

Edmonton Numismatic Society

January 2001

Volume 48 Issue 1

DATE: Wed., January '32, 2003 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30p.m.

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

(Use Archives entrance to Main Floor Lecture Room P138)

PROGRAM: Member talk on "Borderline Tokens of North America",
World Coin Talk, Show & Tell, J.Wray Eltom Award for 2000

JANUARY MEETING AGENDA

Our main talk will be by Markus Molenda who will talk on "Borderline Tokens of North America. James Kindrake will talk on world coinage and we will award the J.Wray Eltom Award. Show and Tell is also expected by the members.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

December saw 33 members in attendance for our

wrap-up to the year. Mike started off the meeting with a Nov. Show report. (See details in Nov's newsletter) He indicated most dealers have put a deposit for the March show. Two (2) more dealers may be added to bring the show up to 25 dealers total with 50 tables of material. The club did well financially and were happy with the facility. Mike also asked the members to accept an additional 2 Directors on the executive. It is better to have more help than less, as not all directors make it to executive meetings. As there were no objections, we allowed up to 8 directors and 1 junior director. Next, Ron McDonald was introduced as our guest speaker, to talk on Digital Photography of coins. Ron has a great Sony camera with zoom capabilities. He showed the features of the camera and explained the levels of resolution, number of pictures you can take per disk etc. He supplemented the talk with comparisons he already had on his computer, with shots taken at the meeting. Many members were interested in the process and have used the technology themselves, and relayed their experiences to the members. The discussion touched on scanning as well, which seems to give better results for paper money. Ron was thanked for his informative and timely talk. Member, John Elves, was

then asked to conduct nominations for additional names wishing to stand for the executive. As none were added, it was moved by Marshall and seconded to accept all the nominations as presented, including the directors. See the attached report for the results. Following the election, we called for show and tell, and Lub Wojtiw advised the members of the \$5 notes with the "Knight"

signature. Also, Lub noted that he and David Peter attended the Moore auction in Toronto. Over 300 bidders were in attendance in addition to many mail bidders. Lub, David and John Callaghan from the club obtained lots at the auction. Some of the specimens were shown around the room. The prices obtained broke

records again, with over \$700,000 paid for the 465 lots. Ray Neiman showed off a Gold set to the members, and a member bought the set, after which Ray donated \$20 to the club as a commission on the sale. Following a short break, a donation auction for the Christmas bureau was held, conducted by Ray Neiman, and the club raised over \$250 for the Christmas bureau. Three door prize draws were won as follows: 1790 Silver Thaler won by Joe Grace; 1947 Tall 7 50 cents won by Peter Figol; 1971 Sil. \$ won by James Williston. Thanks to all the donors for the auction and those providing goodies for the members. All in all, a great meeting was had by all. Following the meeting, some members met at the Boston Pizza to celebrate the holidays

MARCH SHOW TICKETS AVAILABLE

AUCTION RAISES OVER \$250 FOR CHARITY

ANOTHER FULL SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2001



2001 Executive

PRESIDENT

Dan Gosling

PAST PRESIDENT

Joseph Bardy

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ray Neiman

SECRETARY

Michael Schneider

TREASURER

John Callaghan

DIRECTORS

Terry Cheesman
James Kindrake
Ron McDonald
Albert Meyer
David Peter
Bernie Theriault
James Williston
Lub Wojtiw
Scott Lakey (Jr. Dir)

PROGRAM / LIBRARY

ARCHIVES

Dan Gosling

NEWSLETTER

Michael Schneider

ANNUAL DUES

Family \$12, Reg. \$10
Junior \$3 (16 & under)

ENS is a member of:

Canadian Numismatic Assoc.
American Numismatic Assoc.

Canadian Association of
Token Collectors

Canadian Association of
Wooden Money Collectors

Canadian Paper Money Society

Classical & Medieval
Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 75024 Ritchie P.O., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6E 6K1, 780-496-6602

WEB PAGE: <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/dang/>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

It's that time of year again, when renewal of your membership is requested once again. Your \$10 regular, \$12 family entitles you to 9 - 10 newsletters per year, subsidized breakfasts at our club shows, free pizza in September, great prices at our club auctions and of course great entertainment, education and fellowship with our other members. If you haven't already done so, renew today. Send in your membership with December's renewal form, or at a meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS

Once again, the ENS has a full slate of officers to conduct its business. All the executive positions remained the same as last year, and the directorship remained the same with the exception of 2 new additions, Lub Wojtiw and Ron McDonald of Red Deer. Both have been active for many years and we welcome them to becoming more involved in the club. For a complete list of executive members, see the front page of this newsletter.

A New Year's Message from the President - Dan Gosling

How was your NUMISMATIC HOLIDAY SEASON? Did you acquire any new items or visit with any fellow collectors? The holidays provide a nice pause between the fall and spring collecting seasons. January is the traditional time to look ahead. Budgeting for future acquisitions is crucial to collecting success. Money management can allow you the flexibility to increase your bid from an underbid to a successful bid. Rare coins and notes do not usually appear when you have not bought anything for a while and you are flush with spare cash. Your collecting budget should also provide for travel expenses. Many rarities only appear at major shows. Why not give some thought to attending the **2001 CNA in Quebec City** this July (26-29)? The **American Numismatic Association** is accepting enrolments for its **Summer Seminar 2001** (June 30 - July 13). This is an enjoyable opportunity for the serious Numismatist.

Last year we were very fortunate to see a strong interest in collecting in Edmonton. Our **club shows** were very **well attended** and **profitable**. In addition **attendance** at club meetings **rose** as well as our membership numbers. A tough act to follow for 2001!

Over the holidays I had a chance to start reading my copy of "**MONEY L'ARGENT**" by **Geraldine Chimirri-Russell** of the **Nickle Arts Museum**. This gorgeous Gold covered 121 page book about the history of money and the collection at the Museum is a must have. The book contains countless plates of fabulous coins. Let us know if you are interested in obtaining a copy?

With the December election of an **expanded board of Directors** I am looking forward to many active and productive executive meetings. Your executive is committed to improving your collecting experience in 2001. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

One of our directors **Lub W.** is now **Assistant Editor of The Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Government Paper Money 13th edition**. This is a tribute to his extensive knowledge of Canadian paper money and quite an honour. Congratulations Lub!

If you have a request for a special topic at a future meeting please let one of the executive know. We aim to please! We are always interested in what you have recently acquired and welcome contributions to our regular "**show and tell**".

LETTER TO MINT ENCLOSED

The ENS received a very interesting letter from Robert Wilson, Ontario, to the Mint, regarding the 1999 Coin set. The letter has a lot of merit and raises a lot of questions on the value of Mint sets. Read the letter and decide for yourself.

J.Wray Eltom Award

Once again we will be awarding the J.Wray Eltom Award to one of our hard working members. This award has been expanded to include work by a member over a long period of time, not just for the past year. Hope to see a good turnout at the meeting for this presentation.

COMING EVENTS

February 4 & 5, 2001	Torex Show & Auction, Primrose Hotel, Toronto, Info- Brian-416-861-9523
February 22 - 25, 2001	Long Beach Coin & Collectibles Expo, Long Beach Conv. Centre.
March 3 & 4, 2001	Westex Coin & Stamp Show, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
March 8 - 10, 2001	ANA National Money Show, Salt Lake City, Utah
March 10 & 11, 2001	Edmonton Numismatic Society, Coin & Stamp Show, Coast Terrace Inn
March 16, 17 & 18, 2001,	Calgary Numismatic Society Coin Show, Info - Neil - 403-281-9104
March 24, 2001	Cambridge Coin Club Coin Show, Cambridge, Ontario
March 30 - April 1, 2001	Edmonton Stamp Club, Spring National Stamp Show, West Edm. Mall

Emmanuel Triassi, Chairperson,
Board of Directors of the Royal Canadian Mint,
Royal Canadian Mint,
320 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 0G8

November 28, 2000

Dear Mr. Triassi:

Subject: #626099 25 Yr. Tradition of
Excellence (1999) Coin Set includes one
medallion (slug) and 1¢ through .50¢ -
.91¢ change costing \$99.95 - WHY?

The manufacturing of the above coins using the "new", patented plating process (the MINT'S own description) was intended to reduce costs by millions of dollars, so, why wasn't the reduction in costs reflected onto the purchase of these sets? How would you suggest in your infinite wisdom to perpetuate the young Canadians' enthusiasm to collect our heritage with this outrageous and incomprehensible cost - WHAT A JOKE!

Whatever happened to the cost of about \$15.95 that you charge for regular "Sealed-In-Plastic" sets such as Canadian Mint's #626040 and receive \$3.91 in "mint condition" coins?
ie.; A young person goes into a Coin Shop:-
Sir, (to the dealer) I would like to purchase the NEW TRADITION SET 1999. The dealer says to the young person: -
"Have I got a great deal for you, it will cost you only \$99.95 plus 15% tax." -- "But Sir, (to the dealer) I'm only 13 years old and there is only .91¢ in the set, so why would I pay so much to get so little?" The dealer says: - "TELL ME ABOUT IT!"

I was personally involved in design engineering and, with the design crew, fabricated the best possible product to SAVE COSTS:- thus reflecting lower costs to the buyer. This is the Canadian way, isn't it?

To sum up the inappropriate bit of flag-waving by the Mint to reduce costs in producing these coins, then to turn around and

cont'd. on Page 2

Page 2.....

charge (as an insult) \$99.95 plus 15% tax for a .91¢ return --
oh yes, and a (SLUG) MEDALLION.

Yours truly,



Robert J. Wilson
6939 Justine Drive,
Mississauga, Ont.
L4T 1M4

P.S. I've been purchasing coin sets from the mint since the
1950's and I must say that this is the stupidist thing
the mint has ever done.

"A very unhappy customer."

/RJW

cc: Danielle Wetherup,
President & Master of the Mint,
P.O. Box 457, Stn. A,
Ottawa, Ont.
K1N 8V5

PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

All Canadian Coin Clubs

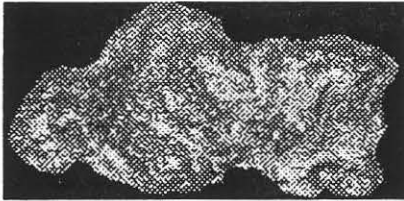
Canadian Numismatic Association

Ontario Numismatic Association

Cast Greek & Roman Coins



"Cast", to a collector of ancient coins, generally means "fake". Almost all genuine ancient coins were struck from dies. Counterfeiters often make a mold from a genuine coin and cast replicas. The practice is almost as old as the real coins and continues today as a way of fooling the foolish tourist and collector. This week's Feature shows a few exceptions to the rule: Genuine ancient coins that were produced by casting rather than striking.



Perhaps it is a stretch to call our first coin 'cast'. Some will say it is a stretch to call it a coin. In fact it is the first Roman coin. This bronze lump of 10.9g, "Aes Rude", was produced in Central Italy in the early 3rd Century BC or before. The pre-coin economy of Central Italy was based on the bronze standard. Unformed lumps of copper or bronze were traded by weight for many years before the idea occurred to make the material into marked ingots or coins. Hoards of this period consist of lumps of varying size with no markings. Later, individual pieces of certain weight were stamped with a mark; later still the material was melted down and cast into a more recognizable form. Cast ingots (Aes Signatum) with designs were sometimes broken up to provide smaller denominations. The value was the weight of metal, not the markings of denomination. How can the collector know an Aes Rude from a lump of metal? One can't. This example was part of a hoard sold at auction by a reputable firm as having been found in that region. In fact, a lump is a lump and the important point here is that the idea of coinage did not spring fully developed from the head of an ancient sage; it developed over years of commerce as a more convenient way of exchange than the trade of 'coins' like this one.

Early Roman coins (Aes Grave) were cast from bronze in several denominations. Rome issued a number of types before standardizing on the 'prow' series usually associated with early Roman bronzes. One series bore a six spoked wheel on the reverse and an animal on the obverse. This 38.4g bronze sextans tortoise is one sixth of the as which would weigh a full Roman pound. Most coins show the denomination indicated by pellets (one pellet for each 1/12th as; S=1/2 as and I= one as) on both sides but the tortoise's two pellets seem to have done double duty as his rear legs. The denomination mark should also be found on the reverse between the spokes of the wheel. This very weak and worn specimen requires great imagination to see pellets at the 1 and 3 o'clock positions. Cast coins never show the fine detail common on struck coins but this example is far from the most clear of its type. As time progressed, inflation reduced the amount of bronze valued at one as. By the late third century BC, coins became small enough to allow production by striking.



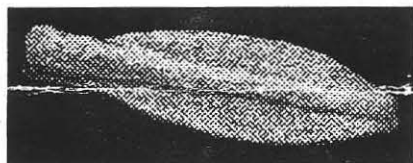
Several other jurisdictions, both in Italy and other parts of the Mediterranean, issued coins produced by casting. In many cases these are large and chunky but still round and 'coinlike' in appearance. A few cast ancient 'coins' available to collectors more properly fall in the realm of 'odd and curious' money. Shown below are just two examples of cast items that are collected as coins. There is some dispute among scholars as to the exact status of these items. Someday, more research may clarify the part these items played in the history of their day.

Akragas, Sicily, produced a series of cast items in the early fifth century BC. The smallest denomination (onkia) took an oval form; the larger sizes were distinctly 'tooth' shaped. The denomination was indicated, as later at Rome, by pellets showing the number of twelfths, this time of the litra (a unit much smaller than the Roman pound). The example shown here (from three angles: 'obverse' and 'reverse' lose meaning on these) weighs 13.7g and has four pellets making it 1/3 (4/12) litra or a triens. Three pellets would indicate 1/4 (3/12) litra or a quadrans. The types resemble those used later on struck round coins from this city. One side shows an eagle; the other a crab. The designs on the 'teeth' are rarely very clear.



This one has a reasonably well defined eagle but the crab will require the cooperation of your imagination

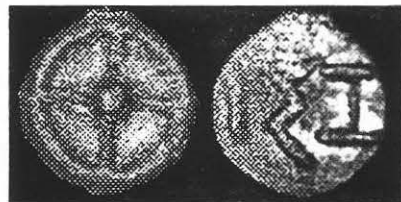
Some consider the cast Akragas items to be weights rather than circulating coins. My personal opinion tends to side with their being coins since they exist in numbers far to great to be explained as weights. Again, as so often the case, we await more study on the subject.



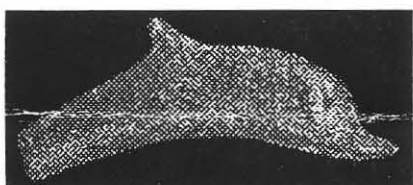
Even more controversial is the status of the item pictured at the right. Attributed to Istros, Thrace, and dated to the 6th or 5th centuries BC, these are sometimes called 'arrows' and sometimes 'leaves'. Large hoards of them have recently entered the coin market. These 35mm long bronze items are never sharp like arrows but always show the central rib which

leads to their identification with olive leaves. If they are money at all, they are a way of quantifying the amount of bronze and could well have been a unit of exchange. It might seem a bit much to call them 'coins' but they are sold by coin dealers and bought by coin collectors. Of all the poorly understood byways of ancient numismatics this is certainly one of the ones most in need of more information.

Also from Istros, but marked more certainly and much more 'coinlike', is this cast wheel. Dating about a century later than the arrowhead-leaf, the wheel is one of several cast forms used in the Black sea region at the time. At the top is a sprue by which metal entered the mold. It is likely that these items were cast in 'trees' like the round Chinese Cash that were produced for several centuries before (and two millennia after) this coin.



Casting allowed transfer of only coarse detail and was rarely used for coinage after the period of this wheel.



Most popular of the cast coins is the dolphin of Olbia, Thrace. The dating within this series of issues (there are many minor versions in a range of sizes) is wholly beyond my abilities to explain. They extend at least from the 5th to 3rd centuries BC. A few have legends on the reverse but most like this 26mm example, are unmarked. Most lack a tail which was lost

when the coin was separated from the casting 'tree'. Very common and popular, dolphins that have good form with fins and eyes sell for considerably more than lumps requiring imagination to attribute as dolphins.

Beginning collectors should avoid any coin that shows the poor detail associated with production with casting unless the type is one listed in the catalog as being cast. The number of varieties that were cast is reasonably large but tiny compared to the overall count of ancient coins. Cast issues were produced over a relatively limited span of time in a relatively few areas. Nevertheless, cast ancient coins would make an interesting specialty for a collector of the odd and curious.

Questions or comments appreciated. E-mail me

(c) 1998 dougsmit@geocities.com



"CANADA'S TOOTHY BEAVER"



The "Beaver" 5 cent first introduced in 1937 has become a popular series with collectors today. Designed by George Kruger-Gray, it shared with other new designs a departure from the plain reverses of earlier Canadian coins.

The basic Beaver design is one still being coined today, but it has been interrupted on several occasions. The design shows the Beaver atop its lodge, with Canada and the date below, 5 cents flanked by maple leaves above, and the designer's initials K.G. in front of the beaver's nose.

From 1937 and into 1942, the coin was pure nickel and with a round planchet, as today. In the first year the last digit of the date had a prominent dot after it, but this was discontinued after 1937.



Period after
date 1937 only



No period
1938-1942

The second type Beaver was the "Tombac" coin of 1942. A shortage of nickel for war purposes led to the substitution of 88 per cent copper, 12 per cent zinc. To prevent confusion with the cent, the mint struck this coin on a 12 sided planchet.

The years 1943, 1944 and 1945 saw the Victory design interrupt the reign of the Beaver. In 1946 the nickel Beaver returned producing a 3rd type. The 12 sided planchet was retained, this time to avoid confusion with the 25 cent coin.



1947 Maple Leaf Beaver



1947 Dot Beaver

It can be noted that in 1947 there were two die varieties, the maple leaf and the plain date type. The plain date was intentional but the maple leaf was

caused by circumstance.

In 1948, India gained it's independence from Great Britain, so the legend on the obverse had to be changed. Dies were not ready with the Emperor of India deleted in early 1948, so the 1947 dies with a maple leaf added after the seven were used. This indicates that all these coins were minted in 1948.

It seems that I have gotten into the obverse variety instead of my initial theme - the Beaver, but to truly explain the 1947 coins this was necessary.

In 1951 saw another change, first the design of the Beaver was made slightly larger, and because of the price of nickel, chromium plated steel planchets were used. In 1955 the Beaver was reduced in size to the old level and the planchet became nickel again.



Large beaver
reverse

In 1963 the planchet became steel again and from then on the Beaver reverse differs only in date, except for 1967 when the rabbit took over for Centennial year.

Considering the role played by the Beaver in our fur trading, it is not surprising that the animal was chosen for one of our most circulating coins.



Small beaver
1955-1962

In the 1850's the Hudson Bay Company issued tokens worth fractions of "Beaver" skins, the value of one-eighth, one quarter, one half, and one "made beaver".

In the years since Kruger-Gray design was introduced, the Beaver has appeared on three metals, (nickel, tombac, steel), two monarchs, and three different portraits. The hard working, toothy beast has gotten a lot of numismatic recognition.

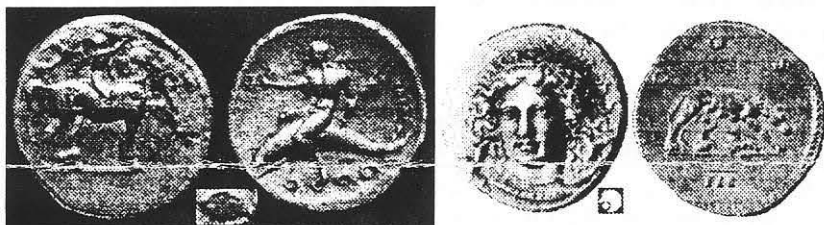
T.Masters

(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE INGERMAN COIN CLUB)

Millennium Coin & Stamp Show

MARCH 10 & 11, 2001, The Coast Terrace Inn
4440 Calgary Trail North, Edmonton, Alberta

Admission \$1.00 in advance, \$2.00 at the Door, 16 & under FREE!



49 dealer tables and 25 coin & stamp dealers with 100's of thousands in inventory! Displays for public viewing Saturday & Sunday including decimal coinage, Ancient coinage, Paper Money and More!

GOLD COIN & OTHER DOOR PRIZE DRAWS!

**** FREE UNDERGROUND PARKING ****

Coin & Stamp Show hours:

Sat., Mar. 10, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sun., Mar. 11, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

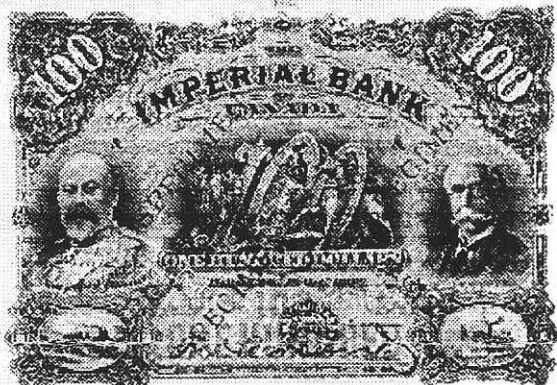
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& STAMP SHOW OF THE YEAR**

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West Edmonton Coin & Stamp; Lucky Dollar Coins; Kameronian Coins; Ed Jackson Coins; Morris Gunderson Coins, Leduc; Collins Coins, Canada Coin & Paper Money Abbotsford, BC; R&D Coins & Paper Money, Red Deer; OK Coin & Stamp, Kelowna, BC; National Pride Coins & Stamp; Calgary Coin Gallery, Calgary; Newcan Coins, Cards & Collectibles, Kenora, Ont.; John Weisbrich Coins, Calgary; Joe Bardy Coins; Loose Change, St. Michael; Pack Rats Antiques Coins & Stamps, Busby; Kensington Coin & Stamp; Royal William Stamps; R.D. Miner Philatelics, Calgary, M.J. Daniels, Winnipeg

2 additional dealer tables will be available in March.

**For Hotel Reservations call
Toll Free at: 1-888-837-7223**

For more information contact the
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