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Dan Gosling

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

### ENS is a member of:

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Canadian Association of  
Token Collectors

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Wooden Money Collectors

Canadian Paper Money Society

Classical & Medieval  
Numismatic Society

# Edmonton Numismatic Society

50th Anniversary Year!

February 2003

Volume 50 Issue 2

**DATE:** Wed. Feb. 12, 2003 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m. door opens, 7:30 Meeting

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

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

**PROGRAM:** Talk on World Coinage, Show & Tell

Talk on Cigarette Cards by Ray Neiman

### February Meeting Agenda

Our second meeting of the year will see one of my favorite speakers, James Kindrake, talk on World Coins. Jim is very knowledgeable on the history and geography of his numismatic topics, and always adds a bit of flavour and personal anecdotes to his talks, which make them even more enjoyable. Members are welcome and encouraged to bring items to show and discuss with other members as well. See you all there!

### January Meeting Minutes

Twenty-nine (29) members and guests were in attendance at January's meeting. Dan welcomed everyone and thanked them for bringing in the goodies to share with the group. Welcome was extended to new member

Jim Burns in attendance. Jim is one of the Curators at the Provincial Museum, and he was asked to provide a little background on his collecting interests. His main interest is in Coins with Elephants or Mammoths on them. Due to the illness of our guest speaker, we did not have a formal agenda for the evening. Several members were prepared for 'Show & Tell', so that was the main theme for the evening. Ray Neiman started it off by showing some stamps which were signed by all the Canadian Snow Bird pilots. Only 400 sets

were made and signed, and Ray brought this in to show the members. He also brought in a Spanish Cob bracelet. The topic shifted to the 2000P 25 cent coins and other issues which have shown up. These were originally test sets for venders issued in 1999, and are still popping up in later issues and denominations. At the recent Torex auction, a 50 cent P went for \$1200. Dan mentioned that the CNA through NESA, was putting out an updated Correspondence Course binder, or Part 2, with 18 new chapters. Dan

will be writing a chapter on Numismatic Books. Another members brought in script from Salt Spring Island in BC, for members viewing and described the reason for its issue, which was the inhabitants wanting to become independent from Canada. This led to another discussion by James

Kindrake, who described the definition of a sovereign state. He discussed several groups or states who wanted to be declared sovereign, such as Hut River Australia. Another so called sovereign state is the self proclaimed Sovereign Order of Malta, which is 1 city block square in Rome. Jim also went on to describe several countries who have 2 denominations of accepted currency, such as Tonga and Madagascar. This led to other discussions of different countries striking coinage for another. All in all, a very interesting discussion that had most members

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AVAILABLE FOR  
MARCH SHOW!  
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MEMBERSHIP!**

**HOLOGRAM ERROR  
COIN DISCOVERED!**

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WEB PAGE: <http://www.edmontoncoinclub.com>

involved made for an enjoyable time. Dan initiated a discussion on the recent firings and resignations at the Royal Canadian Mint. Bob Ericksson brought in a copy of the Belzberg Auction catalogue for members to view. This will become a very sought after catalogue, and has incredible photos of some of the best struck Canadian coins ever auctioned off. It is estimated the lots will go for 6-8M US. Next, Dan showed a short RCM video on Counterfeit note detection. Terry Cheesman showed 2 ancient coins which were also circulated for member viewing. In recognition of the hard work by the Executive, honorariums in the form of Silver Dollars and 2002 Mint sets were presented to the executive by Dan Gosling, and to Dan, by Past President Joe Bardy. Michael requested volunteers for the admission table and for set-up and tear-down at the March Show. Several members volunteered. The executive meeting was announced for Jan. 30. Door prizes were won by Michael S, Greg W, Jay C and Elden K.

The meeting adjourned and some members met after the meeting once again at Boston Pizza.

### **JANUARY EXECUTIVE MEETING**

All 16 members of the executive meet at Royal Pizza on Jan. 30th for the first executive meeting of the year. The only person not in attendance, was our past president, Joe Bardy, who was unable to make it due to illness. Dan welcomed everyone in attendance, and we started right off with a Show report by Michael. Copies of the November show results, March budget, current dealer list was provided to all. The following was decided for the upcoming shows:

- Coffee will be provided each morning for dealers
- A hospitality room will be provided for all dealers
- Advertising will be beefed up where possible with some radio & TV spots added
- Our November show will be our official 50th anniversary show, with a guest speaker brought in if costs are reasonable.
- Saturday night will be a banquet for members and dealers

John Callaghan, our Secretary, gave a financial report as well.

Ron Darbyshire was asked to give a report on his Kids-on-coins program. He provided a 4 page report on activities last year, and plans for this year. His school Coin Club in St. Albert is going well, and he is asking for funds from the ENS to cover some of his costs. Other members, who are looking for something to do to help out the program, are asked to volunteer and help Ron. The following other items were voted on and approved:

- Funds to support the Kids-on-Coins program were

approved for the next 6 months.

- Agreed to put another \$1000 into a GIC
- Agreed to donate to the Provincial Museum in support of the numismatic program, as we now get free meeting rent.

### **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 a members in good standing:

<b>Eric Jensen</b>	<b>#482</b>	<b>Edson, Alberta</b>
<b>Adeaienne Barns</b>	<b>#483</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>
<b>H Ward Clark</b>	<b>#484</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>
<b>André Masson</b>	<b>#485</b>	<b>Fort Saskatchewan</b>
<b>David Jolliff</b>	<b>#486</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>
<b>Jim Burns</b>	<b>#487</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>

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

### **50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW UPDATE**

Due to a stamp show being held in Edmonton the same time as our Coin Show, we have some tables available for Coin dealers at the March Show. This would be a one-time only event, as the tables are spoken for at the November show. Please contact Michael at 780-496-6602 if you want a table.

### **HOLOGRAM COIN ERROR**

In this issue of the newsletter, is a copy of a possible hologram error on a Canada 1 oz. Silver bullion issue is shown. This error diagram is courtesy of Roger from central Alberta. It has been sent to Harve Gamer for comments, but anyone else who has an idea, are requested to contact the Club with any info.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE**

Membership renewals are due and payable by March 2003. Renew you membership today and support your club. You can use the renewal form from the December newsletter, or send in your renewal by mail or at a meeting. The club subsidizes many events throughout the year, and our cost for these functions and the newsletter mail out far exceeds the \$10 regular or \$12 family membership. Thanks for your continued support.

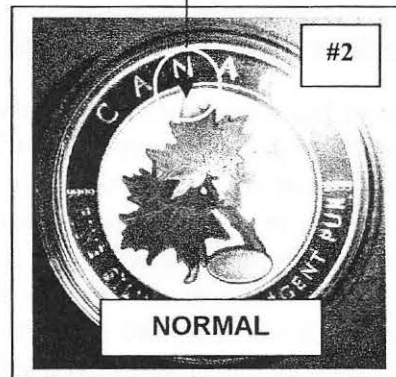
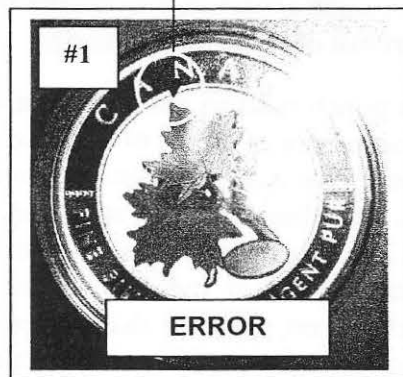
### **UPCOMING EVENTS for 2003**

**The CNS is having their 2003 show on March 15 & 16, 2003, at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Calgary. Admission \$2, Sat.- 10-6 pm, Sun. 10-3 pm. 12 and under Free.**

## POSSIBLE HOLOGRAM ERROR COIN

On my coin, the tip of the same leaf lines up between the "A" and the "N"

Regular position of the maple leaf tip, the leaf lines up with the "N"





# INDIA'S FIRST COINAGE

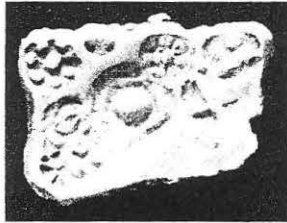


It is very difficult to know today where the concept of coinage first evolved, but based on available evidences, it appears that the concept of money (as coins, which by definition here would be a piece of metal of defined weight stamped with symbol of authority for financial transaction) was conceived by three different civilizations independently and almost simultaneously. Coins were introduced as a means to trade things of daily usage in Asia Minor, India and China in 6th century BC. Most historians agree that the first coins of world were issued by Greeks living in Lydia and Ionia (located on the western coast of modern Turkey). These first coins were globules of Electrum, a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver. These were crude coins of definite weight stamped with incuse punches issued by the local authorities in ~650 BC.

It is beyond doubt that the first coins of India were minted just before 5th century BC in *Madhyadesha* i.e. central India. Although, few historian have suggested (based on Vedic records) that India minted perhaps the first coins of the world which were introduced even earlier than Lydian/Ionian coins, in 8th century BC; most scholars do not agree with this theory. Both, literary and archaeological evidence confirm that the Indians invented coinage somewhere between 5th to 6th century BC. A hoard of coins discovered at Chaman Huzuri in 1933 contained 43 silver punch-marked coins (the earliest coins of India) with Athenian (coins minted by Athens city of Greece) and Achaemenian (Persian) coins. Bhir (Taxila) hoard discovered in 1924 contained 1055 punch-marked coins in very worn out condition and two coins of Alexander in mint condition. These archaeological evidences clearly indicate that the coins were minted in India long before 4th century BC i.e. before Greeks advanced towards India (Alexander's invasion of Persia and India). Panini wrote *Ashtadhyayi* in 4h-5th century BC in which he has mentioned *Satamana*, *Nishkas*, *Sana*, *Vimastika*, *Karshapana* and it's various sub-divisions as coins. Thus coins are known in ancient literature from 500 BC. There is also a strong belief that silver as a metal which was not available in Vedic India, became abundantly available by 500-600 BC. Most of the silver came from Afghanistan and Persia as a result of international trade.

The earliest coins of India are commonly known as punch-marked coins. As the name suggests, these coins bear the symbols of various types, punched on pieces of silver of specific weight. Interestingly earliest Indian coins have no defined shapes and they were mostly uniface. Secondly, these coins lack any inscriptions written in contemporary languages and almost always struck in silver. These unique characters makes early Indian coins very different than their contemporaries in Greece. Many early historians believed that concept of coinage was introduced in India by Greeks. But unlike Indian punch-marked coins, Greek coins had inscriptions; they were round in shape, were stamped on both the sides and minted using silver, electrum and gold too. Today we are certain that the concept of coinage was invented in India independent of foreign influence, which imparted the unique characteristics to these punch-marked coins, not seen in any other coins of the ancient world.

Punch-marked coins are marked with 1-5 (and sometimes more) marks representing various symbols. Two well-known numismatists, D. B. Spooner and D.R. Bhandarkar after careful study independently concluded that the punching of various symbols representing animals, hills, tree and human figures followed a definite pattern and these coins were issued by royal authority.



First coin of India (?)  
Before 5th Century BC  
Minted in *Madhyadesha*?, found near  
Mathura  
Silver unit Seven punch marks  
Weight: 7.14 gm  
Numismatic Digest # 22

In Rig-Vedic period (Rig Veda is the first out of the four Vedas which contains scriptures and hymns in Sanskrit, probably composed in 10th-13th century BC), the Aryan tribes had spread over the whole country from Kabul (Kubha in Sanskrit) to upper Ganga (Ganges) and had built up small states mostly under hereditary monarchs and few republics. By 11th century BC, India was divided into many small and large states called *Janapadas* and *Mahajanapadas*. About 6th century BC, sixteen *Mahajanapadas* or kingdoms rose to pre-imminence in India. According to ancient text *Anguttara Nikayas* they were as follows: *Anga, Magadha, Kashi, Koshala, Vajji, Malla, Vatsa, Chedi, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Ashvaka, Avanti, Gandhar and Kamboja*. One of the earliest coins of India were minted by following *Mahajanapadas*.

Ganga River valley:

*Kashi*

*Koshal*

*Brij (?)*

Upper Ganga river valley:

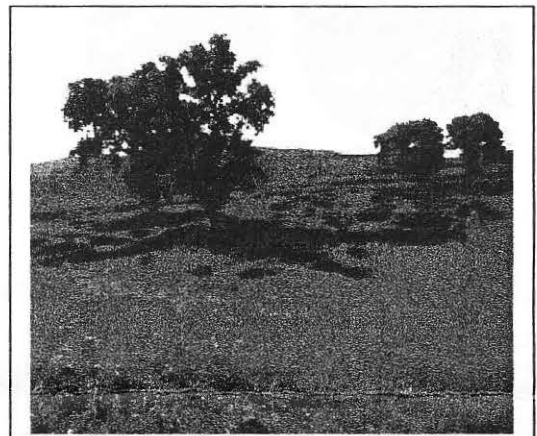
*Kuru-Panchala*

Indus river valley:

*Takshashila (Taxila) & Gandhara (Pushkalavati)*

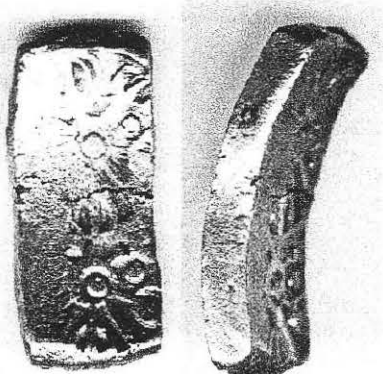
Southern India (Godavari and Narmada river valley):

*Ashmaka or Ashvaka and Avanti*



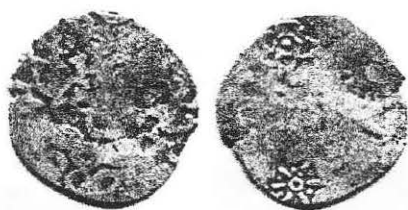
**Bhir Mound** and environs - Taxila Valley,  
Pakistan

Each of the kingdoms have issued distinct type of silver coins to facilitate the trade. Shown above is possibly the earliest coin of Indian subcontinent, which was found near Mathura. This rectangular coin, made of almost pure silver, was issued in central India or *Madhyadesha*. It has seven distinct punch marks including central 'pentagon enclosing a sphere' punch mark. None of those marks show much resemblance to punch marks routinely seen on coins of other *Janapadas*. Three other punch-marked coins of India minted by Taxila, Koshala and Ashmaka *Janapadas* are shown below. These are one of the earliest coins of the India.



Taxila *Janapada*  
600-303 BC  
Silver, Satamana Bent bar  
Two septa-radiate marks at ends,  
Uniface  
Weight: 11.3 gm (100 ratti)  
MAC#4071

About 600 BC, in north western part of India, Takshashila or Taxila and Pushkalavati, became an important commercial centres for the trade with Mesopotamia. These wealthy satrapies (provinces) introduced a unique coinage to facilitate the trade. These were silver concave bars of 11 gms which are popularly called as 'Taxila bent bars' or 'Satamana bent bars'. Satmana or Shatamana represented 100 rattis of silver in weight (*Shata* means 100 while *mana* means unit). These silver bars were punched with two septa-radiate (seven arms) symbols, one at each end. These bent bars represents one of the earliest coins of India. Shown above is a fine example of Shatamana bent bar.



Koshala *Janapada*  
600-470 BC  
Silver, One and Half Karshapana ?  
Weight: 4.68 gm ( 48 ratti)  
Reference: Series III, Group A of  
Hardaker  
Rare

Ancient Indian coinage was based on 'Karshapana' unit that consists of 32 rattis (3.3 grams of silver). A 'Ratti' is equivalent to 0.11 gms which is the average weight of a Gunja seed (a bright scarlet colored seed). Subsidiary denominations of Karshapana like half Karshapana (16 ratti), quarter Karshapana (8 ratti) and 1/8 of Karshapana (4 ratti) were also minted. Shown below is a fine example of 1/8th of Karshapana which is as usual uniface. On obverse is septa-radiate single punch (identical to what is seen on two ends of Satamana bar).



Taxila *Janapada*  
5th Century BC  
silver, 1/8th Karshapana  
Septa-radiate single punch Mark, Uniface  
Weight: 1.4 gm (4 ratti)  
MAC#4079

The Pradyota kings of Avanti had a large kingdom covering central and western India. It was prosperous nation due to the commerce with Mesopotamia through a sea port at Bharoch (modern Gujraht). Shown below is a beautiful example of one of the earliest coins of India minted by Ashmaka kingdom in southern India or Deccan. This coin which is considered as double Karshapana, is from a hoard that surfaced in village of Ashmaka in Maharashtra in 90s. Although this type was first published by Elliot in the 1870s, very few specimens have been around until the recent hoard.



Ashmaka Janapada  
600-350 BC  
Silver, Double Karshapana  
Pulley Type, Uniface  
Weight: 6.7 gm  
MAC#4081

Most of these Janapadas were subsequently absorbed into Magadha empire (ruled by Saisunaga dynasty) between 600-321 BC. Pradyotas of Avanti were defeated by Saisunaga in 400 BC. The most remarkable king of Magadha was Bimbisara (also called Shrenika) who ascended on throne in 545 BC. He annexed kingdom of Anga (east Bihar) and married princesses of Koshala and Vaishali thereby expanding his kingdom to the borders of Nepal. He was a very efficient administrator and built the city of RajGriha (Rajgir in Bihar). Both, Goutam Buddha and Mahavir Jain preached their doctrines during his reign. His son Ajatshatru (494-462 BC) defeated many of his adversaries including humbling his uncle Presanjit of Koshala. He founded the city Pataliputra (modern Patna) which was metropolis of ancient India for next four centuries.

In ancient India during 600-321 BC, many Janapadas issued coins with only one symbol like Lion (Shursena of Braj), humped bull (Saurashtra) or Swastika (Dakshin Panchala). Four symbol coins were issued by Kashi, Chedi (Bundelkhand), Vanga (Bengal) and Prachya (Tripura) Janapadas. Five symbol punch marked coins were first issued by Magadha which were continued during Mauryan expansion. Shown below is a very rare coin of Kalinga Janapada which is in mint condition. This is from a recent hoard which supposedly surfaced from river delta; about half square and rest circular in shape.



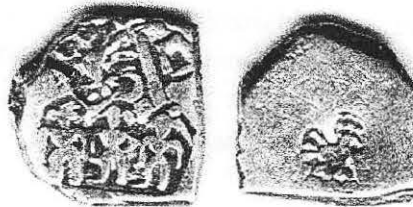
Kalinga Janapada  
500-350 BC  
Silver, half Karshapana  
Uniface  
Weight: 1.6 gm  
Very Rare

Ajatshatru was followed by many kings who eventually lost this kingdom to the family of Nandas who began the line of Shudra or semi-Shudra kings. To maintain the huge army of 200,000 infantry and 3000 elephants (supported by Greek evidence), Nandas had to resort to heavy taxation, which was detested by people. They found a new leader in Chandragupta Maurya (321-297 BC) who eventually with the help of Taxilian bramhin Kautilya or Chankya, overthrew the Nanda and laid the foundation of illustrious dynasty of Maurya.



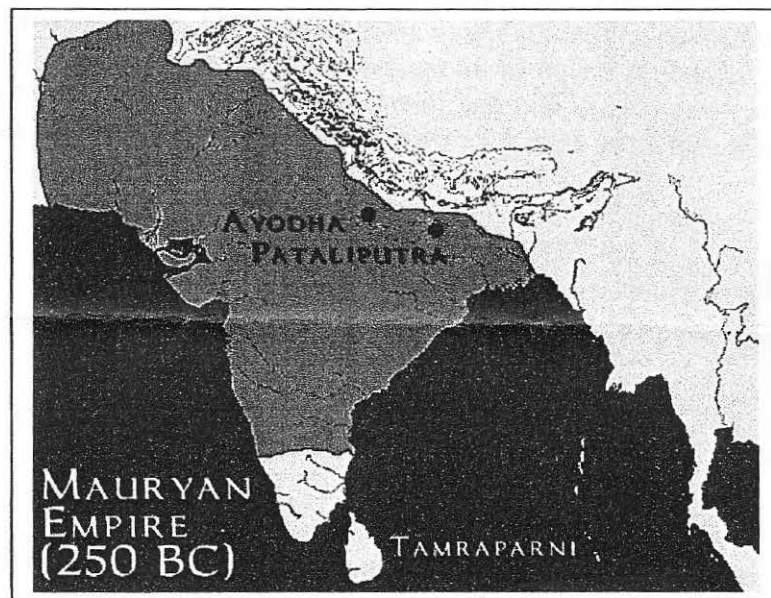
# MAURYAS, THE FIRST EMPERORS

Mauryan Empire (Ashoka the great?)  
310-181 BC  
Silver Karshapana  
Obverse: 3 deities and peacock



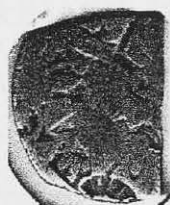
Reverse: Peacock on hill  
Weight: 3.35 gm (32 rattis)  
Reference: GH, Series VII  
Scarce

Most likely, emperors of Maurya dynasty ruled the largest empire that ever existed in the Indian subcontinent. Soon after the death of Alexander, his empire was divided among his generals. One of his general Seleucus assumed the title of King in 312 BC. He invaded India but was repelled by Chandragupta Maurya. Seleucus surrendered a large part of Gandhara (modern Afganistan and Pakistan). Chandragupta later married to beautiful daughter of Seleucus. Seleucus sent an ambassador named Magasthenes to Chandragupta's court, who has written detail accounts of might and pomp of Mauryan empire. Chandragupta (according to Jain scripture converted to Jainism and spent his last days at Shravan Belgola in southern India) was followed by his son Bindusara who increased his empire by annexing Deccan. His son Ashoka seized Pataliputra after his father's death and enthroned himself as emperor. Ashoka is the greatest emperor of Muaryan dynasty and most certainly the greatest figure in the Indian history. He was an ambitious ruler who annexed a large part of southern and eastern India, including the kingdom of Kalinga (modern Orissa).





Shown above is an interesting silver Karshapana (mentioned in *Manu smriti* being 32 rattis in weight) minted by Mauryan authorities. The most striking feature of this punch-marked coins is presence of 3 deities, struck from single punch. It is very rare to see any human figure or deities on punch-marked coins. Shown below is another coin minted by Mauryan emperor which shows sun, the symbol of Mauryan.



Mauryan Empire  
310-181 BC  
Silver, Punch-marked coin  
Weight: 2.3 gm

During Ashoka's reign, the Mauryan empire reached zenith covering an area from modern Afghanistan in west to Assam in east and in north from Himalayas to modern Andhra Pradesh in southern India. These imperial punch marked coins have been discovered in all the regions which cover modern India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, truly representing the glory of the mighty Mauryan empire. Although, Kalinga war proved to be turning point and produced far reaching consequence in the history of India and whole eastern world. Ashoka came under influence of Buddhist philosophy and later sent his son (or brother?) Mahendra to Sri Lanka who converted king Devanampiya Tissa and eventually the entire island country to Buddhism.

Emperor Ashoka drew up a code of laws noted for their humanity and erected hundreds of stone pillars and magnificent Buddhist Stupas (dome shaped monuments). It is believed that Ashoka erected almost 85,000 stupas and pillars all carved in stone with teachings of Buddhism engraved on them. After two thousand years, we can still see ruins of them in most states of india including Gujrat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnadu. Some of Asoka's edicts , carved on pillars and rocks, form the earliest known epigraphs in the subcontinent. These pillars are made out of shafts of sandstone and display Buddhist symbols such as the wheel and the lion. These pillars are some of India's earliest major stone sculptures.

The great Stupa at Sanchi is perhaps the finest surviving relic of the Mauryan empire. This great stupa is 54 feet in height and surrounded by exquisitely carved stone railings and four gateways. These elaborately carved gateways depicts events in life of Buddha and also lifestyle of people of that era. A famous Lion-Capital (four-lion pillar which is shown above) gleams in polished white sandstone realistically represents the artistic achievements of Indian artists and patronage of their masters. This Lion-Capital that Ashoka erected at Sarnath (in modern madhya Pradesh) has become the national emblem of modern republic of India. All the coins and currency notes of modern India.

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# EDMONTON'S MONEY SHOW

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE  
EDMONTON NUMISMATIC  
SOCIETY**

**March 29 - 30, & Nov. 8 - 9, 2003**

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



Coin Show Hours:

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

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

*Up to 28 coin dealers at 50 tables with millions of dollars in inventory! Displays for public viewing including Canadian Decimal, Ancients, Paper Money and More! See our "Kids-on-Coins" display table, especially for Kids! Bring in your coins for FREE Appraisal!*

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

*The following Dealers are confirmed for the March show:*

*1. 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, St. Albert; 7. Pack Rats Antiques Coins & Stamps, Morrinville; 8. OK Coin & Stamp, Kelowna, BC; 9. Joe Bardy Coins Edm.; 10. Kensington Coin & Stamp Edm.; 11. Lub Wojtiw Paper Money Edm.; 12. Calgary Coin Gallery, Calgary; 13. Diverse Equities, Calgary; 14. Lucky Dollar Coins, Edm.; 15. KAmerican Coins, Edm.; 16. David Peters Coins; 17. M.J. Daniels, Calgary; 18. Ed Jackson Coins, Edm.; 19. D.B. & D Collectables, Edm.; 20. Ed & Norms Coins, Edm.; 21. Michael Riddell Coins & Stamps, Edm. 22. George Manz Coins, Regina; 23. Lorne Paydli, Bruno, Saskatchewan. **ADDITIONAL TABLES ARE AVAILABLE!***



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

**Join us for Edmonton's 50th Anniversary Coin Show**



**Sponsored by the  
Edmonton Numismatic Society**

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