

Rochester Numismatic Association

America's Oldest Continuously Operating Coin Club – ANA Branch #2 – Life Club #8
Member: American Numismatic Society – Empire State Numismatic Association
Canadian Numismatic Association – Token and Medal Society – Rochester Museum & Science Center
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Letter from the President by Jason Childers

Hey folks! The coin show is about a month away, and things are looking good. But we need to make sure that we have displays this year (as I said last month, I will have one). Please contact Gerry Muhl at 336-9459 if you'd like to have an exhibit. I look forward to seeing many of you here.

Speaking of seeing people, I was going through the membership list the other day, and I realize there are many of you that I didn't recognize by name (or at least could not put a face to). Actually, almost half of the club. And it's possible that many of you may not be able to picture me either, due to not having been coming to the meetings in years, or that I haven't come over and introduced myself.

I feel that a president of a club should know most of the members, even if it's only to be able to greet them. So, if you haven't met me, come on up and say hi, if I don't come to you first.

If you haven't come to a meeting in a while, we'd love to have you. Or at least drop us a line, and let us know what you have been doing these days (especially the out-of-towners, and those who haven't been able to come out and visit us).

If you're not able to come to the meeting, at least come to the show.

Welcomingly yours,
Jason

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 8 October – 8 PM

“Quest for Treasure”

by Bill Coe and Bill Carr

A National Geographic Video Presentation

Take a spectacular journey. Join deep-sea treasure hunters in their relentless search for a Spanish galleon laden with silver and gold.

Discover a fortune in sunken treasure.



In 1622, the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Atocha sank off the coast of Florida. In her hold, she carried 40 tons of gold and silver and some 70 pounds of emerald

contraband. For more than 300 years, men have died trying to find her and her priceless cargo. Join modern day treasure-hunter Mel Fisher who, after a 16-year search, found the riches that so many have sought.

Please join us for this exciting presentation and our regular fellowship. This video was provided by long-time member Bill Carr, who lives in Florida. We thank him for this offering.

Tuesday 22 October – 8 PM

“Hard Times Tokens and Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger”

David Gottfried speaks on two of his collecting specialties, the tokens of the Panic of 1837 and the experimental metallic pieces of Dr. Feuchtwanger

November 2-3, 2002

30th Annual RNA Coin Show

**Eisenhart Auditorium
657 East Avenue**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the lower level of the Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue. Follow the signs from the Eisenhart or Gannett School entrances, as posted, downstairs to our lower-level meeting room.

Thirtieth Annual Coin and Stamp Show and Sale

November 2 and 3, 2002

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rochester Museum & Science Center
Eisenhart Auditorium
657 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

The Coin Show Committee hopes every R.N.A. member will take advantage of this opportunity to visit several coin and stamp dealers at one location. It is a very efficient way to find just that right item you are looking for. You can actually hold and see each item to evaluate it without the need to send it back and forth in the mails. Likewise, if you have items to dispose of, the transaction can take place right there without complications.

Free Prizes

Be one of the first 100 attendees each day and you will receive a free Indian Head/Buffalo nickel. These, along with State Quarter boards and other items for the hourly door prizes, are being donated by Richard Nachbar Rare Coins, professional numismatist and buyer of collections and estates. He can be reached at 1-877-622-4227.

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October 2002

INSIDE: Gerry Muhl on peace coins...Has the Canadian Mint gone too far?...An honor for Bob Doty...Coin Show details...and more!

Canadian Mint Strikes Again

by Scott Fybush

It's no great secret, especially if you attended my talk last year, that I'm a fan of Canada's recent non-circulating legal tender coins. And if you saw me at the ANA show this summer, you know that I purchased many of the offerings of what turned out to be one of the busiest years ever for the Royal Canadian Mint.



This was, after all, the golden jubilee year for Queen Elizabeth II, and her loyal

subjects in Canada wasted no opportunity to show their love for the monarch. The circulating coins bear a special "1952-2002" double date, there was a special 50-cent piece, a commemorative dollar, and mint and proof sets in multiple varieties to accommodate all the special coinage.

It was also the 15th anniversary of the Loon dollar, marked with a special coin (available only in the Specimen set), the year in which the Canadian hockey team won gold at the Winter Olympics (marked with a special commemorative Loon dollar available only, of course, in a special leather-padded binder), and the 85th anniversary of the World War I battle of Vimy Ridge (marked with a commemorative 5-cent piece).

Then there was Canada Day (marked with a circulating 25-cent coin, also available in a colorized version, of course), and we won't even get into all the many gold coins, special products designed for the Asian market, hologram-stamped Maple Leaf coins, and so on and so on.

The coins were all nice-looking,

at least, and the prices were fairly reasonable, and so in they went to my collection.

Then I picked up *Coin World* in mid-September and flipped to the ad from one of the Canadian coin dealers to see what was being offered.

And there it was: *another* 2002 silver dollar coin. A coin commemorating the death of the Queen Mother earlier this year. A coin that was being minted in a quantity of just 10,000, the lowest mintage ever for a Canadian dollar coin. A coin that had not yet been announced in the news columns of *Coin World* or *Canadian Coin News*, much less to mailing-list customers of the Royal Canadian Mint.

So did I order mine? I tried – but the dealer in question would only sell this limited-edition coin in two ways: if I also bought both of the 2002 Canadian proof sets (oops, it's September already and I've long since bought mine) or if I bought another \$140 in 2002 Canadian mint product (but again, it's September and I've already bought what I was going to buy for the year.)

Over to the RCM Web site: it's shown there, but "out of stock." A phone call revealed that the coin hadn't even been struck yet, but pre-orders were being taken. So I placed mine – but I was lucky. As this newsletter goes to press, the coin is now listed as "sold out," less than a week after I placed my order.

(My mailing from the mint arrived the previous day, far too late to be of any use had I not noticed the ad; the coin was also reported in the news columns of last week's *Canadian Coin News*, about a week after the first dealer's ad appeared.)

What have we learned here? First, that there's something to be

said for the U.S. system, in which the Mint can't just decide on a whim to strike something. While I may disagree fervently with the choices our lawmakers make when authorizing new commemoratives, not to mention the designs that are chosen, at least we know far in advance what will be issued and how many will be made.

Second, we've learned that the Canadian mint has a "very special relationship" with its dealers, who not only find out about these issues before the numismatic press and the public, but also get a chance to place bulk orders that consume most of the mintage of desirable low-mintage items.

Oh, and third, we've learned that the Canadian mint will treat you much nicer if you spend lots of money there. The same mailing that brought word of the (already sold-out) Queen Mum dollar carried news about a new club the mint is forming for people who spend at least C\$1000 with them. *Those* customers get advance notice of new coins. The rest of us, even if we've been loyal customers for years, get squat.

And me? I still think the Canadian commems are some of the prettiest being made, and I'll probably keep buying proof sets each year, but if this is how the Royal Canadian Mint wants to treat its "average" customers, I'll take the rest of my "average" business to another collecting venue.



Coin Show Medals

Just in at press time – here's a first look at the new medals struck for this year's coin show! The obverse is A.A.



Weinman's *Walking Liberty*, and they'll be available in four types: bronze (\$5), silver-plated bronze (\$7), 1 oz silver (\$12) and 2 oz silver piedfort (\$22) at the October meetings and at the show – see Gerry Muhl for details!

Peace Coins Have Short History

Part I

by Gerard Muhl

Coins have commemorated wars and the successful completion of hostilities. Victory and independence are popular themes. Even the United States "Peace" dollar, first issued in 1921, really commemorated the U.S. signing separate treaties of peace with Germany and Austria after World War I. In 1919, the Senate refused to ratify the earlier Versailles Treaty and thus, for us WWI technically ended in 1921.

Coinage has been seen as an expression of the noblest of aspirations: patriotism, liberty, diversity, brotherhood, but seldom peace. Coins too have been used as propaganda tools. In ancient Rome, for example, emperors had themselves portrayed in heroic imagery, as with Constantine's gaze uplifted to heaven. Emperors have equated themselves with gods. They actually appeared with pagan gods or the Christian deity on the reverse of their coins. Early coins also commemorated battles victoriously concluded, even at times when no such battles occurred.

But, are there coins specifically dedicated to the hope for peace more than merely the absence of war?

Within the last 100 years, some 17 countries have attempted to commemorate peace through the numismatic medium. A well designed coin conditions the population using it in day to day commerce. What better idea to thus portray in metal than peace? Furthermore, these coins were usually not a mere reaction to an ongoing conflict. They stood by themselves as a bold statement of the nation proclaiming peace as a goal of its people.

Peace has always been harder to portray medallically than war. War has a certain dynamic, while peace is static. War is dramatic



Bob Doty honored

As thanks for his hard work preparing the volumes of RNA club minutes, board member Bill Coe honored Bob Doty with a certificate of appreciation.

action. It often is equated with masculine emotion. It makes for unequalled "photo op."

To take just one country as an example, think of Panama. On most of its coins, we see Vasco Nunez de Balboa dressed in armor. When shown full body, he is clutching a sword and holding the national flag. A commemorative 20 balboa piece from 1980 shows Simon Bolivar mounted on horseback raising a sword to lead his troops to victory and independence. These are bold images, easy to understand and to interpret.

Even the United States has often chosen war and victory as a theme for its coins. The 1917-1930 Standing Liberty quarter depicts Miss Liberty in chain mail and carrying a shield. The 1976 Bicentennial quarter dollars show a Revolutionary War drummer. Numerous other commemorative half dollars memorialize battles: 1937 Antietam, 1936 Gettysburg, 1925 Stone Mountain and the 1925 Lexington-Concord coins. World War II, Korea and Vietnam also are represented on U.S. coins.

Victory is commemorated, but nowhere do we have a coin dedicated in itself to the concept of peace.

The first country in the last 100 years to issue a peace coin was the Vatican in 1942. In that year, and continuing for the bitter years of World War II, Vatican 5 and 10 centesimi featured a dove of peace

carrying an olive branch in its beak. The hope for peace was clearly expressed. In 1950, 1970-74, 1984 and 1993 the Vatican coins again expressed that hope.

In 1965, during the height of the Cold War, Czechoslovakia issued a silver 25 korun coin ostensibly to mark the 20th anniversary of Czech liberation from Nazi rule.

Thematically, the coin appears more a plea for peace in the 1960s. It shows a rather melancholy female portrait with a large dove of peace holding an olive branch. No nationalistic coin expressing the glories of the socialist state, it was the state feminized and looking with apprehension for the uncertain future.

In 1973, San Marino had struck a 500 lire coin showing a young girl releasing a dove of peace. Again, the symbolism of peace personified as a young girl was very strong.

In 1986, the United Nations declared an international year of peace. Countries were urged to have their people and institutions focus on finding and preserving peace. China, Russia, Thailand and Turkey all issued peace coins, the sale of which was to help finance seminars dealing with world peace. China's copper-nickel 1 yuan piece was by far the most interesting, numismatically. It showed a seated woman in diaphanous dress releasing doves of peace.

To be continued

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Coin Show Update

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Since the show is a club project, we hope that as many members as possible will participate in its presentation. Actually, you will find that it is a very rewarding experience.

You will have the opportunity to rub elbows with the dealers and expand your knowledge in many numismatic areas. Also, it will give you a chance to work with and get to know the other members better.

At the October meetings, sheets will be sent around for the various activities for which we need help. Please sign up and be as generous with your time as you can. Several types of activity and many time frames are available. Over the years, the R.N.A. has thrived because of this type of fellowship.

Present a Display

You are encouraged to develop a display to enter in the Exhibit Contest. At stake is the prestigious Alphonse Kolb "Best of Show" award. It is a beautiful plaque that you can be proud to display.

Please see Gerry Muhl or John Zabel to arrange for the cases you will need. Also, check with them if you want some pointers on how to present your exhibit.

Coin Show Medal

The RNA has minted commemorative medals for this year's show. They feature A.A. Weinman's Walking Liberty design on the obverse and an RNA anniversary design on the reverse. It is available in four varieties.

See page 2 of this month's newsletter for more details and a picture of the medal.

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