



# EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



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

Volume 43 Issue 5

## 1997/98 EXECUTIVE

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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, May 14, 1997**

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

**PLACE: PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA, 12845 - 102 AVE.**

**(Main floor Lecture Room P138)**

**PROGRAM : Member Talk and Display on Ancient Coinage of Italy & the West; '98 Medal Design Competition Display; Member Show & Tell**

### MAY MEETING AGENDA

May's meeting will see member Terry Cheesman continue his series on Ancient coinage. He will talk about coinage of Italy and the west from 400 B.C. to 200 B.C. This is a continuation of last years talk which covered the Terry's collection, which gets better every year, is a delight to see and his knowledge of the subject is second to none. We will also have the submitted designs for the '98 CNA on display. Displaying members present will be asked to describe their entry and the reason for the design. The members will then be asked to vote for their favorite 3 or 4 designs. Our recommendation will be forwarded to the CNA in June along with all the submissions, for final selection. Members are also asked to bring items for show & tell to share with the others. A special motion will also be presented at the meeting by Howard Gilbey, for an annual award. For the details, see page 2.

***April Club Show a  
resounding success!***

***Medal Designs on  
Display! See inside  
for more details.***

### APRIL MEETING MINUTES

April's meeting was held on Saturday, April 12, during the Club's Spring Show. The breakfast meeting was attended by 28 members & guests, and 2 guest speakers. The first guest speaker was Stan Wright of Alberni Coins and Foreign Exchange. Stan's talk was on the 1911 Silver Dollar, which is currently owned by Alberni Coins. He, unfortunately was not able to bring the coin with him, as it is currently under negotiation for sale. However, Stan gave an interesting talk on the historical background of the coin, with details of the pedigree and how they came to obtain the coin. There is a lot of mystery surrounding the design of the coin, as it's where-a-bouts was unknown for many years. It was eventually uncovered by B.A. Seaby of London, in a private collection out of Australia. As late as 1957, Fred Bowman, author of the booklet on Canadian Patterns, did not include it in his booklet. Stan's informative talk concluded with him trying to secure the coin for the 1998 Convention in Edmonton. Depending on who the buyer may be, they may allow it to be on display. Stan will advise us of the outcome. Several questions were answered on this interesting topic. The next speaker was Lub Wojtiw. Lub brought 5 \$1.00 Canadian notes with him, and asked each one in attendance to view them and pick which ones were real and which were man made modifications. In all cases the serial numbers were missing. After everyone had made their choices, he announced they were all man made, then passed around an authentic \$1 note, with no serial numbers. The meeting was adjourned and everyone attended the bourse, following the breakfast and talks.

### 1997 ENS SPRING SHOW RECAP

If you haven't already heard, the ENS show was a resounding success. The number of dealers, attendance and satisfaction all around was the best Edmonton has had for many years. The following is a recap of the show, and the various aspects associated with it.

**Dealers** - There were 21 coin and stamp dealers in attendance as follows: 3 Stamp, 18 coin dealers. There were 13 with double tables and 8 with single tables. From all accounts, they all want a fall show and would like to come back again.

**Attendance** - The final paid attendance is as follows: Saturday - 300, Sunday 146, Pre-paid prior to show 124. Those with prepaid tickets were not counted in the total attendance. We'll do better next time and have an actual count. The above does not include the ENS volunteers, and dealers and helpers. Therefore, the total estimated attendance was well over 500.

**Door Prizes** - The following were winners in the door prize draws: 1st prize of a 1997 D.D. Set - Marg Barr, Edmonton  
2nd Prize of a 1997 Silver Dollar - Ron Bondarenko, Edmonton,  
3rd Prize of a 1997 Silver Dollar - Helen Dushynski, Edmonton,  
4th Prize of an O'Canada set - David Bardy, Vancouver,  
5th Prize of an O'Canada set - Ina Powley, Edm.,  
and the last Prize of an O'Canada set was won by Chris Cryderman, Edmonton. Congratulations to all the winners.

**Volunteers** - A special thanks is extended to all the volunteers who made the show possible. Several members presold tickets, but Joe Bardy and Ray Neiman sold the most. The dealers were recruited by Joe Bardy, Ray Neiman and Mike Schneider. Only 8 club members were dealers. Displays were put up by Terry Cheesman and John Callaghan. Dan Gosling also had a display but generously donated his cases to a dealer who required them. The tickets, posters, and permit were obtained by Mike Schneider; advertising by John Callaghan and Mike Schneider; Insurance by Ray Neiman; Photos by Dan Gosling. Hotel liaison, bourse design and setup, Mike Schneider. The following are to be thanked for manning the ticket and information booth: Alana Schneider, Elden Kuss, Jules Rach, Joe Grace, Bernie Theriault, Scott Lakey, Terry Cheesman and Mike Schneider. If anyone was missed, my apologies.

**New Members** - The following applications for new membership have been received. Should there be no objections, they will become members in good standing.

Gerald Peterson	#389	Edmonton
David Van Allen	#390	Carvel, Alta.
Doug Loates	#391	Edmonton

Congratulations are extended to the above. These new applicants are a direct result of the show. We anticipate a few more yet by summer.

**Financial** - The following is an abbreviated summary of Income & Expenses:

EXPENSES	- \$1971
REVENUE	- \$3791
PROFIT	- \$1820

This includes a \$500 cost for liability insurance that is good for 1 year. We will be able to cover the next 2 shows under this policy as well.

### FALL SHOW PLANNED

A tentative ENS show is being planned for November 8 & 9, 1997. The show will be at the same location, the Convention Inn, in the same room as the last one. A layout has been revised based on the last show, and we can get 27 dealers in with 3 different table sizes and price ranges. As the Westex group have 22 paid up members who have requested space and 8 local dealers want another show, we can confirm we will have a sell out show. New Can Coins of Kenora have also requested space in our Fall show. As the adjacent space will be used, we cannot expand our room and will have to stay with the 27 tables we have now. The executive have yet to ratify the above and once this is done, we will be confirming the show dates and begin signing up dealers. We will keep you advised.

### NOTICE OF MOTION - J. WRAY ELTOM MEM. AWARD

The following motion by Howard Gilbey will be proposed at the May meeting: "To establish the J. Wray Eltom Memorial Award."

WHEREAS : Wray Eltom was a longtime active member of the Edmonton Coin Club and Edmonton Numismatic Society (1967 - 1996, member #55 and Life member #10)

IT IS PROPOSED THAT : "The Edmonton Numismatic Society establish the J. Wray Eltom Memorial Award to be given annually at the annual general meeting in December to the Society member selected by committee to have contributed most to the active operation of the Society in the previous 12 months." The inaugural year to be 1997.

A permanent record in the form of a plaque or trophy suitably inscribed shall bear the names of the annual award winners and each award winner shall receive a miniature plaque or trophy suitably inscribed, and the following year membership dues paid by the Society.

The Selection committee shall be comprised of the 3 following members:

1. the current President
2. a Director-at-large selected by the Executive
3. a Member-at-large selected by the Executive

The committee selections to be made and announced at the November nominating meeting.

### 1998 MEDAL DESIGN CONTEST

On behalf of the Medal Design committee consisting of Terry Cheesman and Jules Rach, we would like to announce we have 15 different medal designs received. In addition to these there are over 15 more variations on the above themes. The designs will be on display at the May meeting, and members are requested to comment on the designs. Members who have submitted designs are welcome to describe their submissions at the meeting. A short list of designs will be recommended to the CNA, who may make a final selection.

### HALE - BOPP COMET TRIGGERS MEMBER ARTICLE

Enclosed is an article by Terry Cheesman on the Comet of 44 B.C., inspired by the Hale Bopp comet currently passing us by.



## THE COMET OF 44 B.C.

by Terrance Cheesman

In July of 44 B.C. in the 708th year since the founding of the city, a comet streaked through the sky over the city of Rome. This comet which was seen for seven days was far more spectacular than Hale Bopp as it was visible even during the day. As this comet hurtled blindly towards the sun, it flew over a city which was gripped in political crises. Only months before in March, the dictator Gaius Julius Caesar was assassinated by a clique of disgruntled senators led by Marcus Brutus and these men along with the heirs of Caesar and other groups were locked in a death struggle for control of city and empire. Among the heirs of Caesar was Gaius Octavianus.

Octavian owed his position because of a name. He was related by blood to Caesar and had been adopted by him and thus could claim to be his son. Only eighteen at the time of Caesar's death, he could only qualify for only the most minor of political offices in the Roman cursus honorum. Most of Caesar's power, his armies and his wealth, fell under the control of Marc Antony who could not look to kindly upon this "scarce bearded Caesar". Antony was Caesar's right hand, the second in command of the army that Caesar had gathered in the hills around Rome to be led east to punish and destroy the Parthian Empire. All of Octavian's friends advised him to stay away from Rome, to live quietly, to avoid the certain death awaiting him should he vex those far more powerful than him.

Octavian refused. The quiet life of a country gentleman tending to his bowers and vines had no appeal. Octavian burned to avenge the death of Caesar and to claim what was his by right. He was after all Caesar's heir. Also the only way that a blue blooded Roman aristocrat could prove his honour and virtue was to enter the political arena so he could add glory to his family name, to remind older men of the greatness of his ancestors and to avenge the wrongs inflicted upon his family.

Octavian was no fool. His return to Rome was slow, careful, and methodical. Upon reaching the city, he could see that Caesar's memory was ignored, only his money and soldiers had any value. As was expected Antony was very cool to the heir of Caesar, refusing to part with any of the money that Caesar had left, further he even tried to block the formal ratification of Octavian's adoption by Caesar. Octavian responded with a program of currying favour with the Roman population.

In July Octavian announced that he would at his own expense, celebrate the Ludi Victoriae Caesaris, games in honour of Caesar's victories which were dedicated to Venus Genetrix the goddess who Caesar felt had aided him in all his battles. "On the very first day of my games, a comet was seen in the northern part of the sky for seven days. It appeared about the eleventh hour of the day and was clearly visible in all countries. The people believed that by that star it was signified that the soul of Caesar was received among the immortal gods".

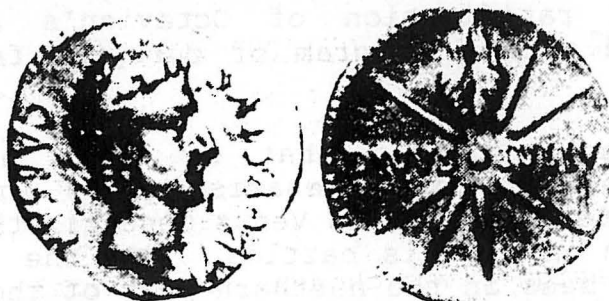
The impact of this comet was profound and Octavian wasted no time in taking advantage of it. On the statues of Caesar he affixed a star and on some of the coins minted by Octavian honouring Caesar the star is clearly seen. This is all the more unusual in that comets are usually considered to be sign of evil fortune and coming disaster.

Twenty five years later, the comet made a new appearance, this time on a Roman denarius minted in an imperial mint in Spain. In Rome, Octavian now called Augustus, was celebrating the Ludi Saeculares, games which were celebrated on an one hundred and ten year cycle. The evils of the civil wars were over, the assassins of Caesar, all dead. Antony who had been all powerful in 44 B.C. dead. The Roman world was at peace, and the next cycle seemed to portend nothing but peace and prosperity. As a part of this festival of thanksgiving, Julius Caesar was honoured and the comet which ferried his soul to the gods to remind the people of that great event.

It is not my intent to claim that a comet was responsible for the formation of the Roman imperial state. Octavian was a master politician, whose unsurpassed skills in the complex and deadly game of Roman politics, won for him the power and prestige that made him the first Roman emperor. The comet of 44 B.C. was one of many events which was used by Octavian to further his career.

On March 17 1997, while the comet Hale Bopp could be seen in the night sky, I acquired one the Roman denarii celebrating the much more spectacular comet of Julius Caesar. The latter half of the twentieth century has been rather disappointing as all comets prior to Hale Bopp were all but invisible. It was very interesting to make a comparison between the two, to see how Roman artists interpreted what some of them must have seen so many years before.

The quotation was from the autobiography of Octavian was quoted by Pliny in his Natural History.



GEORGE WASHINGTON  
and  
THE WASHINGTON QUARTER DOLLAR

Whether engraved on a postage stamp or a quarter dollar, or carved on a mountain-side, his calm and strong expression is known to every American.

A New World hero, his character and deeds are familiar to all lovers of peace and freedom around the world. "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen". These were the thoughts of everyone from the newly formed nation. Washington led the revolutionary army during the colonies' desperate struggle for independence. He freed the colonies, unified the first people's republic, helped to mold its enduring constitution. As first President of the United States, he set a high example in governing the free people. He became almost a legendary figure, yet as Abigail Adams (John Adams' 2nd President's wife) who knew him for a quarter of a century states, simple truth is his best, his greatest eulogy.



He was born on the family estate, Mount Vernon, in Virginia, on February 22, 1732. As a youth, he spent as much time out of doors as possible. He excelled in mathematics and at 15 years of age, became a surveyor. The hardships he experienced while surveying the Shenandoah Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains were to be one of his greatest assets later in life while leading the army of the Colonies. When his father died he inherited Mount Vernon estate, and at 27 years of age married Martha Curtis, a young widow with two small children.

John Adams nominated him to lead the people's army, and for seven long and bitter years Washington held together his rag-tag and bob-tailed army against the most unequal odds. Finally, after many reversals and with the help of the French fleet, he forced Cornwallis to surrender Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The American rebellion had become a successful revolution, the people of the colony had won the right to form a government of their own choosing. At 57 years of age he was asked to become the first President of the New Nation.

Thomas Jefferson, one of Washington's closest and keenest observers, sums him up very simply. "His mind was great and powerful. His integrity was most pure, his justice most inflexible I have ever known. He was indeed, in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man".

THE WASHINGTON QUARTER DOLLAR

In 1931 the U.S. Mint decided to hold a competition to design both an official mint medal and a commemorative coin to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

Laura Fraser won the competition to design the official mint medal and was also one of the finalists in the competition to design the new commemorative coin.

When the final designer was chosen, the chairman of the House Banking Committee cast his vote for John Flanagan, a New York Sculptor, to design the coin.

The next step was to choose which coin to use. No commemorative halves had been minted since 1927 and 1928, when the Vermont Sesqui-Centennial and the Hawaiian Sesqui-Centennial coins were minted, but these commemorative coins and many previous ones were not well received by the

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## THE WASHINGTON QUARTER DOLLAR (Cont'd)

people of the United States, so it was decided to use one of the circulating coins of the realm. The quarter dollar was chosen because of the Standing Liberty's unpopularity.

The 1932 Washington Head quarter dollar was intended to be a circulation commemorative coin. Over 6 million was the combined number minted from the three U.S. Mints, the highest mintage since 1929. The coin became so popular that it was decided that this type quarter would replace the very unpopular Standing Liberty quarter dollar.

An Act of Congress was necessary to replace the Standing Liberty coin because it had only been in circulation since 1916 and had not been minted for the specified 25 years.

The Washington quarter that was supposed to be a commemorative became the regular coin of the realm. The obverse shows the bust of Washington facing left in strong profile, with Liberty across the top, In God We Trust under Washington's chin, the designer John Flanagan's initials J.F. are found at the base of the neck, all of this inside a raised border.



The reverse shows the bald eagle with full spread wings perched on a limb, United States of America at the top. Above the eagle's head the motto E Pluribus Unum. Beneath the eagle's perch is a spray of laurel leaf, the denomination quarter dollar across the bottom. mint marks, when found, are between the denomination and the laurel leaf. Since 1968 the mint marks have been placed on the obverse. Also since 1965, the 90% silver content has succumbed to the cupro nickel combination.

The Washington Quarter dollar that began in 1932 remains with us today virtually unchanged from those years ago except for the year 1976.

In 1973 a contest was announced for a design suitable for the Bicentennial reverse of the Quarter, Half Dollar and Dollar coins.



Jack L. Ahr's design was selected for the reverse of the Washington Quarter. Except for the dual date 1776-1976 the obverse remained the same.

The reverse featured a Colo-

onial Drummer facing left with the Victory Torch circled by 13 stars at the upper left. Beneath the torch and stars E Pluribus Unum, across the top United States of America, and Quarter dollar across the bottom.

During the years 1975 and 76 only these coins with the dual dates were struck for general circulation and were included in all mint offerings to collectors.

What was supposed to be in 1932 wasn't,.... a coin to commemorate the 200th birth of George Washington.. But what better tribute than to have a coin that has been in circulation since 1932, that pays tribute to a great man. May the Washington Quarter Dollar remain with us for the new and future generations, like the tall marble shaft in Washington, D.C., the Washington Monument. May they both be a permanent reminder of George Washington, the brave, the wise, the good, supreme in war and council, and in peace, valiant without ambition, discreet without fear, the father of the nation, the friend of mankind.



T. Masters

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## CANADA'S LARGE CENTS

by Ray Young  
(Edited)



The first Canadian cents with the name of the country expressed as CANADA (as opposed to other provincial issues) were made in 1858, nine years before Confederation. They were somewhat unusual for the empire at the time, because they were bronze and fairly small in comparison so the British copper halfpenny of similar spending power. Great Britain did not convert to smaller bronze coins until 1860.



Designed by Leonard C. Wyon, chief engraver at the London Mint the first cents carried a portrait of Queen Victoria with the label VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA (Victoria, Queen by the Grace of God), with CANADA below the portrait. The reverse shows a vine bearing maple leaves-- a somewhat peculiar botanical item, but appropriate as a symbol of the country-- encircling the value and date. The original intention appears to have been a coinage of 10 million pieces in 1858 but the way things worked out, first year coinage was but 421,000, with the balance appearing in 1859.

At that time, 10 million coins was a substantial quantity for a country as thinly settled as Canada, and the issue went a long way to replace the numerous tokens that circulated as small change. Not until 18 years later-- in 1876-- did another cent issue appear. This coinage like the next two dates of 1881 and 1882, was made at Heaton & Sons in Birmingham (later the Mint Birmingham Ltd.) and bears a large "H" just below the date. The portrait was modified to show an older Victoria, and the weight was slightly increased, although diameter remained the same.

Between 1876 and 1901, when Victoria died and the series ended, there were 21 vintages embracing 20 years.

The accession of Edward the Seventh to the throne produced a large cent series, with one each year except 1907, when both the Royal Mint and Heaton made the cent.

Obverses shows the king with lettering translating to "Edward Seventh by the Grace of God, King and Emperor." CANADA remains below the portrait, and the reverse follows the pattern for Victoria.



The third monarch in the large cent series is George V, whose coins, like Victoria's, embrace two types. In 1911, the obverse bore the portrait with the legend GEORGIUS V REX ET IND IMP, or "George Fifth, King and Emperor of India," and the "Dei Gratia" was omitted, leading to the designation

"Godless coins" for decimals of that year. The reverse was changed to add CANADA between the value and date. Because the portrait was larger than that of preceding monarchs, and the name of the country was shifted to the reverse.

The 1911 issue is the only year without "Dei Gra".

Large cent production ended in 1920, the same year that ushered in the small cent with over 15 million pieces.

For many years the large cent stayed in circulation, although numbers were withdrawn steadily over the course of time.

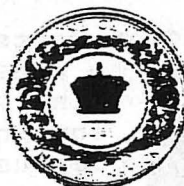
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## CANADA'S LARGE CENTS (Cont'd)

Besides the Canadian large cents, there are four provincial issues of large coppers-- for Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia followed Canada's first coins in 1861. These had a better portrait of the queen, with the legend VICTORIA D.G. BRITT REG. F.E. or "Victoria Queen



by the Grace of God of all Britains," that is, at home and overseas, "Defender of the Faith." The reverse carries a small crown within a wreath of roses and mayflowers, with the name of the province below, denomination above, and date below the crown. Both provinces had cents coined in 1861 and 1864, while Nova Scotia also had an 1862 issue.



The province of Prince Edward Island joined the new Dominion of Canada in 1873. Two years earlier, it issued a one-cent piece which is one of the most distinctive decimal coins of Canada. This one million mintage had a portrait of the queen with tiara on the obverse, with the legend VICTORIA QUEEN and the date. The reverse carried the name of the province, the denomination, and three oak saplings sheltered by a large oak, representing the three counties of the province and England. The Latin legend PARVA SUB INGENTI, "The small beneath the great" is below the trees.

The boom in Canadian coins a few years ago brought many of these out of hiding.

Newfoundland, the last province to join Canada. Coinage began in 1865. There are 19 different dates of large Newfoundland cents, with six carrying mint marks, and three varieties for the year 1880.



Victoria's portrait is like the one on Nova Scotia and New Brunswick issues, but the legend is VICTORIA D.G. REG. The reverse has a wreath of pitcher plant and oak instead of the flowers used on the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick coins, the denomination and name of the territory appear in larger letters. The center has a crown similar to the other two provinces' cents, and the date.



Obverses for Edward VII are similar to the Canadian series, while the reverse differs from the Victorian style in the design of the crown. For the final Newfoundland large cent, that of George V, the obverse is that of the Canadian coinage of the time while the reverse follows the same style as Edward's.

There are only six large cents for George V reflecting the fact that the colony needed little in the way of new coinage.

Despite their plainness, they are fairly attractive coins. They maintain regal bearing of a now long-vanished day, back when the cent was a respectable denomination indeed.





**The Edmonton Numismatic Society gratefully  
acknowledges the support of the following  
members and dealers at the  
April 12 & 13 Coin and Stamp Show**

**MEMBER VOLUNTEERS**

**JOE BARDY  
JOHN CALLAGHAN  
TERRY CHEESMAN  
DAN GOSLING  
JOE GRACE  
ELDEN KUSS  
SCOTT LAKEY  
RAY NEIMAN  
JULES RACH  
ALANA SCHNEIDER  
MIKE SCHNEIDER  
BERNIE THERIAULT**

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Ed Kabin Stamps  
Howard Gilbey  
Jim Melnyk  
Joe Bardy  
John Ward (Lucky Dollar)  
Jon Bee  
Loose Change  
Lub Wojtiw  
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 JOE BEE  
 JIM MANN  
 HOMER SCHAUB  
 ED KARP SONS  
 ED TUCKER  
 EDDIE MANN SONS  
 CORN CORP  
 SCHAUB CORP  
 JONAS MANN  
 VIRGIN CORP & SONS

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