

from the Edmonton Numismatic Society



1996



SEASONS GREETINGS

EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 75024, RITCHIE P.O.,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, T6E 6K1

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



Annual Membership is now due and payable as of January 1. The dues are payable as follows: **FAMILY - \$12.00 SENIOR / REGULAR MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00 JUNIOR \$3.00 (16 and under)**

Below is a Membership renewal form which can be brought in to the next meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the above noted address.

NAME _____ DATE : _____

MAILING ADDRESS

STREET : _____ APT.# _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE NO.: _____ WORK PHONE NO. _____ FAX NO. _____

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTED (Canadian Funds unless noted otherwise)

ANNUAL DUES: **FAMILY** \$12.00 \$ _____
REGULAR \$10.00 \$ _____
JUNIOR (16 AND UNDER) \$ 3.00 \$ _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$300.00 \$ _____

(After min. 1 year membership - payment plan available on request)

(US ADDRESSES IN US FUNDS OVERSEAS ADD \$5.00)

DONATIONS: **CLUB ARCHIVES** \$ _____
LIBRARY \$ _____
JUNIORS \$ _____
INTERNET WEB PAGE SPONSOR \$ _____

(Current internet costs are about \$15.00 per month. All donations accepted)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

**FOR ONE (1) CALENDAR YEAR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY,
(except life membership) JANUARY TO DECEMBER**



EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



DECEMBER 1996

JOIN THE "TRAIL OF '98" IN EDMONTON AT THE 1998 CNA

Volume 42 Issue 10

1996 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Joe Bardy

PAST PRESIDENT

Wray Eltom

VICE- PRESIDENT

Ray Neiman

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ANNUAL DUES

Family \$12.00, Regular \$10.00

Junior \$3.00 (16 & under)

The ENS is a member of:

Canadian Numismatic Association

American Numismatic Association

Canadian Association of
Token Collectors

Canadian Association of
Wooden Money Collectors

Canadian Paper Money Society

Classical & Medieval
Numismatic Society

MEETING NOTICE

DATE : WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1996

TIME : 7:00 P.M., Meeting starts at 7:30

**PLACE: PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA, 12845 - 102 AVE.
(Main floor Lecture Room P138)**

**PROGRAM : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION,
MEMBER TALK ON ENGLISH SHILLINGS, SHORT VIDEO FROM
THE RCM - " THE BREAKUP OF THE TWO DOLLAR COIN"**

DECEMBER MEETING AGENDA

This month's meeting will be busy with the Annual General meeting. This year's election will be for a two year term due to the Convention being held in Edmonton in 1998. Once again all positions have someone volunteering for this 2 year term, which goes to show the dedication of its members. Our guest speaker for meeting will be Doug Hughes who will talk on English Shillings. Doug has just returned from England so we should have some interesting stories from Doug. In addition, we have a short (8 minute) video from the Royal Canadian Mint. The video is about the tests the Mint has conducted in order to separate the two pieces of the 'Twoonie'. Also, members are requested to bring in some bake goods to share with the members, and the club will provide coffee and pop. See you at the meeting. MS

***The Club loses its
longest active
member, as Wray
Eltom passes away!***

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

November's meeting saw 24 members attend the breakfast meeting at the Westwood Inn in conjunction with the Westex Coin & Stamp Show. The meeting started off with the usual buffet breakfast which was enjoyed by all. The duties of the Past President were taken over by Howard as he conducted the nominations for election. (The results are shown later in this newsletter) After a full slate of officers had been nominated Joe introduced our guest speaker, Garth Wright of Calgary. Garth provided and excellent talk and circulated the coinage from the talk around the table for the members to view. He covered the pre-confederation coinage of the French, Spanish and British from the 1640's up to the 1850's. The Breton Tokens were presented from the east coast to the West, and were all in above average condition. The high grade of the tokens were exceptional and greatly appreciated by the members in attendance. Approximately 100 pieces were circulated for the enjoyment of the members. The talk finished off with some American examples which circulated in Canada. All in all an excellent talk was enjoyed by all. Joe announced that Wray Eltom was quite ill with Cancer, and was not doing well, and the members wished him the best. The meeting closed out with the draw for an attendance prize of a 1982 Can Sil dollar, and was won by Ed Dreger. The members then proceeded to the bourse floor. The executive had an opportunity to talk with Stan Wright of Albern coins and we asked him if we could display the 1911 Silver dollar at the 1998 convention. Stan said it was a good possibility and we should write him and request it for the convention.

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE BY JANUARY 1, 1997. SEE THE EN-
CLOSED FORM FOR YOUR RENEWAL TODAY, AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB**

1997 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS DUE

The Membership dues for the 1997 year are due and payable prior to January 1, 1997. Membership dues will once again remain at \$10.00 for Senior or Regular members, \$12.00 for Family members and \$3.00 for Juniors, 16 and under. Our dues have not increased in many years, even though postage and paper costs continue to rise. We hope to continue a variety of topics at the meetings and hope the members will support us by renewing your membership today. With the upcoming convention in 1998, we have to maintain a strong member base and need your support. Members may pay at the December meeting or by mailing the enclosed Renewal Form. Donations to the Library, Archives or future CNA, will be greatly appreciated.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION

Nominations for the 1997 election were conducted at the November meeting. Howard accepted the nominations and recorded them on the whiteboard. Further nominations will be accepted at Decembers meeting, prior to the Election, if required.. The following nominations were received and recorded:

President	Joe Bardy
Vice-President	Ray Neiman
Treasurer	John Callaghan
Secretary	Mike Schneider

<u>Directors</u>	Terry Cheesman
	Dan Gosling
	James Kindrake
	Elden Kuss
	Albert Meyer
	David Peter
	Jules Rach

The Constitution calls for five (5) Directors. However, with the convention coming in 1998, a motion to allow seven (7) Directors for this term, will be made. Should anyone object, please make your opinion known to any member of the executive. Should we have more than 7 nominees, we will hold an election. Please contact any member of the executive if you wish to stand for a position and are unable to attend December's meeting. Please support the Club and stand for nomination.

NEW MEMBERS

The following applications for membership in the Edmonton Numismatic Society have been received. Should there be no objection, they will become members in good standing.

Corey Battrick	Edmonton	#387
Erich Schmidt	Edmonton	#388
Marvin Tokarek	Spruce Grove	#319

Welcome to the Edmonton Numismatic Society. Membership cards and receipt will be issued in due course. Welcome back to Marvin, who has been absent for a few years. Both new members were sponsored by Ray Neiman once again. Ray has been a strong supporter of the club, and his recruitment of new members is appreciated. Thanks Ray for your support!

MEMORIAL DRAW FOR J.WRAY ELTOM

A memorial Christmas Draw will be held at December's meeting. Four prizes have been donated by club member's and will be raffled off at Decembers meeting, with all proceeds going to the Alberta Cancer Foundation in Wrays name.

The following have been donated:

- Gift Basket of Teas (West Edm. Coin & Stamp)
- 2 Olympic stamp packs (National Pride Coin & Stamp)
- Bottles of wine (Howard Gilbey & John Callaghan)
- Box of Chocolates (Joe Bardy)

Anyone wishing to add to the donation list may do so at the meeting.

J.D. FERGUSON FOUNDATION DONATES BOOKS

It felt like an early Christmas when I picked up the mail at the end of November. Several packages had been sent to the club for our Library from the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation. The following have been received:

- Coins of New Brunswick (hardcover)
- Coins of the Modern Olympic Games (hardcover)
- Canadian Welcome Home Medals (hardcover)
- 1993 & 1994 Picus (softcover)

On behalf of the membership, we would like to thank the Foundation for the gift and will add them to our Library. An official letter of thanks will be issued to acknowledge receipt of the books.

ENS INTERNET WEB PAGE UPDATED

Thanks to our resident computer expert Dan, our home page is new and improved and looking great! Those with computers and an internet access should take a look at our home page. It is located at: dang@compusmart.ab.ca

The page has information on the club in general, meeting calendar, articles, application form and information on the 1998 Convention Medal design Contest. Having seen several other Club pages and business one's as well, I'd put our page up with the best of them. Good work Dan, it looks great!

INTERNET ARTICLE - "CANADA'S FIRST COINAGE"

In keeping with new technology and our timely talk by Garth Wright at November's meeting, I've reprinted an article from the CNA's web page entitled "Canada's First Coinage". This ties in nicely with Garth's talk and adds to the information he presented. Permission was received from the CNA via E-Mail with Ken Prophet, and we gratefully acknowledge the author Wayne L. Jacobs and Numismatic Network Canada from which it was posted.

ENS THANKS ITS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

The following Coin shops and members have supported the Club consistently for many years. We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank them for their support.

National Pride Coins & Stamps

West Edmonton Coin & Stamp Corp.

The Executive & Directors of the ENS

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A COIN COLLECTORS LIFE - IN MEMORY OF J. WRAY ELTOM

J. Wray Eltom passed away on November 13, 1996 at the age of 81. Wray was an active member of the Edmonton Coin Club since 1967. With almost 30 years as a member of the club, and even more as a collector, you can say Wray was a true numismatist.

As mentioned, Wray joined the Edmonton Coin Club in 1967, and 2 years later became the President. In all, Wray was president for ten of the past 30 years and has been Past-President for the past 13 years. Many of those occasions were during difficult times in the club, when no one would come forward and take the leadership. I can remember in 1981, just after I joined and the Club moved to Victoria Composite High School, no one was willing to become President. As a new member this was a little disheartening but at the nomination meeting in December, in the interests of the club, Wray once again took up the challenge and helped make it the strong club it is today.

Wray was the President of the club in 1979 when we hosted our one and only CNA Convention in Edmonton. Wray won the design competition for the convention medal, and forever has his name in the record books. He has also won numerous Coin Club show awards in the 60's and 70's when the club had an annual show. In 1984, Wray designed our 30th Anniversary medallion, which was minted in Antique bronze, and Gold and Silver plate.

Wray was active at the club meetings and with the executive over the course of the past 30 years, and was involved in all of the "Coin-A-Ramas" that were held in the 60's and 70's; Wray's name is on many of the club trophies for "Best of Show" and Court of Honour. Lub Wojtiw recalls Wray and him going to Winnipeg and Regina shows at the drop of a hat, because he enjoyed travelling and wanted to get as much as he could out of collecting; the biggest part of the hobby he enjoyed was meeting new people.

In November 1965 he was the editor of "Unusual Canadian Coins" ("the magazine devoted exclusively to the variety and oddity collector"), published by Hans Zoell. Several issues were published and are now a part of numismatic history. In 1965, 1967 and 1970, he was a contributor to Hans Zoell's "Minor Coin Varieties" booklets, which are still sought after today.

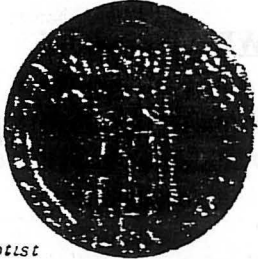
In addition to his volunteer work for the Coin Club, Wray was also Past President of ACT (Associated Canadian Travelers) and the Edmonton Self Starters Organization.

Though not well for the past few years, Wray still came to the meetings when he was up to it and was often seen by many club members at his second home at Meadowlark Mall, still wanting to talk about coins and old times over a cup of coffee. This is where I saw Wray last, a chance meeting during an Antique & Collectibles show which I took my son to. Wray made a point of buying me a cup of coffee and some fries, which we shared. He said I was doing a great job for the club, and he praised me for the newsletter. As usual, I don't take praise that well and I changed the subject, but now it makes me feel good that he still took an interest and was really trying to make sure I continue on, as he had always done.


The last thing I remember Wray doing, was showing the first Christmas post card he ever received as a child, to me and a dealer at the show. The Christmas post card was sent to him from England when he was a baby and he still had it after all these years. The mark of a true collector from the beginning!

He will be missed.

ms



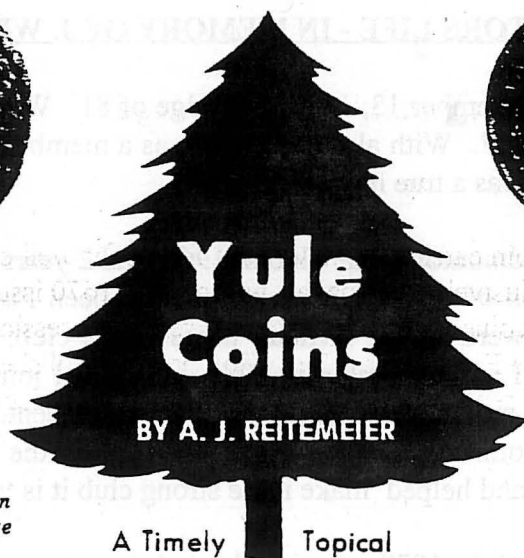
Florence 1252
St. John the Baptist



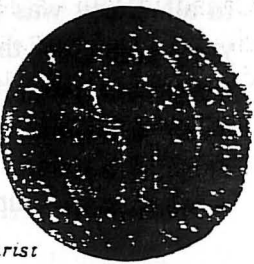
Austria 1763
Madonna and Child



Canadian
Caribou Coinage



A Timely Topical



Venice 1192
The Standing Christ

Christmas is intended to commemorate the birth of Christ, and an interesting topical collection can be made up based on the theme Christmas on coins. A collector could virtually spend a lifetime on such a project, as the number of coins which could be included is almost limitless.

A start could be made with a lira of Genoa, which defines the Immaculate Conception. Then would come a lepta of Herod the Great, who was ruler of Judea at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. A silver taler of Cologne, dated 1516, shows the Magi. The Holy Roman Empire struck a gold coin about 988 A.D. which pictures the mother and child.

The polara of Hungary, issued 1763-75, carries a beautiful likeness of the Madonna and Child, as do the reverses of other early Hungarian coins. Austrian gold and silver coins of 1934-8 also depict the Madonna. St. John the Baptist, who baptized the Christ, appears on the florins of Florence.

A ducat of Venice, issued in the 13th Century, bore the standing figure of Christ. He was also depicted on the reverse of the soldo of Ragusa (Dalmatia) for years, beginning in 1689. One might include a Roman denarius, said to be the coin Christ referred to when he said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's".

Many coins bear a cross, though not always with religious significance. Holly leaves are featured on the reverse of coins of Scholeswig-Holstein.

The Dutch emigrants are generally credited with having brought St. Nicholas to the United States, where his name was promptly corrupted into Santa Claus. St. Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor. Noted for his charity, he was said to have provided a gold coin for the dowry of many a daughter of the poor. Whether or not he tossed it down the chimney is not known.

St. Nicholas died in 326. His likeness appears on some very old coins. In some countries it is still he who comes on Christmas Eve.

Then there are Canadian quarters minted from 1936 to date. They feature the head of a caribou, a species of reindeer, on the reverse. Just two dollars face provides Santa's entire team.

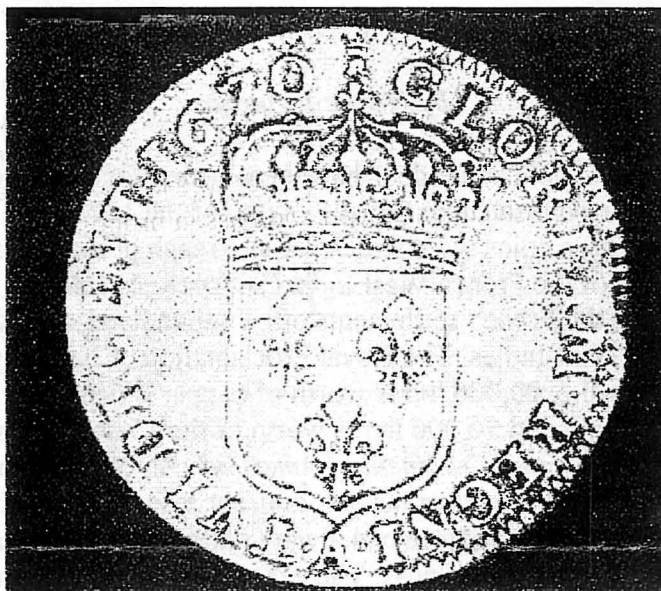
Merry Christmas!!!

Canada's First Coinage

by Wayne L. Jacobs

Contrary to what some Canadian coin catalogues have been listing for well over a century, the first Canadian coin - at least for use exclusively in Canada - was not the 1670 issue of copper "doubles" and silver 5- and 15-sols pieces. These coins were struck for all French possessions covered by the boundaries defined as being in the purvue of the French West India Company, established May 26, 1664. In addition to French Canada, Acadia and the French settlements of Newfoundland, they were also meant for use in all the French colonies of the West Indies. The Royal Proclamation of February 19, 1670, described these coins, set the coinage amounts (i.e. 20,000 livres worth of copper 2-denier (or doubles) pieces, 50,000 livres worth of 5-sols silver pieces and 30,000 livres worth of the 15-sols coins) to be struck in the Paris Mint for circulation in *"the Islands and Continent of America"*. All of these coins were to be of the same weight, fineness and value as native French coins but, in order that they would not be abruptly shipped home in payment for goods such as heretofore had always happened with ordinary French coins, they were - by law - to circulate only in the Americas. The exact reading is: *"But they are not to be exported, nor are our other subjects to receive them or give them circulation in France, on pain of confiscation of the said coins and of exemplary punishment"*.¹ Due to this last clause, few if any of these particular coins circulated in Canada, exactly because they were not returnable to France in payment for imports. Such businessmen as there were in Canada were all traders and required a returnable coinage by necessity; conversely, the Gloriam Regni coins did somewhat better in the French West Indies as business there tended toward manufacture of agricultural products such as sugar and less need was experienced for remittance money than for a circulating medium. Up until this time, most of the coin circulating in New France was French with bills of exchange on financial houses in the motherland used by merchants to remit larger amounts. The merchant needed coin that could be sent home if needed; the ordinary inhabitant of New France needed a circulating medium that stayed put. Move and countermove resulted until finally some degree of stability was achieved when it was decreed (December 2, 1680) that all coins in New France were to be current on the same relative basis as in France itself -except at a uniform increase of one-third in value.²





At this point, two events came together which altered the whole comfortable French-coin-only picture. Spanish American coins came to have an ever-increasing role to play in the economics of New France due to its import from two sources: (i) French Canadian trade was beginning to open up with the French West Indies, thanks to the encouragement of Intendant Talon and the currency was mostly Spanish-American silver "*cobs*" and (ii) little mentioned at the time but by far the most important was the illicit trade between the French fur sellers and the English (and Dutch) traders; not only were prices better for the French, but they also evaded the tax of 25 per cent levied by the French West India Company on beaver. This latter trade brought in a large number of silver 8-, 4-, 2- and 1-real "*cobs*"³ struck in the Spanish American mints, principally Potosi, Lima and Mexico City, since these coins were also the usual circulating medium in the English colonies. Money flows to where it is worth the most and these were the days when a coin's face value and intrinsic worth were to be roughly equal. The English, old hands at the practices of clipping, filing and "*sweating*" coins to the lightest possible weight at which they would still pass, were in the happy position of being able to tender these coins at face to the many small fur traders and trappers of New France. Consequently, light coin became a problem there.

But, for every problem, there can be a decree and so there was for this one: By Decree of the Superior Council (Wednesday, September 17, 1681)⁴ all foreign coins, gold or silver, should be accepted by weight, according to their value with the advance of one-third in accordance with the custom of the country. At this time, the 8-reales piece (termed "*reals or piastres*" in the document) of the full weight of "*21 deniers*"⁵ should be accepted for "*3 livres 19 sols and 1 denier*" and those of light weight "*should be diminished in proportion to their lack of weight on the basis of 11 sols a dram*".⁶ The Decree doesn't say so, but we may presume that it would go on "*its divisions in proportion*".

Human nature being what it is, it follows that a sou will be made whenever a sou can be made. Very few inhabitants of New France would have possessed a set of balance scales, let alone carry them around with them. These instruments would have been possessed mostly by government offices, apothecaries and - most of all - by merchants. Reading between the lines, we must come to the conclusion that the next move by the authorities was an attempt to remedy the unusual phenomenon of a given coin's tendency to be lighter when tendered to a merchant than when received from him. This leads us to what can be classed as Canada's first indigenous coinage. On January 13, 1683, the Superior Council of Quebec decreed that dollars and their parts were to be countermarked according to their weight.⁷ Those dollars of full weight (which is not spelled out in this document but one of 1681 spells it out as being of "*21*"

deniers 8 grains") were to be stamped with a "fleur-de-lys" only and pass for 4-livres; those dollars of a weight so that by the 1681 decree are valued from 3-livres-15-sols to 4-livres were to be stamped with a fleur-de-lys and a I, passing for 3-livres-15-sols; those weighing in the 3-livres-15-sols to 3-livres-10-sols category to have a fleur-de-lys plus II and pass for the lower amount; those of 3-livres-10-sols to 3-livres-5-sols to have the fleur-de-lys plus III and pass for the lesser amount; finally, those of 3-livres-5-sols to 3-livres even to have the fleur-de-lys plus the numeral IIII and pass for 3-livres. The halves, quarters and eighths to be similarly stamped and pass in proportion.

The coins were to be stamped when offered at the office of the clerk of the court each Tuesday between 8 and 11 a.m.; there, in the presence of the councillors, the attorney general and the court clerk, they were to be weighed and appropriately marked by the clerk with dies cut by John Soullard. Each coin so weighed and stamped was taxed 6 deniers which was split evenly between the clerk and the said Soullard. At the end of each sitting, the dies would be returned to a strongbox of which the attorney-general held the keys.

Further, all persons were forbidden to offer dollars for circulation not bearing this stamp nor could they refuse them on pain of a fine. The court, nevertheless, allowed some leeway by permitting silver coins to be tendered by "*mark*", meaning by weight. The Mark was the standard of weight for bullion, being eight ounces Troy or 3840 grains and the value of an individual coin of full weight was determined by the number of those pieces coined from a "*mark*". 9

Despite the fact that, to the writer's knowledge, not a single example of these stamped coins are extant, there is little doubt that they did exist and that the stamping was carried out as ordered although apparently only for a short time. In a letter from Governor de la Barre to the head of the Department of Marine and Colonies, the Marquis de Seignelay, dated at Quebec, November 4, 1683, 10 we read the line of his report regarding this stamping of coins: "*This was done and is now in operation without any noise or difficulty.*"

However, money remained scarce in New France, documents revealing that one expedient was merchants' notes good for petty sums. These early "*Bon Pours*" ("*Good For*" as the opening line almost always read) later became a fixture in Canada's currency. No doubt inspired by these written notes, Intendant Jacques de Meulles was forced to issue the first card money in 1685 after specie pay for the soldiers failed to arrive in the spring of that year; we should note that de Meulles exhausted all other possibilities - even to borrowing money from his friends and allowing the soldiers to hire out as day labourers - before he took (for the time) this extraordinary step. They were not issued until the 8th of June and redeemed totally (or at least as far as we know) on September 5 of that year. None of these pieces exist today, either, although documentary evidence is also overwhelming for their brief appearance in colonial New France.

Footnotes

(1) Shortt, Adam. "Documents Relating to Canadian Currency, Exchange and Finance During the French Period", 1925. pp 25

(2) Shortt, *ibid.* pp 49

(3) The Spanish-American "*cobs*" were crude silver coins produced in enormous numbers up until 1770s in some cases. Deriving their nickname from "*cabbo da barra*" (piece of the bar), they were from blanks sliced off bullion bars cast in the shape of a rod. Extremely crude in appearance, pieces which show the entire design - or even the date plus mintmark are quite rare. They were, nevertheless, struck of good

weight and fineness although highly susceptible to filing and clipping. If we use, for example, the Potosi, Bolivia pieces, they were standardized in the late 17th and early 18th centuries at: 27.07 grams of .931 fine silver (.8103 Troy ounce pure silver) for the 8-reales pieces, the fractions in proportion. Early in the 18th century, all these Spanish American pieces became of .917 fine silver (.7982 Troy ounce pure silver).

(4) Shortt, *ibid.* pp 51

(5) The full weight as struck was about 27 grams; normal practice, however, usually allowed for lightness up to 4 per cent.

(6) A "Dram" was one-eighth Troy ounce.

(7) Shortt, *ibid.* pp 55

(8) If we interpolate from the values vs. the weights, we have:

Mark Weight Bracket Loss in Wgt % Passed For:

Fleur-de-lys only 27.070 grams 0 4-livres 0-sols

F.d.l. plus I 25.3 to 27 grams 0-6 1/4 3-livres 15-sols

F.d.l. plus II 23.6 to 25.3 grams 12 1/2 - 6 1/4 3-livres 10-sols

F.d.l. plus III 21.9 to 23.6 grams 18 3/4 - 12 1/2 3-livres 5-sols

F.d.l. plus IIII 20.2 to 21.9 grams 25 - 18 3/4 3-livres 0-sols

In practice, probably all of these categories are slightly conservative.

(9) The "Mark" was a standard weight of bullion equal to 8-ounces Troy or 3840 grains.

(10) Shortt, *ibid.* pp 61

Photo Caption: 8-Reales "*Cob*" of Philip IV. Mexico. 1624. Illustration full size. Shown with hypothetical countermarks of New France, 1683 of Fleur-de-lys plus III denoting value of 3-livres 5-sols.

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