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Coin Chronicles

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The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

Canadian Large Cents by Harry Garrison

The most popular and widely collected Canadian coinage is the Large Cent coined from 1858 to 1920. Issued for use in the Province of Canada (Upper and Lower Canada or known today as Ontario and Quebec) these cents were the first coinage issued to reflect the adoption of a decimal system of coinage. Ironically, the Canadian large cents began life at the same time the U.S. was reducing the size and copper content of its cent.



The initial order for 10 million large cents was submitted to the Royal Mint in 1858. Delays in design approval resulted in only 421,000 coins dated 1858. The balance of the order was produced and dated 1859.

The obverse design was that of a laureate head of Queen Victoria separated from the legend by a beaded circle. The reverse design was similar with the denomination and date centered and surrounded by a beaded circle. A serpentine of 16 maple leaves rotated the coin between the rim and beaded circle.

The low mintage of the 1858 immediately assured its place as the key date in the entire large cent series; save for the small date

varieties of the 1891 issue for which no mintage figures exist.

The extraordinary large mintage of 1859 served a purpose in addition to the normal need for currency to conduct business. It assured that the recently adopted decimal coinage would be adopted and accepted by its citizens. After some initial reluctance, the coin succeeded.

Fifteen years were to pass before additional supplies of large cents would again be requested from the Royal Mint. Because of workload, the Royal Mint subcontracted the work to a private mint – Heaton Mint – in Birmingham, with the result that an “H” mint mark was placed under the date. Before establishing a Canadian Mint in Ottawa in 1908, the Royal Mint was to subcontract large cent production and other decimal coinage production to the Heaton Mint often.

In the 25 year period of 1876 to 1901 and the death of Queen Victoria, large cents were produced in 20 of those years. Mintages ranged from 1 million to a high of 4 million. Only one year in that period is worthy of note. Revisions were made to the reverse design in 1891 creating to scare varieties.

The first modification was to reduce the size of the date creating a small date variety. The key to identifying this variety is slightly smaller 8 and 9, but an easier key is the larger space between the two numbers. This variety – small date, large leaves – is the most difficult to locate.

The second modification reduced the size of the maple leaves encircling the reverse. This variety – small date, small leaves – is only slightly less difficult to locate than the first revision.

Recognizing either of these two varieties in a dealer’s inventory of un-attributed 1891 large cents will benefit the finder financially.

Edward VII appeared on the large cents starting in 1902 until his death in 1910. With the exception of a 1910 mintage in excess of 5 million, mintages for Edward continued in the area of 2 to 4 million each year.

One notable coin was produced during Edward’s reign. The Royal Mint unable to satisfy the request for 3.2 million coins in 1907, again subcontracted the Heaton Mint for what was the final time. So 800,000 1907 dated coins carry the “H” mint mark; creating a semi-key in this series.

In 1911 George V appeared on the obverse. While George was to reign until 1936, the final year of the large cent was 1920. In 1920 the large cent was replaced by a cent similar in size and content with the American cent. Mintage for the entire period was sufficient (5 to 13 million) that all are easily available. While the Royal Canadian Mint experienced a fire in 1915 that seriously effected most 1915 coinage production, almost 5 million were produced before



MY FIRST EAC CONVENTION: SOME OBSERVATIONS AND WARM FUZZY FEELINGS by Howard Spencer Pitkow

Even though I have been a member of the EAC for approximately six years I had never attended the annual EAC convention. Each year I would look forward to hopefully participating in the meeting but for one reason or another (i.e., family obligations, unforeseen events cropping up, etc.) something would prevent me from formalizing plans. This year was to be different. As April approached I was looking forward with great anticipation to partaking and getting involved in the events scheduled in Annapolis. Due to the convention's relatively close proximity to my residence this would be an easy trip. After all, it was only a two and a half hour drive to Annapolis (i.e., 150 miles). Fortunately, this year, nothing interfered with my plans and I was able to fulfill my long overdue commitment. Previous to this meeting the only contact I had with EAC members was through the articles I published in P-W, various phone conversations and those dealers I would encounter four times each year at the Baltimore Expo (Whitman Show).

I would be remiss if I did not thank all those EACers who extended me a hearty welcome at my first EAC convention. From the very first day I felt the camaraderie that existed at the Doubletree. This warm fuzzy reception made me feel like I was visiting with old friends. The bonding process was immediate which appeared to be sincere and genuine. I was very impressed by the academic atmosphere and felt right at home. Everyone seemed to be very knowledgeable

in their area(s) of expertise. I had not experienced this type of academic excellence and environment since I retired as a faculty member from the Temple University School of Medicine in 2004.

Another noticeable phenomenon was that everyone was willing to share information. I did not observe anyone playing it "close to the vest" or exhibiting "one-upmanship" behavior. (If a few did I was not privy to the situation). This altruistic sharing of information, experiences and research findings seemed to permeate the entire meeting much like the sun rising in the morning and cast-



ing its rays of sunlight rapidly over the landscape. (Oh brother, I hope this does not sound too corny or sophomoric. I believe you get the idea). Consequently, I had a tremendous time and learned so much by attending both the educational seminars and talking to both the bourse dealers and other EAC members.

The educational seminars were excellent and the Organizing Committee did an outstanding job. My congratulations to Chuck Heck and Brett Dudek respectively. I did make two purchases-an 1801-S218 (R5+) at the bourse and an 1848-N33 (R5) at the EAC auction on Saturday night. My unabashed enthusiasm was probably obvious as I introduced myself to everyone I could find. I probably introduced myself to a few of you a second time without even realizing it.

As mentioned earlier although I have talked to some of you by phone, the only EACers I knew were those of you I met on a regular basis at the Baltimore Expo. This includes Doug Bird, Herb Brunhofer, Rod Burrell, Steve Ellsworth, Bob Grellman, Jim Long, Chris McCawley, Tom Reynolds, Chris Young and Jim Young. As for the rest of my "phone phriends", I had formed a mental image for each of you after several of our conversations. It's interesting to note that when we all do this there is never a positive correlation between this mental image and the actual reality when we finally meet in person. Again, I thank all of you for making my first EAC convention a very positive, stimulating, educational and memorable experience. Depending on family obligations and future circumstances I hope to find time that will permit me to attend many more EAC conventions.

This article appeared in Penny-Wise, July 2010 issue. Also include Vol XLIV, no 4,

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Keep This Date Open!
Sunday October 31, 2010
Trenton Numismatic Club Coin Show
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Hilton Gardens Route 130 South ¼
Mile South of I-195 Hamilton, NJ

AUGUST 2010 COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

~LOCAL SHOWS~

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| September 5 Sunday | Parsippany, NJ | 9 AM – 4 PM |
| PAL Building | 33 Baldwin Road | |
| September 12 Sunday | BURLINGTON, NJ | 10 AM – 4 PM |
| BURLINGTON MASON LODGE | ROUTE 541 | |
| September 19 Sunday | Trevese, PA | 10 AM – 4 PM |
| Trevese Fire House | 4900 Street Road | |
| September 26 Sunday | Bordentown, NJ | 9 AM – 2 PM |
| RAMADA INN | 1083 Route 206 | |
| September 26 Sunday | FORT WASHINGTON, PA | 9 AM – 4 PM |
| HOLIDAY INN | ROUTE 309 | |

~REGIONAL / STATE WIDE SHOWS~

WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES

September 30 – October 2

Thursday – Saturday

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Pennsylvania Convention Center

1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

*****KEEP THIS DATE OPEN!!!*****

Sunday October 31

Trenton Numismatic Club Coin Show

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Hilton Gardens

Route 130 South ¼ Mile South of I-195 Hamilton, NJ

Mint states ..editorial observations.....a call for immediate action

Last months mint states touched upon the new IRS reporting requirement to give or receive a 1099 form or all transactions totaling \$600 or more in a given year.

Buried in the massive health care reform legislation that became law earlier this year; starting in 2012, all dealers and collectors will be required to report all goods and services purchased or sold in excess of \$600 with IRS form 1099.

The new business reporting requirement will impose an enormous and quite onerous paper work burden upon every small business, from the collector and dealer

viewpoint this is a disaster in the making.

This new law will have a very negative impact on the future of this hobby as well as others. Most collectors have more than 20 years invested in their collections and almost all would value their collection, if not many individual pieces, in excess of \$600. Then there is the issue of bullion coins.

This could drive a vast majority of dealers and collectors "underground" where cash would be king and most deals under the table.

There is one ray of hope for the hobby. A California congressman has introduced a bill, with 90 co-sponsors to date, that would repeal this portion of the new health care law.

Recently we have received many emails from concerned dealers and collectors urging us all to write members of congress to rescind this portion of the law. **We urge you to do the same as soon as possible.**

This months Coin Chronicles news letter is sans the usual President's message. Harry is up in Canada tracking Sasquatch, so we decided that we use an article that Harry had submitted regarding Canadian coins as this months cover story. Hopefully Harry will return with his usual sage like wisdom in

next months issue.

The October 31st TNC Coin Show is fast approaching. If you haven't been lost somewhere in Canada with El Presidente then you are aware that this year we are holding it at the Hilton Gardens on Route 130 South in Hamilton. All available tables should be sold out by now; again a testament to the popularity of our show.

Get the word out. Because of the necessity of changing the venue this is the only show the Club will be doing this year. Its success will set the table for multiple shows in 2011. Speaking of tables, there will be no food available at the show; however there are plenty of fine Restaurants available within walking distance of the Hilton Gardens or a really short drive's distance away at Hamilton Marketplace across from the Hotel.

Again it our show. Get the word out.

Reminder: If you get an email address please let us know if you haven't already done so. An all electronic issue of the newsletter would free us from the limitations in the number of pages offered by having to photocopy and mail paper issues.

Until next time stay tuned.....

Trenton Numismatic Club

President : Harry Garrison
Vice-President: Bill Liatys
Treasurer: Ron Kowalik
Secretary: Evan Greenberg
Sgt at Arms: Gary Elmer

Committees:
Bourse: Harry Garrison
Angelo Brugno
Library: Frank Ratkiewicz
Programs: Ray Williams
Newsletter: Evan Greenberg
Auction: Bo Bobjak
Photos: Emanuel Strauss

The Trenton Numismatic Club
Is a member of:




2010 MEETING SCHEDULE & LOCATION
MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAYS AT 7:30 P.M.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| JANUARY | 25 | FEBRUARY | 22 |
| MARCH | 22 | APRIL | 26 |
| MAY | 24 | JUNE | 28 |
| JULY | 26 | AUGUST | 23 |
| SEPTEMBER | 27 | OCTOBER | 25 |
| NOVEMBER | 22 | DECEMBER | 27 |

ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT:
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS UNION HALL (NALC)
FOREST GLEN SHOPPING CENTER
1800 ROUTE 33 SUITE 104
HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ 08690
Mailing Address: T.N.C. P.O. BOX 8122 Hamilton, New Jersey 08650

Visit our Website: www.trentoncoinclub.org