



EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



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

Volume 43 Issue 10

1997/98 EXECUTIVE

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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 10, 1997

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

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

(Use Archives Entrance to Main floor Lecture Room P138)

**PROGRAM : MEMBER SHOW & TELL, NUMISMATIC VIDEOS,
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & PRIZE DRAWS**

DECEMBER MEETING AGENDA

December's meeting will be a wrap-up for a great year with the ENS. Member's are requested to bring in some interesting numismatic item to share with your fellow collectors. In addition we have several short videos on various numismatic topics that will be shown, time permitting. We have several door prizes that members will draw for, donated by several Coin Shops and members. We will also have our Executive member awards and special supporter awards. Join us also for drinks and snacks provided by the Club. Hope to see you all at the meeting!

**JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
PARTY AND YEAR
END WRAP-UP
MEETING!**

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

November saw 31 members and guests in attendance at our pre-show breakfast meeting at the Convention Inn. Breakfast was served at 9:00 a.m. sharp with most members arriving by 8:30 to chat with the other members. Joe welcomed members to the meeting, and several guests were welcomed, notably Marvin Tokarek who had rejoined the Club after a few years absence; and Terry Gelinis and his son Brendan, who are new members who came down from Hay River for the meeting and Coin Show. After the breakfast, we had 2 guest speakers. Our first was Lub Wojtiw, who gave an interesting talk on "Theme Collecting" in paper money. One such topic discussed was Inflation money. Examples of notes from eastern Europe were circulated for member viewing. Some notes were converted from 1 unit to 1 million then 1 billion, which should make us all thankful it hasn't happened here to any great extent.

Our next speaker was James Kindrake. James's topic was "The Good the Bad and the Ugly in Coinage". As this was the November meeting, in keeping with Remembrance Day, he concentrated his topic to examples of coinage in transition during the war. War-time coins that had been replaced with cheaper metals due to the war were shown from around the world. Due to the quantity of coinage on display, the meeting had to be cut short due to several dealers having to open up at the show. All in all they were great topics by well versed members. We had 3 door prize draws that were won by: Carl Osadetz, Jason Portas and Brendan Gelinis.

ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. PLEASE PAY AT THE DECEMBER MEETING, OR MAIL YOUR PAYMENT AFTER THE MAIL STRIKE. A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR USE. PLEASE SUPPORT THE CLUB DURING OUR CONVENTION YEAR!

Nov. 8 & 9 Coin & Stamp Show a Success!

Now that the dust has settled on last month's show, we can report it another resounding success for our second show this year. We had 22 coin & stamp dealers on 29 single and double tables. Total attendance at the 2 day show was over 400 persons. Not bad considering we were competing with the Canadian Finals Rodeo. The Hotel was sold out for the weekend and we definitely noticed some cowboy types occasionally on the bourse floor. From all accounts, dealers were pleased with their sales, with some doing better than our April show, and some doing not quite as good as April. A survey of dealers indicates they want to do it again the first of March, when we should only be competing with the winter weather. We had several new members sign up at the show and a few other later as a result of the show. A quick review of some of the ticket stubs indicates we had people attend from as far south as Lethbridge to as far north as Hay River N. W. T., and from B.C to Saskatoon. Our breakfast meeting was well attended with over 30 members in attendance. We had 2 guest speakers put on great presentations and displays of coinage and notes. The final accounting for the show indicates we cleared over \$2000 for the Club. With the CNA Convention in 1998, we are confident we will be able to top this years success next year during the convention!

NEW MEMBERS

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

Gerard & Angela Valliere	#394	Hinton
Ted Parent	#395	Edmonton
Les Garvey	#396	Edmonton
Cesare Fontana	#397	St. Albert
Lub Wojtiw (reinstated)	#66	Edmonton

Congratulations on joining the Club. Your membership cards and receipts will be sent with the next newsletter.

1998 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS DUE

The Membership dues for the 1998 year are due and payable prior to January 1, 1998. 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 CNA, will be greatly appreciated.

1998 ELECTIONS

Nominations and vote for the 1998 election are not required this year, as last years executive accepted a 2 year appointment due to the CNA Convention next year. Therefore no one has to be worried about being nominated for a position they do not want to take!. However, annual awards to existing hard working executive members will take place, and your support would be appreciated.

DECEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE DRAWS

The following club members have graciously donated the following prizes to be drawn at the December meeting:

1. Pin set, 5 pcs, Panda Bears - Jack at West Edm. Coin & St.
2. Numismatic Clock, 1992 -Ray at National Pride Coin & St.
3. Numismatic Clock, 1992 -Ray at National Pride Coin & St.
4. 1997 Proof Like Set - Joe Bardy

Thanks are extended to the above for their donations.

J. WRAY ELTOM MEMORIAL AWARD

This December, the current President will select a Director and Member at large to form a committee to select the 1st Annual J. Wray Eltom Memorial Award recipient, for the member who has contributed most to the active operation of the Society in 1997. This award is in recognition of Wray Eltom, who passed away last year with almost 30 years active participation in the Club. This years recipient will be recognized at the January meeting. Members wishing to be on this committee should contact Joe Bardy.

1998 CNA UPDATE

Currently the Club has sold 12 double tables to 13 dealers, 13 single tables, the Royal Canadian Mint, and Charles D. Moore Auctions. We have tentative bookings from several world mints which could be confirmed once this postal strike is over. This leaves 6 single tables available in the main hall at which time we will be sold out. Due to the mail strike, we anticipate hearing from several dealers after it is over. We have contingency plans for 10 - 12 additional tables, once the main hall is sold out. Anyone wishing a table should contact the club as soon as possible to reserve your table.

**ON BEHALF OF THE EDITOR, I WOULD LIKE TO
WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

CD - ROM WITH TWO OF CHARLTON'S CATALOGUES

A Review by ENS member Jerry Remick

At the end of October 1997, the Charlton Press released a CD - ROM with the latest editions of their following Catalogues:

- the 52nd edition of "THE CHARLTON STANDARD CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN COINS" and the 10th edition of "THE CHARLTON STANDARD CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PAPER MONEY". Entitled "THE CHARLTON CANADIAN NUMISMATIC LIBRARY - 1998", the CD -ROM retails for \$24.95.

It is available from the publisher for an additional \$3.00 for postage and handling (\$19.95 US for US residents), by writing :

The Charlton Press, 2040 Yonge Street, Suite 208, Toronto, Ontario, M4S 1Z9.

They can also be contacted by calling (416) 488-1418 and 1-800-442-6042.

According to the Charlton Press, the CD - ROM has the following features:

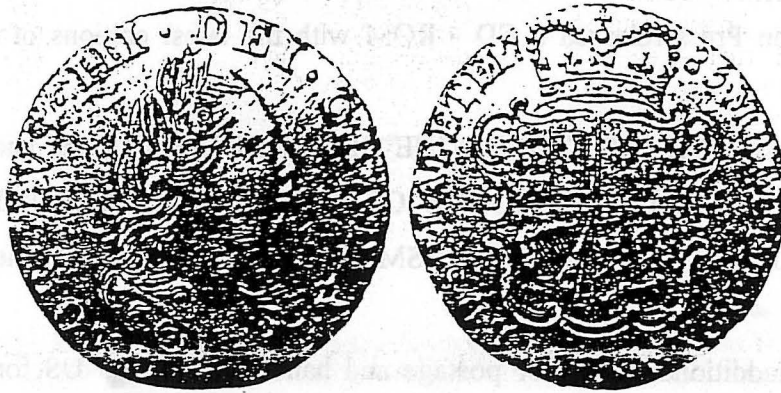
- Zoom-in function for banknotes which allows you to study closely the intricate details of the notes
- Full Text Retrieval (FTR) search engine which allows you to look for specific coins, banknotes, topics and values, using key words or search variables
- "Cut and Paste" features which allows you to easily update the spreadsheet you currently use to manage your collection.
- Master "Coin Collection" spreadsheet including the following popular formats: Excel and Lotus 123.

System requirements are Windows 3.1, Windows '95 or NT and CD - ROM reader.



Modern Mudlark's Tale

By MICK MORAN



Obverse, above, and reverse of the George III half guinea dated 1785

Banks of the River Thames as it meanders through London have been a continual source of delight over the years. In recent times these shores have also yielded valuable artifacts and coinage dating from the awakening of man in Britain.

The foreshore of the Thames in London has been searched almost continually from the 18th century to the present, with this activity peaking in the

days of Queen Victoria. The poor and destitute would scour the shores seeking anything saleable, including coins and artifacts which curio collectors of the day would purchase for a fraction of its true worth. The Victorians bestowed on these searchers of the riverbanks the name, "mudlarks".

In 1988 a very different breed of searcher scours the shores of the Thames...armed with a highly sophisticated metal detector, unparalleled knowledge of the items sought and dogged determination to succeed. A searcher has to take the Thames in all her moods. On countless occasions I have returned home empty-handed. At other times the river's benevolence had to be experienced to be believed.

Most modern mudlarks will dig into the foreshore as deeply as six feet. The silt is thrown into an evergrowing pile which is periodically scanned with a metal detector. As they dig to greater depths, their discoveries naturally become older. From Victorian and Georgian in the top layers down a few feet to the 17th century. Below those layers a hobbyist comes to the Tudor age, then down still farther to the magical period of Medieval England.

For some diggers on the shore this effort is their occupation. Although they naturally are interested in and have some affection for the items they discover, they are usually sold, with some going to museums. On occasion, these "professional" diggers can work for weeks without making a worthwhile discovery. Every penny they earn is paid for in honest sweat.

KNOWLEDGE IS KEY

Where the 1988 mudlark has the edge over his Victorian predecessor can be summarized in a single word: knowledge. Most of those searching the shores today have an astounding knowledge of this island's history and of the coins and artifacts they may find.

Some of today's mudlarks build up elaborate collections of the items they find....collections that would put some museum displays to shame. "Death before selling!" could well be their motto.

Among these mudlarks are those who prefer to search only on the surface. The author counts himself among that group. I first searched the

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14th century Pilgrim's badge of St Eloi, bishop of Noyon in northern France.

Mudlark's Tale

Thames in 1972, beginning along the waterways in historic Greenwich with a brand new BFO detector that cost me all of ten pounds. The instrument signalled both ferrous and non-ferrous. Even though I am certain the detector missed many objects, I still dug far too much trash.

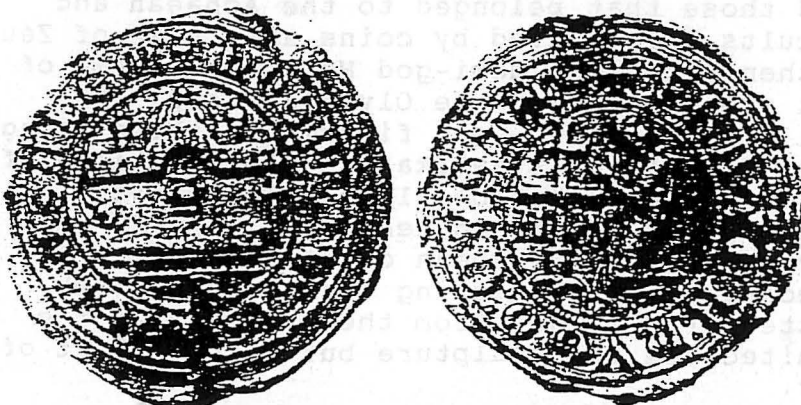
For some time, then, I chose to use the "eyes only" method like the old-time beachcombers and made many outstanding finds. It was only last year that I woke up to the fact that a modern discriminating metal detector would enable me to at least treble my success rate with very little extra effort.

Photographs accompanying this article illustrate my success. The gold coin of George III is a half-guinea of 1785. This was found last summer in an eroding pile of silt that had been excavated during construction of a river wall some years ago. This gold coin was in splendid condition and gave a perfect signal, which proved surprising when I found it standing completely on edge.

FORTUNATE TIME

I count myself extremely fortunate to be living during a period of extensive redevelopment of areas adjoining the Thames in London with accompanying excavation work. All the discoveries shown were made on Thameside building sites.

My prize discovery is lead document seal of "Brother Hugh", who was custodian of the London hospital of the Knights Templars in the 13th century. This exquisite piece of medieval art which I found on New Year's Day, 1987....needless to say, I was thrilled to pluck this treasure from a pile of river silt, which had been excavated from the Thames sometime in 1986 and dumped on derelict land a couple of miles from the river in South East London.



Seal from a document of Brother Hugh, custodian of the London Hospital of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in the 13th century. At right is the obverse.



Two of the favorite finds of a Thames "mudlark" are the pilgrim badge of St. Etheldreda, left, and a 16th century pewter spoon.

From this same pile came the Pilgrim's Badge of Saint Eloi, Bishop of Noyon in Northern France. This badge is of the 14th century, and the metal is pewter.

Old pewter spoons are always welcome discoveries. One with a latten knob (ornamental knob) is particularly welcomed. Such knobs of the alloy latten were placed in the end of the stem to give the impression of

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Mudlark's Tale

gold. With new pewter spoons shining like silver, the overall effect must have been stunning.

The delightful pilgrim's badge of Saint Etheldreda was a very lucky find for me. The building site it came from stood beside the Thames in East London near where I had been searching a pile of brown organic silt excavated a few days earlier. When I arrived one morning to find my "search pile" already cleared away, I wandered about, detecting aimlessly among the silt. It was from one tiny pile pushed up against the river wall that a large pin protruding from a small mass of pewter and river silt. When I found it, the badge had been rolled up just as its last owner had apparently discarded--perhaps in the 15th century. It is in good condition with holes and apparent damage a result of poor molding.

The shores of the Thames and immediate environs will continue producing coins and artifacts for many years. Admittedly, searching is more difficult--especially on the foreshore where sophisticated metal detectors have been used for more than 15 years. Although the number of finds may have been reduced, good discoveries can still be made. One just has to work that little bit harder.

The River Thames owes me nothing. I owe it a lot!!

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS

From the standpoint of mythology, history and art, the coins of ancient Greece are absolutely unrivaled. Artistically many of them excell all modern coins in purity of their lines, bold relief and delicacy of treatment. Many people regard a fine Greek coin as the most convenient, most compact, best preserved and most beautiful relic of antiquity.



(Bronze), about 285 B.C.

The study of the coinage of ancient Greece offers such a vast field for research, and the material is so abundant and varied that a collector is always challenged by the magnitude of the subject. The religion and politics of those old cities, their rise and fall, the legends of their heroes, and the gradual growth of art can all be studied from the workmanship on their coins.

The most important cities of the ancient world were Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Aegina, and those that belonged to the Achaean and Lycian Leagues. Among the cults illustrated by coins are those of Zeus, Apollo, Aphrodite, Pallas Athene, and the demi-god Heracles. Some of the most famous works of art are on coins: the Olympian Zeus, the statue of Athene by Phidias, and the olive-wood figure of Athene. Among the religious symbols are the Corinthian swastika, the Achaean shield of Thebes, the tortoise of Aphrodite, and Apollo's lyre. They revive for us the folk-tales of the days of Homer and Hesiod.

Although there are many collectors of Roman coins, there are few people patient enough to specialize in collecting the ancient Greek coins. This is to be regretted, for it was from the Greeks that the Romans learned not only architecture and sculpture but also the art of engraving gems and coin dies.

(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE INGERSOLL COIN CLUB)

1998 CNA CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

JULY 29th to AUGUST 2nd, 1998



CONVENTION INN

4404 CALGARY TRAIL

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

AUCTIONS BY CHARLES D. MOORE

DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES & MINT REPRESENTATIVES

**FOR DEALER TABLE RENTAL INFORMATION,
DISPLAY FORMS, AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

CALL DAN AT (403) 922-5743 OR

E-MAIL - dang@compusmart.ab.ca, OR

FAX MICHAEL AT (403) 496-6618



PLAN TO VISIT THE LARGEST MONEY SHOW IN CANADA IN 1998!

**EDMONTON CHAPTER
MILITARY COLLECTORS' CLUB of CANADA
HOSTS**

MILITARIA 98

**DEDICATED TO THE 80th ANNIVERSARY
of the END of WORLD WAR ONE**

THEME

**FOR KING AND COUNTRY
THE WAR TO END ALL WARS**

AUGUST 1 & 2, 1998 MAYFIELD TRADE CENTRE EDMONTON, ALBERTA



MCC of C Highlights

Important displays of military heritage
Dealers from Canada, United States & Europe
Members auction on Sunday
Symposium on Military History in Alberta
Banquet with guest speaker on Saturday
Members breakfast on Sunday
Displays by the Canadian Military (tentative)

GUN SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

HELD IN SAME FACILITY AS MILITARIA 98

Displays by prominent collectors
Dealers from Canada and the United States
Auction from sale tables on Sunday
300 trade and display tables available
Historic firearms from the Provincial Museum
Preview of the Haynes quality summer auction

SYMPOSIUM ON MILITARY HISTORY IN ALBERTA

The Edmonton and District Historical Society (EDHS) is pleased to sponsor, or possibly co-sponsor (with one of the local Military Museums), a one-day symposium on the history of the military in Alberta.

The symposium will offer a choice of presentations throughout the day in the lounge of the Mayfield Convention Centre. The EDHS will also provide the keynote speaker for the Saturday evening banquet. While the speakers will be "experts" - curators, historians and collectors, the level of presentation will be accessible to the interested members of the public as well as collectors affiliated with MILITARIA 98.

Topics could include the various branches of the forces, the impact of the wars on the home community, medical implications of being in the service - a whole gamut - depending on the interests of the speakers.

The EDHS will include the Symposium as a part of the Historic Edmonton Week; the event will be offered free of charge.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Allan Kerr, Phone 403-424-5281, Fax 403-424-5306