

# Edmonton Numismatic Society

February 2002

Volume 49 Issue 2



**DATE:** Wed., Feb. 13, 2002 **TIME:** 7:00p.m. door opens, Meeting at 7:30 pm

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

(Use Archives entrance to Main Floor Lecture Rm. P138)

**PROGRAM:** Video: "Grading Mint-State U. S. Coins"

## 2002 Executive

### PRESIDENT

Dan Gosling

### PAST PRESIDENT

Joseph Bardy

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Ray Neiman

### SECRETARY

Michael Schneider

### TREASURER

John Callaghan

### DIRECTORS

Terry Cheesman

Ron Darbyshire

Bob Eriksson

James Kindrake

Albert Meyer

Markus Molenda

David Peter

Jules Rach

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

## FEBRUARY MEETING AGENDA

Due to an unexpected trip to Toronto we will not have the pleasure of another interesting talk from James Kindrake. In his place we will be showing the video that Ray Neiman received as a bonus when he joined the American Numismatic Association. The video is titled "Grading Mint-State U. S. Coins" narrated by J. P. Martin. To quote the box: "Thousands of collectors have learned the basics of grading from this video. With its detailed, full-colour illustrations, you will see more in these 88 minutes than you would in a month of poring over printed grading guides."

The box continues on with:

"Here is just a small sample of the subjects covered: The history of grading, and how market grading differs from technical grading.

How location, severity and number of contact marks affect a coin's grade.

The four factors of eye appeal.

How to detect whizzing, cleaning, artificial frosting, thumbing and artificial toning."

The video will be shown starting at 7:45 with a break half way through. We

are confident that you will find the time spent watching the video extremely worthwhile.

## JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Twenty-Eight (28) members and guests attended our January meeting. Dan welcomed all to the meeting and read a thank

you card from Tania Gilbey. The club donated proceeds from the December auction to help with her recovery. Dan had the first volume of a series of 3 books we will be donating to the University Library. The book on Canadian Medals was circulated around the room for

### Get advance tickets for March Coin Show

### Purchase ENS/CNA Seminar Tickets!

### Renew your Membership Today!

members to view. Dan reminded everyone to think about attending the CNA Convention which is in Vancouver this year, from July 12 - 14. Members were reminded memberships are due. Michael gave a short update on the upcoming March Show, where all tables will be filled once again. Books for advance tickets were available to sell. An executive meeting is planned for Jan. 31, at Royal Pizza. A Coin & Stamp Show is being held in St. Albert at the St. Albert Inn, on Jan. 26 & 27. Contact Ted Meeres for more info. Door prize winners at today's meeting were: Howard Gilbey - 1993 Liberia Nolan Ryan coin; Michael Schneider - 1985 Coin Week Sil. Coin;

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

WEB PAGE: <http://www.edmontoncoinclub.com> Recently Changed to a Domain Name!

Bob Ericksson - Ancient Coin; Rob Bourque - Mint CD Rom; Marshall Wynnchuk - 1977 Dollar & Stamp set; Ernie Carlson - Magnifying glass; Ray Neiman - Mint VHS tape; Marvin Berger - Coins & Currency Book; Chris Hale - 1953 Can. Sil. Dollar. Thanks to Jules Rach for his donation of some of the prizes. Thanks also to all those who renewed your membership at the meeting.

Are you planning on attending the CNA Convention in Vancouver on July 12-14th? If you are interested in registering for the club delegates breakfast and some of the other events let us know.

Ron Darbyshire has received approval from the executive for his "Coins and Kids" program. Details to follow. We are very excited by what Ron has proposed.

### **EXECUTIVE MEETING UPDATE :**

At the meeting of the newly elected Edmonton Numismatic Society executive on Jan 31st it was decided to add \$1,000 to the upcoming maturity of an existing \$2,000 GIC. This brings our total deposits to \$12,000! This total is a result of the profit earned from the 1998 CNA Convention and the semi annual club show. The club show committee, lead by Michael Schneider, have done a great job enhancing our fortunes.

The next show on March 16th and 17th is on track to a memorable experience. Be sure to attend.

The executive reiterated its desire to prepare a history of the club for its 50th anniversary next year. We would like volunteers to help Reg Smith document our past and prepare a publication. Michael suggested a "special show" in the fall of 2003 to commemorate this special event. James Kindrake volunteered to host the annual Bar B Que on Sunday June 23rd. He intends to follow the fine efforts of David and Kim Peter who hosted the event last year.

Are you planning on attending the CNA Convention in Vancouver on July 12-14th? If you are interested in registering for the club delegates breakfast and some of the other events let us know.

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

On behalf of the executive of the ENS, we would like to extend our welcome to the following new members. If there are no objections, they will become members in good standing.

**Dave Judson, Eckville, #461**

**Cory Ketchum, Lancaster Park, #462**

**Richard Lemke, Red Deer, # 463**

**Terry Schamehorn, Notikewin, #464**

Congratulations and welcome to the Edmonton Numismatic Society. A membership card will be forwarded in due course, with an upcoming newsletter.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE PAST DUE**

Members are reminded to remit their dues. Dues will remain the same as the last several years. Renewals can be made by mailing the December Newsletter form or payment at the February meeting.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY AND HELP SUPPORT THE CLUB!**

### **COMING EVENTS**

<b>March 9 &amp; 10</b>	<b>Calgary Numismatic Society Show, Holiday Inn Downtown, Calgary</b>
<b>March 16, &amp; 17</b>	<b>Edmonton Numismatic Society, Coin &amp; Stamp Show, Coast Terrace Inn</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>CNA/NESA Educational Seminar, Sponsored by ENS, Edmonton</b>
<b>March 22 - 24</b>	<b>Royal Philatelic Soc. of Can. National Exhibition, West Edm. Mall</b>
<b>April 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>Vancouver Numismatic Society, Oakridge Centre Auditorium, Vancouver</b>
<b>April 13 - 14</b>	<b>ONA Annual Convention, London, Ont., Hosted by Ingersoll Coin Club</b>
<b>July 12 - 14</b>	<b>CNA Vancouver, B.C.</b>

## CNA/NESA EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS - EDMONTON

The CNA/NESA Educational Seminar has been re-scheduled to **March 23, 2002**. Members are asked to make your intentions known about attending the seminar, as members will have first refusal, after which it will be opened up to the public. Details are as follows:

### **C.N.A. Canadian Numismatic Course**

**Saturday, March 23th 2002 Edmonton, Alberta**

Co-Sponsored by the Canadian Numismatic Association, Numismatic Education Services Association and the Edmonton Numismatic Society

The seminar will start at 9:00 a.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., Location: **Centre for Education One Kingsway Avenue.**, Edmonton, Alberta (The Centre for Education is operated by the Edmonton Public Schools and is located in the Blue Building across the street from the Royal Alex Hospital)

Includes: Certificate of Participation  
Numismatic books & handouts  
Complimentary coffee  
Free parking

### **THE COURSE**

This one-day course is co-sponsored by the Edmonton Numismatic Society, the Canadian Numismatic Association and the Numismatic Educational Services Association. The course is an ambitious event with the goal of educating collectors about the beauty, historical and economic importance of Canadian coins, tokens, medals and paper money. The seven qualified instructors will supplement their discussion with slides, videos, overheads, demonstrations, handouts and displays of actual numismatic material. The day long course will include one hour for lunch (the cost for lunch is the responsibility of each individual). Morning and afternoon coffee breaks are also scheduled with complimentary coffee being available. Each registrant will receive material from the instructors as well as a worthwhile numismatic catalogues. Each participant will also receive a special CNA / NESA "Certificate of Participation" at the conclusion of the course.

The Centre for Education was chosen for its excellent facilities and reputation as a learning center. Detailed directions and a map to the Centre for Education will be sent with the confirmation of your acceptance in the course.

9:00 am - Introduction (Moderator Dan Gosling)  
9:10 am - Canadian Decimal Coins - David Peter  
10:00 am - Counterfeit Detection - Ray Neiman  
11:00 am - Canadian Paper Money- Lub Wojtiw  
12:00 am - Lunch (not provided)

1:00 pm - Collecting Strategies - James Kindrake  
2:00 pm - Grading Mintstate Canadian Coins - Dan Gosling  
3:00 pm - Canadian Tokens - Markus Molenda  
4:00 pm - Ancient Coins - Terry Cheesman  
5:00 pm - Seminar ends

### **Registration Cost:**

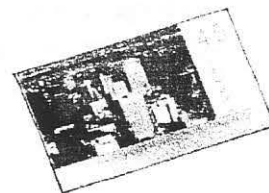
\$35.00 for CNA members  
\$45.00 for Non-members  
\$25.00 for Juniors (under the age of 18)

Tickets can be purchased at the monthly meetings of the Edmonton Numismatic Society or at the spring coin show on March 16th and 17th at the Coast Terrace Inn or by writing to:

Edmonton Numismatic Society  
P.O. Box 75024, Ritchie P.O.  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 6K1  
visit our club web site at  
[www.edmontoncoinclub.com](http://www.edmontoncoinclub.com)  
or call: **Michael Schneider**  
at (780) 496-6602 or Fax (780) 496-6618.  
email [Mike.Schneider@gov.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:Mike.Schneider@gov.edmonton.ab.ca)

## EDMONTON STAMP CLUB : ROYAL 2002 ROYALE

*Edmonton Stamp  
Club extends a  
warm invitation  
to join us for*



ROYAL  2002  ROYALE

Canada's National Stamp Exhibition  
"The World of Airmails"

Meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Featuring: Exhibits, Dealers, Youth Room



2002

March 22, Friday, 10 am to 5 pm

March 23, Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm

March 24, Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

West Edmonton Mall Conference Centre  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Europa Boulevard)  
Edmonton, Alberta

*Everyone welcome — no admission charge*

# INTERNET NONSENSE

## **SPECTACULAR DOUBLE STRUCK 1794 DOLLAR!!!**

**Item #1226873515**

[Coins](#) [Coins](#) [US](#) [Errors](#)



Currently **\$90.00** [\(reserve met\)](#)

Quantity **1**

Time left **5 days, 15 hours +**

First bid **\$0.01**

# of bids **6** [bid history](#)

Location **MaCOMB COUNTY  
MICHIGAN**

Country/Region **USA/Detroit**



Started Apr-01-01 13:13:26 PDT

Ends Apr-11-01 14:13:26 PDT

[mail this auction to a friend](#)

[watch this item](#)

### **Description**

Yes thats right!!! I am offering a spectacular double struck flowing hair silver dollar, a product of the Gallery Mint. First strike at 100% then the second strike 50% off-center. Since the production of the 1794 dollar is new from the Gallery Mint, this specimen is the NUMBER #1 double struck error. Also, a Detroit electrical company toned it superb with the tonning of a pastel gun-metal with pastel hues of orangish-violet and gold around the edges. This is the first time that an electrical charge was used to tone a coin, thus resulting in an almost 100% natural old time tone. A TRUELY SUPERB & MOST SPECTACULAR COIN. Just think if a genuine issue such as this would ever hit the market? Well, we can forget about that,....none exist! The coin is a GEM ALL THE WAY and no-doubt a spectacular display item in ones collection. THERE IS A RESERVE OF UNDER \$100! I PROVIDE A 5 DAY RETURN. THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK! I ACCEPT PAYPAL ALSO.

## HERE'S ANOTHER ONE:

└─ Yeoman, R.S.: A Guide Book Of United States Coins: 1947 ; 1947, 1st edition, very good+ condition, minor wear to title, date, and author, minor wear to extremities, interior is near fine condition, published by Whitman Publishing Company, Racine, 254 pages. The Rare and much sought first edition of R.S. Yeoman's classic Red Book of United States Coins., Coins Coins Numismatics Red Book (UR#BOOKS001576I) Offered for sale by [Robert Gwodz](#) at [US\\$2000.00](#)



## THE END OF A GOLDEN ERA.

by Wayne L. Jacobs, F.C.N.R.S.

From the perspective of each Canadian collector, there is apt to be a time held as a "Golden Era" in numismatics and one that may well vary with the individual. It may even be today - but one that never fails to catch our attention is at the very beginning: say, 1860-95.

We don't know who the first Canadian collector was; we only know that they were already in place by the late 1850s to the extent they could form a large part of the "Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Society" when it was organized in 1862 and contribute heavily to their quarterly journal when it began to appear in 1872. Despite its "across-Canada" title, the Society was Montreal-based and it was here that Canada's early hotbed of numismatics was located.

To be honest, numismatics was not as "democratic" as today. Nearly all those whose names are still remembered through their collections and/or research were professional men of fairly comfortable means - some were downright rich. Working men trying to subsist on a dollar or so per day seldom have the wherewithal or inclination to form coin collections although we may assume that many petty collections *were* made from the battered tokens still to be found in circulation.

There was a difference in material collected in those days as well. Decimal coinage was almost completely overlooked as "mere pocket change" while the greatest emphasis was placed on pre-Confederation tokens, Canadian medals and (later) what we might call "trade tokens".

The old classic tokens received the first attention and it wasn't long before dealers appeared as sources of supply - sometimes as adjuncts to jewellery or antique/curio businesses, sometimes as a new line by established American dealers such as J.W. Scott in New York. Before long, quite comprehensive collections of Canadian could be formed quickly - if you had the money. And most of the "name" collectors did. Pieces commoner than "50 known" were easy to come by so, before long, each collection reached a point at which new acquisitions were markedly slower in coming - with true rarities perhaps never doing so. Then followed a game of one-upmanship with some collectors triumphantly displaying their new treasures at club meetings for all to admire and envy (B&E with coins in view was not a problem at the time). But there were only so many genuine rarities to go around, certainly far fewer than the demand.

So, the demand was filled. A lot of British tokens bearing a strong resemblance to Canadian were imported and attempted to be placed in the latter series - the "Cossack Penny" was one such. Then the firm of W.J. Taylor in London was only too happy to mule old Soho dies from the Habitant, Front View and 1843 New Brunswick series just every which way, creating a whole category that was rare (usual "mintage" was 25 for each variety) and expensive. Most knowledgeable collectors weren't taken in by these things but - "Who cares?: They're rare!" Perhaps the most insidious of all were the home-grown "scarcities", the outright concoctions dirtying by association the more legitimate issues.

The main contemporary crusader against all these things was Robert McLachlan, a man who pulled few punches and doesn't seem to have feared swimming against the tide. The

fact he was in the top rank of Canadian numismatics - particularly in research and writing - made it hard for his voice to be drowned. But the distinct impression is that he didn't make a lot of friends, either.

His first salvo was fired at the April, 1891 meeting of the Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Society in a paper entitled "Some Recent Frauds in Canadian Coins", printed in the Society's quarterly journal a year later. It includes the "newly discovered" Br-712, a number of trade checks which were "pure fabrications", the Maysenholder & Bohle advertising card and several copies of rare coins. His original speech may have been toned down somewhat for publication since he notes this later on.

He was back again on the same subject at the December, 1892 meeting where things obviously became quite heated, concluding in a resolution:

*"Resolved: That Mr. R.W. McLachlan be asked to describe in the next issue of the "Antiquarian" the spurious checks that have been issued in such large numbers during the past few months".*

He did so in the April, 1893 number, noting nevertheless that *"The paper read before the Society on this subject was considered too strong in some parts so that much valuable information had to be left out"* and at the very end of the article: *"It was my purpose to have given a list of the fabrications but as names occur on them the Society has thought best that it should not be published"*. Therefore this particular article was rather general in coverage but with some valuable information.

For instance, McLachlan found that the various checks could be ordered made up for only \$1.50 to \$2.50 per hundred, the "mint" in question merely using stock dies with the names added using typeset in the press, after which the entrepreneur could sell them singly at the "per hundred" price, a very healthy markup indeed. He also noted that a few years previously, there had been attempts (now abandoned) at "legitimizing" these issues simply by the entrepreneur having the "firm" named on the checks actually circulate a few of them for a short time (perhaps just minutes). Finally was what McLachlan termed the out-and-out frauds: checks struck in the name of businesses or people who knew absolutely nothing about them.

As his writings in later years indicate, McLachlan was also none too crazy about the "calling cards" of various numismatists with the whole purpose of these "limited issues" being trade or sale at inflated prices - up to \$5 each. But although he didn't like their *purpose*, he could not call them anything less than "legitimate" so simply listed them, without comment in their special category.

The situation was obviously spinning out of control, something that other Canadian collectors seem to have come to realize as well, for in the April, 1893 number of the "Antiquarian", McLachlan was able to publish an article innocuously titled "Canadian Coins and Medals Issued in 1892", listing 103 issues with only the first five the decimal coins of that year and the last 38 as "Category VII: Coins Struck to Sell to Collectors" - in other words, total and complete fabrications.

It was almost at this exact time that Breton brought out the first edition of his famous catalogue of Canadian coins, medals and tokens which, incidentally, listed (and illustrated with line drawings) all of the pieces described by McLachlan. We must bear in mind that Breton was a coin dealer and it would hardly have been in his own interest to list and treat

the "Category VII" pieces as harshly as McLachlan. Still, his brief accompanying notes *were* a matter of pussyfooting, a certain amount of obfuscation being mixed with a little actual misdirection. Breton was certainly aware of the circumstances surrounding these "checks" since he was able to quote the "mintage figures" of every one. We should also note the frequency of the term "composite dies" in the Breton notes; another word for run-of-the-mill stock dies.

McLachlan's final words at the end of his article reads: - *"Note - I feel that some explanation is due to Collectors for publishing the foregoing table of these 'CHECKS', under the head of 'Canadian' Numismatics; They are calculated only to drag the science of numismatics into the mire. I publish the long list as a farmer would nail a hawk to his bar door, as a warning to other birds of prey, in the hope that every true collector and lover of art may carefully avoid them. The makers of such things should have struck them all in brass, although the fact of issuing such rubbish is of itself sufficiently brazenfaced."*

By this time, McLachlan was probably expressing feelings that had wide currency at this time in the Canadian numismatic community. In any case, the bubble popped at about this time, practically *no more* "Good Fors" being listed for decades after Breton's first catalogue. Nor was the "market value" of these "issues" maintained; by the Breton lists of 1907, most were down to 10 or 15 cents each (from a dollar or more) and, by his 1912 catalogue, closer to 2 or 3 cents - in other words, held to be virtually worthless.

This sorry episode had two unfortunate fallouts:

*First:* The loss of many potential numismatists to our community. A great number of new or younger collectors had been induced to buy or trade good material for these pieces and with the collapse, most left in disgust. Even the "legitimate" calling cards came in for a share of blame. These were rarely intended to be given out as "cards" in the usual sense but rather struck as "limited editions" and then traded or sold at a considerable "market value" - up to \$5 each in some cases. They were another way of making easy money. Medals also made money for the issuers - many were struck in limited quantities and then by muling various obverses and reverses (or striking in different metals), artificial "rarities" were created.

This was the period when the "Copper Company of Upper Canada" *restrike* appeared; probably a Taylor "product", it combined what seems to be a genuine old Soho obverse with a copied reverse and was sold in greater numbers and in more metals than the advertisements said. This was *also* the time when English coins were being "kidnapped" (McLachlan's term) into the Canadian series. This included an attempt by some North American dealers to import British counterfeit halfpence dated in the 1700s and sell them as "Blacksmith tokens"; since there are *hundreds* of varieties of these fake British pieces, our series could have been irretrievably inundated and confused by them. Happily, collectors just weren't interested, the "project" was a bust and the "Blacksmith" series remained relatively "pure".

All of these shenanigans led collectors away from "numismatics" and into the realm of artificial "collectors' issues" with the selling price the highest these items would realize for decades. By droves, the "new blood" left and who knows how many future Sandhams, McLachlans and Courteaus went with them?

*Second:* Even at the height of this period, there was a sprinkling of *genuine* storecards, "bons" and the like still being issued - they never stopped. However, tarred with the same brush as the others, interest in their collection and recording virtually ceased and they became relegated to the "junkbox" of Canadian numismatics for years. Only in the past few decades (as the pages of "The Token" can attest), has interest revived and research resumed in tracking down and recording the lost information - information that but for the cupidity of a century ago would never have disappeared. Presentday researchers in this difficult field should evoke both our admiration and gratitude.

As for "Golden Eras", we're still in one; we have been for fifty years.

# EDMONTON'S MONEY SHOWS



**Mar. 16-17 & Nov. 9-10, 2002**

*The Coast Terrace Inn, 4440 Gateway  
Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta*



Coin & Stamp Show Hours:

**Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

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



*Up to 27 coin & stamp dealers at 48 tables with millions of  
dollars in inventory! Displays for public viewing including  
Canadian Decimal Coinage, Ancients, Paper Money and More!*

**GOLD COIN AND OTHER DOOR PRIZE DRAWS!**

The following Dealers are confirmed for the March show:

*National Pride Coins & Stamp; 2. Loose Change, St. Michael; 3. Classic  
Cash, Sylvan Lake; 4. West Edmonton Coin & Stamp; 5. Collins Coins,  
Sherwood Park; 6. Canada Coin & Paper Money Abbotsford, BC; 7. R.D.  
Miner Philatelics, Calgary; 8. Royal William Stamps; 9. Pack Rats Antiques  
Coins & Stamps, Morrinville; 10. OK Coin & Stamp, Kelowna, BC; 11. Joe  
Bardy Coins Edm.; 12. Kensington Coin & Stamp Edm.; 13. Lub Wojtiw  
Paper Money Edm.; 13A. Canadian Coin News, Ontario; 14. Calgary Coin  
Gallery, Calgary; 15. Diverse Equities, Calgary; 16. Lucky Dollar Coins,  
Edm.; 17. KAmerican Coins, Edm.; 18. M.J. Daniels, Winnipeg/Calgary; 19.  
Newcan Coins, Cards & Collectibles, Kenora, Ont.; 20. Dan Veters Paper  
Money, Edm.; 21. Ed Jackson Coins, Edm.; 22. Morris Gunderson Coins,  
Leduc; 23. Ed & Norms Coins, Edm.; 24. Michael Riddell Coins & Stamps,  
Edm. 25. J. Gurvey & Sons Stamps, Edm.; 26. George Manz Coins, Regina.*



**Admission \$1.00 in advance, \$2.00 at the Door**

**16 & under FREE!**

**Join us for Edmonton's Premiere Coin & Stamp Show of the Year!**



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Edmonton Numismatic Society**

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