



# EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

## 46th Anniversary year!



JANUARY 1999 ISSUE

Volume 46 Issue 1

### 1999 EXECUTIVE

#### PRESIDENT

Joe Bardy

#### VICE- PRESIDENT

Ray Neiman

#### SECRETARY

Michael Schneider

#### TREASURER

John Callaghan

#### DIRECTORS

Terry Cheesman

Dan Gosling

James Kindrake

David Peter

#### JUNIOR DIRECTOR

Scott Lakey

#### PROGRAM DIRECTOR

#### NEWSLETTER / EDITOR

Michael Schneider

#### LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Dan Gosling

#### 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

### JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

**DATE : WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1999**

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

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

(Use Archives Entrance to Main floor Lecture Room P138)

**PROGRAM : COIN / BEER LOVERS TOUR OF EUROPE,  
SHOW & TELL, J. WRAY ELTOM MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER  
PRESENTATION**

### JANUARY MEETING AGENDA

January's meeting will be the first of 1999, and what better way to kick off the new year than by having James Kindrake give a talk on his fall '98 tour of Europe, both from a coin collecting perspective as well as a consumer of fine beers, many of which were sampled on this trip. Hopefully Albert Meyer will also be able to fill in some of the trip as they met in Europe for this tour. Members are also encouraged to bring in your recent acquisitions to show to the members. No item or description is too short to share with others. We will also be giving out the J. Wray Eltom Memorial Member of the Year Award for 1998. Be sure to attend to see who this year's winner will be. See you all in January!

***Spring Coin Show date  
change. See page 2 &  
poster on last page.***

***Don't forget to Renew  
your ENS Membership!***

***1998 J. Wray Eltom  
Memorial Award  
presentation at Jan. meet***

### DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

December's meeting saw 27 members in attendance to celebrate the past year, give holiday greetings to fellow members and have a good time in general. For the first time in a long time, we held a bourse night where several members brought in their extra coins to sell, trade & buy. Several members did exceptionally well by selling far more than anticipated. Several trades were made and some members brought in their collections of Breton Tokens to trade & compare with others. All in all a successful and enjoyable meeting. December was also our Annual General Meeting where our executive was elected for another term. For election results, see the summary on page 2. Another slate of familiar faces was re-elected for 1999 to continue

**1999 Annual Memberships are Past Due! Please renew your  
membership with the 'Club of the Year' for 1998, today!**

with the good work the club has been doing. Many members brought in bake goods to share with the others, including several of our out of town members who were in attendance. Several members gave talks as follows: Drew Thompson on 2 war medals; 1906 South Africa Natal Rebellion and 1952/55 Kenya Rebellion. Terry Cheesman gave a talk on 2 ancients, a bronze from 235 AD and a silver from 211 BC. Our President announced his imminent retirement by stating this would be his last year as President. After the cheers died down, the members said they would have to see it happen to believe it. Joe figures it's time the club had a Past President. Joe then called upon member Lub Wojtiw to conduct the Nominations and Election for the 1999 Executive. Scrutineers were Ron McDonald and John Elves from Red Deer. After the election, the executive were presented with a small token of appreciation from the club, in the form of a 1998 Silver Dollar in appreciation of the hard work during the past 2 years on the executive. The meeting continued until about 10:00 p.m. after which several members continued the celebration at a local pub. Our December attendance draw winner was once again Joe Bardy who won a 1986 Silver Dollar.

#### **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

1998 was a very exciting year for the ENS. Continuing from 1997, where we had actively started work on the Convention, we continued to plan for the first National Convention in Edmonton in 19 years. While planning for this event, we continued with good monthly programs as well as supplementary ENS Coin and Stamp shows; 2 in 1997 and 2 in 1998. The following is a recap of the events held by the ENS in 1998.

January - 23 members in attendance. Schedule of Events meeting program presented to the members for 1998. The first J.Wray Eltom Memorial member of the year award presented to Michael Schneider. Talk & slide presentation at the meeting. Executive meeting held Jan. 20.

February - 21 members in attendance. Coin Auction, member talk and display on Australian & New Zealand Tokens; show & tell.

Feb. 28/Mar. 1 Coin & Stamp Show - 32 members & guests at the breakfast meeting at the Coin & Stamp Show. Guest Speaker Garth Wright from Calgary talked on Unusual World Coins. Guests Earl Salterio & Albert Kaiser of Calgary also in attendance. Books awarded for door prize.

April - 23 members in attendance. University of Alberta Humanities Collection & Numismatic Library tour.

May - 20 members in attendance. Member slide presentation on Coins of Ancient Italy & member display & talk on Iraqi Coinage.

June - 22 members in attendance. Guest speaker & display on Coins of Zimbabwe. Euro dollar discussion, RCM video

on "The Reflections of Canada".

July / August CNA Convention - Over 1150 paid attendance. Total attendance over 2100. Over 40 dealers in attendance. Over 100 display cases. Over \$14,000 total profit (unofficial). ENS receives 'Club of the Year Award'. 1st Bi-metallic token issued by a coin club. Wood issued.

September - 29 members in attendance. CNA / ANA report, Pizza Night, Numismatica Night.

October - 31 members in attendance. Member talk on Ukrainian Money since Independence.

November - 26 members & guests in attendance at 2nd ENS Coin & Stamp Show meeting held in 1998. Geraldine Chimiri-Russell was our special guest speaker from the Nickel Arts Museum in Calgary. Garth Wright, CNS President was also in attendance. 23 Coin & Stamp dealers in attendance.

December - 27 members in attendance. AGM with election. Numismatic Bourse night, show & tell & Christmas party.

TOTAL MEETING ATTENDANCE - 225. AVERAGE - 22.5/MEETING.

All in all a very busy and successful year for the club. Our financial picture is now quite sound and we will continue to hold 1 or 2 Coin & Stamp shows per year. With the member and volunteer support and interest in the club, we can look toward bigger and better things in the future. Thanks to our many members for their informative talks throughout the year.

#### **DECEMBER ELECTION RESULTS**

Nominations were received at November & December's meetings for the executive of the ENS for 1999. The following (**In Bold**) were duly Elected or remained by acclamation :

EXECUTIVE: President - **Joe Bardy**; Vice-President - **Ray Neiman**; Treasurer - **John Callaghan**; Secretary - **Michael Schneider**

DIRECTORS - **Terry Cheesman**, **Dan Gosling**, **James Kin-drake**, **David Peter**, Bob Eriksson, Albert Meyer, James Williston, Bruce Cadieux

Junior Director - **Scott Lakey**. Congratulations to those who were elected and those who stood for election.

#### **MAY 1 & 2 COIN & STAMP SHOW - NEW DATE**

Due to a double booking by the Delta Hotel, the Edmonton Numismatic Society has had to re-scheduled its spring Coin & Stamp Show, which will be once again held at the Delta Edmonton South (formerly Convention Inn), from March to May 1 & 2. The show will feature over 20 coin & stamp dealers from western Canada and Ontario. Our May meeting will be held on Sunday, May 2nd, during a breakfast which will include a guest speaker yet to be announced. Dealers wishing to attend the show may contact the show chairman, Michael Schneider. See the poster at the back of this newsletter for more information.

#### **COMING EVENTS**

**January 30 & 31, 1999** - Calgary Numismatic Society & Westex Coin & Stamp Show - Coast Plaza Hotel (formerly Marlborough Inn)

**May 1 & 2, 1999** - Edmonton Numismatic Society Spring Coin & Stamp Show - Delta Edmonton South (formerly Convention Inn)



# It Shouldn't Happen to a Coin

By Ted Schwartz

(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE INGERSOLL COIN CLUB)

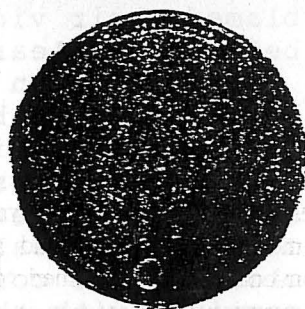


In the eyes and heart of a numismatist, coins are much more than mere pieces of money. They tell the stories of the rise and fall of nations. They are symbols of trade. They are examples of medalllic art, beautiful to behold.

But not everyone looks upon coins with the affection of the collector. Over the years, coins have been used and abused in a variety of ways which make for unusual and fascinating reading.

\*\*Back when a gold dollar was just a dollar, someone drilled a hole in this 1857 version for wear as a pendant or good luck piece.\*\*

In the Near East, belly dancers who entertained the public received tips if the performance was appreciated. The coins were once carefully attached to the costume, until a dancer's body was adorned with a considerable amount of money. This became the girl's dowry, and she used it to "buy" a husband. Once married, though, her days of public belly dancing were over. From then on she could dance only for the pleasure of her husband.



\*\* "A silver sixpence in her shoe." British custom was to place the coin in a bride's shoe on her wedding day, thus assuring a lifetime of happiness. It is not known how the custom fares in these days of decimalization and base metals.\*\*

Many back-to-nature gourmets used a silver coin to help separate good mushrooms from bad. The mushrooms and the silver coin were dropped into a frying pan. If the mushrooms were bad, the coin would turn black. (NOTE: This and other examples concerning food in this article are not tested or recommended by the author. They are mentioned as examples of things people have done with coins, and are not to

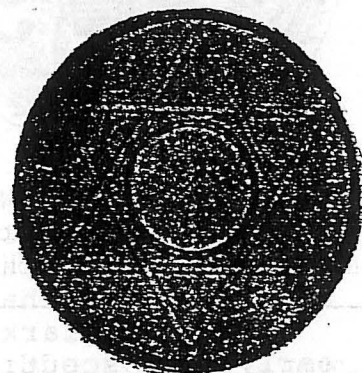
be imitated. Some could prove dangerous or even fatal.)

\*\*With its holed center, one-tenth penny of British West Africa made an ideal "washer" for roofing nails. \*\*

Coins regularly have been used as good luck pieces. A coin must be placed in a new wallet or purse to insure that the owner never will be broke. Large cents were nailed to new barns, businesses, etc. to insure prosperity for the owner. In colonial times, coins were placed around the necks of children to ward off witches and evil spirits. And everyone knows that good luck follows the person who throws a coin into a fountain.

An early cure for arthritis was to place a hole in a large cent, put a string through it, then wear one or more coins around the neck. At least one person went so far as to make a belt of large cents, probably for the same reason.

Doctors used large cents to treat ringworm. The patient would be



## IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A COIN (Cont'd)

advised to place the coin in a saucer, then add enough vinegar to barely over the coin. A greenish patina--actually copper sulfate--would be formed, and this was applied to a patient's lesions at frequent intervals. Medical records of the day say that it was quite effective.

In recent years, at least one case is known of a coin used as part of a bandage. The doctor taped a quarter over an infant boy's umbilical hernia. The tape was replaced at regular intervals until the hernia was reduced.

Housewives took copper coins and added them to kettles of apple butter to prevent scorching during the long house of outdoor cooking. The people who followed this method would brag that the coins were cleaned at the same time.

A deadlier use was the addition of large cents in pickle barrels. The chemical action which caused the coins to dissolve also turned the pickles their distinctive green color. Unfortunately, this reaction was poisonous and many families died from eating the pickles; those who lived blamed their violent stomach upsets on overeating. It was many years before they learned their real problem was food poisoning.

**\*\*Encased in a soft metal frame, cents have been used by many business enterprises as handy advertising good luck token.\*\***

Undertakers used to be bothered by the sight of corpses with open, staring eyes. Large cents made ideal weights for keeping the lids closed. The coins were placed on the eyes and remained with the body when it was buried. So widespread was the practice that a common expression--used to describe a particularly undesirable person--was, "He was mean enough to steal the pennies off a dead baby's eyes." Undertakers in Russia developed the same practice, but used obsolete 5 and 10 kopek coins.



**\*\* Once they were two Liberty seated halves, but patience and artistry turned them into cuff links, with the initials JW in black enamel.\*\***

According to an old Irish custom, a coin had to be included with any gift of a sharp instrument, such as a knife. This would prevent the friendship from being severed. And in Britain a silver sixpence was placed in a bride's shoe on her wedding day to assure a lifetime of happiness.

Coins have been used as weapons of war. According to columnist Mort Reed, during a battle between the Hindus and Mohammedans, Chalabi Rumi Khan used bags of coins as ammunition in his cannons. He defeated the Hindu army.

In British West Africa, one-tenth pence coins were used as washers with roofing nails. Trade dollars were made into heavy skirts in the Far East, and in Sarawak the dead were buried in clothing made out of silver Sarawak coins that had been dyed purple.

Robert Clarke, a geologist currently working in Iron, told of his early days scouting exploratory wells in West Texas and southeastern New Mexico. He says: "In this area most waters associated with the Permian dolomite productive zones were salt saturated and the main water zone beneath the production was sulphur-bearing as well. Thus, it was extremely important to know if water being bailed from cable tool wells was sulphur bearing or only salty. Many wells in those days were not



## IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A COIN (Cont'd)

drilled with rotary tools and mud, as is the case today. Water samples were obtained by bailing.

"The experienced geologists taught me how to dip a bright silver coin in the water to be tested. If the coin turned black, the failure of the well was apparent; if it remained shiny, the drilling would continue.

"After each use the quarter had to be cleaned with soda in preparation for the next water test. I carried the same quarter in my pocket until my geologic career was interrupted by World War II. After the war, my duties no longer called for this type, and one day I learned that my "black" quarter (a 1932-S) had become valuable. Now the quarter is retired and rests in an honored spot in my collection--still black for old times sake."

Large cents were used in the slave trade, a fact that made rarities of one year's rather high mintage specimens. A Salem, Massachusetts, company loaded thousands of large cents onto a boat sailing for Africa. The coins had holes drilled in them and were to be given to tribal chiefs in exchange for slaves, who would be brought to America. During the voyage, the ship sank in a storm, burying a major portion of the 1799 large cents in the ocean. As a result, although almost a million coins had been produced that year, the coin is today worth almost as much as the 1793 Liberty Cap issue, of which only 11,000 were made.

Pharmacists and jewelers filled large glass bottles with large cents and placed them in display windows to attract the attention of passers-by. They were also made into tie clasps, cuff links and ladies' brooches. Some were holed and suspended from necklaces and bracelets.

Because the copper large cent was easily worked and handled (though it brought complaints from the public, who thought it too bulky to be carried in a pocket), many were adapted for mechanical use. Some became levers for prying things; others served as screwdrivers, and a few were notched to serve as gears or formed into keys.

Holed large cents were made to fit over spindles. They could then turn valve-cocks, tighten clamps and perform similar duties. They even were used as a low friction base for the central points of gambling wheels.

The Tooth Fairy is a great giver of coins. Whenever a child loses a tooth, anything from a dime to a quarter is liable to turn up under the child's pillow.

Large cents have served as souvenir pieces. When the railroad crossed the new nation, the heavy steam engines provided a new way to obtain a memento. Trains involved with special events, such as transporting Presidents Lincoln and McKinley to their burial places, were used to flatten coins which had been placed on the tracks. This was so common that the funeral trains often had to slow to a crawl to prevent derailment when riding over the large number of coins laid on the tracks.

Reverses of large cents frequently were shaved off so a message could be added. Such souvenir pieces were given away or sold by organizations. The first mass event so commemorated was the 1892 Columbian Exposition, which took place when such defacing of coins was illegal. However no-one cared about the lowly cent, and government officials just looked the other way.

Large cents have been used as tokens for card games and similar activities, and pitching pennies has long been a popular pastime. And the English have a pub game called "Shove Ha'penny", a game similar to shuffleboard and played with smooth half-pennies on a graduated board.

A child's toy--known as a "humdinger"--was made by drilling two holes in the rim of a large cent, then passing two loops of cord through them. The cords were wound, then moved back and forth so the coin would begin to spin very rapidly, producing a humming noise.

## IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A COIN (Cont'd)

Early frontiersmen once shaved down the rims of large cents and notched them for service as rifle sights. More recently, copper coins have been placed around automobile battery terminals to draw the acid and prevent corrosion of the cables. They have also been used as substitutes for fuses, a trick that has led to many an overloaded circuit and subsequent electrical fires.

An acorn was rubbed on warts, then tossed over the shoulder to get rid of them. When a cent was placed in a tropical fish aquarium it was supposed to cure the disease ake.

Overseas during World War II, servicemen with time on their hands used to make rings from silver coins. They'd drill a hole in a quarter so it would fit the finger, then beat the edge of the coin with a table-spoon. After much work, the ring was formed, and the printing was visible inside the ring.

Other uses for coins included checking the bore of a 12-gauge shotgun, as paper weights, to adjust clock pendulum balances, trace embroidery designs, check tire tread wear and to settle disputes. Superstition holds that a coin placed under the mast of a new ship will allow for spirit passage over the river Styx.

To locate the body of a drowned person, a coin was buried in the side of a loaf of bread, then the loaf was tossed on the water. Coins were placed in the rooms of sick people to ward off evil spirits, in the cracks of a new car to ward off accidents, and under the inner sole of a new pair of shoes to insure that one's steps would always be in the right direction. Coins sewn in the seams of wedding dresses meant good luck and future happiness. And if one has a secret wish, finding a cent means it will come true.

Coins are used as ornamentation in some parts of the world. Arab women have been known to wear coins on their foreheads, and Indian women have occasionally worn small silver coins in their noses.

The uses and abuses of coins go well beyond their commercial purposes. Over the years they have found themselves adapted for everything from medicine to auto mechanics. Their numismatic history is almost as colorful as the more conventional stories of coinage.

\*\*\*\*\*



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**(in the Strathcona Plaza near IGA)**

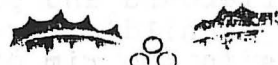
We'll be closed during Jan 5-19  
with our Grand Opening at our  
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**Happy Holidays**



## HOW TO DETECT ARTIFICIAL TONING AND WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW

by H. Robert Campbell

The current debate concerning toning v. untuned coins revolves around the problems associated with third party grading. Megavalues of high-grade coins provides the motivation for those who are willing and knowledgeable to abuse the system by outstripping the expertise of the grading corporations.

Long-term damage to the numismatic industry occurs when individuals can subvert not only knowledgeable collectors but also the grading systems currently in place. If lower grade coins are altered through artificial means and pass for higher grade coins with the sanctioning of third-party grading, a time will arrive when the very core of the numismatic industry will be shaken and no one will be safe from declining coin values and a general sense of mistrust. Imagine a case in the art world where altered masterpieces were exchanged freely with common prints, all bearing the verification of authenticity from the world's foremost authorities. How would the value of a Rembrandt stay intact if no one could tell an authentic piece?

In Current escalation of the war between the "coin doctors" and the grading services, the only true line of defense is an intensive and continuous educational process which allows the grading services to stay ahead of the purveyors of altered coins. In the final analysis, the services stand to gain the most from this educational process as the primary commodity they market is **integrity**. Once the confidence base erodes around the grading service due to public knowledge of too many altered coins slipping through, their only product suspect and the very concept of third-party grading loses any last vestige of respectability.

Constant communication between the grading services and premier dealers or collectors should be a first line of defense against those who would seek to profit through Coin alteration. This should be encouraged and fostered by the major services as an effort to enlighten and warn the services of potential trends in coin alteration. When services adopt an isolated position or even worse, an adversarial position with major players in the numismatic industry, all the hobby suffers. It is only natural that with a concept of neutrality in the industry, the services will be lagging behind the "coin doctors", so an immediate establishment of a line of communication would be extremely helpful. Some "ivory tower" mentality can help preserve objectivity in grading; too much of it hinder the advancement of alteration detection and provides constant "windows of opportunity" as the doctors stay one step ahead or the services, converting common coins to wonder coins.

# Edmonton Numismatic Society

## COIN & STAMP SHOW

### DELTA EDMONTON SOUTH

(FORMERLY CONVENTION INN)

4404 CALGARY TRAIL

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

**MAY 1 & 2, 1999**

**Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

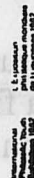
**Admission \$1.00 Advance**

**\$2.00 at the Door (16 & under FREE)**

**COIN DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZE DRAWS**

**BUY - SELL - TRADE**

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