



THIS ISSUE

A little clip that ends in a snip

Tax Time

French Experience....Part 2

Canadian Coin History

RCNA CONVENTION INFO

NEXT MEETING

SILENT AUCTION

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Doors 7:00pm Meeting 7:30pm

Royal Alberta Museum

12845 102ave, Edmonton

CONTACT

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Edmonton Numismatic Society
P.O Box 75024, Ritchie PO
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www.edmontoncoinclub.com

Defacing Coins as a Form of Political Action: Royal Canadian Mint Sues Dogwood Initiative over 'Loony Idea'

"No person shall, except in accordance with a licence granted by the Minister, melt down, break up or use otherwise than as currency any coin that is current and legal tender in Canada."

- Article 11, Currency Act

Controversy brings media attention, and breaking the law for the sake of the 'greater good' is always controversial. The current legal fight between a British Columbia environmentalist group, Dogwood Initiative, and the Royal Canadian Mint has certainly brought public controversy and media attention. Although the stated mission on its web site www.dogwoodinitiative.org is to make British Columbia the global model for sustainable land reform, visit www.notankers.ca and the Dogwood Initiative looks like your typical environmentalist group. Although to their credit, they have not yet gone so far as to begin ramming ships into oil tankers as Greenpeace often does. Nonetheless, it is not their environmental advocacy but their anarchist tendencies that has gained them the most media attention of late. To gain publicity for their campaign, the



group has produced at least two hundred thousand removable "oil slick" decals to stick on loonies. Their goal is to pressure British Columbia's Legislature to ban oil tankers in the north coast of British Columbia has drawn the threat of legal action against them. And not from the usual suspects in the big oil industry but instead from the Royal Canadian Mint. The oil industry execs, successfully vilified for so many years by environmental groups, must be only too happy to have the federal government and numismatist take on their traditional foes for them.
Continued Page 17.....

Ancient Coins may Lead to Discovery of Cleopatra's Tomb

Recently, archeologists have excavated numerous artifacts that may lead to the discovery of Cleopatra's tomb.

The dig site revealed 22 coins inscribed with her name, as well as an alabaster mask fragment that resembles Mark Antony. These items were discovered last year while excavating a 2300 year old temple that was constructed by Ptolemy II. The temple where the discovery was made is located roughly forty



kilometers from the ancient Egyptian Capital of Alexandria. Recently, after using ground penetrating radar, a team

working on the project turned up 3 important anomalies. Egypt's chief archeologist Zahi Hawass concludes from the evidence that someone important is buried in the temple. Further research and excavation will be done on the site before the occupant of the tomb can be confirmed.

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The Edmonton Numismatic Society

The Edmonton Numismatic Society (ENS) dates back to September 1953. At that time the members met and discussed the hobby under the name, the Edmonton Coin Club. During the 1960's, 70's, and 80's the Club sponsored 20 Annual Coin-A-Rama shows, issuing many collectable souvenirs. In 1979, The City of Edmonton's 75th Anniversary, the Club was host to its first CNA Convention. A number of mini shows and Anniversary shows were held during the 1980's and 90's. As a reflection of the varied collecting interest of the current membership, and a continuing commitment to promote the hobby, the Club changed its name to the Edmonton Numismatic Society (formerly the Edmonton Coin Club) just prior to hosting its second CNA Convention in 1998. Since 1996 the Club has sponsored two shows each year, one in the late winter/early spring and one in the fall. The ENS will host the first RCNA Convention in 2009.

Club Meetings

NEXT MEETING

May 2009

Wednesday, May 13, 2009
Doors open 7:00pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Royal Alberta Museum 12845 102ave

- talk: Terry Cheesman
Coins of Ancient Rome
-Presentation: Howard Gilbey
how to create competitive displays of your collection
for the upcoming RCNA Convention

Silent Auction: Maximum 5 items per person

For more information regarding these events, please
send an email to editor_ens@yahoo.ca

ENS is a Member of:

Royal Canadian Numismatic Association
American Numismatic Association
Canadian Paper Money Society

April 2009

The april meeting was held on April 8 at the Royal Alberta Musuem. A talk was given at the meeting by Bill Demontigny on Napoleonic medals and related material. Jamie Horkulak gave a report on the March Money Show. A silent auction also ran the duration of the meeting. After the meeting some of the members returned to the traditional after-meeting Boston Pizza. April also held another event for the ENS. For the first time the ENS had set up a table at the Wild Rose Antique Collectors show. A special thanks to Matt Sztym and Pierre Driessen for volunteering to man the table and for handing out hundreds of show fliers to guests attending the show.

Message from the President

As Spring finally sets in we begin to remember activities of Summers past, in my case... the Cars, the Tractors, the Bikes, the Holidays, the Farm, the Garden, the Chores...you get the picture.

Not so much this year, not yet anyway. This time I'm thinking about the Hotel, the bourse, the table rental, the registrants, the dealers, the tours, the BBQ, the hospitality suite, the registration package, the advertising...the list goes on...all for the RCNA here in August.

This list didn't include any of the small details, however I believe they are just as important. At this time I'd like to request to anyone that has attended an RCNA in the past to please recall what you liked and disliked. We'd like to learn from others mistakes and omissions, and duplicate what we and others have done well in the past. Please bring those memories to the next RCNA meeting to be held at the end of the next regular Museum meeting, everyone is welcome. Museum curator Sean Moir will be a guest at our next RCNA meeting. He's requesting input as to what we'd like to see on display from the numismatic vaults, so put on your thinking caps!

Although the 2009 convention has had several spots in the last few RCN Journals, including registration form and a link to the hotel reservations, I still get a steady stream of emails, some even from dealers, asking when the RCNA is, if there will be an auction, and even if I know a good Hotel near the show! All this tells me people can be oblivious, and unless spoon fed they may miss our attempts to attract attendees.

Soon it will be time to get the advertising machine rolling. Our media package will have to be top notch, and we will have the usual Ad in the CCN as well as our local poster campaign. Registrations have been trickling in but so far most of the registrants have been RCNA executive and regular convention goers. Since it is possible the amount of fly-in attendees may be fewer than we first hoped, we may have to think outside the box when it comes to advertising. The request is in with the RCNA to possibly have advance tickets, just like the Money Show, but this has never been done before, so it may

not get approved. These and other ideas can be discussed at the planning meeting as well.

This would be a good time to remind local attendees that being a full registrant has many benefits other than getting you into the bourse, so we recommend you register early.

see you at the next meeting!

Jamie

RCNA CONVENTION INFO

General Co-Chairman: Jamie Horkulak jhlrd@shaw.ca

General Co-Chairman: Howard Gilbey taneri9@netscape.ca

General Co-Chairman: Marc Bink mbink@shaw.ca

Bourse Chairman: Jamie Horkulak jhlrd@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Pierre Driessen

Displays/Medals: Terry Cheesman

Progams & Brochures: Dan Gosling, F.R.C.N.A. dan@gosling.ca

Registration: Greg Wichman

preRegistration: Marv Berger, Pierre Driessen, Marc Bink

Transportation: Vacant

Mint Liason: Steve Woodland swoodland@storm.ca

Tours: Kathy Arbeau

Advertising: David Peter

Security: John Callaghan

Hospitality Suite: Sandi Horkulak/Tony Peter

RCNA Liaison: Dan Gosling, F.R.C.N.A. dan@gosling.ca

Contact Information

RCNA 2009

c/o P.O. Box 75024 Ritchie P.O.

Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6E 6K1

Got a question? Contact:

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780-903-5343 (weekdays)

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4% Alberta Tourism Levy on all lodgings

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A Penny's Worth

By Marc Bink

A Little Clip that Ends with a Snip

Allow me to digress for a moment, and try something different with this column. The problem of clipping and debasing coinage has been around a long time, and sometimes drastic action was required. Here is one such story.

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago...

I beg you all to come hither and hear my tale, for it is a story of England, of Good King Henry, and the Moneyers that took place at Winchester; in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, One Hundred, Four and Twenty. Be so good and take heed; and make not a coin of the Realm in poor silver or underweight. I am called Reinauld, Master of the Canterbury Mint, and this is how I came to be known as such.

It was a cold and dreary morning as we made our way up the hill to the Winchester Castle. I, Reinauld, was following my Master Willelm of the King's Canterbury mint. Willelm was much older than I, a large man, balding, leaning on a walking stick, stooped and out of breath. He paused and took a swig out of a flask he had concealed in his large threadbare coat, and urged me on. The castle with its large gates and high walls seemed very forbidding and evil. I was in those days but a child of 13 years of age. I was heavily burdened carrying my bundle of scrolls under my large, clumsy cassock. I was my Master's scribe and accountant. My scrolls of account detailed in careful and well-scripted numbers exactly how much silver he took in and how much he coined in the King's name.

I was deemed a good scribe, my script and numbers well made, and seconded to the Master Scribe of the Canterbury monastery. It was due to his misfortune of being indebted to a moneyer that caused me to be compelled to leave the monastery and join the service of the moneyer. I was proud to be apprenticed to a moneyer, this was a noble profession of trust and if my Master judged me to be competent as a scribe, he said I might be allowed to learn the art of a silver-smith and eventually be granted a charter to mint coins. I applied myself vigorously to my new tasks, learning them quickly and well.

But in applying the mathematics I had so carefully learned, I discovered that there were some discrepancies with the accounts. I had brought them forth to the Master;



but he chose to ignore them and beat me soundly for addressing them. He bade me to remove the problems in the accounts, but this I could not do; I had sworn an oath to God and the brothers who bade me to be honest with the histories I record. I did not tell my Master of this for fear of another harsh beating, and left my scrolls exactly the way they were.

We had left our home in Canterbury a week past in order to comply with an order of King Henry I and appear before his Justicar, Bishop Roger of Salisbury. We, along with 190 other moneyers, had been ordered to appear to account for the state of the King's coinage.

The castle's great hall was clammy and cold as we and the other moneyers awaited the proceedings. Daylight filtered in through the large opaque windows bathing the room in an eerie dim grey light. The chamber stank of spilled ale, unwashed bodies, and urine as men and dogs relieved themselves on the rush covered floor. Shouts, laughter and clanking tankards echoed throughout the large hall as friends or rivals greeted or fought with each other. We made our way through, exchanging pleasantries as we searched for a space on the benches to sit.

A short time later, there came a page who sounded a horn, announcing that the proceedings were to begin. At the front of the room, the Bishop appeared and took his place on the throne. He was followed by a number of monks who seated themselves at a large table surrounded by huge candlesticks facing the crowd. The bishop read out the proclamation of the King, which stated that the King was very much aggrieved by

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the state of the coinage in the realm, and that he, Roger of Salisbury, had been assigned to rectify the problem. Suddenly a number of armed knights with swords drawn appeared and quickly sealed the room. A hush fell as the Bishop continued reading the proclamation, stating that all the moneyers were to be called one by one to appear before the bishop and his council.

We were required to bring samples of our coinage, and place before the council an account of how much silver was used and how much was coined. The coins would then be placed on a scale, and assayed to determine their purity. If the coins were underweight or deemed debased, the moneyer was to be taken and then required to submit to an ordeal, where he was asked before God if he had ever made forgeries. The accused would be required to thrust and hold his hand in an open flame. An innocent man would be protected by God; he would feel no pain, suffer no blemish. The guilty, or those who felt pain, were then to be removed to face their punishment which would take place in the dungeons below. It was soon our turn to appear before the Bishop.

"You have been accused of making sub-standard and underweight coins, and of debasing the purity of said coins, - how do you plead?" asked the Bishop.

Willelm answered, "Not Guilty, my lord. I trust that you will find my accounts in order".

"And who is this that you bring with you?" questioned the Bishop.

"This is my apprentice and scribe, Reinauld", said my Master. With a shove he sent me stumbling towards the table. I then placed my scrolls and samples on the table before the bishop. He quickly scanned my accounts, and shook his head. I began to get a horrible feeling in the pit of my stomach as I watched the bishop turn the pages; perhaps I had made a mistake?

"Where was this boy educated?" asked the Bishop, while reading my scrolls.

"He was an urchin from the monastery, educated there by the brothers to read and cipher", replied Willelm, "I received him for payment of a debt, and find him only barely useful. I can assure you, your Excellency, that if there should be any errors I will have him whipped, and sent back to the monastery for the monks to deal with."

"Does his name appear on the coins?" queried the Bishop.

"No, my lord, look at him, he is tiny and weak, he can barely swing a hammer, and he has only been in my service for a short time." replied Willelm.

The Bishop turned to me and asked, "Do you deem these figures to be correct and a true representation of your Master's affairs?"

I knew what was being asked of me, Do I stand by my Master and claim an error, or do I stand up for myself? My Master looked at me pleadingly and I knew what I had to do.

"Yes my Lord, I do, I was made to swear out an oath to be truthful and honest before God in my records," I replied.

"Why, you little bas...Just you wait and see what you're going to get outside! I'll tear you to bits!", muttered Willelm under his breath.

A coin was placed on the scale, and it was discovered to be underweight. A second monk took the coin, and clipped a piece off of it, and grunted in disgust. He shook his head and threw the coin into a scrap bucket. I could see beads of sweat breaking out on my Master's forehead as he grasped for an explanation. The Bishop leaned forward and turned his steely gaze on my Master,

"Your scribe has done well, seldom have I seen such detailed accounts. You however, have not. It would appear you are making up coins from thin air. How is this possible? It would therefore appear that you have



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been debasing the coin of the realm and his accounts confirm it. It will be your sentence to submit yourself to the court for further investigation, and it will be his sentence to watch and learn, and hopefully not make the same mistakes as his master", said the Bishop, "By order of the King, seize and detain one Willelm of Canterbury for further investigation, and set his scribe to watch and record the execution of said sentence!" With a wave we were then restrained and taken away.

The next room was filled with the stench of burning flesh and the screams of wounded men. I had to take pity on my Master; even as he attempted to beat me with his walking stick as we were being led away. He could neither read nor write, and my accounting of his crimes was perfect, as I had been taught by the brothers at the monastery to do. I strongly believe it was my honesty before God that saved me from the terrible fate that was soon to befall my Master.

My Master was forced to submit to the trial by fire, which he didn't pass. God had obviously forsaken him. His right hand was severely burned, and he probably wouldn't have use of it again, if he was to survive. I had seen men burned by the forge, they never seemed to fare well afterwards, as the hand or the burned area would turn black and then green and be accompanied by the most horrible of sores, which would drive the unfortunate wretch to madness and death. My Master must have realized this too, as he was in tears holding forth his burned hand, pleading with God and the bishop for mercy. We were then led into the dungeon area and my Master was forcibly shoved in a cell filled with the other burned men to await their fate. I was left to stand outside the cell, and was not permitted to see to my Master and his wounds. The foulest stench and screams permeated the air. I could see that a fire was being stoked up, and a large man wearing a black hood was grinding an axe on a grindstone. There was a large, thick oak table with tethering straps at all corners. In my horror I could see that this was not going to end well for the men in the cell...

King Henry I of England had a problem; - the public no longer trusted the coinage, and that was taking a cut out of his coffers. People were reverting to a barter system or using foreign coins instead of English made ones. There was an incredible amount of debased and underweight coinage around, which made accounting and collection of taxes difficult. In England at that time, only the silver penny was made for general circulation. It had been the only coin of the realm for over 500 years.

In the medieval era, money was made locally for local use by "moneys", a select group of silversmiths who were granted a royal charter to mint coinage. Every city and larger town had a mint. Since transporting a huge amount of coin was at best potentially lethal, the dies for

the coinage would be made up in London and then copied and transported to the various mints. Silver would also come from local sources, in the form of taxation, plate, or theft. The moneys then were able to coin pennies in the name of the King, and were required to place their names on the coins for legal and accounting purposes. The problem that occurred was the moneys got greedy, and they weren't above debasing the silver content or scrimping on the weight to make a little coin of their own on the side.

Normally this was done through 'clipping', the practice of cutting or shaving the edges off of a coin and pocketing the silver fragments. Eventually one would gather up enough fragments to create a new coin, - all paid for at the King's expense. The penalties for clipping were severe, (death) but the problem for the King was catching someone doing it. The law was only enforceable in the most blatant of instances. Hammered coins, by virtue of being hand-made, had no security devices like the reeded edge on a modern coin. Since irregular flans were common no one would likely notice if the coin was lightly clipped. If it was caught at all, it was usually by a merchant with an accurate scale. If the coin was suspect, he reserved the right to refuse it or accept it at a lower value. To determine purity, a test cut would have to be made.

Very few people knew how to establish purity, but every moneyer knew how to debase silver, and that was a larger and more expensive problem than clipping. Pretty soon

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almost every coin in circulation at that time had a test cut in it and the Crown, in order to try and promote acceptance of their coinage, even issued instructions to the moneyers to include a test cut in any new coins being made. When this no longer helped with accuracy, King Henry then tasked Roger of Salisbury to go ahead and convene the Assize of Moneyers in 1124. From the Anglo Saxon Chronicles (13th Century) the event was recorded as this:

"In this year sent the King Henry, before Christmas, from Normandy to England and bade that all the mint-men that were in England should be mutilated in their limbs; that was, that they should lose each of them the right hand and their testicles beneath. This was because the man that had a pound could not lay out a penny at a market. And the Bishop Roger of Salisbury sent over all England, and bade them all that they should come to Winchester at Christmas. When they came hither then were they taken one by one and deprived each of the right hand and the testicles beneath. All this was done within the twelfth-night. And that was all in perfect justice because that they had undone all the land with the great quantity of base coin that they all bought."

The Margam Annals (14th Century) recorded that 94 moneyers were mutilated in that fashion, about half of the

total that were working at that time. Although the minting quality didn't improve much, the purity and the weight did, and for the next few hundred years English coinage was regarded as some of the best made and with the highest purity in Europe during the late medieval period.

Clipping and debasing coinage remained a problem up until the advent of machine struck coinage in the 1500's. "Milled" or machine struck coins being perfectly round and mass produced could have certain security devices incorporated in them. The reeded edge was invented as a way to prevent clipping, and it is still employed today.

Obviously the story of Reinauld and Willelm is fiction; - it's loosely based on what I've read of the period and of the accounts stated above. I've set the stage and the location, but due to the family content of this publication I'll leave it up to you and your imagination as to what happened to the fictional Willelm.

Sources: English and UK Coins, Coincraft, 2000

Coins of England, Spink, 2006

Internet research; (numerous sites, too many to mention)

- Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, circa 13th century, (for the direct quote above)

- Margam Annals, Wales, circa 14th century

- Setting for the above story was loosely based on accounts in numerous other books on medieval life in Europe

- Wikipedia

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Ancient/Medieval

By Terrance Cheesman

Tax Time

In this joyous time when citizens are lining up to pay their taxes, it is nice to look back on an event in the Roman Empire. In 121 A.D. The Emperor Hadrian minted a Sestertius advertising what would be called today a tax holiday. On the Obverse one finds the portrait of Hadrian with the legend IMP. CAESAR TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVG. P.M. TR.P. COS III. The supreme army commander Caesar Hadrian, successor of Trajan the Emperor Chief Priest Tribune of the People and Consul for the third time. The reverse features a lictor who is an attendant to a Consul setting fire to a pile of tax notices much to the delight of the three figures to the left who obviously represent a much larger cheering crowd. Over his shoulder the lictor carries a fasces a bundle of rods surrounding an ax symbolizing that a Consul had the authority to punish by flogging or decapitation.

The reverse legend reads RELIQUA VETERA HS



NOVIES MILL. ABOLITA S.C. Receipts to the amount of 900 million Sestertii destroyed. HS is the symbol for Sestertii much the same as the dollar sign \$ is used today. Most collectors today are more familiar

with the silver Denarius, but it is the Sestertius which the Roman used to explain value. 4 Sestertii make up a Denarius which roughly translates into a days wage. The amount this represents is also difficult to translate as well. What this amount meant in terms of the annual income of the state is difficult to assess. It may have represented something like 45 to 90 Billion Dollars today.

The cause of this event was not economic but political. The secession was a bit rocky and Hadrian had decided to execute four very popular and senior members of the Senate. There was a backlash and thus Hadrian decided that a tax holiday would ease the anger of his opponents. It succeeded.

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1895 PCGS MS64RB	\$650.00	\$400.00
1898 PCGS MS65RB	\$2600.00	\$2200.00
1900 PCGS MS65RB	\$3000.00+	\$2000.00
1916 ICCS MS65RD	\$650.00	\$550.00
Five Cent		
1875H LD PCGS VF30	\$1200.00	\$1100.00
1885 5/5 VF30	\$535.00	\$450.00
1897 N8/W8 PCGS AU55	\$550.00	\$475.00
1899 PCGS MS64	\$1100.00	\$800.00
1925 ICCS EF45	\$550.00	\$450.00
Ten Cent		
1872H ICCS AU50	\$1350.00	\$1050.00
1875H PCGS AU53	\$5400.00	\$4000.00
1884 PCGS EF45	\$3875.00	\$3000.00
1889 PCGS VF25	\$3750.00	\$3300.00
1893RT ICCS VF20	\$4000.00	\$3850.00

1870 Commercial Bank \$5.00 F&B PF	\$1900.00	\$1400.00
1870 Commercial Bank \$10.00 F&B PF	\$1900.00	\$1400.00
1872 Molsons Bank \$4.00 F&B PF	\$2500.00	\$1950.00
1878 DC-8e-iii-o \$1.00 F-15	\$1325.00	\$1100.00
1887 DC-11 \$2.00 F	\$2400.00	\$1900.00
1897 DC-14b Abt. VF	\$1750.00	\$1400.00



Currency



Twenty Five Cent	Trends	CC Price
1858 20 Cent PCGS AU50	\$600.00	\$500.00
1875H ICCS VF30	\$3750.00	\$3500.00
1885 PCGS AU50	\$2800.00	\$2100.00
1887 ICCS AU50 Cl.	\$3500.00	\$2800.00
1912 PCGS MS63	\$1750.00	\$1350.00
Fifty Cent		
1872H PCGS MS62	\$9000.00	\$7800.00
1872H A/V ICCS VF30	\$3650.00	\$3500.00
1890H PCGS EF45	\$12600.00	\$10520.00
1914 PCGS MS63	\$15000.00	\$12000.00
1947 MLCR ICCS EF40		\$5200.00
One Dollar		
1938 PCGS MS64	\$825.00	\$675.00
1945 ICCS MS63	\$900.00	\$750.00
1946 PCGS MS64	\$1600.00	\$1350.00
1948 MS60	\$1900.00	\$1750.00
1950 PCGS MS66	\$1500.00	\$1200.00
1912 DC-21c F	\$1200.00	\$1150.00
1935 BC-3 \$2.00 EF++	\$1250.00	\$1000.00
1935 BC-9b PCGS VF20	\$2200.00	\$1890.00
1935 BC-11 F+	\$4800.00	\$4600.00
1937 BC-27b \$100 Unc. +	\$1150.00	\$975.00
1954 BC-34a \$50.00 CUnc.	\$1650.00	\$1450.00

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French Experiments with Paper Money - part 2

Following the collapse of John Law's "System", the French government's finances became desperate. Royal debt had tripled between 1715 and 1722, credit was drying up, interest rates were soaring and the crown's credibility had been severely tarnished. Over time however, through governmental and administrative reforms and a program of careful diplomatic, economic and tax policies, the finances of the Bourbon monarchy were placed on a more sound footing.

The corner stone of this program was the use of diplomacy to advance French ambitions, in Europe and across the globe, while avoiding the expense and uncertain outcome of war. Coupled with domestic economic, fiscal and tax reforms the French economy began to boom. From 1715 to 1789, its population grew by 1/3, from 21.6 to 28.6 million; trade with Europe increased fourfold and with its colonies tenfold. This economic performance was unrivaled by any other European state, it was even better than that of its arch-rival Britain.¹

Industrial and mercantile reforms, begun under Louis XIV's minister Colbert, appeared to have taken root in the provinces and only been temporarily halted. Regions of concentration of specific manufacturing and industrial production began to appear, not just in urban but also in rural areas. One particular characteristic of French manufacturing, still dominant today, was its focus on fashionableness. This made French goods the 'must have', allowing French industry to set trends, charge higher prices and stay ahead of competitors. This was particularly true of the luxury trade.² The innovative system of factory inspection by state officials ensured that the quality of goods produced stayed high.

Agriculture however, remained France's dominant industry, the volume and value of the grain trade dwarfed that of colonial trade for instance. Unlike previous governments, those of post 1722 pursued agricultural reforms, helping to increase yields and crop varieties, which began to break the subsistence and famine cycle. This raised the income of even the poorest laborer family. Infrastructure spending, especially on roads, canals and ports provided further economic stimulus. As a result, the French economy continued its general and broad based expansion

until the mid 1750's. This helped state finances. Credit steadily improved and the population's tax burden as a percentage decreased. It is estimated that the per capita French tax burden was about half of that borne by the English.

Despite French diplomatic successes, notably the expansion of France's borders through the peaceful acquisition of the duchy of Lorraine (1766)³, war could not be avoided altogether. Especially with England, 'cold war' existed, which flared-up where commercial and colonial interests clashed. Most of these flare-ups occurred as a result of colonial ambitions: in India, North America and the Caribbean.

This state of affairs exploded into the first truly global war. The Seven Years War (1755-1763)⁴, proved disastrous for France. Government finances were thrown into chaos, trade was disrupted and tax burdens began to rise. The military disasters and resultant loss of territory, such as Quebec in 1759, damaged the crown's prestige, domestically and internationally. Internal divisions within the French ruling class began to surface again and as a result many of the carefully nurtured reforms and policies of the previous decades came undone.

At the conclusion of this war, the government had to start the rebuilding of state finances. The French were bent on revenge for the humiliations they had suffered at British hands. A ruinously expensive naval rebuilding and expansion program was begun. Upon the death of Louis XV (b.1710, 1715-1774), his politically uncertain, clumsy and inexperienced grandson, Louis XVI (b.1754, 1774-1792), assumed the throne. Lacking the desire to govern, Louis XVI proved hopelessly inadequate to the task of running Europe's largest state.



Medal showing the busts of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, king and queen of France (1774-1791)

continued on next page

His reign was marked by indecision, vacillation and the infighting of court factions, which prevented any consistency in government policy or thorough reforms. The one firm decision, namely to aid Britain's thirteen rebellious colonies in North America, would prove disastrous for France and the Bourbon dynasty. At the time however, it seemed the perfect opportunity for France to avenge itself for the humiliations suffered during the Seven Years War at British hands.

Following the British humiliating defeat in the American War, Louis XVI's domestic popularity and France's international standing soared. It proved to be a Pyrrhic victory; its spoils short lived, expensive and illusory.

The bulk of the costs of the war had been financed by heavy state borrowing under the direction of Jacques Necker, **Directeur-General de Finance**, effectively minister of finance. Financial calculations were based upon the assumption and hope that it was to be a short war, without new taxes - *sounds familiar?* The actual cost had not been felt by Louis XVI's subjects, as taxes had not been increased significantly. This was about to change.

In an effort to win public confidence in the crown's finances and keep interest rates on state debt from rising ever higher, in February 1781 Necker took the unheard of step to publish the **Compte Rendu au Roi** ('Account for the King'). State finances hitherto had been a closely guarded state secret. Despite its name, it was not a confidential report of the state's finances prepared for the king; rather it was an 'open and transparent public disclosure' of the state's financial position. The **Compte Rendu** purported to show an average yearly expenditure of 400 million livres with a surplus of 10 million. However, it crucially omitted the full extent of the state's indebtedness as a result of the American War.⁵ Necker's accounting methods are still the subject of heated scholarly debate and can be interpreted in a variety of ways. The fact remains that they did not provide a true accounting of crown finances and indebtedness.

The tactic to publish was a very successful public relations exercise, which initially produced the desired effect. Almost overnight, it sold 100,000 copies.⁶ It increased public and creditor confidence. Long-term however, it proved to be one of the main reasons for the French Revolution of 1789. It exposed the crown and its finances to public scrutiny and criticism. This was further exacerbated by the suspicions raised when Louis XVI refused to publish any subsequent **Compte Rendu** after Necker's resignation in May 1781.

His resignation was the culmination of the political infighting at the court of Versailles.

The Geneva born Necker, although viewed as a financial wizard, was regarded a parvenue by the French political and social elite. He was not of noble birth and had made his fabulous fortune thorough state lending and grain speculation. The fact that he was also a foreigner and a Protestant made him even more vulnerable to political attack. His monetary and fiscal policies, especially the austerity measures imposed on government departments and ministries, made him many enemies. The most powerful of whom was Marie-Antoinette, Queen of France.



Medal showing the bust of Jacques Necker (1732 - 1804), banker and financier, born Geneva, Switzerland, director-general of finances under Louis XVI, from 1776 - 1781, dismissed. Recalled 1788, dismissed 1789, recalled same year due to popular outcry, dismissed 1790. He favored use of loans over taxation to fund state war expenditures. He opposed issuance of assignats.

Following Necker's resignation, France's financial pyramid began to collapse. By 1783, the American War had added 1 billion livres to the state debt, at an interest cost of between 100 - 130 million livres. His successor discovered that the 'surplus' was in reality a 15 million livres deficit and that the state would run deficits of 50 million livres for at least the next decade.⁷ The only solution possible was to raise new taxes and increase existing ones. This is exactly what happened. Coupled with bad harvests and a deteriorating economy, this led to widespread suffering. The situation continued to worsen and by 1787, the annual deficit had grown to 112 million livres and 40 percent of state expenditures went to debt servicing.⁸

The government, attempting to raise more revenue and broaden the tax base by proposing to tax land owners, including the nobility and the Church, met with stiff opposition. Furthermore the bourgeoisie, represented by the assemblies and parlements began to demand the right to vote on taxation. The absolutist political and social structure of Bourbon France, without an effective monarch at its head, began to crack. The crown was weakened by its inability to deal with its financial problems, causing these to give rise to a dangerous political crisis. **continued on next page**

The government, increasingly desperate, began to pass laws and take action which infringed upon or offended many ancient institutions, rights, customs and privileges. When Louis XVI was questioned in public by the Duc d'Orleans (his cousin) about the legality of certain measures, the king replied in frustration: "**C'est légal parce que je le veux**".⁹

Opposition to royal authority continued to grow, led by the nobility, which while defending its own privileges, assumed the fiction of being defenders of the people against ministerial despotism. Goodwill and cooperation had vanished. The competing parties opportunistically tried to turn circumstances to their advantage, not realizing that they were setting in motion their own destruction. The ground had begun to shift, at first imperceptibly, but as events unfolded, the political storm began to gain a momentum of its own, dragging all and everything into the vortex.

The government's decision to call the Estates-General or national parliament, in an attempt to gain broad based support for its policies, further complicated the delicate political situation and made it explosive.¹⁰ Unwittingly it had created a public platform for debate, criticism and airing of grievances by the newly politicized bourgeoisie against the crown and France's social, political and economic system. Once convened, it proved impossible to control.

In late 1788, the government effectively defaulted on its obligations. State credit and credibility had vanished, people were rushing to convert crown paper into coin. Rumors of state bankruptcy were swirling everywhere. In desperation Louis XVI, with the grudging support of Marie-Antoinette, was forced to recall Necker.¹¹

On Necker shoulders were placed the hopes of many. He reassured creditors by making large loans to the state from his own vast fortune. The bourgeoisie saw him as champion of reform. His dismissal on 11 July 1789, due to court intrigue, was seen as confirmation that Louis XVI, imagined or not, was becoming a despot, intent on crushing any opposition. It caused widespread panic, politically and fiscally, and was one of the triggers for the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789. Across France unrest spread.

The crown lost control of events. The Constituent or National Assembly, as the Third Estate of the Estates-General had renamed itself, became the de facto government. The Assembly, having acknowledged the national debts, began the process of financial reform. Necker was recalled. The crisis of 1789 caused tax revenues to plummet and the financial reforms, which took time to implement, caused liquidity problems. To deal with this, the Assembly fiercely debated its options. The solution

was the **assignat**. It was a compromise between those calling for the issuance of irredeemable paper and those, such as Necker, who advocated more traditional fiscal means. The **assignat** was an interest-bearing treasury note secured or assigned against real property. To provide this security all urban and rural Church real property was nationalized. This amounted to the seizure of between 1/4 and 1/3 of all real property in France and was valued at 1 billion livres. The initial issuance was 400 million livres of notes, bearing 5% interest, restricted to the purchase of nationalized lands only. To ensure this, the issuance was in large denominations of 1,000; 300 and 200 livres - too large for use in daily transactions.¹² France's financial difficulties appeared to be on the mend! Were they truly? Stay tuned. Pierre Driessen

1) "The Great Nation - France from Louis XV to Napoleon", Jones, Colin: p.159; 2) Ibid, p.161-162; 3) the foundation for this peaceful acquisition had been laid diplomatically in 1739; 4) started as boundary disputes in North America and are thus also known as 'The French-Indian Wars'; 5) Ibid, p301-321. 6) Ibid, p.314; 7) Ibid, p.318; 8) Ibid, p.382; 9) Ibid, p.387 - "It is legal because it is my will"; 10) Composed of the First Estate (nobility), Second Estate (clergy) and the Third Estate (bourgeoisie), this body had last met in 1614; 11) The 1st ministerial recall of the 18th century. Ministers normally retired or went into exile. This was a great embarrassment for Louis XVI, as it undermined his standing in the absolutist system; Ibid, p.392; 12) "Fiat Money Inflation in France", White, Andrew

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Canadian Coin History

For May

BY KEN POLSSON

May of 1921 saw a law passed to create the nickel 5-cent piece. On May 3, Canadian parliament passed legislation to amend the Currency Act, and royal assent was given on May 11. The silver 5-cent piece was so tiny (1.167 grams, 15.5mm diameter), it acquired the nick-name "fish scale". The American 5-cent in silver was dropped in 1873, and a larger nickel coin was first minted in 1866. The reverse of Canada's first nickel coin was designed by W.H.J. Blakemore (who also designed the Edward VII bust, the silver 5-cent reverse of 1902-21, the 1-cent reverse of 1920-36, the 1911 pattern dollar reverse, and several Australian reverses). Production of the coins began in January 1922, with Governor General Julian Byng striking the first two coins. Up to the present day, the "nickel" has also been struck in tombac (1943-44), chromium-plated steel (1944-45, 1951-54), copper-nickel (1982-2001), and nickel-plated steel (2000-date).

Other events in May:

May 1, 1935 - Canada's first silver dollar is released to the public, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the accession to the throne of King George V.

May 2, 1901 - Finance Minister Fielding gives notice in the House of Commons of a resolution to establish a branch of the Royal Mint in Canada.

May 3, 1999 - The Mint launches the fifth Millennium 25-cent coin in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The coin depicts fur traders and explorers in a canoe.

May 3, 2007 - The Mint unveils a 2007 \$1 million gold Maple Leaf bullion coin, with 50cm diameter. This is the world's highest denomination gold coin.

May 7, 1987 - The first bronze circulating dollar coin is struck.

May 7, 1992 - In Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, the fifth 25-cent issue in the Canada 125 Coin Program is unveiled.



May 7, 2005 - The Mint launches the 1945-2005 commemorative 5-cent circulating coin featuring a torch and "V" design.

May 7, 2008 - The Mint unveils a \$2 circulating coin for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City.

May 11, 1920 - A proclamation describes the design of the new 1-cent coin, with a 3/4-inch diameter.

May 14, 1910 - The Currency Act is proclaimed, authorizing a silver dollar, and gold coins from \$2.50 to \$20 face value.

May 16, 1976 - A 1911 silver pattern dollar is sold at auction for \$110,000.

May 16, 2002 - The Mint launches the new circulating 2002 50-cent coin commemorating the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

May 25, 1965 - A new mint facility of the Royal Canadian Mint is established in Hull, Quebec, for striking collector coins.

May 27, 1999 - The Mint launches a circulating 1999 \$2 coin commemorating the creation of Nunavut territory.

May 1912 - The first \$5 and \$10 Canadian gold pieces are minted.

May 1997 - The Mint begins selling coins via its Internet Web site, the first mint in the world to do so.

You can find more Canadian coin history on my Web site timeline: Chronology of Canadian Coins, <http://www.islandnet.com/~kpolsson/cancoin>

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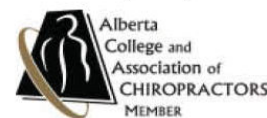
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PROGRAM OF EVENTS HELD DURING THE RCNA CONVENTION

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Education Symposium [Calgary]
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon CPMS Executive Meeting [Canmore room]
 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Outgoing RCNA Executive Meeting (all RCNA members are invited to attend as observers) [Fort McMurray]
 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. RCNA President's & Edmonton Numismatic Society Welcome Reception (for Registrants and bourse dealers/assistants/spouses only - entry by registration and bourse badge only) - Full complimentary bar and hors d'oeuvres [Bi-Level Suite]

Thursday, August 13, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Tour #1A (Royal Alberta Museum) Bus leaves Hotel at 8:30 a.m. Take a behind the scenes tour into the currency vaults of the RAM. Guests will be able to see a wide selection of historical items that are not on display for the general public.**
 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open (for all registrants and bourse dealers with assistants/spouses only - registration or bourse badge required for admittance) - complimentary coffee, soft drinks & snacks [Bi-Level Suite]
 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Tour #1B (Royal Alberta Museum) Bus leaves Hotel at 12:45 p.m. Take a behind the scenes tour into the currency vaults of the RAM. Guests will be able to see a wide selection of historical items that are not on display for the general public.**
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Royal Canadian Mint Reception (open to registrants and bourse Dealers/spouses - admittance by registration or bourse badge only) [Top of the Inn]
 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. RCNA Past Presidents' Dinner (by invitation only) [Red Deer]

Friday, August 14, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. RCNA Club Delegates' Breakfast meeting (pre-purchased tickets required) [Emerald/Sapphire]
 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Spousal Continental Breakfast for registered spouses only (i.e., spouse must be a Registrant to attend) [Diamond]
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon J. Douglas Ferguson Foundation Executive Meeting (by invitation only) [Emerald/Sapphire]
 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open (for all registrants and bourse dealers with assistants/spouses only - registration or bourse badge required for admittance) - complimentary coffee, soft drinks & snacks [room?]
 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Coin Kids Table open
 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. CPMS - Canadian Paper Money Society Luncheon & General Meeting (pre-purchased tickets required) - luncheon; annual meeting [Diamond]
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CEVNA - Canadian Errors & Varieties Numismatic Association Meeting (everyone is invited to attend) [Emerald/Sapphire]
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Tour #2 (Old Strathcona Tour) Take a unique tour thru historic Old Strathcona. During the tour attendees are invited to take in the sights and sounds of one of Canada's Largest Fringe Festivals that is performed during the convention.**
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CMNS - Classical and Medieval Numismatic Society Meeting (everyone is invited to attend) [Fort McMurray]
 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. NNE - Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts Meeting (everyone is invited to attend) [Calgary]
 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Ft. Edmonton BBQ. Come join us for a truly remarkable experience. Attendees are driven down from the hotel to the historical Fort Edmonton Park. At the park you will experience the rustic western theme and unique surroundings of the old fort. Located in the Clerks Quarters, a steak BBQ will be served in true Alberta Style. Please join us for this once in a lifetime opportunity.**

Saturday, August 15, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CNRS - Canadian Numismatic Research Society Breakfast Meeting (admittance restricted to CNRS members with pre-purchased tickets) [Medicine Hat]
 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. IBNS - International Bank Note Society Meeting (everyone invited) [Canmore]
 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Bourse & Exhibits open to public
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon RCNA General Meeting (all RCNA members are encouraged to attend) President's report, annual financial report, etc. [Crystal Gallery]
 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open (for all registrants and bourse dealers/ assistants/spouses only) - registration or bourse badge required for admittance) - complimentary coffee, soft drinks & snacks [room?]
 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Coin Kids Table open
 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. RCNA Award Presentations (all RCNA members are encouraged to attend) [Crystal Gallery]
 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. CATC - Canadian Association of Token Collectors Meeting (everyone invited to attend) [Calgary]
 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. RCNA Coin Kids Forum & Junior Auction (all young collectors are invited to attend) door prizes, special presentations, and junior auction. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend as observers. [Edmonton North/South]
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Spouse Craft Session [Bi-Level Suite]
 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CTCCC - Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club Meeting (everyone invited) [Medicine Hat]
 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Reception with cash bar (banquet ticket holders only) [Crystal Gallery]
 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. RCNA Banquet (pre-purchased tickets required) presentation of major numismatic awards; keynote speaker. [Crystal Gallery]

Sunday, August 16, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Incoming RCNA Executive Meeting) [Fort McMurray]
 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CAWMC - Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors Breakfast - (pre-purchased tickets required) [Jasper]

BOURSE OPEN: THURSDAY 10:10-17:30, FRIDAY 10:00-17:30, SATURDAY 10:00-17:30

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - NOT FINALIZED

**The Royal Canadian Numismatic Association
Edmonton Convention August 12 - 16, 2009
Registration Form**

Name: _____ RCNA #: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Names of spouse or family members also registering (required for name badges, please indicate (S) for spouse and (J) for Junior): _____

Note any special dietary requirements: _____

Accommodation: Contact the **Delta Edmonton South Hotel and Conference Centre, 4404 Gateway Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5C2** by **July 1, 2009** to receive special convention rates. Quote group code "Canadian Numismatic GNK08" **Delta room: \$145.00; Premier room: \$165.00; Deluxe room: \$185.00** Canadian funds, single or double occupancy. **Toll Free 1-888-890-3222** or 780-434-6415 direct to the hotel. Book online at www.rcna.ca/2009edmonton.php

Note: Delta rooms are limited in number!

Exhibitors: _____ Please indicate here if you intend to exhibit competitively so we can mail or e-mail the appropriate exhibitor application form. Or visit the RCNA Website www.rcna.ca/2009exhibits.php

Bourse dealers: Your bourse fee entitles entry to the bourse for yourself and one assistant per table, admission to the RCNA President's & Edmonton Numismatic Society Welcome Reception the Royal Canadian Mint Reception and unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite. It does not include a registration package. If a dealer wishes to acquire a convention medal, tickets to the RCNA Banquet, or other items detailed below, they must place an order via this form, at the appropriate additional cost.

QTY ITEM OR ACTIVITY

COST

_____ **Main Registration Kit for RCNA Members @ \$50** \$ _____

Main registration for RCNA members includes: one (1) copper convention medal; convention badge; souvenir program; admission to bourse floor and exhibits throughout the show; admission to the RCNA President's & Edmonton Numismatic Society Welcome Reception, the Royal Canadian Mint Reception and unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite.

_____ **Main Registration Kit for Non-RCNA Members @ \$85** \$ _____

Main registration for non-RCNA members includes: one (1) copper convention medal; convention badge; souvenir program; admission to bourse floor and exhibits throughout the show; admission to the RCNA President's & Edmonton Numismatic Society Welcome Reception, the Royal Canadian Mint Reception and unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite. (Note that non-member registrations include a one (1) year membership in the RCNA)

_____ **Spousal Registration Kit @ \$35** (only with a Main Registration kit) \$ _____

Form Continues on the back side of this page. Form & Program courtesy of <http://www.rcna.ca>

Spousal registration includes: one convention badge, souvenir program; admission to bourse floor and exhibits throughout the show; admission to the RCNA President's & Edmonton Numismatic Society Welcome Reception, the Royal Canadian Mint Reception and unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite. Also includes Friday Continental Breakfast (see below to register).

_____ **Junior Registration Kit @ \$40** (16 years old or younger). \$ _____

Junior registration includes one (1) copper convention medal; convention badge; souvenir program; admission to bourse floor and exhibits throughout the show; admission to the RCNA President's & Edmonton Numismatic Society Welcome Reception, the Royal Canadian Mint Reception and unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite. Junior registration kit also includes a recent edition of the Charlton Coin Catalogue, Auction Dollars good for bidding in Coin Kids Auction, and a variety of other surprises

_____ **Silver RCNA 2009 Convention Medal @ \$45** (limited edition) \$ _____

_____ **Extra Copper RCNA 2009 Convention Medal @ \$20** \$ _____

Note that one Copper Convention medal is included with Main and Junior kits.

_____ **Museum Tour 1* @ \$20** Thurs., Aug. 13 9:00 am - noon \$ _____

_____ **Museum Tour 2* @ \$20** Thurs., Aug. 13 1:30 - 4:30 pm \$ _____

Maximum of 20 people on each tour. Admission by draw.

_____ **Royal Canadian Mint Reception** Thur., Aug. 13 6:00 - 8:00 pm \$ _____ N/C _____

For registrants and bourse dealers and registered assistants and spouses only.

_____ **Spousal Continental Breakfast** Fri., Aug. 14 8:00 - 10:00 am \$ _____ N/C _____

For registered spouses only. Controlled admission.

_____ **Club Delegates' Breakfast @ \$20** Fri. Aug. 14 8:00 - 10:00 am \$ _____

_____ **CPMS Luncheon @ \$25** Fri. Aug. 14 12:00 - 1:30 pm \$ _____

_____ **Old Strathcona Tour 3 @ \$20.00** Fri. Aug. 14 1:00 - 4:00 pm \$ _____

_____ **Steak BBQ Fort Edmonton Park @ \$59** Fri. Aug. 14 7:00-9:30 pm \$ _____

_____ **CNRS Breakfast @ \$20** Sat. Aug. 15 8:00 - 9:30 am \$ _____

_____ **Banquet @ \$60; Children < 12, \$25** Sat. Aug. 15 6:30 - 10:00 pm \$ _____

_____ **CAWMC Breakfast @ \$20** Sun., August 16, 8:00 - 9:30 am \$ _____

_____ **Take in both Fri. night Steak BBQ & Sat. Banquet for only \$110** \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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Jamie Horkulak: jhrlrd@shaw.ca 780-468-9612 evenings/weekends; 780-903-5343 weekdays.

* Please note the following when considering signing up for the Royal Alberta Museum "behind-the-scenes" tours. Access to the numismatics vault requires passage through a room containing sacred objects belonging to several North American First Nations. First Nations spiritual beliefs and practices stipulate that women menstruating (in their monthly period) are not to come into contact or proximity of these objects. The Museum requests that visitors abide by this practice. Please take this into consideration when deciding to join the Royal Alberta Museum Tour. Viewing of the vault will last no more than five minutes. Additional numismatics items will be on display in an adjacent room.

.....*Continued from cover*

When they decided to run the 'No Tanker Loonie' campaign, I doubt anyone at the Dogwood Initiative envisioned that their main foes would end up being government lawyers and coin collectors. Then again, it is doubtful that the environmentalist crowd could know that their zeal for the integrity of mother earth could be matched by the zeal of the numismatic community for the integrity of Canadian coinage. In fact, it seems that the group was genuinely surprised at the threat of legal actions from the Royal Canadian Mint. In response, Dogwood's Communications Director stated, "We feel that the risk of an oil spill outweighs the risk of prosecution. There's nothing to prevent people from using these coins and furthermore we encourage them to use them and continue putting them into circulation." The truth is, the group could probably not be more pleased at the further controversy with the Royal Canadian Mint that their campaign has drawn. By threatening legal action against the group, the Mint has probably given them for more publicity than their decal

campaign would have otherwise generated. The group says it plans to continue its decal campaign at least until the B.C. provincial election on May 12th. And why should they not? After all, defacing money has been used as a form of political protest for thousands of years. Considering the publicity, it's not such a 'loony idea' after all.

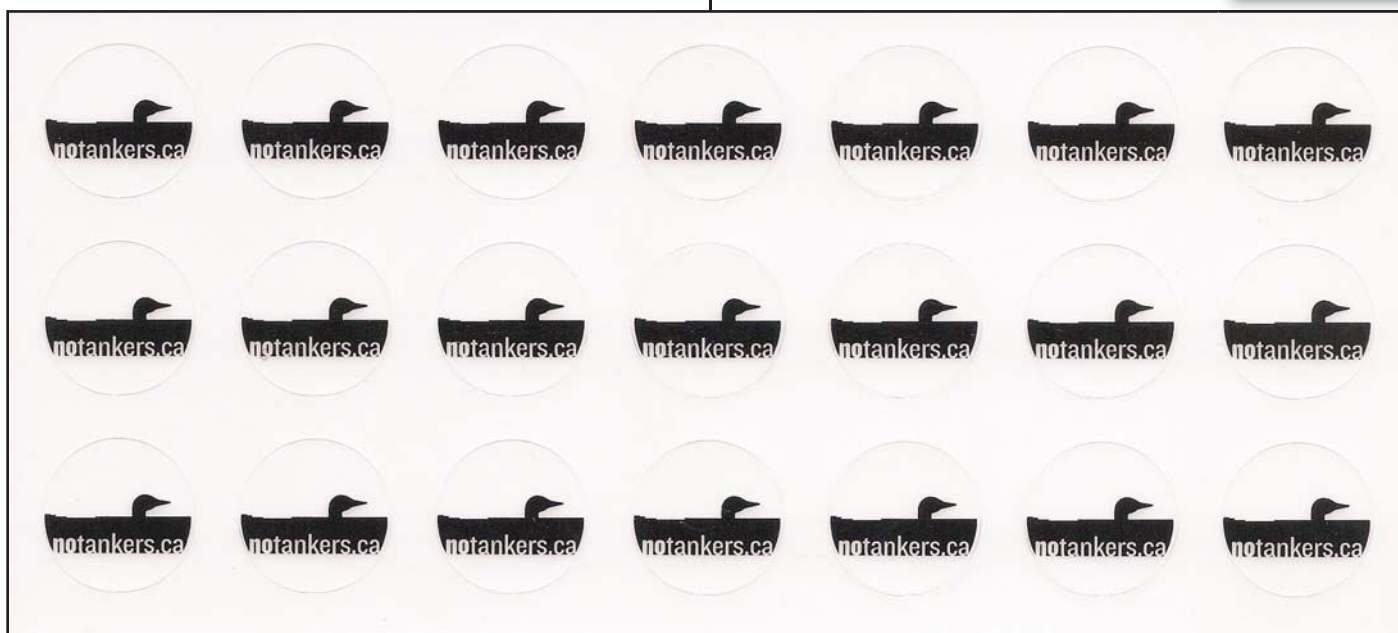
By Graham Sproule.

Sources:

<http://dogwoodinitiative.org/notankers/>

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/13912/>

http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/show-doc/cs/C-52/bo-ga:l_I-gb:s_11/en#anchorbo-ga:l_I-gb:s_11



The Dogwood Initiative issued these decals in various forms. One form (top) consists of 3 decals with a bottom example of what the finished loonie will look like. The bottom of the stick reads "stick on a loonie to make a difference". These small sticks were issued as giveaways to be given out for free to people on the street. The larger sheet (above) was produced as a fundraising medium for the campaign. For a \$10 donation a person would receive 2 sheets of decals (42 in total), for a donation of \$25 a person would receive 6 sheets of decals (126 in total) and for a donation of \$100 a person would receive a "party kit" of 25 sheets (525 decals in total). The decals themselves use a simple static charge to apply themselves to the loonies. If applied to older circulated loonies the dirt and grime under the decal would cause it to fall off after only a few days in circulation.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Edmonton Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 75024, Ritchie P.O.
Edmonton Alberta Canada T6E 6K1

Membership Application & Renewal Form

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____

province/state: _____

country: _____

postal/zip code: _____

tel (home): (____) _____

tel (work): (____) _____

fax: (____) _____

e-mail: _____

areas of interest / collecting: _____

membership rates (annual - January to December)

select the membership type desired

Canadian residents: Canadian funds

- regular / family: 15.00 _____
- junior (16 or younger): 5.00 _____
- lifetime (after 1 year regular member) 300.00 _____

US residents: US funds

- regular / family: 20.00 _____
- junior (16 or younger): 10.00 _____

Oversees residents: Canadian funds

- regular / family: 40.00 _____
- junior (16 or younger): 20.00 _____

Please accept my application for membership in the Edmonton Numismatic Society, subject to the Bylaws of the Society. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Society.

date: _____

signature: _____

HOW TO APPLY / REGISTER and PAY

- in person at any ENS meeting or show
- mail to the address above
- electronically via the ENS website at
www.edmontoncoinclub.com

cheques payable to: The Edmonton Numismatic Society

for further details see the ENS website

www.edmontoncoinclub.com

Become a member! You are amongst friends!

We encourage you to become a member of the Edmonton Numismatic Society, western Canada's premier and most diverse numismatic collector club. Founded in 1953 to bring together those individuals interested in collecting and studying Canadian Coins and Paper Money, US Coins and Paper Money, Ancient Coins, Mediaeval Coins, World Coins and Paper Money, Medals, Exonumia and any other related subject areas.

Membership has its privileges and benefits:

- monthly meetings - refreshments served
- monthly presentations and activities
- annual barbecue
- lending library
- silent auctions to sell your surplus items
- two annual coins shows
- access to the knowledge and expertise of fellow members
- subscription to the *Planchet* (published 10 times per year) to name but a few.

Current member !

If you are an ENS member, we encourage you to keep your membership and dues current. For us to stay in touch and for you to continue to receive your full ENS membership benefits, please provide us with your current information and notify us of any changes as soon as possible.



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Disclaimer:

The opinions herein are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Edmonton Numismatic Society.

EDITORS NOTE

As we pull out of the winter stretch and await the warm summer I look back on what the ENS has accomplished over the past year. It is surprising to see how much our club has done, from updating the constitution, the revamping of *The Planchet* to the streamlining of our money show. In fact, the club has done so much in the past year that it is hard to see how we can improve on such excellence. Just to point out, these improvements could not have been done without the dedicated work of club volunteers. It seems that there are no limits to where the club can go with so many dedicated and diverse members. Looking ahead we have the upcoming RCNA convention and the November money show on our agenda. With the RCNA in general, we have the opportunity to show the rest of Canada that the Edmonton Numismatic Society is the true model of a perfect coin club. I may be bias on my opinion, but the work we have put forward in developing our club truly warrants recognition. Thank you to all the club volunteers, *The Planchet* columnists, and distribution team for your dedicated work.

Matt Sztym
Editor, *The Planchet*

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COMING EVENTS

MAY 22 - 24, St. Catharines, ON

TNS Spring Show, Quality Hotel, 327 Ontario St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m Contact; rscoins@cogeco.ca

MAY 23 - 24, Winnipeg, MB

Manitoba Coin Club Spring Show, Royal Canadian Mint, 520 Lagimodiere Blvd. Contact: mbcoin@shaw.ca

JUNE 27 - 28, Toronto, ON

Torex Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Road, Mississauga Ballroom. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

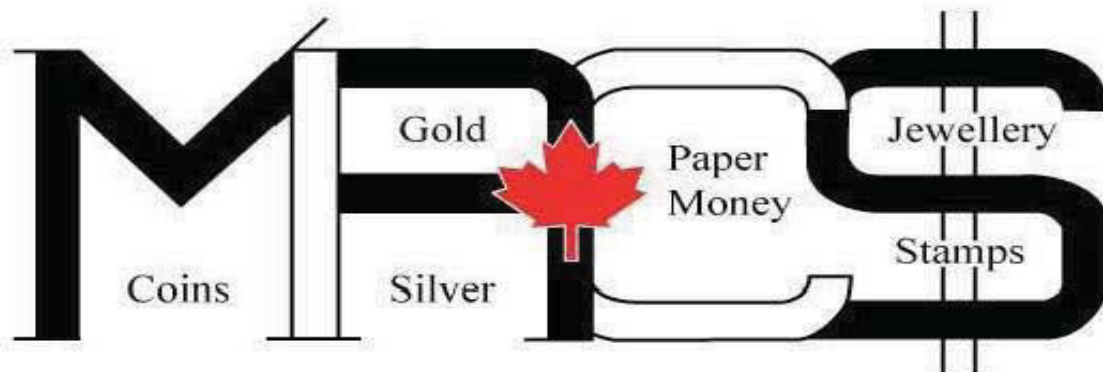
JULY 24 - 26, Halifax, NS

East Coast Extravaganza, Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia, 1919 Upper Water St. citadelcoins@eastlink.ca

August 12-16 2009, Edmonton, AB

Royal Canadian Numismatic Association Annual Convention. Delta South 4404 Gateway Blvd. Hosted by the Edmonton Numismatic Society. www.rcna.ca

Email your events to editor_ens@yahoo.ca



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