

Edmonton Numismatic Society

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The Planchet



SWITZERLAND



CENTENNIAL
MONEY



PREMEDITATED
MURDER?

EDMONTON'S FALL
COIN SHOW AND SALE

The Planchet



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ON THE COVER: Picture of the bourse from the Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale. Photo by Roger Grove.

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Message from the President

David Peter 2010



We're winding down from another very successful show. Once again we have proven that we are one of the best clubs in Canada and can run a show that rivals some of the best for-profit shows in the country.

There were some hurdles to overcome with the new venue. I am proud to announce that we had a record number in attendance and great reviews from almost all who attended. All of the volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty to make this an exceptional show.

I would like to remind those attending this month's meeting that we will hold our annual charity auction then. All proceeds will go to the Stollery Children's Hospital, so please bring some great items for our sale. Just bring the items to the meeting, and they will be added to the auction lots.

Merry Christmas to everyone whom I might miss at this upcoming meeting. I hope to see you all there or in the New Year.

Thanks!

David
President ENS

@The Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 2010



Royal Alberta Museum, 12845 - 102 Avenue
Meeting Start Time 7:15pm

- charity auction
- show and tell
- club matters
- volunteer recognition awards - Silver Maple Leaves and draws for "Go For the Gold" gold coins
- awarding of the J. Wray Eltom Award for 2010
- Cost to print *The Planchet*
- election call
- door prizes

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

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About Your Society

November 10, 2010 general meeting.

At 7:18 pm Marc Bink, Vice-President, opened the meeting by thanking the volunteers for all their hard work to make this the ENS' most successful show and sale ever. There were 19 who showed up at set-up and another 17 at teardown. Around 1,000 attendees came through the doors which is our largest show attendance ever. The dealers gave the general impression that they were pleased with the show attendance, organization and their sales. Many have already confirmed for the spring show and sale. All 20 blocked rooms in the hotel were used as all tables were sold. The set-up was completed in about 3.5 hours, which we anticipated taking 5 or 6 hours due to the new venue and arrangement. The hotel was very pleased with how everything transpired – the room was full, the restaurants were full, the casino was being used, food and drinks were being ordered, and there were no security issues. Everyone was very professional, and the show and sale were professionally organized. Again, the volunteers did a great job.

A call was made to the membership to determine where the proceeds will go to our annual December charity silent auction. Members donate items for the auction with all proceeds to go to one charity of the membership's choice. All members who submit lots will be entered into a draw for the tax receipt for the money donated. Last year's charity was the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton. Members expressed charities they would like the proceeds to go to, and the membership voted (as follows):

- Stollery Children's Hospital (15 votes)

- Christmas Bureau (7 votes)
 - Santa's Anonymous (5 votes)
 - Ronald McDonald House (3 votes)
 - Humane Society (1 vote)
 - ENS Kids Club Program (0 votes)
- Stollery Children's Hospital was voted as the charity of choice.

Elections are coming up in February, so there needs to be an elections committee. David Peter, President, called to strike a committee. The membership was asked for volunteers for the committee – Terry Cheesman and Marc Bink volunteered, and they were accepted.

The floor was opened to nominations (the nominations will remain open until the February 2011 meeting, so anyone will still have the opportunity to be nominated - see page 17 for list of current nominees).

New Business:

Marc Bink was approached by the management of Sherritt regarding a large find of Rolling Mill mint archives. The collection was thought stolen, but some still remains. On behalf of the ENS, Marc expressed an interest for the club to be owners and curators of it. The hoard contains some written correspondence, some tokens produced by Sherritt, 10 – 15 pounds of foreign coins, Klondike dollars, videos, photographs, displays, binders that contain 1st run of medals, sample bags, dies, treaty medals, etc.

Marc asked the membership if this was something the club would be interested in obtaining or if the items should be donated to the National Currency Museum in Ottawa. Discussion ensued and the membership agreed that the ENS should take custody of the

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Two “Wrongs” Doesn’t Make it “Right”

By Marc Bink



This all started when I was handed a small bronze test token to look at to try to classify. The token looked familiar; it had a number of design elements that I recognized from the circulating issue. The owner of the coin wanted more information about the token he had, saying that it had been passed down in his family from one generation to the next, and was soon to be passed on another member of his family. I said I’d look into it and see what I could find out. I had no idea where this journey would take me, and soon I found that this little coin and its designer were linked by a series of misunderstandings to a larger, more seminal event in the last century, and that alone warranted an article.

The little coin that started this journey...

The coin is a pattern of a 25 pfennig piece, and it is owned by one of our members. He had asked me to look into the coin and see what I could find out about it. Unfortunately, there isn’t much there to go on. A lot of the records of the German mints were lost during the last war, and as such, a lot of the history and knowledge of what went on and why has been scattered all over the place.

It was a long standing tradition in the German mint to invite designers to compete with their designs for new coinage. The earlier circulating coinage dated back to 1873 and wasn’t about to change. The German states that made up the loosely federated German Reich were permitted to strike their own versions of coins in denominations higher than a Mark. There was a lot of activity as a result, and local designers capitalized on the frequent calls for designs every time a new coin was needed. One such coin was a totally new denomination planned for use in the entire Reich, a 25 pfennig coin that was to be struck in nickel starting in 1909. The winning design is identified in the Krause catalog as KM # 18 and was minted between 1909 and 1912 at all branches of the German mint. Krause also lists a number of pattern coins that seem to have survived the wars. For the 25 pfennig denomination at least 100 patterns are still extant. Some of them are quite pretty, some are also quite complicated,



Test token by Goetz for the German Mint.

and some designs are pretty wild. Most of the patterns seemed to have been struck at the Berlin (indicated by the letter “A”) and were made in a variety of metals. The pattern I saw is made in bronze and is not listed in Krause, which had me perplexed. Pretty soon the owner of the coin had contacted me with information that he was able to find through sources in Germany. It turns out that the coin was designed by Karl Goetz and is listed in a book called *Die Proben der Deutschen Muenzen, (The Patterns of German Coinage)* by Rudolf Schaaf, which is cataloged as Sch-18-65. It was obviously an unsuccessful pattern, being rejected for whatever reason by the German mint. Exactly how many of these coins were struck is also a mystery.

The designer...

Karl Goetz was a coin designer who spent most of his working life in Munich. He was born in Augsburg on the 28th of June in 1875. He first studied engraving under Johannes Dominal and then went to Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin and Düsseldorf. He lived a further two years in the Netherlands and then spent another five years honing his craft in Paris. After Paris, he went to Munich and stayed there for the rest of his life, dying there in 1950. He was a member of the Munich Artist’s guild and was also a member of the Munich Numismatic Association.

During the early part of his career while he was in Paris, Goetz designed and executed medallic



The winning design, German Imperial 25 Pfennig, KM #18

portraits of prominent people in the French "Art Nouveau" style. These works are fairly unknown and nowhere nearly as famous as his later works. Altogether he was responsible for about 633 designs, mostly medals and some circulating coinage. But he is most famous for his wartime propaganda medals, usually done with a satirical slant. There are 82 of these "Satirical Medals"; the first being made in 1913 and the last in 1923.

The "Big Event"...

The *Lusitania* was launched in June of 1906. She was the largest ship afloat when she entered service a year later. This ship and her sister, the *Mauritania*, propelled the Cunard line into the forefront of transatlantic travel and gave it the coveted "Blue Riband" for speed. The *Lusitania* was capable of 25 knots and was the fastest passenger ship at the time. After she was commissioned, she was entered in *Lloyd's Register* as an "Auxiliary Cruiser" attached at time of war to the British Admiralty¹. She used a new steam turbine design for propulsion, and that was a large improvement over the

¹ The Admiralty took up the option upon the declaration of war but soon realized that fueling such a ship was highly uneconomical and returned the ship to civilian use. They did install gun mounts and rings in the front of the ship, and these can still be viewed in photos from that period. However there was never any evidence of there ever being any guns on the *Lusitania*.

reciprocating piston engines that everyone else was still using. By 1915 she had settled into a regular schedule, and even though there was a war on, she always arrived at her destinations on time and in one piece. At the time it was assumed that she was too fast for a U-boat to catch her; the most a U-boat could do was about 15 knots on the surface and about 7 submerged. As such no one paid much heed to the warnings that the German government placed in the allied



Karl Goetz, German Medalleur, 1875-1950

newspapers about travelling on ships in a war zone, no one believed that anything bad could happen. The ship was just too fast, and even the Germans couldn't be so brutal as to sink a passenger liner full of non-combatants.

They were all wrong. The

Germans were considering taking out passenger ships, and they believed they had every reason to. Their own passenger liners were impounded in New York and forbidden to return home for the duration of the war; yet British liners could travel freely.² The war at sea had been one of escalation ever since hostilities started in August of 1914. At first the Germans abided by the "Cruiser Rules" established by the Geneva Convention of 1907. This meant that any merchant or civilian ship flying the flag of one of the combatants was to be pulled over, her captain forced to hand over her manifests, and if it was determined that there was anything of any military value on board, her crew was then ordered to take to their boats, and the ship was sunk. At first the "system" worked, but no one in the German High Command ever assumed that the British First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, combined with his First Sea Lord, Jack (Jacky) Fisher, would play dirty. The first orders these gentlemen gave was to arm merchant ships, placing guns behind camouflage crates or panels, or having them fly neutral flags.³ Needless to say it soon became very dangerous to openly challenge one of these ships, and a few U-boats were sent to the bottom before the Germans caught on. The next nasty thing these gentlemen did was order the total blockade of the North Sea to any traffic except that of neutral powers travelling to neutral ports. This

² The Nord-Deutscher Lloyd and the Hamburg-Amerika Line both had ships interred in New York; these were technically administered by the Swiss government during the war. All of these ships were eventually handed over to the Allies as war reparations after the war ended in 1918.

³ These were called "Q-ships", and they were just beginning to come into service at by the time the *Lusitania* was sunk. One of the ships that responded to the *Lusitania* wreck site was actually an armed British trawler flying a neutral Greek flag.

resulted in Germany's being almost totally cut off from her trading partners and was perceived by her population as a gross violation of the "Cruiser Rules", which it technically was.⁴ So they responded by announcing in the neutral press that they would be launching an unrestrained U-boat campaign against any ship in the "war zone" around Britain. In effect they would attempt to blockade Britain as the British had blockaded them. The only problem was that blockading the British Isles involved a huge amount of real estate, and in many cases ships going to and from Britain were flying neutral flags like that of the United States. So there were bound to be mistakes. By 1915 the Germans had sent a few neutral American ships to the bottom, resulting in the deaths of American citizens. The US government of course responded angrily to any of these sinkings and held the Germans accountable. The Germans tightened up their identification processes but dismissed the American protests as just so much hot air. In reality though, the last thing the Germans wanted was for the Americans to enter the war on the side of the Allies, as this would upset the balance of power and result in their losing the war.⁵ However, this event and a few prior accidental sinkings were galvanizing American public opinion from that of neutrality to one of hostility towards the Germans. Until the *Lusitania* incident no passenger ships had ever been torpedoed.

The *Lusitania* was torpedoed on May 7th 1915, about 7 miles off the coast of Ireland. The German U-boat under Kapitän-Leutnant Walther Schwieger was responsible. Schwieger and the

⁴ This policy of total isolation eventually was successful. The British managed to bottle up the German High Seas Fleet, which the Kaiser considered too expensive to waste to try and break the blockade, and the Germans were starved out to the point where in 1919 riots and revolution broke out amongst the starving population. This resulted in the Kaiser's abdicating, and laid the seeds for the next war.

⁵ The Germans did attempt to embroil the Americans in a different war in order to keep them out of the European war. Franz Von Papen, The German Military Attaché, was instrumental in trying to incite a Mexican rebellion through acts of sabotage thereby involving the Americans in a central American war. He and Boy-Ed were both expelled from the US after the British sent copies of the telexes that were going between the German Embassy in Washington and Berlin. Papen, (1879-1969) was considered by many to be vain and not too bright, as this incident proves out. All the telexes were sent in the open and intercepted. Papen later entered politics in Weimar Germany as a conservative monarchist, and is remembered as the Chancellor that basically handed Hitler power by convincing President Hindenburg that he "could be controlled". Convicted after the Second World War as a war criminal, he died in West Germany in 1969.



The Lusitania going down...May 7, 1915

crew of U-20 had been tracking the *Lusitania* for about an hour before they fired one torpedo into her. The resulting explosions sent the ship into an immediate list, and she sunk in 18 minutes, taking as many as 1,200 people (out of 1,900) to a cold watery grave with her. Schwieger very graphically recorded the last minutes of the ship in his logs. There was mass confusion as the crew and frightened people tried to loose the boats and get off the ship before it either capsized or sunk out from underneath them. Since the ship was never designed with armour plate, the torpedo went through it like a hot knife in butter, creating a huge hole and possibly blowing a boiler to bits. Because the ship was still moving at around 18 knots, the amount of water rushing into the stricken ship very quickly overwhelmed the pumps and rushed over the bulkhead tops to the upper decks. The captain reported later that he had ordered the ship towards shore, and when that move failed, ordered an "all stop". The ship no longer responded to commands, as her innards were blown out. At the speed she was going, it would also make it just about impossible to safely launch any life boats. This of course contributed to the huge loss of life, as people were crushed by falling boats or were forced into the frigid water either by falling out of boats or diving in as the ship sank. Schwieger reports it was as if the ship was a U-boat; she started to list right after the second explosion and then nosed straight down in the bow into the water.⁶

After the survivors were rescued, the British immediately convened an inquiry under Lord Mersey which ended up absolving the crew of any responsibility for the sinking and placed the blame

⁶ Only a very doctored version of U-20's War Diary exists. Every page has Schwieger's signature on it except for the one dated May 7th, 1915.



A Penny's Worth

Lusitania medal, British copy
Obverse. Death selling tickets from the Cunard ticket booth
Reverse. Lusitania loaded with contraband sinking stern-first

squarely on the Germans, calling it "Willful Murder". Of course it was a German U-boat that pulled the trigger and sent the ship to the bottom. However, the British did have some reservations about *Lusitania's* Master, Captain Turner. If Captain Turner had followed the instructions that were given to him from the Admiralty about zig-zagging and frequent course changes, there was a very good chance that the speed of the ship would have been so much that U-20 would have never been in a position to shoot.⁷ The admiralty recognized this and promptly went after him, but in private. As it was, Schwieger just had to sit and wait. The ship came to him. Also contentious was the *Lusitania's* cargo. German reports claimed that she was carrying contraband; military supplies and troops.⁸ The British Inquiry

⁷ The idea of "zig-zagging" such a huge ship was generally considered preposterous by many who actually knew what it took to drive a ship that size. Had the *Lusitania* zig-zagged like she was supposed to, it would have been very uncomfortable for the passengers, and there would have been complaints. The trip would have also taken a lot longer. Captain Turner assumed that the ship's great speed would keep her out of trouble. The Admiralty, on the other hand, demonstrated that it had little knowledge of piloting huge ships, and like most bureaucrats, drafted hastily thought out rulings in an attempt to cover up its own shortcomings. It did not have a navy ship in the area to escort the *Lusitania* as had been initially promised. The old cruiser *Juno* was in the area but had fled at the first reports of U-boats in the area. She remained out of the area even during the rescue, her master afraid of being torpedoed.

⁸ She actually was, but not to the extent the Germans claimed. She was carrying small arms ammunition and percussion caps. The Germans, under the watchful gaze of their naval attaché Karl Boy-Ed, had determined this and reported it forward. They also claimed that the ship was carrying a shipment of "gun cotton", a highly flammable substance used in making shells. The Germans claimed that the reaction of this gun cotton with sea water resulted in the large second explosion reported by both U-20 and

of course dismissed this and buried any evidence.⁹ American Customs inspectors were aware of this and signed off on it. The Germans possibly had some people on the *Lusitania*, but we'll never know, because 3 German stowaways were locked in the ship's brig at the time of the sinking and never got out.

In Germany public opinion about the sinking was generally positive. It was seen as the English getting what they deserved. This sentiment was certainly not echoed anywhere else in the world. Most countries considered this act as one of total barbarism. Newspaper reports in neutral countries were scathing. Where public opinion and official opinion in the US was previously leaning towards the allies, after the *Lusitania* incident the Americans were firmly in the British camp. Although it would be two more years before the Americans entered the war, the slogan they yelled upon entering battle was "Remember the *Lusitania*".

Put them all together...

Karl Goetz was as horrified as anyone about the loss of life on the *Lusitania*. He decided in August of 1915 to commission another of his "Satirical Medals", a semi successful series of medals he struck commemorating or commiserating about certain high-profile people or events in the war.

the survivors. These claims have thus far never been substantiated. The second explosion was probably the boiler or the coal bunkers going up.

⁹ The *Lusitania* was never designed as a cargo ship, and the actual amount of any cargo she could carry was very small. In fact, the amount of small arms ammunition she carried would probably only be a day's worth on the front.

Goetz was very much a product of his age; he was a patriotic German, and he naively trusted the news reports. The medal he made featured a skeleton (signifying Death) manning the Cunard ticket booth with the legend above reading "GESCHAEFT UEBER ALLES" (Business over everything). Also in this allegory was a man reading a newspaper with the title "U-boot Gefahr" (U-boat danger) and the German Ambassador standing with his hand raised trying to warn the stampede of people lining up to buy tickets. On the reverse, the *Lusitania*, her decks bristling with guns and airplanes, is depicted sinking aft-first. The legend over the image reads "KEINE BANNWARE" (No contraband), and the legend underneath describes the *Lusitania* being sunk by a German U-boat on May 5, 1915 which was the wrong date. He struck around 400 of these medals in brass.¹⁰ Somehow the British managed to get a hold of one of these medals, and they promptly turned it around for their propaganda purposes. Unluckily for Goetz, he was imbued with a very German sense of humour, which meant that his attempts at satire could be easily misunderstood, and it was. The British claimed that the medal was a celebration of perfidy, and since the date was stated as May 5 instead of the actual date of May 7, it proved pre-meditation. The British commissioned Gordon Selfridge, owner of the famous department store on Oxford Street in London, to strike 300,000 more medals in iron. These were available in

boxed presentation cases with a printed leaflet detailing the medal and what it meant to Britain. The price for one of these medals was one shilling, and the proceeds were all donated

¹⁰ This is just an estimate. Goetz never kept very good records, and it represents the combined total of the original and the altered date medals.

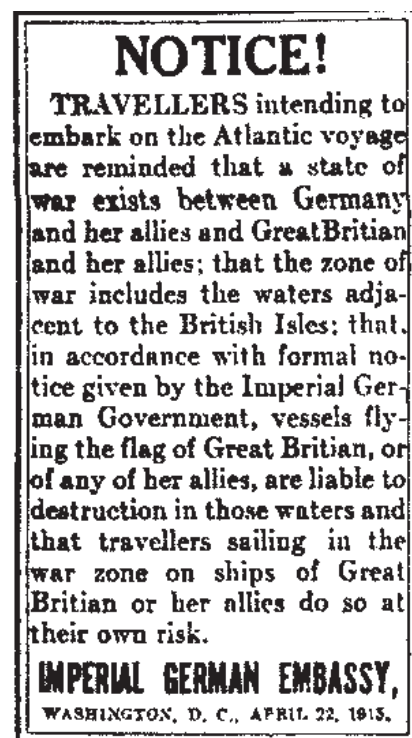
to the St. Dunstan's Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Hostel. Sales were brisk. After the US entered the war, another copy was authorized and struck by Bethlehem Steel. This copy is even cruder than the British one and is easily identifiable by a grinning skeleton.

The German government was appalled. Germans couldn't understand why the rest of the world had ganged up on them, considering they thought they had a legitimate reason to torpedo that ship. They went into damage control, ordered the Bavarian government to intercede and destroyed the remaining medals. The Kaiser decided to back off on his unrestricted submarine warfare campaign and ordered that it stop. Admiral Von Tirpitz, the architect of the German navy, protested in vain and resigned later that year.¹¹ He felt that by backing off on the submarine campaign Germany would lose the war. He was right. When the Kaiser authorized a return to unrestricted warfare, it was too late.

Goetz chose his next subjects a little more carefully. He wasn't about to be misunderstood. He commissioned quite a few more medals during the war and some in the post-war period. His most famous one is "the Black Shame", which is very racist and very much a product of his age. The obverse depicts a very black French soldier with "Watch on Rhine" and French motifs,

¹¹ After Tirpitz resigned, he got a letter from his British counterpart Jacky Fisher, by then also in forced retirement. It's a strange letter in which Fisher openly sympathizes with Tirpitz and claims that he of all soldiers understands where he's coming from. It began, "Dear old Tirps" and ended, "Cheer up, old chap! Say resurgam! You're the one German sailor who understands war! Kill your enemy without being killed yourself. I don't blame you for the submarine business, I'd have done the same myself!", and was signed with typical Fisher flourish, "Yours till hell freezes".

and on the reverse a nude girl is strapped to a very phallic tree. This period from 1913 to 1923 is considered his most prolific. Because of his *Lusitania* medal his work was never widely received outside of Germany. He more or less only did German commissions after the war, as his international reputation was pretty much ruined. He would do some others during the Weimar period and was press-ganged to do some for the Nazis after they seized power, but his heart wasn't into it. This only further eroded any international standing he might have obtained. His personal politics didn't necessarily jive with what the Nazis stood for. One of his more famous commissions was for a 5 Reichsmark piece featuring the new Reichs-President Paul Von Hindenburg on it. It's one of the only signed pieces he did for the German mint. Towards the end of his life he became paralyzed on the right side and died in Munich in 1950. Images of most of his work are available on-line at karlgoetz.com and a few other sites.



Ad placed in the New York Times, warning travelers on ships

Two 'Wrongs' don't make a 'Right'

The sinking of the *Lusitania* marked the end of an age and the dawn of a new more frightening one. Europe and the world lost its innocence, and the older Edwardian Age of decency and progress ended with a bang. Europe at that time was considered to have the highest form of civilization ever attained by man, and in that spirit, all the major powers had sought to regulate and legislate the conduct of war. War was only supposed to be fought with armies and ships. Civilians were supposed to be isolated from it. Fisher realized early that no one wins wars this way, and he found a sympathetic ear in Churchill. It could be argued the first "wrong" was when the British effectively blockaded the North Sea and stopped any kind of trade between Germany and her partners. The German response was to also try and blockade Britain by unleashing unrestricted submarine warfare. And so it went; one bad event followed by an equally bad response. On the German side, the Military High Command was engaged in a constant tug of war with the civilian government. The army didn't appreciate the value of public opinion. Shortly after the *Lusitania* was sunk, the German High Command authorized the use of poison gas on the battlefield in order to break the stalemate on the Western Front. The war had taken an ominous turn, and soon there was talk of "Total War". No longer was there any talk of a

quick war with a negotiated settlement. It became one of retribution and economic reward. It took 3 more years of slaughter before the Germans finally gave up, and the seeds for a future conflict were sown at the peace conferences. World War II killed more non-combatants than it did combatants and showed just how frightening a technologically driven war can become. Nowadays, we're far more jaded, and we don't have a Goetz striking medals about certain events to remind us just how absurd things can get. We tend to view the terrorist bombing of an airliner or the mass-killing of thousands of people as a statistic and not as the barbaric act it is. This act and all the subsequent ones in human history have proven the old adage, "Two wrongs don't make a right", just about any bad act by either an individual (or on a larger scale a government,) can be justified and then misunderstood, and that humanity never really learns anything from history.

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Karl Goetz, Wikipedia article, http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Goetz

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Leaflet accompanying the British *Lusitania*

Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale

Photos by Roger Grove



Northgate Stamp and Coin



George Manz Coins



*Charlene Siegfried, Mark Anderson,
Daniel Anderson with RCNA
President Dan Gosling*



*Moore Numismatics - Charles
Moore, Jamie Horkulak and
Louis Chevrier*



*Marc Bink busy at the ENS
appraisal table*



*Certified Coins of Canada -
Michael Findlay*



Arif Sheena Paper Money



Bob Ericksson Coins



Mitch Goudreau helping out with David Peter Coins



JAG Coins & Banknotes



Hub City Collectables



Bob's Collectables and Clyde Vincent Coins



Go for the Gold

By Roger Grove



The first annual Go For the Gold awards will be presented at the December ENS meeting. The award categories are:

- Volunteer
- *The Planchet*
- Executive

Volunteer

Club members* who volunteer at least three hours of time throughout the year qualify to receive a silver maple leaf. Each member will only qualify for one silver maple leaf regardless of how many times they volunteer. Every time a member volunteers, they will receive one entry into a draw for one gold coin.** There is no limit to the number of entries a member can receive; the more you volunteer the more chances you will have to win.

Volunteering can come in many forms:

- Helping with the *Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale* (set-up, tear down, displays, admission desk, hospitality suite, etc.).
- Designing club brochures and marketing materials.
- Displays, such as the *Sultans of Science* display
- Volunteering for duties within the club (librarian, Face Book, presentations at club meetings, etc.).
- Any activity that will benefit the club.

The Planchet

Any club member* who submits one article for submission to *The Planchet* will qualify for one silver maple leaf. Articles must be at least one page in length and must provide a contribution to numismatics. An article must be selected and printed in an edition of *The Planchet* in the calendar year in order to qualify. The acceptances of all *The Planchet* submissions are subject to the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. Each member will only qualify for one silver maple leaf regardless of how many articles they submit.

Every accepted submission will earn the member one entry into a draw for a gold coin.** There is no limit to the number of entries a member can receive; the more articles submitted the more

chances you will have to win. Members who also volunteer for *The Planchet* related tasks will also qualify as if they were article submissions (i.e., mail distribution, content editing, etc.).

Executive

All elected Executive members will receive one silver maple leaf at the end of their immediate term, at the February meeting.

* Only club members in good standing can qualify for any Go For the Gold awards.

** The size of the gold coins will be determined by the Executive prior to the award meeting.

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The breakdown of the number of club members who will receive a silver maple leaf are listed below in alphabetical order. Also listed are the number of entries each member received for the Volunteer gold coin draw and *The Planchet* gold coin draw.

| NAME | PLANCHET | Mar Show | Nov Show | Presentations | Misc | Total |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|------|-------|
| Marv Berger | | 5 | 5 | | 1 | 11 |
| Marc Bink | 20 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 23 |
| Gillian Budd | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| John Callaghan | | 7 | 9 | | 13 | 29 |
| Terry Cheeseman | 10 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ermin Chow | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 4 |
| Bill Demontigny | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Pierre Driessen | 30 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 19 | 38 |
| Mirko Dumanovic | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Bob Eriksson | | 3 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Pat Eriksson | | 3 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Bob Fillman | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 5 |
| Dianne Fillman | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| John Gallupe | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Howard Gilbey | 10 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | 7 |
| Mitch Goudreau | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 4 | 8 |
| Don Griffith | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | 5 |
| Roger Grove | 15 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 12 |
| Chris Hale | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| Wayne Hansen | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Bill Hladky | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Martin Holzbauer | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Joe Kennedy | 7 | | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| Del Keown | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| James Kindrake | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Elmer Lupul | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Jeremy Martin | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| Zoltan Miholy | | 2 | 2 | | | 4 |
| Marcus Molenda | 10 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Seymour Neumann | | 2 | 2 | | | 4 |
| David Peter | | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Kim Peter | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Tony Peter | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Larry Priestnall | | 5 | 4 | | | 9 |
| Andy Vanderleest | | 2 | 2 | | | 4 |
| Jim Vanderleest | | 2 | 1 | | | 3 |
| Greg Wichman | | 5 | 5 | | | 10 |

Go For the Gold

The ENS Executive would like to thank all members who volunteered their time and energy to help make the Edmonton Numismatic Society one of the most vibrant clubs in Canada. It is clear to see the commitment that everyone puts into their club and we thank you. The club will only be as good as what you put into it. By the showing of the commitment of our members, we have a great club!!!

The live draws for the gold coins will be held at the December meeting. Qualifying members do not need to be present to win.

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Nominations for 2011 Executive

| Position | Name | Nominator | 2 nd |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| President | David Peter | Pierre Driessen | Roger Grove |
| Vice-President | Marc Bink | David Peter | Pierre Driessen |
| Secretary | Roger Grove | Pierre Driessen | David Peter |
| Treasurer | Pierre Driessen | Greg Wichman | Marc Bink |
| Directors (10 positions max.) | Terry Cheesman | Pierre Driessen | Howard Gilbey |
| | Mitch Goudreau | Terry Cheesman | Marv Berger |
| | Greg Wichman | Pierre Driessen | Marc Bink |
| | Larry Priestnall | Marc Bink | Pierre Driessen |
| | Marv Berger | Greg Wichman | Roger Grove |
| | John Callaghan | David Peter | Pierre Driessen |
| | Howard Gilbey | Pierre Driessen | David Peter |
| | Jeremy Martin | David Peter | Roger Grove |
| | Joe Kennedy | Marc Bink | Roger Grove |
| | Chris Hale | Roger Grove | Davis Peter |
| Junior Observer Director | Ermin Chow | Pierre Driessen | Roger Grove |

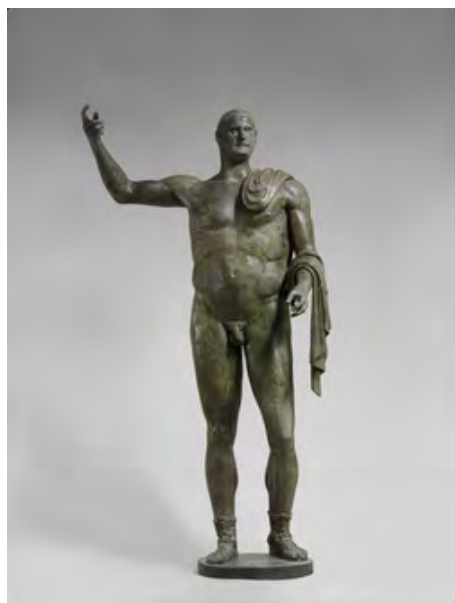


Adventures Down East

By Terence Cheesman

My travels from Edmonton to New York City by Car

For a number of years I have made no secret of my plan to retire from Canada Post and immediately make a trip down to New York City, with a number of stops along the way. As a centre piece of this trip, I was to give a lecture on the coinage of Roman Petra to the New York Numismatic Club which was to occur on Friday the eighth of October. Thus the last month at work was spent not only preparing for retirement but also making certain that everything was in place for the trip.



Bright and early Wednesday October 29 I began my trip. I normally pride myself on being a minimalist, but if you had looked at my car you would have thought I was leaving for six months, not three weeks. It was packed with way more clothes than I needed, numismatic information I needed for the lecture, as well as some info on coins that I would like to get, my computer, a cooler, my camera, travel books, maps and my GPS unit. I probably would have been better off to leave a lot of this stuff behind. I travelled through Saskatoon, Regina, Minot, Fargo, Chicago, Detroit, and I finally made it to New York City,

minus one tire which I lost near Cleveland.

I did most of the tourist type of things that one does when in New York. I visited numerous museums, went up the Empire State Building, ate numerous hot dogs from the sidewalk food vendors and took lots of pictures. As I am a coin collector, the Metropolitan Museum was a must see. There were a large number of very desirable and important Greek and Roman coins on display. The coins were usually grouped within the time frame of the artefacts on display, thus they were scattered throughout the museum. On the whole the coins were well lit, but the lighting did create its own problems. Some coins do not like the lighting being used, and some of the coins on display really hated it. All the coins were on loan from the American Numismatic Society. There is a bit of a story behind this. In the early 1960's the Metropolitan Museum had its own collection, a gift from a wealthy collector. In order to buy a large Greek decorated krater or wine mixing bowl, the collection was put up for sale. This sale caused quite a stir, as some of the coins were even featured in a pictorial in *Life Magazine*. After the sale,

the curator bought the pot, but about thirty years later he had to return it to Italy, as it was proven that the item had been illegally exported.

Besides the coins there are numerous other artefacts. One of the oddities is a double life size bronze statue of the Roman Emperor Trebonianus Gallus who reigned from 251 to 253 A.D. The profile of the face is remarkable; it matches fairly closely his coin portraits. However the statue is in what we call heroic nudity, and despite some efforts to be idealized, captures the image of a sixty year old somewhat overweight man. I guess one of the things we can be thankful for is that this fashion is long dead. There is a massive head of Constantine the Great who reigned from 308 to 337 A.D. In addition there is a very impressive Egyptian collection as well as collections of late medieval armour, Japanese swords, and Old Master paintings.

Another highlight was my visit to the American Numismatic Society. The Society seems to occupy the entire floor of an office building. The building has a fair amount of security, and I suspect it is not only because

of the ANS. The collection of the ANS is massive. Though I spent the better part of a day there, I only saw a fraction of the collection. The coins I examined were from the mint of Petra, Tarsus Antioch in Pisidia and Aelia Capitolina. They had 2 drachms from the mint of Petra, neither of which I had seen before, and both these coins come from dies which are either new or a part of the series which is difficult to assess, as the coins are really in bad shape. At some point when I get pictures I will be able to make a better assessment of these coins.

That evening, I gave my talk on the coinage of Roman Petra to the New York Numismatic Club. It was well received by the members and more by good luck on my part I was the 16th Druck lecturer, who presents an annual lecture given in memory of Michael J. Druck (1961 to 1995), a past president (1994 to 1995) and a collector of British and Commonwealth coinage. He worked at Stacks, a major numismatic firm in New York and was very highly regarded. Being a haemophiliac, he died of AIDs because of tainted blood products. The Druck lectures were set up in his honour. The meeting was held in a very nice restaurant in downtown Manhattan. The food was very good, and there was a bar for the thirsty.

The club has a long history and is steeped in tradition and procedure. Dress is formal; you need a dress jacket and a tie. One tradition, which we would find unusual, is that no commercial activity is allowed during a meeting. You cannot buy or sell at the meeting, nor can you even enquire as to whether the owner would be interested in selling a coin. I discussed with the president whether there was any method of getting around this, and the reply was to ask to see the member off the premises. The club had as a theme, the coinage of Jordan, and some members brought coins both ancient and modern. Each member who brought something was encouraged to give a little presentation as to what he or she brought. After the presentation, there was some club business. A new member was voted into the group by secret ballot. Membership in this organization is

not automatic. If a number of members do not approve of your election, you do not get in.

I continued for the next few days exploring New York City and on the last day went to see a coin dealer in the Manhattan Antiques Centre. The coin dealer was Palmyra Heritage, and I enjoyed a few hours with him. I then went to the Guggenheim Museum to discover among other things that Adolph Hitler had horrible taste in art. Later I went to the Empire State Building, where I practically had to be strip searched. However after a fair amount of thought about calling the whole thing off, I made it to the top and saw the whole city. It was very impressive. I left with, on the whole, a very positive feeling towards New York. The traffic was worse than I expected, and the drivers are rude, but everyone else, including the police, is courteous and pleasant. This is the only city where I got a wink from a female cop. The food was good, I had a great time and I hope to return.



After I left I made a bee line home. I stopped to see a couple of friends on the way back and ended up in Calgary at my sister's for much needed veg time. I finally made it home and unpacked all my coins, and my books. It is funny but after a while travelling, there is no place like home.



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A Closer Look at Canada's Centennial Issues of 1967



By Ermin Chow

The Royal Canadian Mint struck commemorative issues of all denominations in 1967 to celebrate the centennial of Canada's Confederation. These beautiful issues have unique designs which were only used in 1967. Also included in these special issues are a \$20 gold coin and a 1 dollar bill. These designs have extremely high eye-appeal, are fun to collect, and are quite inexpensive to purchase, with the exception of the \$20 gold coin which will cost significantly more.

The Circulation Coin Issues

There was a commemorative circulation issue for each denomination from 1 cent to 1 dollar. With the exception of the copper 1 cent and nickel 5 cents, all the other denominations were issued in 0.800 or 0.500 fine silver. Since the majority of the coins were issued in silver, and because silver has much appeal to most collectors, this is another reason that makes the circulation issues of 1967 a great set to collect. The circulating coins are easily obtainable, having a normal size mintage in this year.

Each of the issues features a

bird or animal on its reverse and a tiara portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on its reverse. The 1 cent coin has a rock dove, the 5 cent a hopping rabbit, and the 10 cent shows a mackerel. Similarly, on the 25 cent there is a bobcat, while the 50 cent features a howling wolf, and the silver dollar has a goose. These reverses were all designed by Alex Colville. Like the regular issues, the tiara portrait obverse was designed by Arnold Machin.

Some rare or less common varieties have been produced of these issues. There are the two obvious varieties, the 0.500 and 0.800 fine silver

ones, but also there have been others produced. Of the \$1 denomination, there are two die axis varieties. There is the common medal alignment and the extremely rare coinage alignment. Also of the silver dollar there have been two rarer varieties – the diving goose and the double struck diving goose. A die rotation in production resulted in a goose that appears to be diving. The double struck variety of this coin appears to have been struck twice. Of the 50 cent denomination there have been three varieties – the regular coin and the double struck and triple struck varieties. The last two varieties occurred when the



Reverse of the circulating 1967 coins.





The obverse and reverse of the 1967 \$1 note.

coin was struck twice or three times respectively.

The 1 Dollar Bill

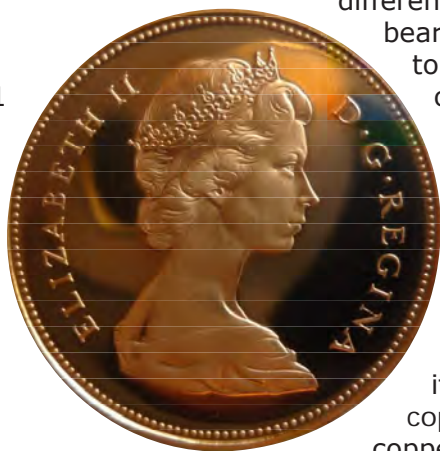
In addition to the circulating commemorative coinage, there was a special issue of the 1 dollar bill. This bill is very similar to the 1954 1 dollar bill in design, layout, and the light green background. However, upon further inspection, there are some notable differences between the two bills. These include the presence of the centennial maple leaf, the different date (only the double date 1867 1967 on its obverse) and the absence of serial numbers. Its reverse features the Parliament buildings rather than the western prairies and sky on the 1954 issue.

The no serial number variety of the bill is far more common than the bills with serial numbers on them. Their value in circulated grades is only face value, because of the high quantity produced. The signatures that appear on all of these notes are Beattie and Rasminsky. Both the British American Banknote Company and the Canadian Bank Note Company printed the notes. These notes are fun notes to collect, even for numismatists who only collect coins because they are inexpensive. They are a part of our Canadian history and are enjoyable to look at.

20 Dollar Gold Coin

The \$20 gold coin was issued as part of a specimen set, but it was not intended for circulation. In 1967, the specimen set with the circulation coins and the gold coin was issued for a mere \$40. Although these were initially issued in the

specimen sets, the coins were often removed and sold separately. The obverse features a tiara portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, while the reverse has an adapted Canadian coat of arms. One unique difference to be noted is that the coin only bears the single 1967 date, contrary to the double date 1867-1967 on all other denominations.



The obverse and reverse of the 1967 \$20 gold coin.



This coin's reverse is designed by Thomas Shingles. The obverse, like all other similar obverses, was designed by Arnold Machin. As the other denominations, this coin was only produced in 1967. It is to be noted that unlike most gold coins, its composition is 90% gold and 10% copper. As opposed to the silver and copper coins of this series, this coin has a small mintage of just over 300 000.

Conclusion

Due to the special designs featured on these Canadian Confederation centennial issues, they are something unique to collect. The many gorgeous designs on them make them worthwhile to collect, not only for investment, but to just simply admire. For those newly starting to collect Canadian decimal, the circulating coins of 1967 wouldn't be a bad place to start. As for gold coin collectors, the \$20 gold piece would be a valuable addition to the collection.

Even for paper money collectors, the \$1 note of 1967 can make a great addition and present a challenge to find all the different letter prefixes represented. In conclusion, the 1967 centennial issues would be an excellent supplement to the collections of those starting out and to those of experienced numismatists.





Canadian Junk Silver

By Joe Kennedy



The last year silver was used in the making of circulating Canadian coins was 1968. Over the years since then, the price of silver has risen quite a bit. Many circulated Canadian silver coins from before 1968 are quite common. If the coins are heavily worn or a common date, they are not very valuable as collectables. These coins still have *intrinsic* value though; the silver in the coin is a precious metal worth saving. Common, beat-up silver coins can easily be worth 15 times their face value now. These common silver coins with valuable scrap metal are known as *junk silver*.

Junk silver can be hoarded by coin collectors and investors for the silver value alone. A bulk quantity of silver is called *bullion*. The intrinsic value of a coin can also be called the *bullion value* (BV). Canadian coins are issued by the government and are trusted to contain a reliable percentage of silver. Since these coins are easy to identify and require no assaying, they are also easy to buy and sell.

A silver investor can develop a hoard of junk silver as a hedge against inflation. Typically, an investor buys a small amount of silver on a regular basis to average out price fluctuations over the long term. The price of silver varies from day to day (and minute to minute) as it is publicly traded. The price at any one particular time is called the *spot price*. The spot price of silver can be found on the internet at any time. A convenient place to check the spot price of silver is at www.kitco.com.

Coin collectors may be interested in saving and sorting through junk silver for die varieties. More and more die varieties are being discovered every year. A die variety collector might want to hold on to a large stash of junk silver for future examination,



or he might want to buy junk silver to look for existing known varieties. For coin collectors on a tight budget, a date series collection of low-grade coins could be started from a pile of junk silver.

Many non-collectors or causal collectors have a jar of old and interesting coins pulled from circulation. Some of these coins are invariably just junky old silver. An inheritance from a relative can also be a source of junk silver coins. As the public becomes aware of a spike in the price of silver, they often want to cash-in on the opportunity – thinking that the price may fall later on.

Coin dealers buy junk silver from the general public and collectors. If there is a low demand from collectors for junk silver coins, dealers may let the

junk silver accumulate for a while and then send a large batch of coins to a smelter. During times of volatile price swings in the silver market, a dealer might want to send coins for melting more often, just in case the price drops before a profit can be made.

The value of silver bullion has risen quickly over the last few months. In some cases, the intrinsic value of the silver in VF grade 50¢ coins surpassed the collector prices listed in printed publications. There is some danger that nice collectable VF coins may get sent for melting, if the price of silver is volatile rather than rising slowly.

Canadian silver dollars dated 1935 to 1967 weigh 0.75 ounces. However, these coins are not made entirely of pure silver. A



silver dollar is made of 80% silver (".800 fine"), and the remaining 20% is copper. To calculate the bullion value, we need to know how much silver there is in the coin. The term used to describe exactly how much silver there is in a coin is the *absolute silver weight* (ASW). For a Canadian silver dollar dated 1935 to 1967 the ASW is 0.6 ounces.

| | | Junk Silver Coin Value | | | | | | |
|------------|---------|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| | | \$1 | 50¢ | 25¢ | 10¢ | 5¢ | 25¢ | 10¢ |
| Date | | 1935–1967 | Pre-1968 | Pre-1967 | Pre-1967 | Pre-1921 | 1967, 1968 | 1967, 1968 |
| Spot Price | \$24/oz | 14.40 | 7.20 | 3.60 | 1.44 | 0.83 | 2.25 | 0.90 |
| | 24.50 | 14.70 | 7.35 | 3.68 | 1.47 | 0.85 | 2.30 | 0.92 |
| | \$25/oz | 15.00 | 7.50 | 3.75 | 1.50 | 0.87 | 2.34 | 0.94 |
| | 25.50 | 15.30 | 7.65 | 3.83 | 1.53 | 0.88 | 2.39 | 0.96 |
| | \$26/oz | 15.60 | 7.80 | 3.90 | 1.56 | 0.90 | 2.44 | 0.98 |
| | 26.50 | 15.90 | 7.95 | 3.98 | 1.59 | 0.92 | 2.48 | 0.99 |
| | \$27/oz | 16.20 | 8.10 | 4.05 | 1.62 | 0.93 | 2.53 | 1.01 |
| | 27.50 | 16.50 | 8.25 | 4.13 | 1.65 | 0.95 | 2.58 | 1.03 |
| | \$28/oz | 16.80 | 8.40 | 4.20 | 1.68 | 0.97 | 2.62 | 1.05 |
| | 28.50 | 17.10 | 8.55 | 4.28 | 1.71 | 0.99 | 2.67 | 1.07 |
| | \$29/oz | 17.40 | 8.70 | 4.35 | 1.74 | 1.00 | 2.72 | 1.09 |
| | 29.50 | 17.70 | 8.85 | 4.43 | 1.77 | 1.02 | 2.76 | 1.11 |
| | \$30/oz | 18.00 | 9.00 | 4.50 | 1.80 | 1.04 | 2.81 | 1.13 |
| | 30.50 | 18.30 | 9.15 | 4.58 | 1.83 | 1.06 | 2.86 | 1.14 |
| | \$31/oz | 18.60 | 9.30 | 4.65 | 1.86 | 1.07 | 2.90 | 1.16 |
| | 31.50 | 18.90 | 9.45 | 4.73 | 1.89 | 1.09 | 2.95 | 1.18 |
| | \$32/oz | 19.20 | 9.60 | 4.80 | 1.92 | 1.11 | 2.99 | 1.20 |
| | 32.50 | 19.50 | 9.75 | 4.88 | 1.95 | 1.12 | 3.05 | 1.22 |
| | \$33/oz | 19.80 | 9.90 | 4.95 | 1.98 | 1.14 | 3.09 | 1.24 |
| | 33.50 | 20.10 | 10.05 | 5.03 | 2.01 | 1.16 | 3.14 | 1.26 |
| | \$34/oz | 20.40 | 10.20 | 5.10 | 2.04 | 1.18 | 3.19 | 1.28 |
| | 34.50 | 20.70 | 10.35 | 5.18 | 2.07 | 1.19 | 3.23 | 1.29 |
| | \$35/oz | 21.00 | 10.50 | 5.25 | 2.10 | 1.21 | 3.28 | 1.31 |
| ASW | | 0.6000 | 0.3000 | 0.1500 | 0.0600 | 0.0346 | 0.0937 | 0.0375 |

This chart shows the value of Canadian coins relative to bullion prices between \$24 and \$35 per ounce. Dealers usually buy Canadian junk silver coins for slightly less than the daily spot price. Dealers may offer to sell junk silver at the daily spot price or slightly more.

For pre-1967 silver coins, the quick reference point to remember is that there are 0.6 ounces of bullion for every \$1 face value of silver coinage. The 0.6 figure is based on the .800-fine coinage made from 1920 to 1966. Older Canadian coins dated 1919 and earlier are .925 fine (92.5% silver, or also known as *sterling silver*) and therefore have more silver content. However, coins with earlier dates that are in a junk silver grade range are normally more heavily worn & underweight, so they can be lumped together with later dated silver coins in a bullion lot.

It's easy to understand that coins less than a dollar are simple divisions of the face value. For example, a 50¢ coin is half the face value of a dollar. There is another aspect to Canadian silver coins that might not be immediately apparent. Canada's silver *fractional* coins (50¢, 25¢, 10¢) dated 1920 to 1966 are exact fractions of the silver weight of a dollar coin. For example, a 50¢ piece has half the amount of silver as a dollar coin, and a 25¢ piece has one quarter the amount. This division by weight makes it very easy to calculate the bullion value of a handful of mixed silver coins. Simply by adding up the face value and multiplying by 0.6 results in the Absolute Silver Weight for the lot. This method is still an estimated result though. Coins lose weight as they are worn down. Some dealers prefer to buy junk silver Canadian coins by weight rather than by face value.

The composition of silver 25¢ and 10¢ coinage was changed in mid-1967 from .800 fine to .500 fine. There is no easy way to tell the purity of a 1967 dated coin by looking at it or by just weighing it directly. For convenience, all 1967 25¢ and 10¢ coins are considered to be the less-pure .500 fine type coin. By 1968, the silver content was reduced to .500 fine for these denominations. 1968 was the last year any Canadian circulation coins were made with silver. The transition was underway to replace silver circulation coins with coins made of pure nickel.

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www.kitco.com





The ACT of MEDIATION

By Pierre Driessen



The history of Switzerland during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods is very different from that of the seemingly peaceful mountain enclave populated with bankers and the makers of chocolate and cuckoo clocks we know today.

Throughout recorded European history, Switzerland has been a hotly contested area. All the great continental European powers have tried to control it, or at the very least attempted to be on friendly terms with its inhabitants. Its mountain passes make it of great strategic importance for communication between northern Europe and the Italian peninsula.

Over the centuries Switzerland's valleys and towns developed into regional powers called cantons. Gradually these in turn formed into a loose and very fluid confederation for mutual defense.

The area's terrain and fierce nature of the inhabitants allowed for great autonomy and a very early throwing-off of any allegiance to foreign overlords. This fact was formally recognized by the Treaties of Westphalia of 1648 AD. Hereby all of Europe recognized the independence of the Swiss cantons, removing even the pretence of any allegiance they might have had to the Holy Roman Empire.

During this entire period, each canton jealously guarded its autonomy within the confederation, fiercely defending its unique political and social institutions. Canton fought canton. Cantons would ally with or have their famous mercenaries serve with different European powers. It was only on very rare occasions, when the threat was truly great, that cantons agreed

on common action against an external or internal enemy.

As a result of social, economic and religious currents, the cantons were divided not only among themselves, but also internally. The Reformation and Counter-Reformation had introduced religious divisions, pitting Protestant and Catholic cantons against each other.

Within the cantons patrician oligarchies dominated, pitting urban against rural. During the last years of the Ancien Regime revolts and unrest increased. The conflicts of urban vs rural, Protestant vs Catholic and canton vs canton intensified. The ruling class governed in a reactionary manner, violently suppressing any discontent or attempts at reform.

This uneasy state of affairs was shattered with the outbreak of the French Revolution. The oligarchs, initially uncertain how to react to the changing international scene, ultimately decided upon neutrality. Internally they ruthlessly suppressed any signs of revolutionary ideals. Their attempts to shut out the world proved futile; the ideas and ideals of the French Revolution spread, and between 1790 and 1792 there were numerous successful revolts.

In 1790 the Lower Valais rose up against the upper districts, and in 1791 the town

and district of Porrentruy, in the canton of Jura, revolted against the Bishop of Basel.

In 1792 there was a revolutionary coup in Geneva, while in 1795 St. Gallen rose up successfully against its prince-abbot. All these events took place with the encouragement and tacit support of the French Revolutionary government. Finally in late 1797, with the connivance of Swiss revolutionaries, the French invaded.

On 9 February 1798 France decreed the establishment of the Helvetic Republic. The new republic was to be modeled on the French system. Swiss territory was to be organized into 23 cantons under a strong central government. The classes of privilege were declared abolished, as was cantonal autonomy.



Seal of the small council of the Helvetic Republic.

The oligarchs realizing the danger declared war on France. Despite initial successes against the French, on 5 March 1798 Bern, the stronghold of the oligarch aristocratic faction, deserted by her allies and internally divided, surrendered. The Old Swiss Confederation collapsed.

On 12 April 1798, 121 cantonal deputies proclaimed the Helvetic Republic.

They declared it to be one and indivisible.

This republic was short lived, enduring from 1798 to 1803. Its constitution managed to offend almost everyone and immediately met with widespread opposition from all quarters.

French revolutionary ideas and ideals, such as unlimited freedom of worship, offended this largely conservative society. The oligarchs and aristocracy were alienated through the abolition of feudal rights and dues. Cantonal pride was offended by the abolition of cantonal sovereignty.

This caused a split among the Swiss. It was most evident in the Helvetic parliament whose main parties were the Unitaires and the Federalists. The former wanted a united republic, while the latter, representing the oligarchs and aristocracy, wanted the return of cantonal sovereignty.

The new republic, its constitution and government were propped up by French bayonets. To add insult to injury, the Swiss were made to pay for this occupation, which in addition to the 'loans' to France, led to great economic stagnation and impoverishment.

French interference exacerbated the divisions within Swiss society. The vast majority however - liberal, conservative, Catholic, Protestant, federalist, unitarian - did agree on one issue - opposition to the French.

Armed resistance was widespread, and attempted



The first page of the Act of Mediation of 1803

coup d'états were numerous. To keep the Swiss pacified was proving difficult and costly for the French.

French 'friendship' also meant a treaty of alliance which violated the tradition of Swiss neutrality and drew the republic into the wider European conflict. In 1799 the area became a battleground among French, Austrian and Russian armies as part of the larger struggle for control of central Europe and northern Italy. The local Swiss largely supported the Austrians and Russians.

Through brilliant tactical maneuvering by First Consul Bonaparte and his generals, the Austrians

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and Russians were defeated, and central Europe and northern Italy were secured for France.

As part of the wider European peace process, known as the Treaty of Amiens and the Peace of Lunéville, France agreed to guarantee Swiss sovereignty. French troops were withdrawn by July 1802. Almost immediately civil war ensued. Known as the 'Stecklikrieg' or 'Stäcklikrieg', this was fought between federalists - mainly rural cantons - and ineffective and poorly motivated Helvetic Republic government troops.^a

On 18 September 1802 the Helvetic Republic's government capitulated, fled Bern for Lausanne and finally collapsed. The insurgents quickly established cantonal governments. Napoléon ordered the immediate re-occupation of Switzerland and sent in General Ney to crush opposition.

Napoléon feared that the instability here would spread throughout Europe. He could not afford to lose control of the vital mountain passes, as this would expose France's largely undefended south-eastern frontier and endanger communications with Italy. Britain seized upon the invasion as the excuse she had been looking for to declare war on France on 18 May 1803, claiming the Treaty of Amiens had been broken and Swiss neutrality violated.

Napoléon summoned representatives of both sides in the civil war to Paris for a negotiated solution. The degree of negotiation is a matter of debate by historians. It was probably more a dictation to the delegates by Napoléon. The result was the **Act of Mediation**. This new Swiss constitution, issued on 19 February 1803, abolished the Helvetic Republic



Napoléon Bonaparte, as First Consul of France presents the Swiss delegates with the Act of Mediation on 19 February 1803

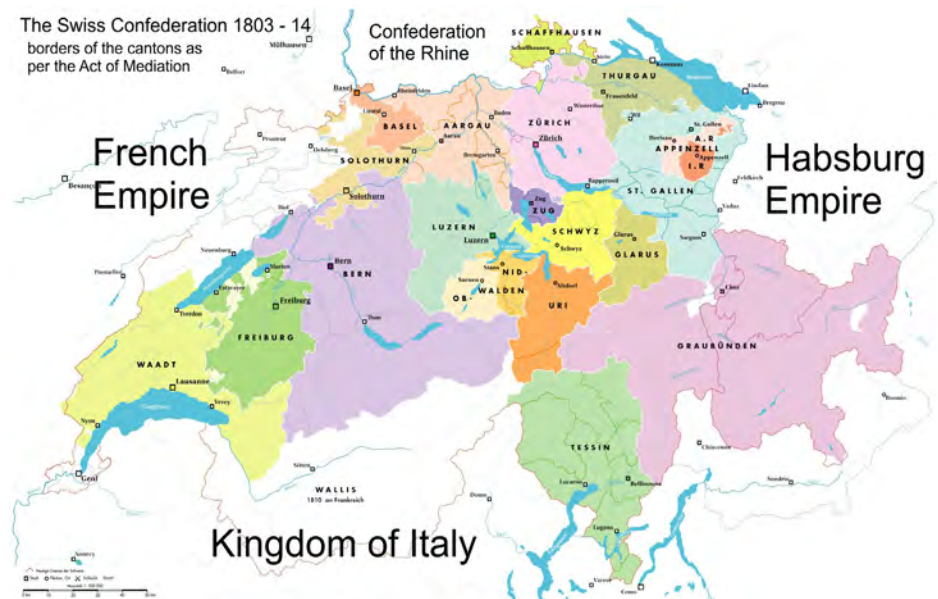
and established the Helvetic or Swiss Confederation. It was a pragmatic solution which pacified and reorganized the Swiss cantons and tied them closely to France. It sought to address the issues which had torn the republic apart and provide a framework for a new confederation.

In the preamble, Napoléon declared the natural state of the Swiss to be a federation - in which power was to be shared between national and regional governments. The language of the Act was vague, deliberately so, allowing a great deal of latitude for interpretation by

individual cantons. It was a victory of sorts for the patrician oligarchs and aristocracy.

Switzerland was divided into 19 cantons - 13 of which were the original members of the Old Confederation, while 6 new cantons were created. Two of these new cantons came from areas which had formerly been "associate" but not full members, while four came from areas which had formerly been "subject", controlled by other cantons.

The original member cantons had their pre-revolutionary political and social institutions restored,



while five of the six new members received representative governmental institutions. The first 19 sections of the Act dealt with each canton's constitution.

Articles 20 through 59, known as the **Acte federal**, dealt with the powers and responsibilities of the federal government. These duties were limited to ensuring the equality of all citizens, the creation and maintenance of a federal army, the removal of internal trade barriers and international diplomacy. Each canton agreed to respect the constitution, independence and territory of the others.

The supreme governmental body was the "Tagsatzung" ^b, a legislative and executive council. This did not have a fixed location and moved each year among one of the six leading cities or "vororten", namely Basel, Bern, Fribourgh, Lucerne, Solothurn and Zurich. ^c It was presided over by the chief magistrate of the particular "vorort" which was host. In his role as president of the "Tagsatzung" he was known as the "Landamann der Schweiz".

The cantons with populations in excess of 10,000 - Aargau, Bern, Graubünden, St. Gallen, Vaud and Zurich - were given 2 votes in the Tagsatzung, while the other cantons had one vote each.

Some revolutionary ideals and ideas survived and were incorporated in the new constitution. Equality of citizens - there were to be no privileged classes, burghers or subject lands. Freedom of mobility and residence - meant that citizens could freely live and move within and between any canton.

The Act itself seemed to restore the cantons to their pre-revolutionary state and to leave the Swiss to their own devices. It served Napoléon's purposes to allow the federalists to appear to have the upper hand. This pacified the conservative, oligarchic and aristocratic elements, while at the same time firmly binding them to him and his policies. Having secured central Europe, by defeating Austria and Russia, Napoléon no longer needed the destabilizing influence of Swiss revolutionaries. Rather he needed a stable and allied Switzerland so that he could secure control of the vital mountain passes for the free movement of French troops and supplies to and from the Italian peninsula. It also served to intimidate Austria by keeping open a route alternate to that through Germany to threaten Vienna. Furthermore, French occupation and frontier troops were freed for duty elsewhere. In short it created a pro-French buffer state.

In addition the Swiss were required to supply and equip soldiers for service in the name of France. Initially this number was set at 18,000 but was later reduced to 12,000 men.

These men, descendants of the famous Swiss mercenaries, distinguished themselves in French service. At the Battle of the Berezina River, during the ill-fated Russian campaign, 1300 Swiss held back 40,000 Russians, preventing the French army from being cut-off and allowing it to cross the river and escape complete destruction. Only 300 Swiss survived the engagement.

General Merle, commander of the Swiss division stated after the battle, "Brave Swiss! You have fought like lions. Each of you deserves the cross of the Légion d'honneur." Thus in reality the Swiss became more closely tied to France than ever before. Neutrality was no longer an option.

Although the Act remained in force until 1813, both the Swiss and Napoléon almost immediately began to make adjustments and amendments.

Domestically, the cantons enacted new rules and restrictions on citizen rights. Freedom of movement between cantons was curtailed by a 10 year residency requirement. New residents were not

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granted political rights, nor were they allowed to profit from or use the "Bürgergemeinde" or communal property.

Napoléon for his part began lobbying off parts, either occupying or directly annexing them to France or other parts of the Empire, or granting them to favorites. In 1806 he awarded the principality of Neuchâtel to his chief of staff Marshal Berthier.

The area of Tessin was occupied by French troops from 1810 to 1813, while in 1810 the Valais was occupied and later made into the French department of the Simplon - this secured the Simplon Pass.

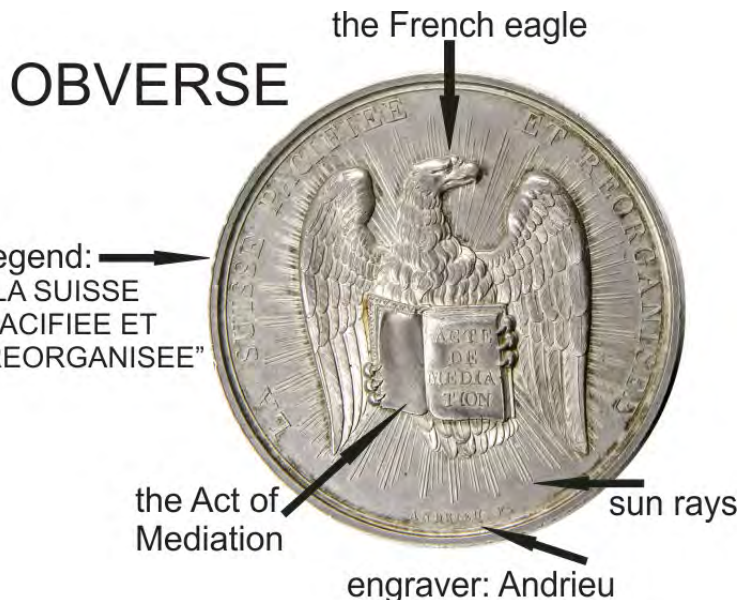
As Napoléon's power diminished, the Swiss found themselves in an awkward and uncertain position. What were they to do? Unlike the Dutch, Germans and Spanish, despite the abuses they had suffered at the hands of the French, the Swiss did not rise against Napoléon. Why?

The reasons are simple - the Act of Mediation, despite its faults, had offered a stability far preferable to the chaos and civil war before it. French overlordship had restrained the worst excesses of the oligarchs and aristocrats who, it was feared by the majority of the population, wanted a complete return to pre-revolutionary conditions.

As the French army continued its strategic withdrawal to France's frontiers following its defeat at the Battle of Leipzig (Battle of Nations), fought October 16 - 19 1813, the Swiss debated what to do. The Tagsatzung voted unanimously on 18 November 1813 to maintain the Act and observe an armed neutrality. This suited Napoléon - it protected his unfortified south-eastern frontier.

The allied powers did not observe this neutrality and invaded with 130,000 Austrian and Bavarian troops on 21 December 1813. On 29 December 1813, the Austrians pressured the Tagsatzung to abolish the Act.

On 6 April 1814, during what has become known as the long Tagsatzung, Swiss legislators met to draft a new constitution. Despite Austrian interference and attempts to turn back the clock, much of the spirit of the Act of Mediation survived. It served as the foundation for the political infrastructure of the modern state of Switzerland, but it would take many decades of struggle to finally make it a reality.



THE MEDAL:

The Act of Mediation enhanced Napoléon's standing both among the French people and internationally. To mark the occasion, Dominique-Vivant Denon (1747 - 1825), director of the Paris Medal Mint, ordered the striking of a commemorative medal. It was designed and engraved by Bertrand Andrieu (1761-1822), one of France's and the era's foremost medallists.

One of the rarest Napoleonic medals, it was struck in gold, silver and bronzed copper. During the original striking very few were made. It is believed that of the bronzed copper only 163 examples were produced. The exact number of original gold and silver examples is not known. It can however be surmised, if normal French medal striking practices were followed, that the numbers for these would be far less.

Upon first inspection, the design of the medal may appear rather strange. Although it is supposed to celebrate and commemorate Napoleon's bringing of peace to the Swiss, it does not show the customary emblems of peace. There are no laurel leaves, no palm branches, nor any mythological figures or scenes depicting peace.

Napoléon is nowhere to be seen, yet the Act of Mediation and the Swiss question were very important for him and his government. This importance can be deduced from the fact that he added: "Mediateur de la Confédération suisse" (Mediator of the Swiss Confederation) to the list of his official titles.

OBVERSE:

The obverse of the medal is striking. It features

REVERSE

legend:

"PREMIERE
ASSEMBLEE DU
GRAND
CONSEIL DU
CANTON DE
VAUD"

engraver:
Andrieu



facade of the
Palace of the
Council of Vaud

14 April
1803

an eagle coming out the rays of light of the sun, clutching a book in its talons. The book bears the inscription: "ACTE DE MEDIATION". Around the edge is the legend: "LA SUISSE PACIFIEE ET REORGANISEE" (Switzerland pacified and reorganized).

I have not been able to find any explanations of the symbolism of this scene in any of the references dealing with Napoleonic medals. I believe that the eagle is symbolic of Napoléon and that the intent is to convey symbolic messages on various levels.

The eagle represents Napoléon as the great pacifier and bringer of light to the darkness of the civil war the Swiss were fighting. It also represents him as the great and wise statesman, diplomat, mediator and bringer of peace. This is reinforced by the Act in the eagle's talons. The eagle also represents strength, fighting chaos on behalf of his people and resisting all, ie. the British, who wish the French ill.

Here the link to mythology and antiquity is unmistakable. The eagle was the bird sacred to Zeus or Jupiter and was often seen coming out of the sun; hence the rays of light or the sun. It was also the symbol of the Roman Empire, the peace and order of which Napoléon was seeking to restore to Europe. Napoléon, the heir of the Caesars and Charlemagne, who was reviving and making reality the age old dream of European unity. Napoléon the man who had Europe at his feet, the decider of the fate of peoples and nations for the good of all.

REVERSE:

The reverse shows the facade of the Palace of the Council of the canton of Vaud. It is a neoclassical building with a peristyle - four columns and two wings. Above the main entrance is inscribed the motto: "LIBERTE ET PATRIE" (Liberty and fatherland). The legend reads: "PREMIERE

ASSEMBLEE DU GRAND CONSEIL
DU CANTON DE VAUD" (First
assembly of the Grand Council of
the Canton of Vaud).

The exergue reads: "XIV AVRIL
MDCCCIII" (14 April 1803). It
commemorates and celebrates
the inclusion of Vaud as one of
the new cantons into the Swiss
Confederation through the Act of
Mediation.

The medal depicted here is the
very rare original silver striking. It
weighs 50.75 grams and is 46 mm
in diameter, with a smooth and

unmarked edge.

According to Millin, Keeper of the Collection of
Medals and Antiquities in the National Library
in Paris during the time of Napoléon, the medal
was struck to commemorate both Napoléon's
assumption of the title of "Mediator of the Helvetic
Confederation" and the 1st meeting of the council
of the canton of Vaud.

In all likelihood the gold version was presented
to Napoléon himself, while the silver and bronzed
copper versions were presented to the Swiss
delegates in Paris and members of the council of
Vaud in decreasing order of importance.

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- Langer, William L., An Encyclopedia of World
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- Schom, Alan, Napoleon Bonaparte, 1997.

End Notes:

a- this civil war got its name from the 'Stäckli' or
wooden club, the improvised weapon of the insur-
gents.

b - in the various languages spoken in Switzerland,
this Diet was called "Tagsatzung" in Rumantsch,
"Eidgenössische Tagsatzung" in German, "Diète
fédérale" in French and "Dieta deferale" in Italian.

c - the Swiss federal capital was established at
Bern in 1848.



materials. A committee was struck to deal with the hoard and make recommendations as to the next steps the club should take. Roger Grove nominated Marc Bink to chair the committee, and volunteers were solicited – interested parties are: Howard Gilbey, Terry Cheesman, Marv Berger, Jeremy Martin, Pierre Driessen, Joe Kennedy, Mitch Goudreau, Roger Grove and Andy Vanderleest. Marc will explore further with Sherritt, as there may be limitations as to how many people can be admitted to the Sherritt facilities at one time. Marc expressed that there will be a need for a lot of space to review all the materials, and volunteers will likely have to commit some time for a couple of months to get through everything. This is a very important find as there are very few materials remaining from the Sherritt Rolling Mill and even less written on it. There is an opportunity for someone to develop new research on this based on the materials and literature present.

Silent Auction at the Edmonton Coin Show and Sale

Howard Gilbey discussed the results of the silent auction at the show and sale. Bids were placed on 33 of the 60 lots submitted. Not all items were paid for yet; Howard is in the process of contacting all bidders. Howard and the executive have realized that one person needs to be dedicated to the silent auction at the show to get more bidders registered. It would also be better to have it moved closer to the front of the room. One lot sold for \$750, another for about \$250 and another for close to \$185, so people were not afraid of the higher priced items. One kid's lot sold. All lots that did not sell were on display at the meeting and available for bidding by the membership.

Show Debrief

Marc Bink made the motion that the executive meet to discuss the show and sale in a debriefing, to discuss the good/bad and how to keep the momentum going. If anyone from the membership has feedback on these, please let the executive know and your comments will be included.

Other

David Peter gave a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for their support and effort to make this the best show ever – and one of the biggest in Canada. He received a lot of great compliments and comments from dealers and from the public.

Bob Eriksson wanted to have a round of applause for the show organizing committee for the great work they did.

Presentation

Pierre Driessen gave a talk on Beneditto Petrucci, the engraver of the Waterloo Medal – as could be seen in his recent article "The Waterloo Medal" in *The Planchet*.

Break

Seymour Neumann shared some information about population reports from the 2009 mint report. Items may be 'scarce' in one area of the country simply because the mint did not ship many out there, but they are in no way scarce. Some food for thought!

Show and Tell

- Pierre Driessen passed around an 1804 George III, 6 shilling from the Bank of Ireland, purchased at the show. It was struck on top of another existing coin. He also passed around an 1808 1/3 gold Guinea.
- Marv Berger showed a George

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Vanier medal.

- Roger Grove passed around a 1908 S mint Indian Head cent from the US. 1908 was the first year that the San Francisco mint produced US cents. This mint only produced about 1.1 million cents that year making this one of the scarcer dates for Indian cents.

- Terry Cheesman discussed his recent trip to New York and his invitation to speak on the coins of Petra to the New York Numismatic Club. He said it is a very exclusive club and to be asked to speak was an honour. In thanks, they presented him with the Druck lecture commemorative medal. It was personally engraved and was only the 16th to be issued. Terry passed the medal around.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.



Members can send questions or comments to editor_ens@yahoo.ca. where they would like clarification or information on numismatic or ENS items. *The Planchet* will do its best to publish answers to all questions it receives. Please include scans or pictures when applicable.



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NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Lawrence Scott
Change to Life Membership

Membership renewals are now due.

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 aforementioned 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.

Coming Events

December 8, 2010 - ENS December Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. refreshments provided.

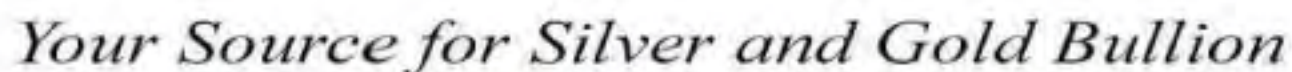
January 12, 2011 - ENS January Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. refreshments provided.

February 9, 2011 - ENS February Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. refreshments provided.

March 9, 2011 - ENS March Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. refreshments provided.

March 12 & 13, 2011 - Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale, Saturday 10:00 - 17:30 hrs, Sunday 10:00 - 16:30 hrs, Century Casino and Hotel, 13103 Fort Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5A 1C3, (780) 643-4000, Admission: \$5.00 (under 16 years of age free), info: www.edmontoncoinclub.com or info_ens@yahoo.ca Dealers wishing to attend please call: (780) 270-6312.

Mar. 25 - 27, 2011 - Spring National Stamp Show (with competitive exhibits). Sponsored by the Edmonton Stamp Club, at Fantasyland Hotel Conference Centre, West Edmonton Mall. Info from www.edmontonstampclub.com



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