had some precious metal resources including natural electrum, because it was on major trading routes linked to the Silk Road and because it was known to have an active merchant class. The Lydian trite series began by using crudely executed, sparsely detailed lion head dies for the coin obverses, resulting in a very early, though sketchy, lion head design (see Figure 5-1). King Walwet (now known as Alyattes, circa 610-561 BC) probably authorized production of these first trites as part of the lion head series. Around the same time, he also directed that an elaborate electrum stater obverse die be created, showing two confronted lion heads with his name etched in between. Although such staters may not have actually been struck (reinforcing the notion that trites were the de facto stater at the time), the large die was used to strike another early group of lion head trites using only one side of the large obverse die or the other, such that one full lion head and part of Walwet's name are visible on each coin (the lion head can therefore be facing left or right, as in Figure 5-2). Later in the same series, Alyattes employed a multitude of new, mid to late stage lion trite dies showing a more definitive and refined roaring lion head, which gradually evolved to achieve a more artistic rendering of the lion's eye and more deeply carved features (see Figures 4 and 5-3). These latter coins are relatively common in today's marketplace.

Sardis itself was/is located in the interior of the Lydian region, on a hilly plain, ruled by local kings. Aside from its trading expertise, it is reported to have been a center of ancient industry, largely

focused on dyeing woolens and refining of precious metal. While electrum was the metal of choice for the first coinages in the 7th century under King Alyattes, it was Alyattes's son, King Kroisos (Croesus) of Sardis who was the first use refined precious metal to mint the world's first separate series of gold and silver coins. The obverses of these two series depicted a lion confronting a bull design - in the stater and its fractions for gold and in the stater and siglos format for silver. When visiting Sardis in the year 2000, I noticed the remains of a late gymnasium and bath in the main town, but there was also a fascinating ruin of the Temple of Artemis a few kilometers up a valley. Construction of the temple only started after Alexander the Great liberated Asia Minor circa 333 BC. As with the temple at Didyma, it was intended to be larger than the Parthenon but it wasn't finished.

Origin of the Featured Geometric Coin

The origin of the geometric electrum trites is less certain. They are quite unique for this earliest period in that they have both obverse and reverse dies. Aside from metal content and types, the only real giveaway is that they were struck on a slightly lighter Lydio-Milesian weight standard of 14.0, compared to the slightly heavier Lydian lion coins. This implies a more southerly mint location - toward the Ionian centers of Miletos or Ephesos. Both of these locations were thriving ancient ports - Ephesos, which is now noted for the grandeur of its ruins (my favorite view was the long, paved street meandering downhill to the theatre fronting on a bay), and Miletos, which was equally grand and wealthy (I found its open grid like city plan and its gigantic, freestanding theatre to be most impressive). Although others have wondered whether ancient Ephesos was the likely home of the

geometrics, I tend to think it may have been Miletos, especially given that Ephesos already had its own established series of wonderful, large and small-denomination electrum coins that used the deer of goddess Artemis as an obverse device (the deer is also found on the reverse of its much later 'bee' tetradrachm issues).

To give further support to the Miletos siting, it can also be noted that some Miletos hektes from 600-550 BC show the city's specific reclining lion civic badge on their obverse, paired with a random geometric variant reverse design. The reverses may have been holdovers from the geometric trite period at that mint. By all accounts, Miletos was one of the greatest Greek cities, if not the greatest. It was strategically located on land and sea trade routes, and in turn, it established many of its own trading colonies in remote locations, including the Black Sea. Its large merchant navy could easily service its extensive empire. By the 6th century BC, before the Persian takeover, it used its extreme wealth to become an intellectual and commercial powerhouse. So great was its influence that one source said it was the birthplace of the modern world. Miletos also flourished in the Hellenistic era after being freed by Alexander, reaching 90 hectares or 220 acres in size.

There may be some uncertainty as to which of the featured coins was struck first since they are reasonably contemporary, but since my lion head trite is part of the lengthy lion head series from the Sardis mint, and it was issued after the very earliest part of the series, it is fairly clear that the geometric trite was struck first. The geometric coin is a unique, early archaic electrum type struck in 625-600 BC, as cited by recent catalogues, while my mid-series lion head coin is dated slightly later, to 600-580 BC.



Figure 2 – Ancient Miletos

Here is a recreation of the harbor view in ancient Miletos, the possible location of the geometric coin mint. Note the grid-like city street plan, which was also used in neighboring Priene. The free standing theatre seen in the bottom photo can be found in the hazy, upper background of the recreated view. The sea has retreated considerably since ancient times, so the ruins of Miletos are now landlocked.

(City view courtesy pinterest-miletus.tholos254.gr, and the theatre photo courtesy wikipedia commons.)



and rulers allowed for increases in services and infrastructure. Ancient settlements that conducted trade and supplied goods had a head start in this regard, especially if they were on a seacoast.

There is some debate about whether early coinages were struck by rulers who had amassed a treasury or by wealthy merchants for commercial reasons. Obviously, the introduction of coinage was a means to standardize the form and value of a unit of precious metal so that it could be used on a fixed exchange basis, essentially providing a kind of face value. Many coins and proto-coins were initially lumps or beads of precious metal, merely struck with a rough punch and with or without any kind of simple decoration. Some insist that a true coin must have a recognizable and unique design signifying that its value was guaranteed by an ancient authority and preferably by a known ruler. It is further suggested that early coin designs, whether geometric or figural, may have been adapted from the unique stone seals that were commonly used by rulers and merchants in ancient times to signify such authority.

Early Coin Production

It is easy to forget that the human population of the entire world amounted to approximately 5 million people in 5,000 BC – less than the population of many individual cities today. It was the era of the hunter-gatherer, and that figure had likely been reasonably constant since the last Ice Age ended in 10,000 BC. The world population subsequently increased over next few millennia, as a result of agriculture and settlement, but it still only totalled

about 50–100 million by 1,000 BC – about the population of one large European country now*. Based on archeological evidence, including coin finds, my two featured trites were minted shortly after 650 BC, in what would have been a lightly-populated area of west-central Turkey. Aside from a few larger centers, the population of that region would have been primarily rural, since towns and cities only formed when the increasing wealth of communities

* To add additional context, the world population did not reach 1 billion people until 1800 AD, then rose to 2 billion people around 1930 AD and to over 7 billion people today. It is also interesting to note that it was not until 2006 AD that most of the world's people lived in cities.

At this point, we do not need to go further into this discussion, since both of the lion and star trites being presented are true coins, with only one being of uncertain attribution. Both trites began life as simple, pre-weighed, drop-formed globules of remixed gold/silver metal alloy, much as the simplest, globular proto-coins were made. Either natural electrum was de-natured with additional silver, or refined metals of both types were mixed to a set standard. Because of the precious metals involved, the electrum globules were created precisely using strict weight tolerances to within a few hundredths of a gram (the three geometric trites I have owned, one now sold, have all weighed 4.65 grams). Each rounded globule was first set onto a prepared metal obverse die displaying either the lion head or geometric design. The globule was then hand struck with a square or rectangular punch that was considerably smaller than the globule, leaving an incuse impression deep within the spherical reverse of the globule. In the case of the lion coin, two small, rough punches of different sizes were used side-by-side, and in the case of the geometric coin, one large punch with a decorative, geometric design was used. This is the process used for all three of my trites pictured here since they all have fully globular reverses. In a later period, the rounded globules of some trites were flattened before they were struck, leaving partially flat surfaces around the reverse punches.

The Two Early Trites – Geometric Type

I am discussing the geometric trite first, since it was most likely struck earlier than the lion trite (see previous discussion on the origin of the lion head coin). Normally, it is assumed that coinage designs would progress from plain or simple designs to more complex designs, as was generally the case in Ionia. However, there is no set rule in this regard, especially since centers minted independently, and, as noted, designs on official seals were well established long before the advent of coins. Aside from archeological evidence, the date of the geometric coin is related to its fabric – in this case the flan is flat on the obverse but very globular on the reverse, which is ideal for accepting a narrow, deep punch. This is a very early feature, pre- or circa 600 BC, indicating that even the earliest coins could have a defined reverse type instead of a rough punch.

Little is known about the historical circumstances of the geometrics. The mint was likely in Ionia and possibly in the large trading port of Miletos. The coinage could have been struck by a ruler or by a successful merchant. Regardless, the coinage was bold, distinctive, inventive and rare. It is interesting to note that all known geometric trites were struck with the same obverse die and reverse punch, which, taken together with its rarity and extremely low find rate, suggests that the issue was likely small and occurred over a brief period.

The whole geometric series is remarkable. Based on one main hoard discovered in 1997, geometric electrum coins of the issue are now known in multiple denominations. A very few full staters were found, but also trites, hektes, hemi-hektes, 1/24th staters and 1/48th staters (ranging from 13.92 grams to 0.32 grams). Each has a different set of obverse/reverse types, though most hektes share the trite reverse type. Given the large number of denominations (down to miniscule), the wear that many coins have suffered and the degree of irregular striking, it is apparent that they were intended for general circulation and for use in progressively small transactions (lower value silver and bronze coinages came later). The angular designs are also unusual, indicating an independent minting and localized territory. The SAN XXI publication (2002) noted, from metallurgical analysis of a sample number of coins from the 1997 hoard, that the gold content of the whole geometric series was essentially restricted to 38-40%, with the rest of the alloy being silver and perhaps a bit of copper or trace metals. This suggests that the metal content was regulated even at that time.

My featured geometric trite in Figure 3, and my second one in the Addendum as Figure 8, undoubtedly came from the 1997 hoard. They are prime examples of the type with good metal and a good strike. The Figure 3 coin is especially nice, it's low degree of wear and large flan allows a full view of the obverse star-shaped design, not often seen on other examples. The lines of the star design appear narrow, meaning they have not been worn, the surface is highly lustrous and the coin is close to 'as-made'. The reverse incuse punch is fully visible, is centered nicely on the globular surface and it has very deep sides. There is some minor cracking on the edge of the globule, the result of the forceful strike – a frequent occurrence in this denomination.

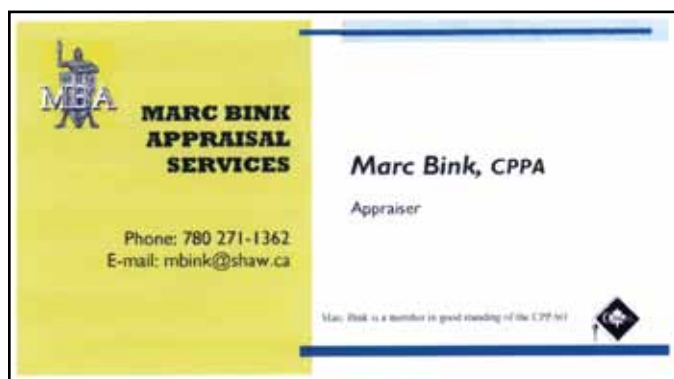




Figure 3 – Featured Geometric Trite of Ionia

Electrum Trite of Ionia – Four Pointed Star Divided Into Four Quadrants by a Cross / Geometric Punch with Ten Compartments and Two Pellets.

Issued: 625–600 BC (4.65g, 12.8 x 12.5mm). Mint: Uncertain/Miletos, Ionia in Asia Minor. (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

This is an exceptionally well preserved geometric trite, struck on a wide flan, with good color, rounded globular shape, fresh lustrous surfaces, nicely centered reverse punch and much less wear than typical. Very few of these trites allow a full view of the obverse star design or convey a sense of the obverse relief. With less wear, the lines of the star design on this coin appear sharper and narrower than almost all other examples (see hoard discussion later in the article). The only detractions I can see are the slightly off-centre obverse strike, a couple of small cracks in the flan (typical for those with a wider spread) and some granulation of the lines within the reverse punch (a few known examples do have crisp reverse lines). It would be hard to beat as an example of the type. Please see the Addendum, Figure 8, for my other example of this coinage.

The Two Early Trites – Lion Head Type

The commonly offered, mid to late-style, unsigned Sardo-Lyidian lion head trites are sometimes described as the first true coins, but the earlier plain-style and signed ‘Walwet’ predecessor coinages, and the geometric coins also discussed here, are more likely candidates. These lion head coins are thought to be issues of King Alyattes of Lydia (610-560 BC), while the lion head motif itself was probably a dynastic badge of the Lydian rulers. It is reported that lions show up a lot in Lydian art. Later versions of these lion trites sometimes have flattened reverse flans, such that the punches are set into a flattened surface, and often the two punches are close to the same size. The flattened ones may have possibly been struck after the death of Alyattes, at the same time as King Kroisos was minting his gold/silver staters.

The lion head coin badge, being an archaic device, is rather plain and rigid in style, and the reverse punch arrangement is similarly static. The lion head outline and details of pelt and mane are treated much the same from die to die in the series, except that the angled lines of the mane on earlier issues point upward (see Figure 5-1), while the lines of the mid to late lions point downward (see Figures 4 and 5-3). A noticeable obverse feature is the radiating bulb

on the forehead of the lion. The bulb sprouts a number of lines, which could indicate a sun symbol or mark of divinity (possibly related to Sardon, the sun, storm and warrior god of the Hittites who may have been seen as the founder of Lydia). The Lydian reverse punch format was carried right through the gold and silver stater coinages of King Kroisos, as well as the darics and sigloi of the new Persian rulers (after 547 BC), who all minted their coins in Sardis, so the mint connection is obvious. One nice touch of the Alyattes coins is the roaring pose of the lion, which was employed in his earliest issues as well.

My featured lion trite in Figure 4 was likely struck in the early part of the mid-series, based on its full flan with complete obverse image, its color and its nicely rounded, globular reverse (like the geometric trite in Figure 3). It is also stylistically early, with finer, lighter carving of the lion’s features and a more-boxy eye profile. The large/small, double reverse punch, with its detailed irregularities and deep toning, is also a very interesting feature in hand. The coin is nicely struck and an excellent example, but the obverse details are a bit smoothed by wear. See Figure 4 for additional comments.



Figure 4 – Featured Alyattes Trite of Lydia

Electrum Trite of Lydia – Head of Roaring Lion / Double Rough Punch.

Issued: 600-560 BC (4.73g, 13.5 x 11.8mm). Mint: Sardis, Lydia in Asia Minor. (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

There seems to be a regular flow of lion-head trites into the marketplace. As illustrated in Figure 5, these trites were issued in a lengthy series beginning with cruder versions of the lion. Since my coin has a full flan showing the whole lion head, an un-flattened globular flan shape, an early, boxy eye and a nice, shiny, deep golden color, it was likely minted early in the mid-series. Although later versions of the lion might be slightly more boldly carved, with a lovely eye profile, many of those coins are less carefully struck on irregular, flattened flans, and they don't necessarily have a rich color. This example is beautifully centered on both sides with good detail on the obverse and a lovely set of punches. The obverse is a bit worn and there is a bit of surface breakage just below the lion ear, but all elements are present, including the whole lion face and neck plus the sunburst on the nose. Most classic coin references show a similar, full-flan, mid-series coin for the Alyattes trite type. Overall, it is a nice coin.

Rarity of the Geometric Trite

One of the interesting things about the geometric trites is their apparent recent discovery and their relative rarity. As noted above, perhaps only a couple of these trites were known twenty years ago - the first one published in SNG Copenhagen (cited as SNG Cop. 318) and the second one published in the Rosen Auction (cited as Rosen 12). The Rosen coin was included in the 'Monnaies et Medailles 72' catalogue of Oct 1987 as lot number 12 out of 460 Rosen lots, with a comment that it was a great rarity and that it was possibly the second known. Photos of both of these published coins can be seen

in Figures 7A and 7B. Both the 'SNG Copenhagen' and 'Rosen' catalogue numbers are now two of the main references used for all geometric trites.

In December 1997, many years after the Rosen auction, at least one other geometric trite was sold from CNG stock. More appeared soon after, including one in March 1998 from CNG Mail-Bid 45 which was later published as the Kayhan 697 coin - another oft-cited reference for these trites (see enlarged photo in Figure 6). This Kayhan trite was fairly worn and estimated by CNG at \$3,000, but it still sold for

\$3,400, plus fees (prices for the trites have since ranged between \$650 and \$6,000, plus fees). With the new arrivals, it soon became known that a mid-sized electrum hoard, containing a large number of geometrics, had been discovered in early 1997. This hoard was apparently found near Ephesos and contained about 200 coins, which were shuffled onto the marketplace in at least two batches between 1997 and perhaps 1999. Some were initially offered by CNG and partially published in SAN XXI (2002), which listed 15 geometric trites (1/3 staters), 9 hektes (1/6 staters), 9 hemi-hektes (1/12 staters) and 6 'obols' (1/24th staters). I purchased my first (now sold) geometric trite in March 2003 with a tag indicating it came from another US dealer, who had managed to obtain a much larger group. I wrote to the dealer for more information, and he mentioned that the new hoard included 12 previously unknown 1/12 stater archaic bee coins (presumably from Ephesos), plus many geometrics and some odd, mixed types of electrum from 1/3 to 1/12 staters. However, there were no striated electrum coins. As far as geometrics, his group contained 1 stater, 36 trites, 23 hektes, 75 hemi-hektes and a few 1/24 staters. Before this hoard, the geometric staters and the geometric hektes were not known.

Figure 5 – Earlier and Later Trites of King Alyattes



5-1: Lydia – Early Trite Type A (610-600 BC).

Obv: Lion head right – Rev: Double punch.



5-2: Lydia – Early Trite Type B (610-600 BC).

Obv: Lion head left; WALWET – Rev: Double punch.



5-3: Lycia – Late Trite Type (580-550 BC).

Obv: Lion head right – Rev: Double punch, flattened flan.

Figure 5 – The lion head trites of King Alyattes were probably minted over much of his lengthy reign (610-561 BC), with some possibly minted a bit after. His earliest issues, as in 5-1 and 5-2 above, are dated to 610-600 BC, and they are among the first true ‘Greek’ coins. 5-2 was struck from a much larger, stater-sized obverse die showing confronted lion heads and the king’s name in between. This die was seemingly only used to strike trites using one side or the other of the obverse. The coin seen in 5-3 is a later issue of the same series, possibly a posthumous coin minted by Kroisos, with a flattened reverse flan, more stylistic lion head and a more defined presentation. My featured lion head trite is from the same series but likely an earlier version of coin 5-3, based on its looser style (less tightly carved chevron ruff and less stylish eye) and its fully globular reverse contour. It was definitely struck in the lifetime of Alyattes.

In summary, with no further information about undocumented private sales and having no special access to insider knowledge within the trade, it appears that the geometric hoard contained at least 51 electrum trites. Together with the 2 trites mentioned in SNG Copenhagen and the Rosen Sale, it seems that a total of at least 53 geometric trites might be known. With my recent purchase of two of those new geometric trites (found in Figure 3 and Figure 8), I became curious about the condition of my coins compared with other trites from the hoard. I therefore scoured the internet and the scant references for photos of such coins. Including my coins, I managed to find 31 of the known 51 geometric trites from the 1997 hoard. I also prepared a rough photo-montage of the hoard coin photos with no reference to scale, as seen in Figure 6. As a result, I found that my two new trites (in blue at the bottom right corner) are decent examples. A lot of the others are considerably worn and/or struck off-center.

Despite the rarity of the geometric trites, their gold content, their bold eye appeal and their importance to the very early coin record, they do not necessarily get any additional attention, nor do they command prices higher than the common Alyattes trites which are found in just about every auction these days. It seems to boil down to demand, which is based on availability, awareness from references, appreciation for the history of the type and appreciation of the actual coin design. The geometrics have not yet made a big splash in these regards, so prices are generally competitive with the Alyattes coins. Perhaps it comes down to the observation that ‘there are more geometric trites than there are geometric trite collectors...’, which would be a rather sad conclusion, if it was true. Sometimes you can’t explain the inexplicable.

Figure 6 – Hoard of Geometric Trites (1997)



Figure 6 – This Figure is composed of photos I have found for 31 auctioned or published geometric trites that ostensibly came from the largely undocumented geometric electrum hoard discovered in 1997. The hoard would have provided a total of at least 51 geometric trite examples (along with a geometric stater and smaller fractions) – meaning that the remaining 20 trites would likely have been dispersed by private sale. All known geometric trites were struck with the same obverse die and reverse punch, so the relative condition of the pictured coins can be easily assessed (photos not to scale). The three geometric trites I have owned are shown with blue backgrounds within the main 30-coin matrix, including two in the bottom right hand corner that I purchased recently, and one on the bottom left that I had sold previously. The sometimes-cited Zhuyuetang 2 coin is located in the center of the bottom row of the matrix, while the Linzalone 1062 coin is seen immediately above my



Kayhan 697 Trite (ex CNG 45, 1998)

two blue coins on the right side. The more commonly referenced Kayhan 697 coin (from CNG M/B 45 in 1998, weighing 4.61 grams) is the 31st hoard coin and is shown in the enlarged photo below the general matrix.

I assembled these photos from various sources in order to gauge the overall condition of the geometric coin issue and therefore the relative quality of my own coins. The montage does provide an interesting overview, since very few published references, and almost all museum collections, do not have an example. Approximately sixty percent of the known geometric trites are included in the illustration, which indicates that many of the coins were not well struck, and most were fairly worn.

(Assembled by the author using photos from CNG, NAC, Leu, Stacks, Axis Mundi, Forum, the Linzalone 'Electrum and the Invention of Coinage' book, the 'History Restored' catalogue of the Zhuyuetang Collection, the M Kayhan Collection catalogue 'From Kroisos to Karia', plus the three blue images by the author).

In Closing...

I would not be writing about the early trites if I did not think they were interesting. Greek coin collectors, and perhaps even casual investors, value these coins because they are so very early, and because they are relatively large and made from mysterious electrum. And then to discover a pair of such good quality coins in my own backyard, so to speak, was an opportunity not to be missed. The lion head trites win the popularity contest for their more-cuddly obverse, but I tend to like the geometrics even more, because they are so rare and so enigmatic. With their gold content, they can also survive in remarkably good condition, as if they just emerged from a spice merchant's purse. They are truly a glimpse into that ancient time, struck in a thriving, sun-baked Aegean city with its narrow streets and busy port full of creaky trading vessels and fearsome warships.

Figure 7 – Pre-Hoard Geometric Trites (1956/1987)

There may have been only two geometric trites known before the 1997 hoard was dispersed. I have tracked down images of the two published coins for comparison (see 7A and 7B below). With these two images, I was able to find evidence of 33 out of the potential 53 known geometric trites.

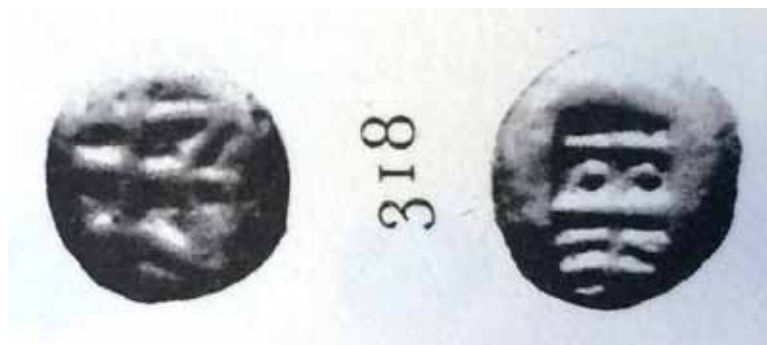


Figure 7A – SNG Copenhagen Geometric Tritite (1956) – The earliest reference to a geometric trite is found in the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* for the Royal Collection of Coins and Medals in the National Museum of Denmark, which is located in Copenhagen. The SNG was initially issued by the museum as 43 thin volumes, categorized by region and printed in sequence from 1942 to 1979. The series was later compiled into eight large volumes and reprinted by Sunrise Publications of New Jersey in 1981. The SNG trite, shown above as number 318, was possibly the only one known and published at the time. It is found in volume 7, plate 10 of the reprinted 1981 set, but the original Copenhagen series publication date was 1956. The Danish National Museum's collection of Greek coins is extensive and contains many rarities. Many are on public display in a time worn numismatic gallery, which I visited three times over three days while in Copenhagen a few years ago.

(Image generously supplied by University of Calgary Archives).



Figure 7B – Rosen Geometric Tritite (1987) – As noted in the text above, this is a photo of the Rosen Collection trite, listed as lot 12, which was auctioned by Monnaies et Medailles in October 1987 as MM72. The coin was described as being 4.58 grams in weight and was estimated at SFr 4,000 – hammer price was SFr 5,600, plus fees. At the time, it was thought to be one of only two known and it remained the most recently published trite up to the time of the 1997 hoard, so the MM72 auction is still considered to be a standard reference for the type. Its condition compares favorably with the 31 examples of the more recent, 1997 geometric hoard found in Figure 6.

(Image taken from my copy of the Rosen catalogue).



Figure 8 – Second Geometric Trite of Ionia

Electrum Geometric Trite of Ionia

Issued: 625-600 BC (4.65g, 12.4 x 11.0mm).

This is the second example of a geometric trite that I purchased recently. It has a nice globular shape with fresh, smooth, lustrous metal, and it would have been part of the same 1997 hoard as noted for the coin in Figure 3. Compared with the Figure 3 coin, this one has a tighter, more compact flan with no cracking and similar golden color, but there is less of the obverse design visible, and the obverse lines appear to be more flattened, indicating greater wear on the high points. Nonetheless, this coin is an excellent example of the type, better than most others from the hoard based on the assembled examples in Figure 6.

(Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Afterword – A Series of Unfortunate Events

The purchase of the last coin in my group of five new coins from a dealer this summer began with an unfortunate incident. I had bought four of the new coins over a few weeks, including two silver stater/tetradrachm coins, the lion head trite and one of the geometric trites, in part by trading a number of my other Greek coins. Each purchase involved a trip to the dealer's store in a city about three hours drive away. After securing the first four coins, I decided to purchase his second available trite (actually the Figure 2 coin), in part by trading three more of my coins that the dealer had already valued on a previous trip – a Mamertinoi quadruple bronze and two Larissa drachms, totaling about \$1,200 Cdn in trade value. Stickers with the dealer's individual trade dollar offers were still attached to each flip. I put the three trade coins in a small fabric pouch, stashed it in my computer case, and then drove down to the dealer's store with two



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other coin club friends. We stopped half way down at a popular highway restaurant for breakfast. At the coin store, after checking the second trite one more time, I discovered that my three trade coins were missing! I quickly guessed that the small pouch they were in must have slipped out of my computer case when I had briefly removed the computer at our breakfast stop. I was in a bit of a shock, so I did not complete the trite sale at that point. I immediately phoned the fast food restaurant from the coin shop, but they said there was nothing there. On our way back, I phoned the police in the area to see if anyone had turned in the coins, but no luck. We even stopped at the restaurant again, but there was nothing to report – I left a note with my address and an offer of \$100 as a reward.

During the following week I checked with the police again and even filed a report, plus I sent the coin dealer and the police mug shots of the little beggars (see poster following). I had basically given up hope of finding the absconders, especially because they were clearly priced, the restaurant is on a very busy highway and because the coins, being Greek, would have immediately bewitched the finder.

Exactly one week later, however, one of the friends who had been on the earlier, ill-fated trip was heading back to see the same dealer. I had given the friend a couple of my other coins for a possible trite trade, plus a mug-shot coin poster to leave at the aforementioned restaurant. As soon as he got to the restaurant, one of the workers saw the poster and brought out the missing coins. The friend called me with the good news, paid the reward and proceeded to

Small Fabric Silver Pouch With Three Missing Coins



the coin store where he could then finish the original trade for the trite. So the story had a reasonably happy ending, and I learned not to be so careless with coins intended for sale (I had another pouch well-secured on my person with keeper coins). But there is also a lesson here about the honesty of strangers. The only thing I can figure is that when my friend went back to the restaurant exactly one week later, the part-time

staff member was on the same shift as the week before. In the meantime, she had simply kept the coins on her person since they were valuable. Regardless, it worked out pretty well for me. Thus ended the sad but true story of my second geometric trite purchase – followed by the trite's starring role as 'Figure 2' in this amazing coin article. I wonder if the full story might enhance the trite's provenance...

The Hills of Peace City

Wetaskiwin's Trade Tokens

by **Alexander McPhee**



Sign at the entrance to the City of Wetaskiwin



Reynolds-Alberta Museum

Wetaskiwin, population 12,621 and located less than an hour south of Edmonton, has the distinction of being Alberta's smallest city, a title it has successfully defended since its incorporation in 1906. (In case you were wondering – and you weren't – the smallest city in all of Canada is Greenwood, population 708, stuck somewhere in the Kootenays.) For some years now, Edmontonian consumers have been enticed to make their automotive purchases in the city, thanks to its well-equipped Auto Mile and the catchy jingle *"Cars cost less in Wetaskiwin!"*. The city is also the home of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum, the life's work of one Stan Reynolds, a used-car dealer whose singular passion was collecting and restoring old machinery. Some of the museum's unusual showpieces include the very last plane to leave Saigon before it fell, a Model T car declared by experts to have the most immaculately preserved interior of any Model T in the world, and a piece of the real Avro Arrow. For these reasons, Wetaskiwin brands itself as *"The City of Motion"*.

Before Wetaskiwin was set into motion, it was just another medium-sized settlement on the Canadian prairies, marked by its distinctive water tower and prestigious city status. Millions of years ago, it was on the coast of the ancient ocean that left behind all that oil and gas everywhere, but today it is 800 kilometers inland. Its unusual name is certainly one of Alberta's most memorable.

Throughout its history, Wetaskiwin has issued six dollar tokens. One of these was a standalone brass issue marking the Canadian centennial (struck by Universal Emblems) while the others (struck at the Sherritt Mint) form a coherent five-issue series of "North Am Dollars". The 1967 issue is less common, but the North Am Dollars are still kicking around in fairly large numbers.

1967 was an important year for Canadian exonomia. Millions of dollars were set aside by every level of government in the country to celebrate the Centennial of Canadian Confederation. The federal government had the power to strike real commemorative coins, but provincial and municipal governments had to settle for semi-official tokens and medallions, of which there are many. It seems like just about every town in Western Canada issued some kind of keepsake round metal object in 1967. However, the trade token fad had not yet reached its full intensity (the number of trade tokens being issued every year peaked in 1984), so many of these early Centennial collectibles are not tokens but medallions, making it difficult to put together a semi-coherent collection of the things.

Regardless, the number of local trade tokens issued in Alberta jumped during the Centennial, with 11 new issues being released (compared to 8 in all the years before the Centennial combined). Many of these municipalities were probably blinded by Centennial-mania, because they produced huge numbers of tokens compared to their tiny populations. (For instance, Strome, population 228, produced 2,000 tokens in 1967 – and I doubt you could find 2,000 people who have even heard of Strome). Wetaskiwin didn't have as much of a population problem – only 1,500 tokens were issued in 1967, and the city's population at the time was a robust 6,000 – but after 1967, the "Hills of Peace City" didn't issue any new tokens until 1978.

The North Am Dollars stand out from other municipal tokens because of their well-researched historical themes. Each dollar depicts a different first: in 1978, the area's First Nations; in 1979, Sam Lucas, the area's first white



Figure 1: The 1967 Wetaskiwin "Souvenir Token", depicting the logo of the Canadian Centennial and the peace pipe that gave the city its name. Most of the early municipal tokens were sponsored by private clubs or societies rather than municipal governments, such as the "Wetaskiwin & District Agricultural Society". Because these early tokens typically lacked any legal validation, they usually have a lot of "fine print" on them – only "co-operating businesses" are obliged to accept this token. The "UE" mint-mark of Universal Emblems can be seen to the left of the feathers on the pipe.



Figure 2: The first of the five North Am Dollars, all of which feature historic themes. Because those historic themes are laid in out in chronological order, it's no surprise that the first in the series depicts a couple of First Nations people.

settler; in 1980, Gladys Compton, the first child born on the new townsite; in 1981, Mr. Stephen Swoboda, the first mayor; and in 1982, Mr. Anthony Rosenroll, Wetaskiwin's first representative in the newly formed provincial legislature. The legend that the 1978 Dollar (Figure 2) is based off of is grippingly described on a leaflet found in the token's original packaging:

"Long ago, the Cree and the Blackfoot tribes were constantly at war against one another. Seeking advantage over their rival, the tribes each sent out a scouting party of one... those chosen were the bravest and the most trusted amongst the warriors of the tribes – their names were Little Bear and Buffalo Child. Legend says both ventured into the hills near present day Wetaskiwin seeking the enemy.

"Carefully manoeuvring to the vantage point the two braves came face to face at the summit. Instantly each recognized the other as the enemy.

"Perhaps the birds in the sky know best what happened after this, but legend has it that the two braves fought hand to hand to the point where by mutual agreement they both decided to rest a while before continuing their struggle. Resting close to each other so as not to be taken by surprise, the two braves settled down to smoke their pipes. One of the braves filled and lit his pipe, but the other found to his dismay his pipe had been broken during the fray. A few comforting puffs from his pipe made the lucky smoker feel superior and he tauntingly offered his pipe to his enemy. The craving for tobacco momentarily took hold of the other and he snatched the pipe to take a hearty draught.

"This done the two braves realized the significance of the act. They had indeed shared a pipe which according to Indian tradition was a sign of peace. Hence it is from this simple act which Wetaskiwin gains its name. Wetaskiwin translated literally from the Cree language means 'The Hills of Peace'."

The second North Am Dollar depicts Fort Ethier (Figure 3), a small, cube-shaped outpost built a few kilometers north of Wetaskiwin during Louis Riel's North-West Rebellion in order to defend the road between Edmonton and Calgary (a route that later became Highway 2A). As it happened, the Rebellion was mostly limited to Saskatchewan, because First Nations chiefs in Alberta were successfully convinced to keep out of it – and so the Fort was never

used. (Alberta's chiefs were duly rewarded for their loyalty by not being rewarded at all.) Although it might seem like Fort Ethier, as the oldest surviving fort in Alberta, would have been converted into a historic tourist attraction by now, it sits on someone's private land and I haven't had the nerve to find them and ask for a look.

The 1980 token (Figure 4) depicts Wetaskiwin's courthouse, an impressive brick building that cost \$70,000 to build in 1907. It has been designated a Provincial Historic Site, which didn't stop the City from performing some serious renovations: today, two modern new wings have been added to the building, doubling its width and making it suitable for service as Wetaskiwin's City Hall.

Gladys Compton, the first child born in Wetaskiwin, was last seen living in St. Catharines, Ontario. One wonders if the Wetaskiwin Historical Society tracks the whereabouts of every one of the city's current and former inhabitants.

The 1981 North Am Dollar (Figure 5) is the most explicitly commemorative token of the five-part series, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the City's incorporation. Wetaskiwin gained its prestigious City status on May 9, 1906, along with Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. But while Lethbridge and Medicine Hat rapidly took off and became regional centres, Wetaskiwin remained overshadowed by Camrose, Leduc, and of course that one city it's the provincial capital but I can never remember its name. In 1906, Wetaskiwin boasted a respectable population of 1,652. By 1911, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat had both broken the 5,000 mark, a population milestone that Wetaskiwin did not reach until 1961. According to today's laws, it takes 10,000 people to qualify for



Figure 3: Fort Ethier and Sam Lucas, the first white settler in the area.



Figure 4: Wetaskiwin's courthouse and the first child born in Wetaskiwin.

Albertan city status, a requirement only met by Wetaskiwin in 1986. Because of this slow but steady growth, Wetaskiwin held the proud title of “The Smallest City in the British Empire” for many years.

Mr. Samuel Swoboda, born in Moravia and the first mayor of Wetaskiwin, left the City in 1907 so that he could manage the Strathcona Brewing and Malting Company in Edmonton. In retaliation for this betrayal, “Swoboda Street” was promptly renamed.

The last North Am Dollar (Figure 6) finished off the series with a depiction of one of many nearly-identical CP rail stations scattered throughout the province. Anthony Rosenroll, born in Italy to a Swiss father, became Wetaskiwin’s first elected official, achieving public office in 1898. He held his seat for years, and was around for the Province of Alberta’s creation on September 1, 1905, becoming Wetaskiwin’s first M.L.A. He is thus one of the first documented sufferers of “Dome Syndrome”. A neighbouring village was once named Rosenroll in his honour, but such megalomania by proxy was apparently unacceptable, and Rosenroll became Bittern Lake in 1911. Interestingly (or not), you could go to Ottawa and find a Member of Parliament representing Wetaskiwin in every year between 1925 and 2003, when a boundary redistribution finally destroyed the federal riding centered around the city. In the most recent federal election, Wetaskiwin and its environs were rudely stapled to the extreme south of Edmonton, creating a mongrel of a riding called “Edmonton-Wetaskiwin”. This riding enjoys the dubious distinction of being one of the few “rurban” ridings left in the country.

All five North Am Dollars do indeed form a set, once packaged together in a classy box. Also included in the original packaging are a set of



Figure 5: The logo of Wetaskiwin’s 75th anniversary and the visage of its first mayor.



Figure 6: The last North Am Dollar, depicting a CP rail station and Mr. Anthony Rosenroll, one of the first-ever inhabitants of our provincial Legislature.

informative slips of paper, each with a small image of the token’s design and a short history of what each token depicts.

Wetaskiwin is an interesting city in equilibrium, too large and close to dry up and blow away like so many other rural municipalities, but too small and distant to take off and join Sherwood Park and St. Albert in the ranks of Edmonton’s immediate family. Next time you’re forced to drive to Calgary, why not take a more relaxing trip along Highway 2A? As long as you keep an open mind and zealously follow every sign you see that points to a “Historical Point of Interest”, there’s no limit to what you can discover. The people at City Hall might even have a few sets of tokens left, if you ask nicely.



Figure 7: The box originally intended to hold all five North Am Dollars, with the city’s coat of arms – “Desire Peace, but Prepare for War”.

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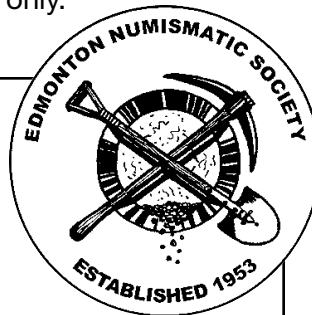
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A T B S O D R Q I A D A T D S N C U L L Y
I R A L N U I Y P G T B N U M C O H O L E
O C G R E E N S L I M E M E T E R M A R K
L F G M D M T C C H T N D N D R R A B R N
E W Y O G J I A B O U T G O O D O C T S M
P C G U O V M S S I L V E R W A S H U C J
U X Q N T J D U H V R O X D R G I I F R H
O Q X T C O U N T E R P U N C H O N W A Y
Q T V E R D I G R I S O U R U B N E H P J
F J X D V S A N D B L A S T E D C D I E N
I Y T V D A W C R E P A I R E D W Z Z K V
K Z L V H N K N U D I R T Y U T R Y Z H K
V G Z D R M M P O L I S H E D I P P E D N
X G Y C O W N G E V D S O L D E R E D W J

about good
antiqued
artificial
baggy
bent
blemishes
buried
cancer
charm
cleaned
coated
corrosion
counterpunch
cull
cutout
damage
ding

dipped
dirty
discoloured
fingerprint
green slime
hairline
harsh
hole
junk
love token
machined
melted
mercury
meter mark
mounted
mutilated
pitted

plated
polished
porous
processed
repaired
residue
retoned
rolled
rub
rust
sandblasted
scrape
scratch
silver wash
soldered
verdigris
whizzed

Circulation coins can suffer all kinds of abuse over the years. They may be subjected to the machinations of a well-intentioned but ill-advised cleaning, or good old honest wear. The coin pictured below is a recent-dated plated steel coin found on the street with a bad case of “road rash.” It’s still worth 25¢!



Answer to the Puzzle Page from November 2015:

Y X Y T J O Q Z T X P F P W S P
J N N G B M O U Z T U P R R P P
W E G H T E E N J R I B O L
D M V N M I X P E K I O V P T A
M A P L E L E A F D T O V T P T
K I N L T W E N T Y F O U R I
T N C L T W W N F V A L U E I N
W T Y C O M P O S I T I O N C U
E R W N G Y T L F X N K O F E M
N I N E N I N E N I N E U A G Z
T N S T E R L I N G V N C T L
Y S E I G N I O R A G E C E A M
T I F O U R T E E N X G E S E
W C Z K A R A T L B K O S T A S
O W Y N B N M L S I L V E R R
A Y A C Z G B F S V M D Y T K J

The answer to this month’s puzzle will be in the next issue of THE PLANCHET

Classifieds

Wanted

All period Napoleonic memorabilia & Militaria. Contact Bill at wjdy2k@hotmail.com

Early English or German hammered coins. Contact Marc. mbink@shaw.ca

Early French medals or English/British Coins dating from 1642-1821. Contact Pierre. pierre@nancykbrown.com

Complete Date 1968, 1969 & 1970 Edmonton Klondike Dollars in Silver. Prefer in original case of issue. Call Howard 780-998-0434 or cell 780-298-0434, e-mail taneri9@mcsnet.ca

For Sale

Canadian Small Cents, Circls., BU, ICCS and rolls for sale. All Canadian Decimal Coins and many U.S. Decimal Coins. Call Bob 780-980-1324

Many English Coins from late 1800's to about 1970 for sale. Call Bob 780-980-1324

Canadian Decimal coin sets. Great for gifts. Low prices. Contact Ray at 780-433-7288

Large collection of certified & raw coins & banknotes, some up to 50% off cat. Inc. Errors. Call John 780-455-8375

Place Your Ad Here Free For ENS Members

No limit of ads and no limit of words. Ads must be numismatically related and can include books, coins, paper, supplies, buying, wanted, selling, tokens, bullion, medals, Canadian, world, websites, shows, etc.

The ENS reserves the right to refuse to print any classified ad in whole or in part. Ads posted for one year will be removed unless the member can confirm ad is to continue. All classified advertizers must be ENS members.

All ads to be submitted to editor_ens@yahoo.ca or given to the Editing Team at a monthly meeting.

Coming Events

Jan. 13, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

Feb. 5, 2016: February issue of THE PLANCHET

Feb. 10, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

Mar. 9, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

March 12 & 13, 2015: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm Sunday. Edmonton's Spring Coin Show and Sale, Howard Johnson Hotel: 15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta T5P 3Z2. Dealers wishing to attend call 780-270-6312.

Mar. 25, 2016: March issue of THE PLANCHET

Apr. 13, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start. Presentation by Wayne Hansen: *Adventures in the World of Electrum*

To list your coming events, send them to editor_ens@yahoo.ca

New Membership Applications

No new members this month

These individuals have applied for membership into the Edmonton Numismatic Society. Pending any objections from the membership at large, these individuals will be accepted as "Members in Good Standing", effective this publishing date. Any objections to the applications must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Edmonton Numismatic Society, and will be evaluated by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.



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