

The Planchet

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOL 56. ISSUE 8

September 2009

\$4.25



THIS ISSUE

Canadian 2000 P Dime

Coins of the RCNA

dts Average (NEW)

English ... Base Metal Coinage

Guest Editorial

NEXT MEETING

SILENT AUCTION

Wednesday, 14 October 2009
Doors 7:00 pm Meeting 7:30pm
Royal Alberta Museum
12845 102 Ave, Edmonton

CONTACT

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Canada

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Welcome back, job very well done!

To all a warm welcome back. For many of us it has been a very exciting and hectic numismatic summer. Congratulations and thank you to everybody who made the RCNA 2009 Convention a resounding success. You can be proud of a job very well done.

Attendance, by registered delegates, visitors and dealers, was excellent. From the comments which are coming in, all had a great "old time in Edmonton in '09".

The volunteers and organizers made this Convention a smoothly run affair. Education sessions and club meetings went off without a hitch and were well attended.

The number and variety of exhibits blew away even our wildest expectations. Many ENS club members won prizes for their interesting and well designed displays. Lets keep up this good work at our regular shows.

The action on the bourse floor was brisk, with an excellent and different mix of dealers; many of whom brought stock that was varied, of good quality and at times very reasonably priced.

Your executive is working hard to make some of these dealers regulars at our shows.

Tours and social events were full and in some cases over-subscribed. Luckily no one had to be disappointed. Our thanks to:

- the Royal Alberta Museum and

Mr. Sean Muir; the Old Strathcona Business Association and Mrs. Shirley Lowe; Elizabethan Catering and Mrs. Michelle Reiter; Fort Edmonton Park and Mrs. Louis Chippendale; Cunningham Transport and Mrs. Jeanne Cunningham; Save-On-Foods Edmonton South and staff; Mitchell Entertainment and Mr. Tony Michael; Budget Rent-A-Car and the Edmonton Delta South and staff for their excellent work & support.

We also thank the many sponsors whose generous contributions allowed for those extra touches which made this Convention that much more memorable.

Most importantly we give a special thank you to the spouses of the volunteers. Without your support and understanding this Convention would not have been possible.

Thank you!

We can all be proud of the fact that the 1st annual Royal Canadian Numismatic Association Convention was a resounding success!



obverse of the 2009 Convention medal, designed by ENS club member John Callaghan. Pictures the steamer "City of Edmonton" 1909. Struck in silver and copper.

Message from the President

Welcome back from our summer break. And what a summer it was with the ENS hosting the first ever RCNA convention! All reports confirm it was a great show, and everyone enjoyed the various tours we had to offer. The educational talks were well attended as were the various receptions. Paid attendants were just under 500, plus over 130 registrants.

I'd like to extend a personal thanks to the volunteers who did all the organizing beforehand, namely Matt Sztym, who had our Prosperity woods made and assembled the registrant kits, along with Pierre Driessen and Marc Bink.

And many thanks to the volunteers who kept things running smoothly during, especially Greg Wichman, Bob and Pat Eriksson, Marv Berger, Roger Grove, John Callaghan, Dave Peter, Tony Peter and Terry Cheesman. A special thanks has to go out to Kim Peter for getting the media coverage, and James Williston, president of the Calgary club, for graciously lending and delivering to us 80+ display cases. We needed every case.

The finances have not been finalized yet, but we do foresee splitting a healthy profit with the RCNA.

There will be a show wrap-up get together for all the show volunteers in the near future, but a date has yet to be announced.

A number of us were disappointed to not win club of the year despite the ENS's list of accomplishments in 2008 were not surpassed. Equally disappointing was not winning newsletter of the year despite the Planchet being clearly the best newsletter in the country. Oh well, this experience should make us stronger to try again next year...onward and upward!

Congratulations to ENS member and past president Dan Gosling for becoming the new president of the RCNA! I'm sure all his experience as ENS president will assist him in his demanding job ahead.

The next show is just a couple months away, November 7th and 8th and we are already preparing for that.

With the new season upon us we'd like to remind you we are always looking for guest speakers for our regular Wednesday meetings, and we'd love to hear about your area of expertise.

The ENS's main objective is numismatic education, and what better way to spread the word about your passion than to write an article for the Planchet! Our editor always loves to receive new articles to publish so be sure to contact him about your article ASAP.

See you at the upcoming meetings,

Jamie

On behalf of the Executive of the ENS and as Volunteer Coordinator I'd like to thank the following people for their volunteer contribution to make the RCNA Convention a smashing success:

Cathy Arbeau, Randy Ash, Marv Berger, Tracey and Marc Bink, Gillian Budd, Shaun Bouchard, John Callaghan, Lance Casagrande, Terry Cheesman, Ermin Chow, Bill Demontigny, Pierre Driessen, Bob and Pat Eriksson, Bob and Dianne Fillman, Howard and Dorothy Gilbey, Dan & Judi Gosling, Mitch Goudreau, Don Griffiths, Roger Grove, Sir Chris Hale, Jamie Horkulak, Dianne Kennedy, Jim Kindrake, Peggy Keene, Elmer Lupul, Markus Molenda, Larry Priestnal, David Peter, Kim Peter, Tony Peter, Jules Rach, Ray Schapansky, Matt Sztym, Andy Vanderleest, Jim Vanderleest, Greg Wichman, and finally James Williston.

Thanks to your generous time commitments we were able to show the RCNA the proper way to host a convention!

Cheers!

Marc Bink

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NEXT CLUB MEETING

October 2009

Wednesday October 14, 2009
Royal Alberta Museum 12845-102Ave
Doors open at 7:00pm Meeting starts 7:30pm

*Door Prizes
*Refreshments
*Guest Speakers
*Silent Auction
*Announcements
*Fellowship
& MORE!

*Please join us this October and
meet fellow collectors from the
Edmonton area.*

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

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for further details see the ENS website

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

A Penny's Worth

By Marc Bink

Every so often a coin story comes around that captures the public imagination, and gets people hunting around in their change and smashing innocent piggy-banks. Modern Canadian Decimal rarities are almost unheard of, and whenever one comes up, the general public and the collecting world are almost always caught unawares. This is the story of one such coin; I'll try to cover others in some later articles.

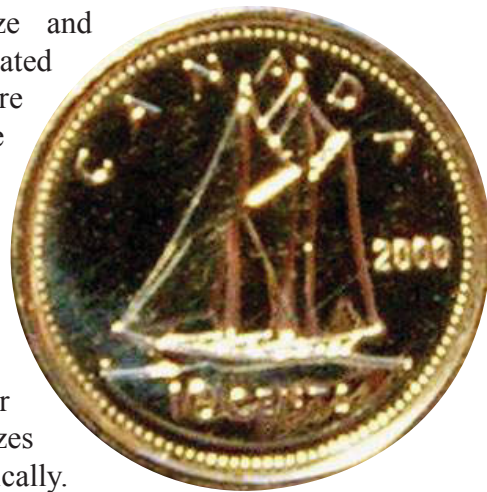
Last week the Edmonton Numismatic Society (ENS) hosted the annual Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) convention. Actually, it was the first "RCNA" convention since being granted Royal patronage in January, prior to that, the RCNA was just the "CNA". The show's local organizers were faced with the usual problem of how to get the media interested in our coin convention. The ENS' superb press group found a novel solution to the problem; feed the media a story about a recent rarity that essentially could be in anyone's pocket, the 2000 P Dime.

I've never seen one. I've seen a 1999 P set, I should have bought it, but I couldn't reconcile myself to spend over \$200.00 for what amounted to \$0.91 in change. The 2000 P set seems to be a bit more elusive though, I was told they were rare back in 2001 and haven't ever seen one. I kind of figured more would eventually turn up, and it would be a story like the 1991 quarter or the 1978 small beads quarter, at first rare, and then millions turn up. So I waited. I'm still waiting, but it seems that this coin really is rare. So what does the "P" mean, and what's the big deal?

In 1997 the RCM (Royal Canadian Mint) opened a new plating plant in Winnipeg, to make their own Aureate and multi-ply style blanks for regular coinage. Plated coins were scheduled to come out starting in the 2001 year, along with the regular pure nickel coinage. The new plated coinage is marked with a small "P" under the Queen's portrait to indicate that they were plated. That should have been the end of the story, but in actuality it was just beginning.

The vending machine companies needed to adjust their machines to accept the new coinage. This would seem like a small problem, but reality of it was that it was not. Some vending machines, particularly the older ones, work on size recognition, or weight. No problem

there; the size and weight of the plated coinage are similar if not the same. Newer and more sophisticated machines have a chip and a microprocessor that recognizes coins electronically.



It was these later machines that were expected to give the industry the most grief. In a modern coin acceptor, a magnetic field is generated by two sensors. When a coin passes between these sensors, the field changes a certain amount. These changes are measured and compared to a "known" or average value; if the coin falls within these values, it is accepted, if not, it gets ejected to the coin return. Solid nickel has a different magnetic value than plated coins do. Herein lies the problem; how does one calibrate a coin acceptor to

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accept both nickel coins and the new plated ones? This is why these sets were released in 1999 and 2000 to the vending machine industry only, and not the general public.

By then the RCM figured it had the plating formula set right to enable the new coins to be accepted along with the older nickel coins. The idea of intrinsically low value coinage had finally come of age.

A little side note; - "numismatic grade" plated coins, such as those issued in specimen sets or proof sets, will probably not work in vending machines. They are plated to double the thickness of business strikes, and as a result, have different magnetic qualities.

The idea of plated or sandwiched coins is not new.

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KELLY P. FINNEGAN, PROPRIETOR

Nickel is a major component of stainless steel and therefore the price of it can fluctuate wildly. Most mints have been challenged to keep their unit costs low; and that meant making a coinage out of a durable material. It also needed to have the feel and look of a precious metal. Both the RCM and the US mints had completed public surveys and they found that the public would probably not accept aluminum or zinc coins because of the feel, weight and the look of the coins.

The US has been using Cupronickel sandwiches since 1964 on their dimes, quarters and halves. (The US nickel has been made from cheap cupronickel since its introduction in 1867.) The sandwich approach involves cold rolling a band of copper between two cupronickel strips and then annealing it to seal it. The problem is that when this strip is sent to get punched, the copper layer shows through, and the coins are liable to split apart. The West Germans made all their smaller pfennig coins from 1949 to 2000 out of a bronze-steel sandwich, which also had the added problem of rusting when it got old.

During World War II and again during the Korean War the RCM tried to make nickels using chromium plated steel. But the chrome layer was too thin, and it wore away quickly, and the coin had an alarming tendency to rust once the chrome layer peeled off. Striking this fine layer of chrome plate almost guaranteed that the chrome layer would split and flake, so it's actually surprising to see that a lot of extremely pretty examples have survived to date. Needless to say, these were not ideal solutions to the plating problem.

Eventually bad plating came back to haunt the Europeans; when they converted to the Euro in 2001 a lot of vending machines had to be gutted to accept the new coinage, and would not work on the older stuff anymore. The Canadians needed a different solution; they weren't changing the coins and their values, just the metallic content. And the solution was to be found in their own back yard.

In 1974 Sherritt-Gordon Mines, Ltd., in Fort Saskatchewan perfected the Nickel-Bonded-Steel (NBS) process. What this entailed was taking a steel blank and plating a fine layer of nickel to it. The key was to plate each individual blank, and not the strip. A uniform thickness of nickel was plated covering the rims and edges. Then the freshly plated blank is annealed with high heat to set the nickel into the steel of the blank. This process makes for a solid coin that won't peel, but has a soft enough surface to strike

with a conventional die that doesn't accelerate die wear. This plated coin looks like a pure nickel coin and doesn't tarnish. Sherritt predicted that the market for such coins would be huge. NBS was cheaper to make than pure nickel coins. Sherritt's first sale of NBS was to a Brampton hospital for parking tokens. After that initial order, international orders started filing in. By the late 70's most of South America was using Sherritt-made NBS coins. The NBS process was proving to be a winner.

The RCM started to take notice. When Sherritt proved the viability of their new Aureate process in the late 1980's, the RCM finally decided to proceed with its own plated coinage, and work was started on the Winnipeg plating plant. Prior to this the RCM had done some tests using NBS, presumably to study the viability of the process. In 1983 a series of 10 cent, and 25 cent sized test tokens were made using the Sherritt NBS process, and were incused with "Sherritt" to identify them from others made at that time. While working with Sherritt (and later the Westaim Company which took over the Sherritt mint in 1996), the RCM came up with its own process, a multi-ply coin. This coin consisted of a fine nickel plate, followed by a fine layer of copper, and then a covering plate of nickel again all on a steel blank. They found that this recipe was the one that would insure that the new coinage would meet or exceed all the parameters placed on it.

In 1999 and in 2000 a small run of regular style, plated business strike coins were made by the RCM. Exactly how many were made depends on who you talk to. I've heard that as many as 2000 sets consisting of a nickel, dime, quarter, and a 50 cent piece were made. The 1999 P sets seem to have been delivered intact; however, the 2000 P batch was split up. An undetermined amount of sets were released, but the coins were also released separately in many different areas. In 2000 just slightly over 4,800,000 plated nickels were released into the Timmins, Ont. and Edmonton, AB, areas, and any plated dimes and quarters made that year were released only to the vending machine industry. They are all marked with a small "P" underneath the Queen's bust, like the subsequent common issues from 2001 to 2006 were.

There doesn't seem to be much

information out there that I could find on these coins either. According to the 63rd Edition of Charlton's, only six 2000 P pennies are known, but the number of dimes isn't specified. However, they show that the value of such a dime to be anywhere from \$1000.00 to \$2000.00 in MS-65. It appears they were only available in a business strike, and not marketed in any collector sets. It also appears that the plated 50 cent run was issued in RCM desk clocks, which also command a high price when found.

So again, what's the big deal? There are plenty of coins out now with that little "P" on them. Everything made from 2001 until 2006 had a little "P" on it! That's the point; there are plenty of "P" coins out there; but it seems only that the only test piece that found its way back into circulation was the 2000 P dime; the rest have disappeared, or are accounted for. It's unlikely see a 1999 P coin in circulation, as most were accounted for and they were only issued in complete sets. The 2000 P is a bit easier to hide; no one would notice them because they look similar to the 01s, 02s, etc. A small number of 2000 P dimes could be floating around anywhere; in people's change, piggy banks, or car ashtrays. – It would appear that the vending machine companies needed a few more dimes that year to calibrate their machines. But when they were done with them, they decided to spend them. How many are out there? I have no idea...all I know is that the next time I need a soda, I'll be checking my change before I dump it into a vending machine!

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Ancient/Medieval

By Terry Cheesman

Coins of the RCNA

What was the RCNA like for ancient coins? In a word Great! I cannot speak for the Canadian coin collectors, but for fans of Ancient Medieval and Early modern coinage there was a good range of coins in all price ranges. There were at least seven dealers in attendance. Among the ancient coins present were the following. A really superb Athenian Owl, a tetradrachm from Knosos in Crete with a depiction of the Labyrinth on the reverse, a very nice denarius of Julius Caesar, and a spectacular cistophorus of Augustus. There was a large number of second century denarii in very high grade and good runs of Folli of the tetrarchy and of Constantine I. Among the coins that I do not collect but very much admire, there was a large number of German talers in very high grade, a very rare double taler, as well as a very impressive Cromwell Crown in an AU grade. There was an all but unc 1797 cartwheel penny.

There were two displays that featured ancient and medieval coins. The first was a display of Roman and

early Byzantine coins which covered a period from the fifth century to the early part of the sixth century. In this display the collapse of the western Roman empire could clearly be seen in the often dreadful coins of that period. Also on display were the coins of the eastern half of the Empire which survived the collapse of the west, and whose emperors rebuilt the coinage. Some of these coins though lacking the artistic flair of the early coins a quite large, approaching the size of a U.S. silver dollar. The second display featured silver coins minted during the reign of Henry VIII of England. These coins were minted at mints controlled by the church. These coins also marked a transition as well. The first was the transformation of the state from a Catholic to a Protestant religion. The second was that these coins are all struck by hand. After Henry the Royal mint began the long and often painful switch to machine struck coins.


I cannot emphasize enough that I think this was the best show that Edmonton has ever put on, and I have been to most of them. I would also say that it has been the best show that I have seen in Canada however I have to state that I have not been to too many shows in Canada outside of Edmonton.

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1895 PCGS MS64RB	\$650.00	\$400.00		1875H ICCS VF30	\$3750.00	\$3500.00
1898 PCGS MS65RB	\$2600.00	\$2200.00		1885 PCGS AU50	\$2800.00	\$2100.00
1900 PCGS MS65RB	\$3000.00+	\$2000.00		1887 ICCS AU50 CL	\$3500.00	\$2800.00
1916 ICCS MS65RD	\$650.00	\$550.00		1912 PCGS MS63	\$1750.00	\$1350.00
Five Cent				Fifty Cent		
1875H LD PCGS VF30	\$1200.00	\$1100.00		1872H PCGS MS62	\$9000.00	\$7800.00
1885 5/5 VF30	\$535.00	\$450.00		1872H A/V ICCS VF30	\$3650.00	\$3500.00
1897 N8/W8 PCGS AU55	\$550.00	\$475.00		1890H PCGS EF45	\$12600.00	\$10520.00
1899 PCGS MS64	\$1100.00	\$800.00		1914 PCGS MS63	\$15000.00	\$12000.00
1925 ICCS EF45	\$550.00	\$450.00		1947 MLCR ICCS EF40		\$5200.00
Ten Cent				One Dollar		
1872H ICCS AU50	\$1350.00	\$1050.00		1938 PCGS MS64	\$825.00	\$675.00
1875H PCGS AU53	\$5400.00	\$4000.00		1945 ICCS MS63	\$900.00	\$750.00
1884 PCGS EF45	\$3875.00	\$3000.00		1946 PCGS MS64	\$1600.00	\$1350.00
1889 PCGS VF25	\$3750.00	\$3300.00		1948 MS60	\$1900.00	\$1750.00
1893RT ICCS VF20	\$4000.00	\$3850.00		1950 PCGS MS66	\$1500.00	\$1200.00
Currency						
1870 Commercial Bank \$5.00 F&B PF	\$1900.00	\$1400.00		1912 DC-21c F	\$1200.00	\$1150.00
1870 Commercial Bank \$10.00 F&B PF	\$1900.00	\$1400.00		1935 BC-3 \$2.00 EF++	\$1250.00	\$1000.00
1872 Molsons Bank \$4.00 F&B PF	\$2500.00	\$1950.00		1935 BC-9b PCGS VF20	\$2200.00	\$1890.00
1878 DC-8e-iii-o \$1.00 F-15	\$1325.00	\$1100.00		1935 BC-11 F+	\$4800.00	\$4600.00
1887 DC-11 \$2.00 F	\$2400.00	\$1900.00		1937 BC-27b \$100 Uunc. +	\$1150.00	\$975.00
1897 DC-14b Abt. VF	\$1750.00	\$1400.00		1954 BC-34a \$50.00 CUunc.	\$1650.00	\$1450.00

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dts Average

Victoria 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 5 8	56.76	101.84	148.58	170.28	191.99	242.07	292.15	392.32	676.13	2,588
1 8 5 9	2.92	4.84	6.51	7.60	8.68	11.19	13.69	28.38	83.47	367.28
1 8 5 9 > 9 over 8	26.71	51.75	73.46	95.99	118.53	146.91	175.29	275.46	534.22	2,671
1 8 5 9 > 9 over 9	46.74	84.10	115.69	142.30	168.91	202.78	236.64	344.32	654.42	3,005
1 8 7 6 H	2.67	4.67	6.68	7.68	8.68	12.02	15.36	36.73	80.13	383.97
1 8 8 1 H	3.34	7.18	11.35	14.94	18.53	24.37	30.22	58.43	142.74	475.79
1 8 8 2 H	2.84	5.84	7.85	9.68	11.52	16.36	21.20	38.40	79.30	400.67
1 8 8 4	2.92	5.01	7.35	9.52	11.69	15.36	19.03	40.07	115.19	509.18
1 8 8 6	3.92	7.85	11.69	15.53	19.37	27.21	35.06	71.79	166.94	692.82
1 8 8 7	2.92	5.34	7.68	9.68	11.69	17.70	23.71	45.08	106.84	434.06
1 8 8 8	2.34	4.67	7.01	7.85	8.68	11.35	14.02	26.71	66.78	267.11
1 8 9 0 H	5.34	11.35	17.03	21.04	25.04	35.06	45.08	90.23	193.66	584.31
1 8 9 1 > LL LD	5.34	10.68	16.03	23.54	31.05	44.74	58.43	110.18	225.38	734.56
1 8 9 1 > SL SD	40.07	71.79	95.16	116.03	136.89	193.66	250.42	333.89	467.45	1,519
1 8 9 1 > LL SD	56.76	100.17	143.57	167.78	191.99	254.59	317.20	592.65	1,235	5,175
1 8 9 2	4.51	9.02	15.04	18.80	22.56	25.47	28.38	61.77	111.85	450.75
1 8 9 3	2.50	4.67	6.51	7.60	8.68	11.85	15.03	30.05	73.46	292.15
1 8 9 4	8.18	16.36	21.37	25.71	30.05	39.23	48.41	88.48	158.60	509.18
1 8 9 5	4.01	8.01	13.02	16.53	20.03	25.04	30.05	61.77	106.84	417.36
1 8 9 6	2.76	5.01	6.34	7.85	9.35	11.85	14.36	26.71	66.78	283.81
1 8 9 7	2.76	5.01	6.68	8.51	10.35	12.69	15.03	33.39	80.13	342.24
1 8 9 8 H	5.18	10.02	15.36	19.20	23.04	28.21	33.39	65.11	141.90	475.79
1 8 9 9	2.67	4.67	5.68	6.84	8.01	10.85	13.69	30.05	68.45	208.68
1 9 0 0 H	2.34	4.34	5.34	6.84	8.35	10.68	13.02	25.04	50.08	133.56
1 9 0 0	5.84	11.69	17.36	22.04	26.71	35.06	43.41	88.48	191.99	826.38
1 9 0 1	2.34	4.34	5.34	6.51	7.68	9.85	12.02	25.04	51.75	161.94
Edward 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 9 0 2	1.42	2.84	3.84	4.42	5.01	7.68	10.35	14.36	33.39	95.16
1 9 0 3	1.42	2.84	3.84	4.42	5.01	7.68	10.35	16.03	40.07	113.52
1 9 0 4	1.84	3.51	4.67	5.84	7.01	9.52	12.02	22.37	56.76	156.93
1 9 0 5	2.84	5.34	7.35	8.68	10.02	12.69	15.36	28.38	68.45	217.03
1 9 0 6	1.59	3.17	4.17	4.92	5.68	7.68	9.68	22.37	51.75	258.76
1 9 0 7	1.84	3.51	4.67	5.84	7.01	9.68	12.35	25.71	51.75	283.81
1 9 0 7 H	7.85	15.36	24.37	32.22	40.07	51.75	63.44	115.29	247.08	784.64
1 9 0 8	2.00	3.84	5.01	6.34	7.68	10.35	13.02	23.37	53.42	161.94
1 9 0 9	1.30	2.42	3.59	4.13	4.67	7.51	10.35	18.36	38.40	138.56
1 9 1 0	1.25	2.34	3.26	3.80	4.34	5.69	7.04	16.03	41.74	136.89
George V 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 9 1 1	0.92	1.84	2.67	3.34	4.01	5.68	7.35	15.03	31.72	88.48
1 9 1 2	0.83	1.59	2.34	3.01	3.67	5.01	6.34	15.03	33.39	101.84
1 9 1 3	0.83	1.59	2.19	2.68	3.17	4.59	6.02	15.03	35.06	131.89
1 9 1 4	0.95	1.84	2.67	3.34	4.01	5.51	7.01	17.70	45.08	170.28
1 9 1 5	0.87	1.59	2.34	2.84	3.34	4.67	6.01	15.36	35.06	136.89
1 9 1 6	0.73	1.34	1.84	2.25	2.67	3.67	4.67	10.02	25.04	95.16
1 9 1 7	0.57	1.00	1.34	1.54	1.75	2.38	3.01	8.18	18.03	83.47
1 9 1 8	0.57	1.00	1.34	1.54	1.75	2.38	3.01	8.18	18.03	83.47
1 9 1 9	0.57	1.00	1.34	1.54	1.75	2.38	3.01	8.18	18.03	85.14
1 9 2 0 > Large	0.57	1.00	1.50	1.79	2.09	2.88	3.67	11.19	26.71	146.91
1 9 2 0 > Small	0.28	0.58	1.17	1.59	2.00	3.17	4.34	8.01	18.70	66.78
1 9 2 1	0.42	0.83	1.50	2.09	2.67	5.09	7.51	15.03	53.42	333.89
1 9 2 2	9.85	17.70	23.04	29.06	35.09	47.62	60.15	130.22	300.50	1,853
1 9 2 3	18.86	35.06	41.74	46.74	51.75	65.98	80.20	183.64	409.02	3,005
1 9 2 4	4.17	7.68	9.68	11.85	14.02	20.37	26.71	65.16	170.28	1,369
1 9 2 5	16.36	31.05	35.73	40.40	45.08	53.42	61.77	116.86	300.50	1,836
1 9 2 6	2.67	5.01	6.01	7.68	9.35	14.36	19.37	58.43	141.90	934.89
1 9 2 7	0.88	1.84	2.67	3.51	4.34	7.18	10.02	25.04	65.11	333.89
1 9 2 8	0.25	0.55	1.01	1.67	2.34	3.09	3.84	10.02	25.04	141.90
1 9 2 9	0.25	0.55	1.01	1.67	2.34	3.09	3.84	10.02	25.04	136.89
1 9 3 0	1.42	2.67	3.67	4.76	5.84	8.93	12.02	30.05	73.46	325.54
1 9 3 1	0.67	1.17	1.84	2.84	3.84	5.93	8.01	25.06	65.11	283.81
1 9 3 2	0.33	0.58	1.19	1.80	2.42	3.38	4.34	7.68	20.03	96.83
1 9 3 3	0.33	0.58	1.22	1.82	2.42	3.38	4.34	7.68	20.03	85.14
1 9 3 4	0.25	0.55	1.01	1.38	1.75	2.55	3.34	7.01	20.05	90.23
1 9 3 5	0.25	0.55	1.01	1.38	1.75	2.55	3.34	7.01	20.05	75.19
1 9 3 6	0.25	0.55	1.01	1.38	1.75	2.55	3.34	7.01	20.05	62.66
1 9 3 6 > dot	31.33	68.92	125.63	172.46	219.30	318.33	417.36	876.46	2,506	7,832

N. Brunswick 1/2¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 6 1	115.19	183.64	283.81	327.21	370.62	431.55	492.49	692.82	993.32	2,053
N. Brunswick 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 6 1	3.01	6.68	9.35	12.69	16.03	22.20	28.38	71.79	208.68	567.61
1 8 6 4 > Short 6	3.34	6.34	9.68	12.35	15.03	23.37	31.72	80.13	250.42	767.95
1 8 6 4 > Long 6	4.01	7.01	11.69	14.69	17.70	27.21	36.73	95.16	275.69	1,103
Nova Scotia 1/2¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 6 1	3.84	7.18	10.68	13.02	15.36	21.04	26.71	65.11	131.89	567.61
1 8 6 4	3.84	7.18	10.68	13.02	15.36	20.20	25.04	56.76	115.19	417.36
Nova Scotia 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 6 1 > LRG RB	2.67	4.84	7.18	9.43	11.69	17.03	22.37	60.15	166.94	634.39
1 8 6 1 > SML RB	2.76	5.01	7.51	10.10	12.69	20.53	28.38	71.79	191.99	751.88
1 8 6 2	45.08	78.46	130.22	186.14	242.07	363.11	484.14	968.28	1,937	5,275
1 8 6 4	2.67	4.84	7.35	9.85	12.35	19.53	26.71	66.78	200.50	834.72
P.E.I. 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 7 1	2.17	3.67	5.51	8.76	12.02	18.53	25.04	58.43	128.55	283.81
Newfoundland 1¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1 8 6 5	2.84	5.68	9.02	13.78	18.55	32.65	46.74	120.20	317.20	1,352
1 8 7 2 H	2.75	4.84	7.01	10.85	14.69	25.71	36.73	81.80	155.39	417.36
1 8 7 3	3.34	6.68	10.35	19.03	27.71	56.43	85.14	228.71	617.70	2,538
1 8 7 6 H	3.17	5.68	11.02	19.20	27.38	58.76	90.15	233.72	617.70	2,454
1 8 8 0 > Wide 0	2.84	4.84	8.01	13.36	18.70	40.40	62.10	113.52	242.07	934.89
1 8 8 0 > Narrow 0	123.54	225.38	400.67	517.53	634.39	818.03	1,002	1,686	2,838	7,563
1 8 8 5	26.71	44.61	97.74	124.06	150.38	221.26	292.15	550.92	1,169	4,073
1 8 8 8	25.88	50.13	100.25	134.09	167.92	246.73	325.54	734.56	1,503	6,728
1 8 9 0	2.67	4.67	12.02	18.53	25.04	53.42	81.80	233.72	467.45	2,120
1 8 9 4	2.67	4.67	9.02	13.86	18.70	36.06	53.42	158.60	317.20	1,920
1 8 9 6	2.67	4.67	6.68	12.85	19.03	30.38	41.74	108.51	217.03	876.46
1 9 0 4 H	5.51	10.68	20.03	27.38	34.72	56.59	78.46	200.33	534.22	1,452
1 9 0 7	2.09	3.84	5.68	8.68	11.69	25.88	40.07	141.90	300.50	1,235
1 9 0 9	2.09	3.84	5.68	7.85	10.02	20.87	31.72	80.13	158.60	313.28
1 9 1 3	1.09	2.00	3.01	3.67	4.34	7.18	10.02	36.73	81.80	186.98
1 9 1 7 C	1.09	2.00	3.01	3.67	4.34	7.01	9.68	36.73	125.21	437.40
1 9 1 9 C	1.09	2.00	3.01	4.51	6.01	11.35	16.69	60.10	258.76	818.03
1 9 2 0 C	1.09	2.00	3.01	5.18	7.35	16.19	25.04	100.17	425.71	2,087
1 9 2 9	1.09	2.00	3.01	3.84	4.67	6.84	9.02	36.73	100.17	225.38
1 9 3 6	1.00	2.01	3.01	3.76	4.51	6.93	9.35	20.10	55.14	150.38
1 9 3 6 > bar	21.47	42.97	64.45	80.56	96.68	148.51	200.35	430.75	1,182	3,223



(LEFT) The photo to the left shows the dts 1936 dot discovered by Dean Silver. A small pronounced dot is seen on the center of King George's neck. (scarce) (RIGHT) To the right is an example of the Newfoundland 1936 Bar variety. A strong die crack runs between the leaves at the top of the coin, joining them much like the Canadian Bar varieties.



The dts Average is a statistical average of the retail price of coins listed in different publications and magazines. Thanks to a lot of hard work done by the author, the G4 values of coins have been added for every date so that young, and new collectors and people looking to fill holes can better determine the cost of these coins. The split grade prices are also included in the dts average making it a handy guide when buying spit-grades at a show or store. If you have any questions about the dts average, you can contact the author Dean Silver through the website www.thenewcoinrealm.com.

English and British regal base metal coinage *part I*

How was the RCNA Convention for you this year? I am sure, that all the wonderful volunteers will agree that it was a lot of work! However, the few brief moments I was able to spend on the bourse floor, escaping my duties, were very fruitful. In fact the treasures I discovered proved to be the largest haul I have ever made at any coin show. I like to attribute this to the excellent work our president and bourse chairman, James Horkulak, did in bringing dealers with stock that was varied, of good quality and reasonably priced. Thank you!

Amongst my catch, one particular discovery stands out for me. It is a George III 1798 SOHO half-penny cartwheel from the Isle of Man. Although not within my primary collecting area this particular coin, which looks like a miniature medal, intrigued me. Research drew me deeper and deeper into what turned out to be the fascinating area of 18th century British regal coinage, particularly copper. An intriguing tale of counterfeiters, criminal gangs, government neglect, bureaucratic incompetence, the social and economic effects of the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, greed and those individuals trying to create order from the resultant chaos.

The state of base metal or copper coinage in the late 18th century Britain had deteriorated to such an extent that:

“Almost any kind of rubbish used to pass as copper money...button tops, tokens or any round bit of metal. And all this made the trade of the false coiner more easy. The trade was carried on so openly that I have often wondered at people’s hardihood considering the severity of punishment on detection.”¹

The Royal Mint, guardian of the currency, gave the standard bureaucratic denial that there was a problem and its reply to charges such as these was:

“When we consider how readily ingenious artists can imitate every impression; how easily the Public suffer themselves to be imposed upon by the most bungling imitation and often without any impression at all, we cannot help concluding that it is not any workmanship of the Mint or any care on the part of the Government which can prevent impositions, when people seem wilfully to neglect all endeavours for their own security.”²

This despite the fact that in 1787 a Royal Mint random sampling of copper coins, found only

“8 percent bore a tolerable resemblance to its own products, the rest consisted of blanks, blatantly inferior (underweight or poorly struck) coins, and what it termed trash.”³

Why was counterfeiting rampant, carried on so openly and without seeming concern for punishment? How could this be? Britain was a major military and economic power. How could it allow the integrity of its money to be threatened? To gain a better understanding how things had gotten this bad, it is necessary to look at how Britain managed its money.

THE LAW: English and later British laws governing the issuance, use and abuse of money are ancient.

GOVERNANCE OF THE COINAGE - ISSUANCE and USE

Under English law, money was defined as the “universal medium or common standard...by comparison with which the value of all merchandise may be ascertained.”⁴ As the medium of commerce, money fell within the prerogative or *inter jura majestates* of the king concerning “domestic affairs”. Within the realm of domestic affairs, the king was the “arbiter of commerce” and as such it was he who:

- 1) regulated and established public markets, places of buying and selling;
- 2) regulated weights and measures and
- 3) gave money authority and made it current.⁵

The issuance of money was the act of the sovereign power. This act was divided into three aspects, namely:

- 1) the materials: the money of England was to be of gold or silver;
- 2) the impression: the stamping of coins was the exclusive prerogative of the crown and
- 3) the denomination (value) of the coin.

The materials did not allow for a regal copper coinage until 1672 when Charles II (1660 - 1685) issued farthings and half-pence. At that time merchant and other tokens, which had served as small change, were demonetized. With the introduction of the screw coining press, the crown hoped it could make small change profitably. The half-penny was issued at 40 to the pound *avoirdupois* or 175 grains of copper per coin. The farthing had a metal content proportional to its denomination.



A contemporary counterfeit of a George III half-penny. The mere presence of a faint impression was all that was required to make it look convincing to people when compared to the official coin, due to the poor state of the regal copper coinage.

These copper coins departed from the traditional concept of intrinsic value, where the coin's metal content was equal to its face value. As a result, they were technically considered tokens and by law were to be accepted in all payments under the value of 6 pence.⁶

The impression or actual striking of coins was another royal prerogative. Anyone other than the king or his agents who coined money, such as bishops, monasteries or abbeys, could only do so via a special privilege granted by the crown. They received the seigniorage, but did not have the authority to institute the impression or denomination.⁷

The denomination or value of a coin was fixed by its weight and the fineness of its metal content. When a statutory weight of gold or silver was of a given fineness it was said to be of the true standard and called "esterling" or "sterling metal". Edward III (1327 - 77) established by statute, that all coins were to be made with sterling metal.⁸ Any coin not sterling was to be melted down, or forfeited.^{8a} The value of any unusual pieces coined had to be ascertained by proclamation.

Whether it was within the king's prerogative to debase or enhance the value of a coin was, even in ancient times, a hotly debated point in legal circles. In practice however, it was a common occurrence.⁹

The king could also "decry or cry down" (demonetize) a coin. This made it no longer current for legal use in payments. To meet demand for coin, the king could, via proclamation, legitimize foreign coins. Such a proclamation would make the foreign coin current and fixed its rate for use in payments. This rate was to be based upon its intrinsic value and comparable to English coins, otherwise the consent of Parliament was required.¹⁰

GOVERNANCE OF THE COINAGE - ABUSES

Counterfeiting of gold and silver coins has always been an act of treason. Prior to the reign of Edward III, it was regarded as a *petit treason*, a crime against a subject of the sovereign, such as the murder of a husband by his wife or that of a master by his servant.¹¹ The punishment for men and women was different. Men were drawn to the gallows and hanged. Women on the other hand, were drawn and burned alive at the stake.¹²

As towns and cities grew, trade increased, and the monetization of society gained momentum. This increased the use and importance of coins; in turn providing more opportunity and profit potential for the false moneyer. To address the resultant problems, beginning with the reign of Edward III, "the actual counterfeiting of the kingdom's coins or the importation of counterfeit money with the intent to utter it, knowing it to be false, became high treason", which constituted a crime against the sovereign himself.¹³ Linked with the falsification of royal signatures, it was seen as "a breach of allegiance, by

infringing the king's prerogative and assuming one of the attributes of the sovereign, to whom alone it belongs to set the value and determination of coin made at home or to fix the currency of foreign money."¹⁵

To deal with the ever increasing and sophisticated methods and ingenuity of counterfeiters, successive monarchs expanded and refined coining legislation. Bloody Mary (1553 - 58), made the forging or counterfeiting of any foreign gold or silver coin, which had been made current by proclamation, high treason.¹⁶ This was later expanded to include those who knowingly imported false foreign money and used it in payment.¹⁷

One interesting point however is the fact that Queen Mary's legislation was only applicable to foreign money which was absolutely current in England in all payments by proclamation. The counterfeiting of non-current foreign money was not high treason.¹⁸

Under Elizabeth I (1558 - 1603), a long list of offences against coins, "clipping, washing, rounding or filing, for wicked gain's sake, any of the money of this realm, or other money suffered to be current here, shall be adjudged high treason."¹⁹ These had previously been misdemeanors. Counterfeiters, knowledgeable of the law and ever inventive in their attempts to circumvent it, forced the government to quickly expand and generalize the statutes to read: "impairing, diminishing, falsifying, scaling and lightening" of current coins.²⁰

Several misdemeanors were also legislated. Charles II (1660 - 85) made the melting down of any current silver money punishable with forfeiture and a fine of double the value of what had been melted.^{20a} If the convicted was a freeman of any town he would loose his franchise; if not a freeman, he would be imprisoned for 6 months.^{20b}



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William III legislated the branding with the letter 'R' on the cheek as the punishment for any "person buying or selling, have knowingly in his custody, any clipping or filings of coin", in addition to a stiff fine and forfeiture of the clippings or filings.^{20c}

Continually playing catch-up, the government resorted to ever more sweeping laws. The coining tool statute of William III (1689 - 1702) read: "whoever shall knowingly make or amend, or assist in doing, or shall buy or sell, or have in his possession, any instruments proper only for the coinage of money; or shall convey such instruments out of the king's mint; shall be guilty of high treason."²¹ It was also made illegal "to mark any coin on the edge with letters, or otherwise, in imitation of those used in the mint; or to colour, gilt, or case over any coin resembling the current coin, or round blanks of base metal."²²

Under George II (1727 - 1760) false coining legislation was quite extensive and innovative twists were added to the law. The government tried to turn criminals against one another. If a person "who colours or alters any silver current coin of the realm to make it resemble a gold one; or any copper coin, to make it resemble a silver one" could receive a pardon if he helped "discover and convict two other offenders."²³

Different levels of punishment and sentencing were attempted for first and subsequent offences. The use of prison and transportation to the colonies became more prevalent. "Any person knowingly tendering in payment any counterfeit coin shall suffer: 1st offense - 6 months imprisonment; 2nd offense - imprisonment and find sureties for two years; 3rd offense - shall be found guilty of felony without benefit of clergy."²⁴

As we have seen, the government was well aware of the threats to the integrity of its coinage. It tried to deal with these via legislation and severe punishments. It adapted its legislation to try to meet new threats and changing economic and social circumstances. Despite the fact that punishments during medieval and early modern England were - even for a misdemeanor or felony - no laughing matter, counterfeiting and tampering with the coinage continued. As the use of money became more widespread the opportunity for and profit from counterfeiting and coin tampering increased.

The counterfeiters and tamperers also adapted their tactics to deal with government responses to their actions. It was a game of cat and mouse.

The government's efforts, as is evident from its legislation, were chiefly concerned with silver and gold coins. If base metals were dealt with, it was in the context of their use to falsify silver or gold money. It was not until the reign of George II that the actual counterfeiting of copper coins became punishable, as a felony in its own right, by two years in jail and finding of sureties for two years.²⁵

This raises the question: why? Why did the government and its relevant institutions, the Exchequer and the Royal Mint neglect, perhaps wilfully, to vigorously defend the copper coinage?

Why was English small denomination coinage allowed to deteriorate to such a low state by the 1780's? This despite the fact that since the reign of Charles II it issued, be it sporadically, regal base metal coins. This will be the topic of the next part of this three part series.

Pierre Driessen

1) *Morning Chronicle*, February 10, 1851; 2) "The Birmingham Coiners, 1770 - 1816" by Powell, John; 3) "Steam, hot air, and small change: Matthew Boulton and the reform of Britain's coinage." by George Selgin, *Economic History Review*, LVI, 3(2003) p.498; 4) "Commentaries on the Laws of England" by William Blackstone, 1st edition, 1765 - 1769, volume, book I, chapter VII, p276; 5) Ibid; 6) University of Notre Dame, Coin website; 7) "Commentaries on the Laws of England", VII, p277; 8) Ibid, statute 25 Edw. III c.13; 8a) Ibid, IV, c7, p99 - statute 9 Edw.III ft2; 9) devaluations occurred throughout English history, but became acute during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I; 10) Ibid; 11) Ibid IV, c6, p89; 12) this was often, at the discretion of the executioner, tempered by the strangulation of the condemned before the flames reached her; 13) "Commentaries on the Laws of England", IV, c6, p89; 14) *The punishment for high treason for women was the same as that for petit treason. For men however it was truly gruesome. The condemned man was drawn to the gallows, hanged and cut down while still alive. Then he was castrated and disembowelled. His intestines and other internal organs burned before his eyes. Finally he was beheaded, his body quartered and the body parts placed at the disposal of the king for public display. In addition to this his property was escheat (forfeit) to the crown; The official reason why petit and high treason was punished in the same manner for women is: "for as the natural modesty of the sex forbids the exposing and publicly mangling their bodies";* 15) Ibid IV, c6, p88; 16) Ibid IV, c6, p89 - statute I Mar. ft2.c.6; 17) Ibid, statute 1 & 2 P & M cII; 18) Ibid IV, c6, p89; 19) Ibid, IV, c6, p90 - statute 5 Eliz. c11; 20) Ibid, statute 18 Eliz. c1; 20a) Ibid, IV, c7, p99 - statute 13 & 14 Car.II c31; 20b) Ibid; 20c) Ibid, IV, c7, p99 - statute 6 & 7 W.III. c17; 21) Ibid, IV, c6, p90 - statute 8 & 9 W.III c26; made perpetual by Queen Ann's statute 7 Ann. c25; 22) Ibid; 23) Ibid, IV, c7, p98 - statute 15 & 16 Geo.II c28; 24) Ibid; 25) Ibid.

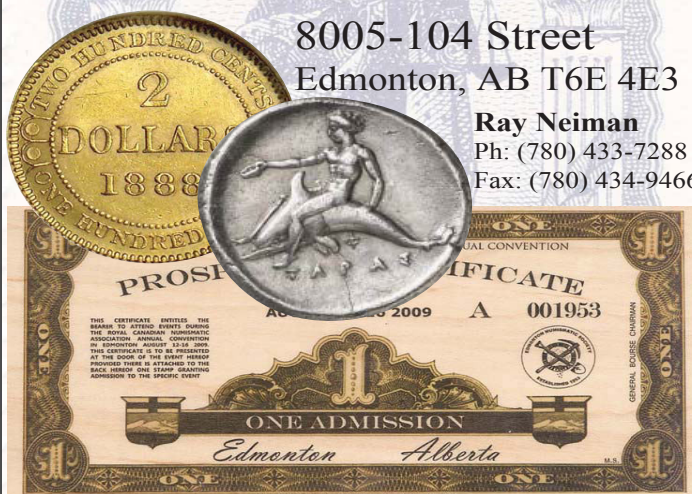
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By Marc Bink

"The Right Stuff"

We all remember the movie about a bunch of NASA astronauts a few years ago called "The Right Stuff". The premise of it was to focus on a few individuals and personalities who made the American victory in the space race with the Russians possible. It was said that our guys were made from the "right stuff", - meaning they had what it takes to overcome seemingly incredible odds and succeed where others have failed. The expression, "the right stuff" can be applied to coin collectors too, but with different meanings. As a whole we tend to be a bit meeker than your average astronaut, and for most of us a "flame-out" tends to be a crude party joke involving a Bic lighter and the after-effects of some beans, not a life and death situation. So what does "the right stuff" mean in our context?

It's been a long hard month, but from what I've heard, the RCNA Convention was a huge success, both delegates and dealers enjoyed it. We were frozen out of any of the awards we applied for, but we didn't let it dampen our enthusiasm or our professionalism one bit. But before we rest on our laurels, we have to realize that November and our regular show are just around the corner.

The biggest reason that this convention was so successful and smooth is entirely due to the dedicated volunteers our club is privileged to have. These people have the "right stuff". We ran a large-scale convention with a small but super-dedicated crew of volunteers who selflessly gave up whole days to help out. Some of them put in 12-hour plus days, never complaining, and always willing to help out regardless of what was tossed their way. To all of you who were there, my most heartfelt thanks go out to you; - the club thanks you. Any hardware that the RCNA gave me as a show co-chair really belongs to you, all the volunteers who tirelessly and selflessly worked on preparing the kits, and organizing the whole thing, the set-up and tear-down crews, the bourse floor crews, the Admissions desk, the Registration desk, the Hospitality Suite, our tour guides and chaperones and the people who volunteered to drive the shuttle. Again, thank you so much for all your help.

There is one thing that is unsettling though. This is the fact that we have a rather large membership and only about 15% came out and gave their time. We are in serious danger of burning out all of these people with three shows this year. It's time that more members step-up to the plate, and help

share some of the load. This is your club, and its only as good as its members, it is what you make of it. We're not asking for much, just a three-hour commitment at the shows, and more if you can or want to give. So please, if you haven't helped out before, and if you can donate the time, do so; - the rest of us would really appreciate it.

One blemish on an otherwise good convention was the fact that the ENS didn't win any of the awards that we applied for. So what went wrong? That's the thing; - we don't know, no one tells us. We put together what we think is probably the best club newsletter in Canada, and the award goes elsewhere. According to some, we didn't have "the right stuff". These are not sour grapes. Perhaps this year's recipient really did deserve to win? If we're pursuing the wrong tack with this new layout or content we'd certainly like to know. Our editor, Matt Sztym, pours his heart and soul into this publication trying with each issue to make it better than the last, and we as regular columnists try to come up with interesting new original numismatic content, with little or no recognition or comment from anyone. Needless to say this has become a bit discouraging. We tend to think we're doing the right thing, and we've structured our product in that way.

But what if we're wrong? What if we don't have "the right stuff"? Maybe we are all wet and going off in a tangent that no one cares about. So we'd like to ask you, what do you as the reader feel about The Planchet? Do you like where it's going? Do you like the content? Do you like the columnists? What can we do to improve? Would you like to contribute by writing an article? Let us know through e-mail, snail mail, a phone call, or tell us in person; - as was stated above, this club is what you as a member make of it, so let us know how we're doing, and hopefully we'll see some new volunteers at the November show ready to prove that we still have the "right stuff" to put on the best and biggest coin shows in Canada.

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Editors Note

I never knew how distracting trains could be until a few weeks ago. There was an excellent forestry museum on Vancouver island with a working steam engine and quite a collection of logging machinery. There were interesting exhibits on logging practices from the turn of the century to the present day. I was quite content strolling through the park on a sunny day until I was about to leave. As I was coming out the door a rubber-necker was looking at a stationary steam engine the museum had on display at the side of the highway. However there was a spotlight that had just turned red and that rubber-necker plowed into a stopping car going around 70 kph. Currently in BC their paramedics are on strike and they sure took some time to arrive on scene. Luckily by the looks of it, no one was seriously injured in either of the cars. But this begs the question, should museums, historical centres and private individuals be allowed to showcase interesting artifacts on roadways when they obviously cause traffic collisions? We have all been guilty of turning our heads away from the road to view something interesting, so I thought I would ask. Have you ever seen something interesting on the side of the road that gave you a case of rubber-neck syndrome? Please send your stories to my email, editor_ens@yahoo.ca.

Matt Sztym
Editor, *The Planchet*

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September 19-20 2009, Edmonton, AB

Fall Stamp Market. Fantasy Land Hotel, West Edmonton Mall. www.edmontonstampclub.com

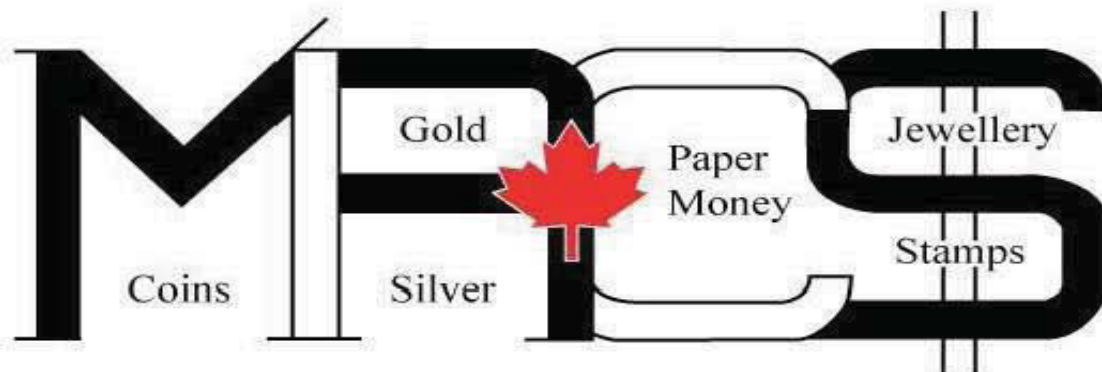
October 24-25 2009, Saskatoon, SK

Saskatoon Coin and Stamp Show, German Canadian Concordia Club. Contact; glmcptr@sasktel.net

November 7-8 2009, Edmonton, AB

Edmonton's Money Show. Canada's Largest coin show. Mayfield Inn 16615 109st. Free Appraisals, Door Prizes, Displays, kids program, and more! Contact Jamie at jhrlrd@shaw.ca for more information.

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