

# m n e t a



The official publication of the Ottawa Coin Club

Volume 1, Number 6

June 2010

## *Le huard* | *The loon*



### **Also in this issue:**

- ✓ Preserving your collection | La préservation de votre collection
- ✓ The Republic of Slovenia
- ✓ Unfinished business
- ✓ The most famous Canadian coin...
- ✓ and more...



# moneta

is the official publication of the  
Ottawa Coin Club.

It is published monthly and aims to promote the hobby of coin collecting and the science of numismatics throughout the National Capital Region.

Submissions are welcomed. Please submit text in *Rich Text Format* (.rtf) separately from images. The images must be of high resolution (minimum 300 dpi) and should be in colour. The preferred file format for images is *jpeg* (.jpg). Please consult the publication style guide at [www.ottawacoinclub.com/style](http://www.ottawacoinclub.com/style) before submitting an article.

Les textes en français sont les bienvenus. Ils seront traduits et publiés dans les deux langues.

**Editor:**

Serge Pelletier  
<editor@ottawacoinclub.com>

**Assistant Editors:**

Ron Cheek, Steve Woodland

**Layout:**

Serge Pelletier

**Translation:**

Serge Pelletier

**ISSN 1922-4885**

**On the cover...**

In the "O" of *moneta*, the reverse of the Canadian 1-dollar issued 2008 for the Royal Canadian Mint's centennial.

Reverse of the 2002-dated Silver Maple Leaf that features a hologram of a loon.  
Reverse of the 2007-dated 1-dollar coin.  
Back of the 1991-dated Bank of Canada 20-dollar note,

# editor's word

**W**ell, summer is upon us. Soon, many of us will be heading to the cottage for a few days of rest. If you are like François, you will likely take to the water in a canoe to go fishing or to simply enjoy a moment of peace and quiet. Quiet, if there isn't a loon around! This superb bird can sure belt out a song... but its song is one of the things we love most about it. Rediscover the loon, and its depiction on money with François's article.

Summer also brings heat and humidity. The latter can damage items in your collection unless you have been wise in the selection of holders. Steve helps of us find the appropriate holders and ways to store our collection in his article "Preserving your collection."

I was fortunate to travel to Slovenia recently. I invite you to discover a bit more about this lovely East-European country and its currency in the article I have prepared.

Ron has often shared his numismatic adventures with us. This month, he shares his frustrations about being unsuccessful in discovering more information about a few items in his article "Unfinished business."

Finally, Jaime shares his joy about his purchase of what he calls "The most famous Canadian coin."

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association [l' Association royale de numismatique du Canada] will be holding its annual convention from July 14 to 17, at the Hilton Saint John, in Saint John, New Brunswick. Special hotel and airfare rates are offered. For more information on the convention visit the convention's website at: <http://rcna.ca/2010saintjohn.php>.

See you in a few weeks!

Serge

**À NOS MEMBRES FRANCOPHONES**

Bien que la langue principale du club (et donc de cette publication) soit l'anglais, nous ferons des efforts concertés pour publier au moins un article en français dans chaque numéro. N'hésitez surtout pas à poser des questions si vous ne comprenez pas un article publié qu'en anglais. Pour vous aider à comprendre, nous incluons un lexique bilingue lorsque ce sera jugé approprié.

**Copyright Notice**

All information herein, including the design, style, and format, are the property of the Ottawa Coin Club (OCC). All rights reserved. No part thereof may be reproduced in any form or medium, electronic or otherwise, without the express written consent of the OCC. Members of the OCC are entitled, as part of their membership privileges, to make one (1) printed copy of this issue and to store one (1) copy in electronic format. Further distribution is strictly prohibited.

© Ottawa Coin Club, 2010

**Image sources for this issue (page/figure)**

François Rufiange: cover, 144/3, 147/6, 147/7, 159

Ron Cheek: 155, 157

Royal Canadian Mint [[www.mint.ca](http://www.mint.ca)]: cover, 142/1, 143/2, 145/4, 146/5, 149/8

Serge Pelletier: 151, 152

Steve Woodland: 138, 140.

from the

# President

In the last six months, I've bought many beautiful coins and bank notes, but I must say that I have neglected to insert them with the rest of my collection. I will probably find out when I do so that I already had a few of them. This should no longer happen: I finally started to inventory my collection. Back in 2002, I went as far as designing my own database and started to enter my purchases. But that did not last very long because of a very simple reason: I had over 20 data fields to enter for each item! My database is a monster! It will be a great retirement project to enter all this data, but for now, I had to adopt plan B, a solution that requires much less effort. What is the minimum information that needed per item I wish to inventory? I believe that a simple table could capture these six pieces of information: country, date, denomination, grade, catalogue reference number and either price you paid or market price. You could further simplify your table if you create a different table for the different items that you collect; for example, one table for Canadian 1-dollar coins and another one for Canadian 25-cent pieces. This way you reduce the number of fields that you need from six to four. Now, it is more manageable and worth the effort. Also remember that you can also use these tables for insurance purposes, your estate and to know the value of your collection.

The Ottawa Coin Day is September 11, 2010, and I urge you to review your collection, do a clean up and put the no-longer-needed items up for auction. This is a great opportunity to have a chance to get a bit more than what a dealer would offer you. But best of all, you will get some money to buy more coins. It is also a chance for all the members to do a display. It will be a fun competition where the public will vote for the best displays. I was very pleased to find out at our last meeting that many are interested.

Serge and Steve have organised a really fun event for us: the very first OCC numismatic rally! Unfortunately, we had to postpone it until the fall when our agendas are not so full.

Well Ron, you have done it! I finally learned a bit about American history thanks to your excellent presentation. I really enjoyed the approach of learning through coins. You are indeed well-travelled and I hope to visit some of these places myself one day. Thank you, Ron, on behalf of all the club members.

*François*

**JUNE  
28**

**OCC  
Meeting**

Speaker: Barry McIntyre  
Topic: "Inflation Buster"

The Inflation Busters will lead your group through games, simulations, discussions, and group activities designed to teach about monetary policy, inflation, deflation, and the role of the Bank of Canada.

This program is the winner of a Canadian Museum Association Excellence in Programming Award.

## **Numismatic Rally – postponed**

The Numismatic Rally (scheduled for June 19)  
has been postponed until the Fall.

## **OTTAWA COIN CLUB since 1948**

P.O. Box 42004, R.P.O. St. Laurent,  
Ottawa, ON K1K 4L8

Email: [info@ottawacoinclub.com](mailto:info@ottawacoinclub.com)

Website: [www.ottawacoinclub.com](http://www.ottawacoinclub.com)



The club meets every month, usually on the fourth Monday. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Peter meeting room (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor) of the Heron Road Multi-Service Centre, 1480 Heron Road, Ottawa.

Le club se réunit habituellement le quatrième lundi de chaque mois. La réunion ouvre à 19h30 dans la salle St. Peter (au 3<sup>e</sup> étage) du Heron Road Multi-Service Centre, 1480 chemin Heron, Ottawa.



### **Annual Dues:**

**Now only  
\$12.00**



### **Your Club Executive:**

#### **President:**

François Rufiange, FONA  
<[president@ottawacoinclub.com](mailto:president@ottawacoinclub.com)>

#### **Vice-President:**

Steve Woodland  
<[vp@ottawacoinclub.com](mailto:vp@ottawacoinclub.com)>

#### **Secretary:**

Kim Zbitnew  
<[secretary@ottawacoinclub.com](mailto:secretary@ottawacoinclub.com)>

#### **Treasurer:**

Barry McIntyre, FONA  
<[info@ottawacoinclub.com](mailto:info@ottawacoinclub.com)>

#### **Appointed Officer:**

#### **Privacy Officer:**

Jaime Flamenbaum  
<[privacy@ottawacoinclub.com](mailto:privacy@ottawacoinclub.com)>



# Preserving your collection

by Steve Woodland

**A**n important consideration for collectors is how to store their collection to preserve it, so that they, and others, can enjoy looking at it for a long time. To preserve the items in your collection you need to protect them from corrosion, wear, contact with other items, humidity, etc. There are many ways to store coins and banknotes, ranging from simple to sophisticated. Collectors must choose the right method for their collection. Let's look at how to do this.

## Holders

First, you must have a holder in which you to put individual items. Conservation expert Susan Maltby lists four attributes to consider when choosing holders for storing numismatic items:<sup>1</sup>

1. See-through. The holder must allow the viewer to see easily all aspects of the item, including the edge, without having to remove the item from the holder.
2. Made of a safe material. A good holder is constructed of safe material that is acid-free, chemically stable (i.e., it is non-degradable), and is free of plasticizers that can leach out and damage the content.
3. Easy to use. Insertion and removal of the item from the holder should be simple, easily accomplished, and should not put the item at risk of being damaged during the process (e.g., coin holders should not damage or scratch the surface of the coin as they are placed in the holder).
4. Holds the item firmly, but gently. The holder should hold the item in place and not allow it holds to slide or move.

To this list I would also add two other attributes:

5. Protects from external damage. The holder must protect the item from external damage, particularly when you store many items together.
6. Affordable. The cost of the holder should correspond to the value of the item in it. Over-protection wastes money that could otherwise be spent (like on acquiring items for your collection). Under protection places your valuable items at risk.

# La préservation de votre collection

par Steve Woodland

**L'**entreposage des articles d'une collection afin de les préserver pour qu'ils puissent être appréciés pleinement dans le futur est une question importante pour tout collectionneur. Préserver les articles de votre collection signifie que vous devez les protéger contre la corrosion, l'usure, le contact avec d'autres articles, l'humidité, etc. Il y a plusieurs façons d'entreposer les monnaies et les billets qui vont de la plus simple à la plus sophistiquée. Le collectionneur doit choisir celle qui convient le mieux à sa collection. Nous tenterons de vous aider à faire un choix.

## Les porte-objets

Vous devez d'abord choisir un porte-objet dans lequel vous placerez chaque article. Susan Maltby, experte en conservation, suggère quatre attributs dans le choix de porte-objets pour des articles numismatiques :<sup>1</sup>

1. Transparence. Le porte-objet doit permettre l'observation de toutes les facettes de l'article, y compris la tranche, sans avoir à retirer l'article du porte-objet.
2. Fabriqué de matériaux sûrs. Un bon porte-objet est fabriqué de matériaux sans danger, c'est-à-dire qu'ils sont sans acide, sont chimiquement stable (non dégradable) et ne contiennent pas de plastifiant qui peuvent endommager le contenu.
3. Facile d'utilisation. L'insertion et le retrait de l'article dans le porte-objet doit être simple, facile à faire et ne doit pas poser un risque à l'article (en d'autres mots, le porte-objet ne doit pas endommager ou égratigner la surface de la pièce lorsqu'on la met dedans).
4. Maintien l'article fermement mais doucement. Le porte-objet doit maintenir l'article en place et ne pas lui permettre de glisser ou de bouger.

À cette liste, j'ajoute deux attributs :

5. Protection contre les dommages extérieurs. Le porte-objet doit protéger l'article des dommages extérieurs, particulièrement lorsque l'on entrepose plusieurs articles ensemble.
6. Abordable. Le coût du porte-objet doit correspondre à la valeur de l'article. La

---

Many modern plastics meet these requirements, including polyethylene, polypropylene, Mylar D™, and Plexiglas™. These come in several forms for both coins and banknotes, including:

1. Two-by-twos (2 x 2s). (Fig. 1) Called so because the commonest size measures 2 inches by 2 inches, these fold-over cardboard holders are lined with Mylar that seals around the piece. One simply places a coin gently over one of the Mylar windows, folds the opposite side over, and carefully secures with staples around the edge. Designed primarily for round items, 2 x 2s are available for many different opening sizes and shapes. They are also available in 3" x 3" and 1.5" x 1.5" formats. Simple to use, this holder offers adequate protection at a great price. The holder also permits the collector to write notes about the item around the edge.

2. Pouches and flips. Often made of Mylar, they are available as individual pouches, sheets, and booklets. They allow you to gently slide the item in and out. Most commonly used for coins, two types exist: the first is a single pouch with a tongue that keeps the item from sliding out; the second, commonly called a "flip" (Fig. 3), has two pouches – one for the coin and one for an information card. A version which is more rigid is also available for paper money (Fig. 6). Be careful! Not all flips and pouches are entirely safe. Some are made from materials that contain PVC.

3. Capsules. (Fig. 2) Often made Plexiglas, they are used to store coins, tokens and medals. Available in multiple sizes to fit a coin's diameter and thickness, they also come in a variety of styles and shapes, as well as with differing methods of securing the coin within the capsule. Two key types are: those in which we place the coin directly; and those in which the coin sits in a ring for support. Capsules offer better protection than flips, pouches, or 2 x 2s, but are more expensive and take up more space.

4. Slabs. (Fig. 4) Similar to capsules, these rectangular Plexiglas holders are most commonly used by third-party grading companies to hold coins or banknotes that have been professionally graded. They are normally sealed and contain security features to prevent tampering. They also have an area where information about the item's identity, pedigree, and grade are contained. Very secure, they offer one of the highest levels of protection for your items, but they are also the most expensive, because you are also paying the

surprotection est un gaspillage d'argent qui pourrait mieux être utilisé (comme pour acheter d'autres pièces). La sous protection met les articles de valeur en péril.

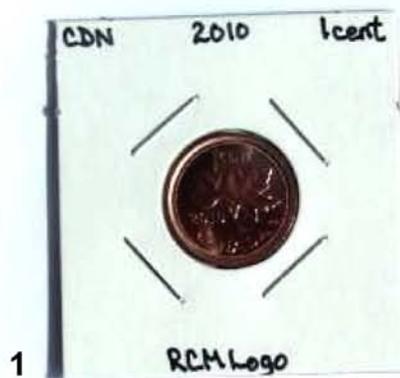
Plusieurs plastiques modernes rencontrent ces exigences tels que : le polyéthylène, le polypropylène, le Mylar D™ et le Plexiglas™. On les retrouve dans plusieurs porte-objets, dont :

1. Cartons monétaires. (fig. 1) Communément appelés « 2 x 2 » parce qu'ils font 2 x 2 pouces lorsque fermés, ces porte-objets sont munis d'une pellicule de Mylar qui scelle la pièce. On place simplement la pièce au-dessus de l'une des fenêtres et on replie le carton par-dessus. On broche ensuite tout autour pour bien sceller. Conçus principalement pour des objets ronds, les cartons monétaires sont offerts dans une grande variété de tailles et formes (de fenêtres). Ils sont également disponibles en format 3" x 3" et 1.5" x 1.5". Faciles à utiliser, ils offrent une très bonne protection pour leur prix. Vous pouvez également ajouter des notes autour de la pièce.

2. Pochettes et enveloppes à rabat. On retrouve des livrets, des feuilles et des pochettes faites de Mylar. Elles permettent d'insérer et de retirer l'article en douceur. Les enveloppes à rabat sont surtout utilisées pour les pièces. Il en existe deux types. Le premier est constitué d'une pochette simple avec un simple rabat qui empêche la sortie accidentelle du contenu. L'autre type, communément appelé « flip » (fig. 3), est constitué de deux poches : une pour mettre la pièce, l'autre pour mettre une carte descriptive. Les pochettes à billet (fig. 6) sont habituellement plus rigides que celles pour les pièces. Attention! Certaines pochettes et enveloppes sont faites de matériaux qui contiennent du polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

3. Capsules. (fig. 2) Souvent faites de Plexiglas, les capsules sont destinées à l'entreposage des pièces. Elles sont disponibles dans diverses tailles, épaisseurs, styles et formes. Il y a deux type de capsules : celles dans lesquelles on met la pièce directement et celles dans on met d'abord la pièce dans un anneau. Les capsules offrent une plus grande protection que les 2 x 2 et les pochettes, mais elles sont plus dispendieuses et prennent plus de place.

4. Pavés. (fig. 4) Aussi appelés « coques », on pourrait simplement décrire ces porte-objets comme des « capsules rectangulaires ». Ils sont surtout utilisés par les services professionnels d'évaluation de l'état de conservation tant pour



1



3



4



2



5



6

Figure 1. 2 x 2. Figure 2. Capsule. Figure 3. "Flip." Figure 4. Slab.  
Figure 5. Mylar envelope for coins. Figure 6. Mylar pouch for paper money.

Figure 1. Carton monétaire. Figure 2. Capsule. Figure 3. « flip ».  
Figure 4. Pavé. Figure 5. Enveloppe de Mylar pour pièces.  
Figure 6. Pochette de Mylar pour papier-monnaie.

---

grading company for their services. This type of holder has recently become available to collectors on the open market, but still remain pricey.

As might be expected, there are types of holders to avoid, particularly for coins and tokens:

1. Holders made of glassine paper, which is acidic and will damage a coin or a banknote
2. Holders containing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polyvinylidene chloride (Saran™), which will leach chemicals that can damage coins
3. Paper envelopes, which can cause damage through abrasion (as the coin slides around in the envelope) or from acid-based papers. At best, paper envelopes should be used only as temporary storage for coins that already show wear.
4. Coin folders (such as the Whitman folders) since most are made of acidic cardboard, they leave the coins open to exposure to the environment. These folders normally only show one side of the coin and removal and insertion of coins requires considerable force and handling, risking damage to the piece.
5. Coin albums, which are similar to coin folders, use sliding strips of plastic for each row to enable both sides of the coin to be seen and to protect the coins from the environment. Again, insertion and removal takes force and the sliding plastic strip can abrade the coins.
6. Coin tubes, which permit movement of the coins, allowing them to abrade one another.
7. Wooden coin cabinets or boxes, as beautiful as they are, can corrode coins due to the vapours given off by the wood and the drawer linings.

### Storing multiple items together

Since most collections contain more than one item, how do we store many items together? Let us examine a few options.

1. Three-ring binder. Inexpensive, yet effective, the three-ring binder solution uses large plastic pages that have pouches suited to hold either 2 x 2s, flips or banknote holders. It is recommended that the pages have metal grommets on the holes for the three rings, since non-grommet holes will tear and pages will fall out. Also, coin collections can be very heavy, so don't store your collection in a single four-inch binder as it may be too heavy to carry. Finally, if the coins are stored in 2 x 2s, ensure all the staples are flattened against the cardboard, by using pliers or by stapling with a "flat-lie" stapler, to prevent a staple from damaging

les pièces que pour les billets. Les pavés contiennent une étiquette qui donne les données principales de l'article et son état de conservation. Ils sont habituellement scellés pour prévenir le traficage. Les pavés offrent une protection supérieure mais sont dispendieux si l'on inclut le coût de la certification. Certains pavés sont maintenant offerts directement aux collectionneurs, mais ils demeurent dispendieux.

Il y a aussi des types de porte-objets qu'il est préférable d'éviter :

1. Les porte-objets fabriqués de papier cristal. Celui-ci est acide et peut donc endommager les pièces et les billets.
2. Les porte-objets fabriqués de matériaux qui contiennent du PVC ou du polychlorure de vinylidène (Saran™) qui peuvent laisser échapper des produits chimiques qui peuvent endommager les articles.
3. Les enveloppes de papier qui peuvent endommager les pièces par abrasion et par les acides contenus dans le papier. On ne devrait utiliser ce genre de porte-objet que pour un entreposage temporaire et que sur des pièces qui montrent déjà de l'usure.
4. Les albums champlevés (comme ceux de la compagnie Whitman) qui sont habituellement fait de carton acide et qui ne protègent absolument pas les pièces. De plus, ils ne nous permettent de voir qu'un seul côté des pièces et l'insertion et l'enlèvement des pièces pausent des risques considérables.
5. Les albums plastifiés composés de feuilles munies de bandes que l'on glisse dans la page. Bien qu'ils nous permettent de voir les deux côtés des pièces, l'insertion et l'enlèvement des pièces pausent des risques considérables.
6. Les tubes à monnaie qui n'empêchent aucunement la friction entre les pièces.
7. Les médailliers de bois car les gaz qui se dégagent du bois et de la doublure des tiroirs peuvent endommager les pièces.

### L'entreposage de nombreux articles ensembles

Puisqu'une collection contient, par définition, plus d'un objet, comment entreposons-nous le tout? Il existe plusieurs options.

1. Les reliures à anneaux. Abordable et efficace, les reliures (cahiers) à anneaux peuvent contenir de nombreuses pages de plastique qui, à leur tour,



Figure 7. Specialized case for silver Maple Leafs.

-----  
 Figure 7. Boîtier conçu pour les Feuilles d'érable d'argent.

a coin. Some collectors using three-ring binders put thin foam sheets between the pages for added protection.

2. **Boxes.** Also inexpensive, this solution employs rigid boxes, sized to fit 2 x 2s or slabs, to store 20-100 items in a box. Convenient for storage, and often employed by dealers for low-end stock, this method of storage involves a lot of manual handling of the holders to examine the pieces, and poses the consequent risk of damage.

3. **Specialized albums and cases.** (Fig. 7) Offered by many numismatic suppliers, custom-designed cases and binders exist for the storage of slabs and capsules, and are often specific to an item, such as Canadian Silver Maple Leafs. Expensive and space-consuming, they are usually an ideal solution for viewing, and they provide significant additional protection. Often used by high-end collectors.

contiennent plusieurs cartons monétaires ou enveloppes à rabat (habituellement 20). Il est préférable d'utiliser les pages dont les trous ont été renforcés d'œillets de métal qui préviennent le déchirement. N'oubliez pas que les pièces de monnaies sont habituellement très lourdes. Il est donc préférable d'avoir plusieurs reliures de 2,5 cm plutôt qu'une seule de 10,0 cm. Enfin, si vous utilisez des cartons monétaires, assurez-vous que les agrafes aient été bien aplaties pour éviter qu'elles n'endommagent les pièces.

2. **Les boîtes.** Il existe également des boîtes conçues pour l'entreposage de 20 à 100 cartons monétaires ou pavés. Très pratique pour l'entreposage (et non pour la visualisation), elles sont populaires auprès des marchands. Mais attention, elles augmentent la manipulation des

## Where to find supplies

Supplies for storing your numismatic collection are available at most coin dealers and from a variety of on-line sites (be mindful of high shipping charges). Shop around before buying, and talk to other collectors and your local clubs before buying.

## Conclusion

Before you settle on what storage solution is right for you, talk to others who have been there. Ask lots of questions and learn from the experience of others. Be patient and put in place a storage system that will last for the life of your collection, keep your items safe, and make them available for viewing with your friends. After all, a hobby is meant to be enjoyed and shared with others! ❖

porte-objets et, conséquemment, les risques.

3. Les boîtiers et albums spécialisés. Il existe des boîtiers et albums spécialement conçus pour l'entreposage de certaines monnaies, comme les Feuilles d'érable en argent (fig. 7). Onéreux, ils prennent également beaucoup de place de rangement, mais sont idéal pour la visualisation et souvent la protection des articles. Ils sont habituellement utilisés par les collectionneurs de haute gamme.

## Où trouver ce genre de matériel

Les porte-objets et autres articles de rangement sont habituellement trouvés auprès des marchands de monnaies et sur Internet (attention aux frais de manutention élevés). Parlez à d'autres collectionneurs pour savoir où ils se procurent les leurs.

## Conclusion

Avant d'arrêter définitivement votre choix, parlez à d'autres collectionneurs pour connaître leurs préférences. Soyez patient et choisissez une méthode de préservation et d'entreposage qui durera longtemps et qui vous permettra d'apprécier pleinement votre collection, maintenant et pour les années à venir.



1 Maltby, Susan. The CNA/NESA Numismatic Correspondence Course (1996 Upgrade), Chapter 9 "Housing and Handling Your Collection", p. 9-3. St. Eligius Press Inc., Saint-Julie, QC, 1996.

## Tuvalu issues pirate coin

Tuvalu, an island in Micronesia, has begun a new series of 1-dollar coins for young collectors: pirates.

The reverse of the first piece portrays Blackbeard, the archetypal bloodthirsty pirate born in England around 1680. His ferocious reputation so terrified merchant crews along the North American coast that most simply surrendered when they encountered him. Blackbeard's infamous career, however, came to an abrupt end after just two years when he was caught and killed by the Royal Navy.

Struck by Australia's Perth Mint, the coloured piece is made of aluminum-bronze, weighs 13.8 g and measures 30.6 mm in diameter. It is sold in a presentation card that features images of a pirate map and treasure. ❖



> FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.PERTHMINT.COM.AU](http://WWW.PERTHMINT.COM.AU) <

The Royal Canadian Numismatic Association | l'Association royale de numismatique du Canada will be holding its annual convention from July 14 to 17, at the Hilton Saint John, in Saint John, New Brunswick. For more information on the convention visit the convention's website at: <http://rcna.ca/2010saintjohn.php>.

# Le huard

par François Rufiange

Les huards sont considérés comme des oiseaux d'une grande beauté, symbole de la nature sauvage et de la solitude. Pour de nombreux campeurs et vacanciers, une excursion dans la nature est incomplète s'ils ne voient pas un huard ou n'entendent pas son cri unique tard le soir, assis devant un feu de camp.

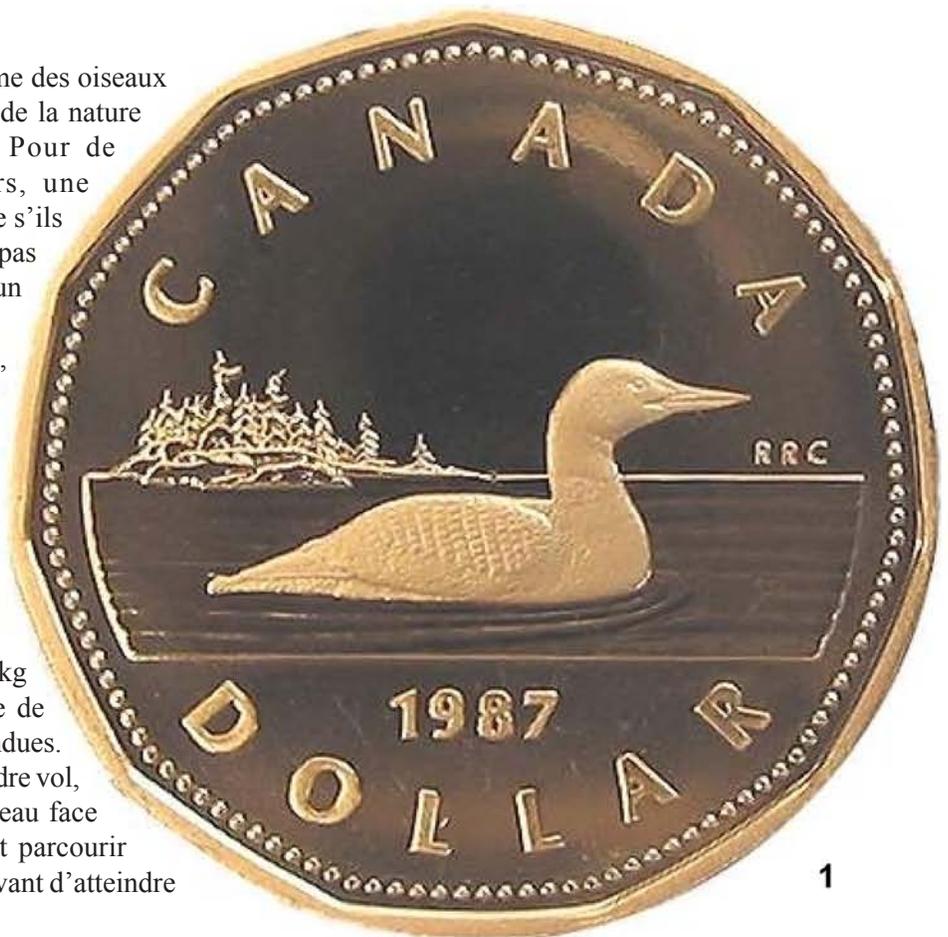
Les huards, tout comme les canards, sont des oiseaux aquatiques. Il en existe cinq espèces : le huard arctique, le huard à bec blanc, le huard à collier, le huard catmarin et le huard du Pacifique. Le huard à collier est l'espèce la mieux connue de la plupart des Canadiens car nous le retrouvons presque partout au Canada durant l'été.

Les huards adultes pèsent entre 2,7 kg et 6,3 kg et mesurent près d'un mètre de l'extrémité du bec à celle des pattes étendues. Pour que ces gros oiseaux puissent prendre vol, les huards courent sur la surface de l'eau face au vent. Par temps calme, ils peuvent parcourir jusqu'à plusieurs centaines de mètres avant d'atteindre la vitesse nécessaire à s'envoler.

Le squelette et le système musculaire des huards sont adaptés à la nage et à la plongée. Les huards ont une forme tant aérodynamique qu'hydrodynamique. Leurs pattes sont placées à l'extrême arrière de leur corps, ceci donne aux huards une grande adresse sur et dans l'eau, mais les rend maladroits sur la terre ferme. Sous l'eau, ils nagent très rapidement grâce aux puissants muscles de leurs pattes. Les huards repèrent leurs proies en regardant sous l'eau. Ils visent et ensuite plongent rapidement. Ils peuvent rester submergés pendant près d'une minute et plonger jusqu'à une profondeur de 80 mètres. Les huards se nourrissent surtout de poissons, d'écrevisses, de grenouilles, d'escargots, de salamandres et de sangsues.

## Signes et sons

L'un des aspects les plus fascinants du huard à collier est son cri. Le huard utilise quatre cris différents qui, combinés de diverses façons, servent à communiquer avec sa famille et les autres huards : le trémolo, le cri plaintif, l'ioulement et l'ululement. Le cri plaintif, un des plus beaux



1

Figure 1. Type « huard » introduit en 1987. Dessin'e par Robert-Ralph Carmichael.

Figure 1. "Loon" type introduced in 1987. Designed by Robert-Ralph Carmichael.

cris du huard, joue un grand rôle dans les relations sociales entre les huards et il peut être utilisé pour reprendre contact avec le partenaire lorsqu'il y a chorus le soir, ainsi que pour répondre aux trémolos d'autres huards. Vous pouvez écouter ces cris au site Internet suivant : [http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/loons/images\\_f.html](http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/loons/images_f.html).

## Vers des huards dans nos poches

Les pièces de 1 dollar circulent au Canada depuis 1935. Jusqu'en 1967, ces pièces sont en argent et d'un diamètre imposant. En 1968, la Monnaie royale canadienne (MRC) diminue le diamètre du dollar de 36 mm à 32 mm et remplace l'argent par le nickel pour sa composition. Ce changement de métal est dû à l'augmentation du prix de l'argent sur les

*suite à la page 144*

## The loon

by François Rufiange

Loons are considered as birds of great beauty; symbols of the wild and solitude. For many campers and outdoor vacationers, their trip to the wild would be incomplete if they did not see a loon or hear its unique call late at night, while sitting around the campfire.

Loons, like ducks, are aquatic birds. Five species exist: the arctic loon, the common loon, the Pacific loon, the red-throated loon, and the yellow-billed loon. The common loon is the best known by most Canadians because we find it almost everywhere in Canada during the summer.

Adult loons weigh between 2.7 and 6.3 kg and measure almost a metre from the tip of their beak to their stretched-out legs. For these big birds to take flight, they must run on

the water surface while facing into the wind. On a calm day, they can travel many hundreds of metres before reaching take-off speed.

A loon's skeleton and muscular system are well adapted to swimming and diving. Loons have a shape that is both aerodynamic and hydrodynamic. Their feet are placed at the very back of their bodies, which makes them excellent swimmers, but makes them very clumsy on firm ground. Underwater, they swim very fast, thanks to their powerful leg muscles. While floating on the surface, loons spot their prey by dipping their head to look underwater, diving quickly once they have a target. They can stay underwater for more than a minute and can dive as deep as 80 metres. A loon's diet consists mostly of fish, crawfish, snails, salamanders and bloodsuckers.



2

Figure 2. "Loon modified" type introduced in 1993.

Figure 2. Type « huard modifié » introduit en 1993.

### The call of the loon

A fascinating aspect of the loon is its call. The loon uses four different calls which, when combined, are used to communicate with its family and other loons: the tremolo, the wail, the yodel and the hoot. The wail, one of the most beautiful loon calls, plays an important role in the social relations between loons and can be used to re-establish contact with partners during an evening chorus and to answer another loon's tremolo. Would you like to listen to the call of the loon? Go on the internet to: <http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/loons/images.html> and enjoy.

### Toward loons in our pockets

The one dollar coin has circulated in Canada since 1935. Until 1967, these large coins were made out of silver. In 1968, the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) reduced the diameter of the dollar from 36 mm to 32 mm and used nickel as the base metal instead of silver. This base metal change happened due to the increased cost of silver on world markets in the mid-1960s.

From 1935 to 1986, 1-dollar coins circulated alongside the 1-dollar notes. Because of the general public's

*continued on page 145*

marchés mondiaux au milieu des années 1960.

Il est important de noter que, de 1935 à 1986, les pièces de 1 dollar côtoient les billets de même dénomination dans le commerce. Les pièces ne circulent pas beaucoup et peu sont frappées parce que le public préfère la légèreté du billet.

En 1986, pour des raisons économiques, le Gouvernement canadien décide de retirer les billets de 1 dollar du commerce et de les remplacer par une nouvelle pièce. On sait que pour qu'elle ait du succès cette pièce doit être légère et qu'elle doit être facile à différencier des autres pièces déjà en circulation. Le huard tel que dessiné par l'artiste ontarien Robert-Ralph Carmichael est le dessin choisi par le Gouvernement. Donc en 1987, plus de 205 millions de pièces de 1 dollar sont mises en circulation et on cesse la production des billets de même dénomination. La nouvelle pièce rencontre un grand succès. Le public aime tant le motif de Carmichael qu'il confère à cette pièce le surnom de « huard », qui devient éventuellement aussi synonyme de « dollar canadien », et ce plus que dans le langage courant, on l'appelle ainsi même dans la presse écrite! Vingt-trois ans plus tard, le huard circule toujours et demeure populaire.

### Une étrange histoire!

Il nous est difficile de ne pas associer la pièce de 1 dollar

au huard qui l'orne. Mais cette association est en fait fortuite. La MRC prévoyait en effet utiliser le célèbre dessin du voyageur, d'Emanuel Hahn, sur la nouvelle pièce de 1 dollar. Mais elle a dû changer de dessin à la dernière minute. En effet, les coins nécessaires à la frappe du « nouveau voyageur », qui avaient été fabriqués à Ottawa, ont disparus lors de leur transport vers Winnipeg. Il semble qu'un imposteur, prétendant travailler pour la compagnie de courrier, se soit présenté à la MRC et a ramassé le colis contenant les nouveaux coins destinés pour l'usine de Winnipeg. Ces coins n'ont jamais été retrouvés. La MRC a vite fait préparer de nouveaux coins avec un nouveau motif : le huard à collier sur un lac calme avec une île en arrière-plan, de Robert-Ralph Carmichael (fig. 1).

### Une nouvelle pièce bien pensée

Comme il est essentiel que la nouvelle pièce de 1 dollar soit bien reçue par le public canadien pour réaliser les économies escomptées par le Gouvernement canadien, la MRC a porté une attention particulière à sa conception. On sait déjà que la pièce doit être plus petite et plus légère que les pièces de 1 dollar précédentes : le diamètre sera donc de 26,7 mm et le poids de 7,0 g.

On tourne ensuite son attention sur l'échec de nos voisins du sud. En effet, les États-Unis tentent de mettre une nouvelle pièce de 1 dollar en circulation en 1979, arborée du portrait de la suffragette Susan B. Anthony, mais sans succès. L'une des raisons pour cet échec est le fait que la pièce de 1 dollar est de même composition (donc de même couleur) et à peine plus grande que la pièce de ¼ dollar, ce qui rend la différenciation entre les deux pièces difficile.

Conséquemment, la MRC décide de faciliter l'identification de la nouvelle pièce de 1 dollar en lui donnant 11 côtés (pour les malvoyants) et de lui donner une couleur dorée en la frappant de nickel plaqué de bronze doré.

### La collection des huards

Bon, attaquons maintenant ce qui nous est le plus cher, la collection de ces pièces. Mais attention, il ne s'agit pas de pièce de 1 dollar, mais

suite à la page 146



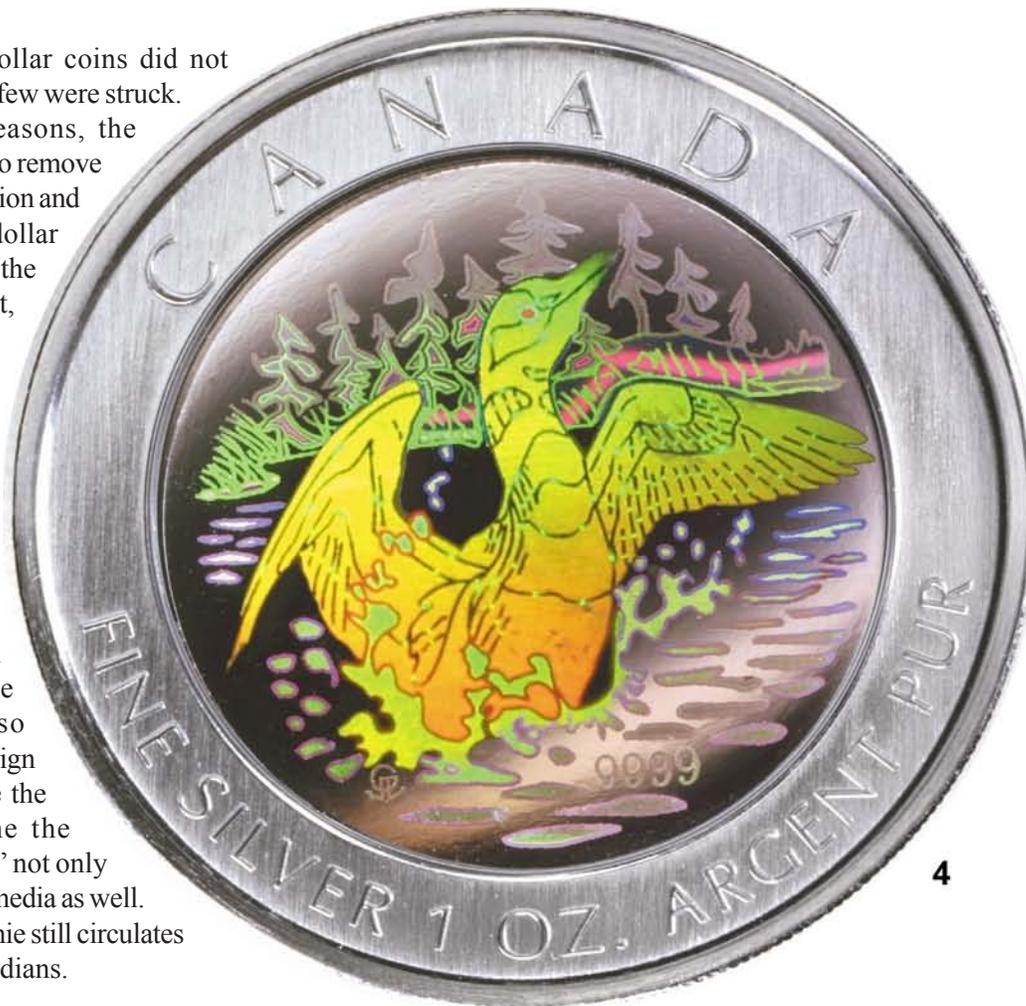
Figure 3. Type « envolée ». Dollar en argent émis en 1997 pour souligner le 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la mise en circulation du huard. Dessiné par Jean-Luc Grondin.

Figure 3. "Flight" type. Silver dollar issued in 1997 to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of the loon into circulation. Designed by Jean-Luc Grondin.

preference for notes, the 1-dollar coins did not circulate in large quantities and few were struck.

In 1986, for economic reasons, the Canadian Government decided to remove 1-dollar bank notes from circulation and to replace them with a new dollar coin. This important coin for the economy had to be lightweight, have a pleasing design, and be easy to differentiate from other circulating coins. The loon coin, designed by Ontario artist Robert-Ralph Carmichael, was selected by the Canadian Government. So in 1987, more than 205 million loons entered circulation and 1-dollar notes were removed from circulation. The new coin met with huge success. The public was so enthralled with Carmichael's design that they named the new piece the "loonie," which has become the synonym for "Canadian dollar," not only in day-to-day speech, but in the media as well.

Twenty-three years later, the loonie still circulates and remains popular with Canadians.



4

### A strange story

Did you know that the loon design was not the original design for the new 1987 dollar coin? The original design was the famous *Voyageur* by the artist Emanuel Hahn, found on the previous silver and nickel dollars. But what happened? Well, it is simple: the original master dies with the voyageur design were stolen. Apparently, an impostor pretending to work for the courier company showed up at the Royal Canadian Mint to pick up the package containing the new master dies to be shipped for the Winnipeg plant. The RCM quickly had to produce new master dies with a new design and decided to use the design by Carmichael: the common loon on a calm lake with an island in the background (Fig. 1).

### A new, well thought-through, piece

For the new 1-dollar coin to be accepted by Canadian citizens, the Mint had to pay particular attention to its design. The Mint officials knew that the coin would have to be smaller and lighter than its predecessor; so its diameter was reduced from 32 mm to 26.7 mm and its mass went from 15.6 g to only 7.0 g.

The RCM learned from of our southern neighbours' unsuccessful introduction of a new 1-dollar coin some 20 years earlier. In 1979, the United States tried to put into

Figure 4. "Male flapping its wings" type.

Figure 4. Type « mâle battant des ailes ».

circulation a new 1-dollar coin sporting an effigy of suffragette Susan B. Anthony, but without success. One of the reasons for this failure was the fact that the 1-dollar coin was of the same composition (hence the same colour) and barely larger than the quarter, making it difficult to tell the difference between the two coins.

Consequently, the RCM decided to simplify recognition of the new 1-dollar coin by making it 11-sided (for the visually impaired) and to strike it on a bronze-plated nickel core to give it a beautiful golden colour.

### A collection of loons

Let us now look at what is more intriguing: the collection of coins; not just 1-dollar coins, but coins that feature a loon in their design.

As one can tell from the table at the end of this article, a complete collection of Canadian 1-dollar coins featuring a loon design comprises 96 pieces.

As was mentioned earlier, the design of a common loon

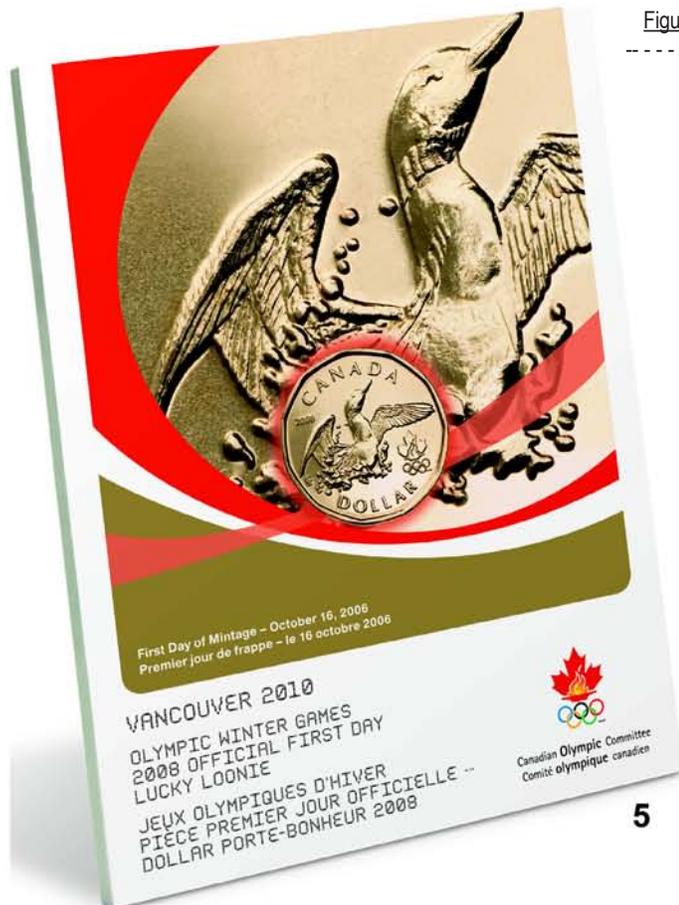


Figure 5. « Huard porte-bonheur » type « mâle battant des ailes ».

Figure 5. "Lucky Loonie", "Male flapping its wings" type.

frappe de deux pièces qui montrent un huard qui s'envole (fig. 3 – type que l'on a nommé « envol »). Une première, au fini spécimen, partage les mêmes données techniques avec les pièces de circulation, mais n'est disponible que dans les ensembles « Oh! Canada! » et spécimen. L'autre est en argent sterling et s'inscrit dans la catégorie des « dollars en argent ».

Le 15<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, en 2002, est souligné par la frappe de deux pièces. La première, est une pièce disponible que dans les ensembles spécimen et montre un couple de huards : un en avant-plan, nageant, et un autre en second-plan, battant des ailes (type que l'on a nommé « couple »). La seconde pièce est un lingot monétaire, une Feuille d'érable, en argent, ornée d'un hologramme qui montre un mâle battant des ailes (fig. 4 – type que l'on a nommé « mâle battant des ailes »). Il s'agit d'une portion du dessin du couple.

## Les huards porte-bonheur

Durant les Olympiques d'hiver de 2002 à Salt Lake City aux États-Unis, le Canadien Trent Evans (intendant à la patinoire) place un huard au centre de la patinoire afin d'aider les arbitres à plus facilement trouver le centre de la glace lors des mises au jeu. Comme vous le savez, cette année-là, les équipes hommes et femmes de hockey gagnent la médaille d'or. On a par la suite jugé que ce huard avait porté bonheur aux équipes canadiennes. Wayne Gretzky se procura cette pièce et la remis au Temple de la renommé du hockey.

Dans cette veine d'idée, la MRC émet une pièce de 1 dollar « porte-bonheur » chaque année olympique en guise de vœux de succès pour les athlètes canadiens. On reconnaît ces pièces au symbole de l'Association olympique canadienne.

À la fin de l'année de 2002, pour souligner les médailles d'or olympiques au hockey, la MRC, Poste Canada et la revue *Maclean's* émettent un ensemble commémoratif qui contient un huard spécial, plaqué d'or (type que l'on a nommé « centre de la glace »). Cette pièce souligne aussi le 15<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la mise en circulation du huard en arborant un plus petit huard au-dessous duquel on retrouve le millésime 1987.

En 2004, la MRC frappe le premier huard porte-bonheur pour souhaiter bonne chance à nos athlètes durant les jeux olympiques d'été à Athènes en Grèce. On a ajouté le logo de l'Association olympique canadienne au-dessus du huard sur le dessin de Carmichael. Une pièce en argent (de même diamètre), coloriée, est émise en plus des pièces de circulation

Un second huard porte-bonheur est émis en 2006. Celui-

*suite de la page 144*

plutôt de pièces qui arborent un huard.

Comme on peut le constater en regardant le tableau à la fin du présent article, une collection complète de pièces canadiennes sur lesquelles on retrouve un huard compte 96 articles.

Comme nous le mentionnons plus tôt, c'est à Robert-Ralph Carmichael que l'on doit le dessin du huard à collier sur un lac calme avec une île en arrière-plan adopté en 1987. Carmichael est un artiste canadien qui vit près de la ville Echo Bay dans le nord de l'Ontario. On lui doit un douzaine de motifs de pièce, dont notre bien-aimé huard. Ce type, que l'on a simplement nommé « huard », est modifié légèrement en 1993 : les traits horizontaux, qui représentent l'eau, sont désormais plus prononcés (fig. 2).

Les 10<sup>e</sup> et 15<sup>e</sup> anniversaires de la mise en circulation du huard sont marqués par l'émission de quatre pièces ornées de dessins de l'artiste animalier Jean-Luc Grondin. Né à Saint-Gédéon-de-Beauce au Québec en 1938, Grondin est bien connu pour ces œuvres retrouvées sur des timbres-postes (grand héron, oies des neiges, grand-duc d'Amérique, tétras du Canada) et sur des photolithographies préparées pour la Fondation québécoise de la faune. Il est intéressant de noter que la signature de Grondin sur toutes ces pièces ne sont pas linéaires, mais plutôt un monogramme.

Le 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du huard est souligné en 1997 par la

*suite à la page 149*

on a calm lake with an island in the background, as adopted in 1987, was created by Canadian artist Robert-Ralph Carmichael from Echo Bay in northern Ontario. Carmichael has created the designs of a dozen Canadian coins, of which our beloved loon is the most well-known. This design (type name: “loon”) was slightly modified in 1993 to enhance the horizontal lines that represent the water (Fig. 2).

The 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the introduction on the “loonie” into circulation were marked by four commemorative coins featuring designs by animal artist Jean-Luc Grondin. Born in Saint-Gédéon-de-Beauce in Quebec in 1938, Grondin is best known for his works that we find on postage stamps (heron, tundra bean-goose, great horned owl, spruce grouse) and on the photo-lithographs of the *Fondation de la faune du Québec*. It is interesting to note that Mr. Grondin’s initials on all these coins are not linear, but rather superimposed, like a monogram.

Celebrated in 1997, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “loonie” featured two 1997 coins showing a loon taking off (Fig. 3 – type name: “flight”). The 1997 specimen coin has the same technical characteristics as the circulation coin, but can only be found in the “Oh! Canada!” and specimen sets. The other 1997 coin is in sterling silver proof, and is categorized as a “silver dollar.”

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2002, saw the striking of two new loon pieces. The first is a specimen strike featuring two loons: one swimming in the foreground and the second one, behind it, flapping its wings (type name: “couple”). The second coin is a bullion coin, a Silver Maple Leaf, that bears a holographic image of a male flapping its wings (Fig. 4 – type name: Male flapping its wings). This is an excerpt from the aforementioned “couple” design.

### Lucky Loons

During the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, Canadian Trent Evans (rink superintendant) placed a loonie coin under centre ice to help referees find the centre of the ice during face-offs. As you know, Canada’s men’s and women’s hockey teams both won the gold medal that year. The lucky coin was obtained by Wayne Gretsky and he gave it to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Since then, the loon and the “loonie” have become a lucky charm. Continuing with this thinking, the RCM has struck a “lucky loonie” each Olympic year to bring success to Canada’s athletes. You can recognize these

coins by the Canadian Olympic Association symbol on them.

At the end of 2002, to commemorate the Olympic gold medals in hockey, the RCM, Canada Post, and *Maclean’s* Magazine jointly issued a special set (type name: “Centre Ice”) containing a gold plated loon dollar coin. This coin also celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of the loon coin into circulation by featuring a smaller loon, above which is found the 1987 date.

In 2004, the RCM struck a lucky loon to wish good luck to our athletes during the Summer Olympic Games in Athens. The Canadian Olympic Association’s logo was added above Carmichael’s design. In addition to the circulation coins, a coloured sterling silver proof coin of the same size was also struck.

A second “lucky loonie” was struck in 2006. This one featured Jean-Luc Grondin’s design of a loon at the beginning of its water landing.

In 2008, for the Olympics in Beijing, a new “lucky loonie” was issued that features again the 2002 design of a male flapping its wings (Fig. 5).

### The 2004 Elusive Loon

On October 27, 1998, Canada Post issued a beautiful 1-dollar stamp showing a loon nesting near a lake from a design by Robert-Ralph Carmichael. The RCM and Canada Post used this same design (Fig. 6 – type name “nest”) six years later in 2004 for the numismatic 1-dollar in a special philatelic-numismatic set.

continued on page 153



Figure 6. The elusive loon: “nest” type.

Figure 6. L’insaisissable huard : type « nid ».

Millésime & marque Date & Marks	Type	Artiste Artist <sup>1</sup>	Circulation	Hors-circulation Uncirculated	Spécimen Specimen	Épreuve Proof
1987	Huard   Loon	RRC	●			●
1988	Huard   Loon	RRC	●	●	●	●
1989	Huard   Loon	RRC	●	●	●	●
1990	Huard   Loon	RRC	●	●	●	●
1991	Huard   Loon	RRC	●	●	●	●
1992 <sup>2</sup>	Huard   Loon	RRC	●	●	●	●
1993	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●	●	●
1994	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●	●	●
1995	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●	●	●
1996	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●	●	●
1997	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	3	●		●
1997W <sup>4</sup>	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●		
1997	Envolée   Flight	JLG			● <sup>5</sup>	● <sup>6</sup>
1998	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●		●
1998W	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●		
1999	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●		●
2000	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●		●
2000W	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●		
2001	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC		●	●	●
2002	Couple	JLG		●		
2002 <sup>7</sup>	Mâle battant des ailes Male flapping its wings	JLG				●
2002	Centre de la glace   Ice Centre	RRC				●
2003	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●	●	●
2003W	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC			●	
2004	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		●
2004	Chanceux   Lucky	RRC	●			● <sup>8</sup>
2004	Nid   Nest	JLG			●	
2005	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		●
2006	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		●
2006	Chanceux   Lucky	JLG	●			● <sup>8</sup>
2006(M) <sup>9</sup>	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		
2006(M)	Berceuses   Lullabies	RRC				● <sup>6</sup>
2007(M)	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		● <sup>6</sup>
2008(M)	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		● <sup>6</sup>
2008(M)	Chanceux   Lucky	JLG	●	●		● <sup>8</sup>
2008(M)	Centenaire MRC RCM Centennial	JB				● <sup>10</sup>
2009(M)	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●		●
2010(M)	Huard, mod   Loon, mod	RRC	●	●	●	●

### Pièces de monnaie canadiennes avec un huard | Canadian Coins with a Loon

<sup>1</sup> RRC: Robert-Ralph Carmichael, JLG: Jean-Luc Grondin, JB: Jason Bouwman

<sup>2</sup> Les pièces de cette année portent le double millésime « 1867-1992 » | The coins of this year bear the double dates "1867-1992"

<sup>3</sup> Craignant le rejet de la nouvelle pièce de 2 \$ par le public, les banques stockèrent une très grande quantité de pièce de 1 \$. Celui eu pour effet qu'aucune pièce de 1 \$ de fut frappée pour la circulation de 1997 à 2001 | Afraid that the \$2 coin would be rejected by the public, the banks stored a large quantity of \$1 coins. This resulted in the non-striking of \$1 coins for circulation from 1997 to 2001.

<sup>4</sup> « W » est la marque de l'atelier de Winnipeg | "W" is the mark of the facility at Winnipeg

<sup>5</sup> Cette pièce a les mêmes caractéristiques que la pièce de circulation | This piece has the same characteristics as the circulation piece

<sup>6</sup> Frappée en argent sterling, diamètre: 36,07 mm, poids: 25,18 g | Struck in sterling silver, diameter: 36.07 mm, weight: 25.18 g

<sup>7</sup> Feuille d'érable en argent (5 \$) avec hologramme | Silver Maple Leaf (\$5) with hologram

<sup>8</sup> Frappée en argent sterling et coloré, diamètre: 26,50 mm, poids: 7,0 g | Struck in sterling silver and coloured, diameter: 26.50 mm, weight: 7.0 g

<sup>9</sup> (M) = marque corporative de la MRC communément appelée « M encerclé » | (M) = corporate mark of the RCM commonly called "circle M"

<sup>10</sup> Frappée en argent sterling avec placage or partiel, diamètre: 36,07 mm, poids: 25,18 g | Struck in sterling silver with partial gold plating, diameter: 36.07 mm, weight: 25.18 g



Figure 7. Dos du billet de 20 dollars 1991 qui montre un couple de huards.  
 Figure 8. Pièce de 1 dollar émise en 2008 pour souligner le centenaire de la MRC qui montre la transformation d'une feuille d'érable en huard en vol.

Figure 7. Back of the 1991-dated 20-dollar note that shows a loon couple.  
 Figure 8. One-dollar coin issued in 2008 to mark the centennial of the RCM, which shows the transformation of a maple leaf into a flying loon.



*suite de la page 146*

ci arbore un dessin de Jean-Luc Grondin montrant un huard en début d'amerrissage.

En 2008, année des Olympiques de Pékin, un nouveau huard porte-bonheur est émis qui reprend le dessin du mâle battant des ailes, utilisé en 2002 (fig. 5).

### Le huard insaisissable de 2004

Le 27 octobre 1998, Poste Canada émet un superbe timbre de 1 dollar montrant un huard sur son nid près du rivage d'un lac, dessiné par Robert-Ralph Carmichael. Ce même motif (fig. 6 – type que l'on a nommé « nid ») est utilisé par la MRC six ans plus tard, en 2004, pour la pièce numismatique de 1 dollar comprise philatélo-numismatique.

### Le huard des « berceuses »

En 2006 la MRC émet un ensemble-souvenir dit « berceuses » qui contient un huard unique : on a ajouté un ours en peluche entouré d'un quartier de Lune et d'étoiles dans le champ au-dessus du huard (qui a été poussé vers le bas pour l'occasion).

### Huard en vol

Pour souligné son 100<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, la MRC émet, en 2008, une pièce de 1 dollar en argent sur lequel on retrouve un très intéressant (fig. 8). En effet, le dessin de Jason

Bouwman représente la transformation d'une feuille d'érable en huard en vol.

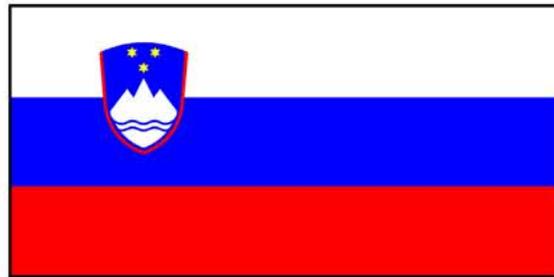
### Le mot de la fin!

Il ne faut que deux autres articles numismatiques pour compléter une collection canadienne de huards : le billet de 20 dollars de 1991 qui est orné, au dos, de deux huards sur un lac calme (fig. 7) et une médaille de la MRC qui reprend le dessin du dollar commémoratif dont on vient de parler. Celle-ci n'est disponible qu'aux boutiques de la MRC à Ottawa et Winnipeg et aux membres du Club des Maîtres.

Finalement, il est surprenant de découvrir qu'il ne faut que deux autres pièces pour compléter une collection mondiale sur les huards : le ¼ dollar états-unien 2005 dédié

*suite à la page 159*

Many of our members travel around the world, so we have decided to create this column so they can share their impressions with all of us. The ultimate focus being, of course, to tell us more about the coins and bank notes of the country visited.



## The Republic of Slovenia

by Serge Pelletier

**T**he Republic of Slovenia (*Republika Slovenija* in Slovene) is a country in Central Europe that touches the Alps and borders on the Mediterranean. Slovenia borders Italy in the west, the Adriatic on the southwest, Croatia on the south and east, Hungary on the northeast, and Austria on the north. The capital and largest city is Ljubljana.

Slovenia covers an area of 20,273 square kilometres (about four times the size of Prince Edward Island) and has a population of 2.06 million. Around 40% of Slovenia's land mass is elevated land—mostly in the form of mountains and plateaus—located in the interior regions of the country. The highest point of Slovenia is the 2,864-metre high Mount Triglav, which has three peaks and is featured on the country's coat of arms. The lowest point is the Adriatic Sea at sea level. The majority of the population speaks Slovene, the country's official language. Other local official languages are Hungarian and Italian.

### History

Although a distinct Slovene identity was first articulated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and its prehistory can be traced back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Slovenia itself is a relatively modern political entity. The notion of an independent Slovenia first emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the idea of uniting all Slovene-inhabited territories as an autonomous kingdom within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It became a reality only after

the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918, when Slovenia became a de facto self-governing entity within the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (which became Yugoslavia in 1929). Slovenian autonomy was abolished with the Yugoslav constitution of 1921. Although the Yugoslav portion of Slovenia managed to regain territorial integrity in 1931 as the Drava–Banovina region, it was not granted autonomy, and the name Slovenia was officially forbidden. Slovenia was first established as an autonomous political entity after World War II, as a republic (state) within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Its current borders were established in 1954, with the abolition of the Free Territory of Trieste and the official annexation of the Koper district to Slovenia.

Over the centuries, the current Slovenian territory, or portions thereof, has been ruled by: the Roman Empire, the Ostrogoth Kingdom, the Byzantine Empire, the Principality of Carantania, the Avar state, the Lombard Kingdom, the Frankish Kingdom, the Holy Roman Empire, the Republic of Venice, the Kingdom of Hungary, the Habsburg Monarchy, and the First French Empire.

Later, it was part of: the Austrian Empire (later known as Austria-Hungary); the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (renamed to Kingdom of Yugoslavia); the Kingdom of Italy; between the two World Wars it was occupied and or annexed by Germany, Italy, Hungary, and the Independent State of Croatia (1941–1945); and the Socialist Federal



Figure 1. Specimen of the first Slovenian 10,000-tolar note issued in 1994 (P# 20).

Republic of Yugoslavia from 1945 until its independence in 1991. Slovenia joined the European Union in 2004.

### Currency history

Needless to say, with all these political changes, the Slovenian currency history is equally varied, but I will restrict myself to the money that bears the current name, that which was issued after its independence in 1991.

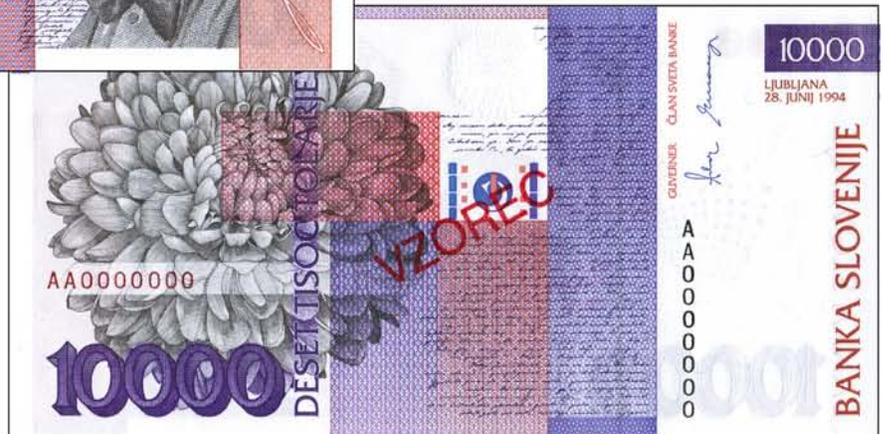
The first Slovenian money was issued October 8, 1991, and consists of 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 50-, 100-, 200-, 500-, and 1000-unit notes. Somewhat an “emergency money” or “transitional money,” the notes are all the same size and share a common design, with Mount Triglav on the back. Only the colour changes from one denomination to the other. They were all withdrawn from circulation on June 30, 1993. A 5000-unit note was issued on May 27, 1992, and withdrawn on February 1, 1994. It is worth noting that there is no currency unit used on these notes likely because the name of the currency had not yet been chosen.

Slovenia adopted the tolar (pl. tolarjev) as its currency, divided into 100 stotinov. The name is derived from the thaler of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The tolar-denominated notes started to be issued in 1992. Altogether, 10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, 200-, 500-, 1000-, 5000-, and 10,000-tolar (Fig. 1) notes were issued until 2005. Each denomination has a different design and size.

The first Slovenian coins were issued in 1993. They were: 10, 20, and 50 stotinov, and 1, 2, and 5 tolarjev. A cupronickel 10-tolar coin replaced the same denomination note in 2000. The 20- and 50-tolar notes were replaced by cupronickel coins in 2003.

Circulating commemorative 5-tolar coins were issued from 1993 to 1997. Collector silver 500-tolar and gold 5000-tolar coins were also issued during that period.



### Currency of today

On January 1, 2007, Slovenia adopted the euro as its currency and thus joined the eurozone. Its currency is therefore composed of 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 20-, and 50-eurocent coins as well as 1- and 2-euro ones. As for bank notes, Slovenia’s identifier is the letter “H” (found at the beginning of the serial number). Only 5-, 10-, and 20-euro notes have been printed so far, and very sporadically.

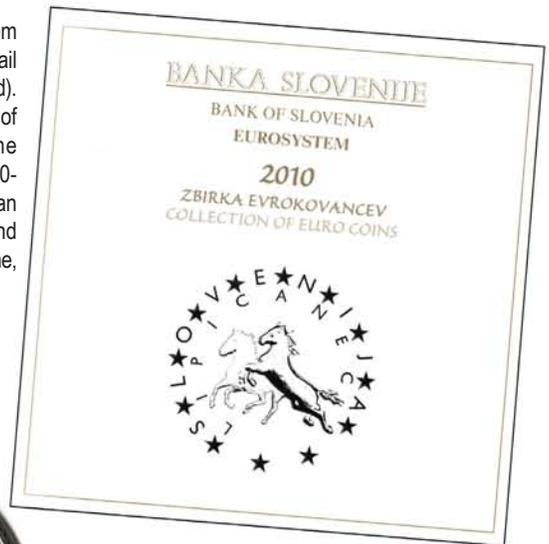
As with other circulating euro-denominated coins, the eight Slovenian pieces have a national side steeped in Slovenian history and culture. Every coin has 12 stars of Europe around the edge interspersed with letters spelling *SLOVENIJA*. The 2-euro coin (Fig. 2) features a profile of Slovene poet France Prešeren, and a line from his poem *Zdravljica*, which is also the national anthem. The 1-euro coin (Fig. 3) is a thumbnail portrait of Protestant Reformer Primož Trubar, with the inscription *STATI INU OBSTATI* (to stand and withstand). Mount Triglav, Slovenia’s highest mountain, the constellation of cancer and the inscription *OJ TRIGLAV MOJ DOM* (O Triglav, my home) is featured on the 50-eurocent coin (Fig. 4). The 20-eurocent coin (Fig. 5) bears two horses and the inscription *LIPICANEC* (Lipizzaner horse). Yes, the famous Lipizzaner horse so readily associated with Vienna actually come from the city of Lipica in western Slovenia. The 10-eurocent coin (Fig. 6) features the inscription *KATEDRALA SVOBODE* (Cathedral of Freedom) and the unrealised

**Regular circulation coinage:**

Figure 2. The 2-euro coin features a profile of the national poet France Prešeren, and a line from his poem *Zdravljica*, which is also the national anthem, in his own hand. Figure 3. The 1-euro coin is a thumbnail portrait of Protestant Reformer Primož Trubar, with the inscription "stati inu obstati" (to stand and withstand). Figure 4. The 50-eurocent coin shows Mount Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain, the constellation of cancer and the inscription *Oj Triglav Moj Dom* (O Triglav, my home). Figure 5. Two horses and the inscription *LIPICANEK* (Lipizzaner horse) feature on the 20-eurocent coin. Figure 6. The 10-eurocent coin features the inscription *Katedrala Svobode* (Cathedral of Freedom) and the unrealised plan for a national parliament designed by architect Jože Plečnik. Figure 7. A man sowing seeds (stars and points) is the central motif of the 5-eurocent coin. Figure 8. The 2-eurocent coin features the Prince's Stone, where Karatanian dukes were enthroned. Figure 9. The 1-eurocent coin bears a stork.

**Circulating commemorative coinage:**

Figure 10. The 2-euro coin celebrates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Botanic Gardens in Ljubljana. Figure 11. The 3-euro coin marks Ljubljana's selection as "World Book Capital."



plan for a national parliament designed by architect Jože Plečnik. A sower, a frequent artistic motif sowing seeds (stars and points), is the central motif of the 5-eurocent coin (Fig. 7). The 2-eurocent coin (Fig. 8) features the Prince's Stone, where the Karantanian dukes were enthroned. Finally, a stork is featured on the 1-eurocent coin (Fig. 9).

Since 2004, the European Central Bank (ECB) also allows countries to issue a circulating commemorative 2-euro coin every year. So, Slovenia has issued four: one to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, in 2007 (as did all eurozone countries); one to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Primo Trubar, featured on the 1-euro piece, in 2008; one to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Economic and Monetary Union, in 2009 (as did all eurozone countries); and, this year, one to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Botanic Gardens in Ljubljana (Fig. 10).

Since 2008, the Bank of Slovenia has also issued two collector-coin series a year.

The first series is composed of three pieces, which bear the same design: a circulating bimetallic 3-euro, a silver 30-euro, and a gold 100-euro coin. This year, this series celebrates Ljubljana's selection by UNESCO as the World Book Capital from April 23, 2010, to April 23, 2011. In accordance with ECB regulations, the 3-euro coin (Fig. 11) can only circulate in Slovenia.

The second series is composed of two pieces, which bear the same design: a silver 30-euro, and a gold 100-euro coin. This year design marks the World Ski Flying Championship in Planica. Yes, ski FLYING, not ski JUMPING. The difference is really quite simple: anything over 200 metres is considered ski flying. Can't argue with that!

### Circulating money

It may have been because I was in the capital, Ljubljana, but in the week I spent there, I only got one Slovenian coin in change. The bulk of the coins I or my colleagues received were from Germany or Italy. The rest of them were from Austria and France. It is not surprising that Austrian and Italian coins would be found, since they are neighbouring countries; I can only presume that the French and German coins were introduced by tourists.

As for bank notes, not a single Slovenian one! The vast majority of notes received were German (X), with some from France (U), Italy (S), and the Netherlands (P).

There you have it! A quick overview of a most amazing country (definitely worth visiting) and its money. ❖

*LOON – continued from page 147*

### Lullaby Loon

In 2006, the RCM issued a gift set to celebrate the birth of a child featuring a unique proof sterling silver loon. A teddy bear, with a quarter moon and stars were added in the field above the loon (which was moved further down to make room).

### Loon in flight

In 2008, the RCM celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and struck a superb commemorative proof silver dollar that bears a very interesting design (Fig. 8). Indeed, Jason Bouwman's design shows the transformation of a maple leaf into a flying loon.

### The last word!

One only needs two additional numismatic items to complete a Canadian loon collection: the 1991 20-dollar bank note featuring two loons on a quiet lake on the back (Fig. 7); and the token struck by the RCM featuring the centennial design just discussed. This token is only available at the RCM boutiques in Ottawa and Winnipeg and to members of the Master's Club.

Finally, it is surprising to find out that only three additional coins are needed to complete a world loon collection: the 2005 USA Minnesota quarter-dollar in circulation (P and D mintmarks) and numismatic proof (S mintmark) strikes.



### References:

1. Cross, W.K., *Charlton Standard Catalogue, Canadian Coins, Volume One, Numismatic Issues, 64<sup>th</sup> ed.* North York, Ontario: The Charlton Press, 2010.
2. Cross, W.K., *Charlton Standard Catalogue, Canadian, Canadian Coins, Volume Two, Collector Issues, 1<sup>st</sup> ed.* North York, Ontario: The Charlton Press, 2010.
3. Cross, W.K., *Charlton Standard Catalogue, Canadian Government Paper Money, 20<sup>th</sup> ed.* North York, Ontario: The Charlton Press, 2008.
4. Royal Canadian Mint and Canada Post, *Certificate of Authenticity, The Elusive Loon Collector Set*, 2004.
5. Bush, Robert H., *Loons*. North Vancouver, BC: Prospero Books, 1999.
6. Goovaerts, Pascal and Stéphane Fanna, *Le Guide des ensembles hors-circulation du Canada*. Laval, QC : Édition Béatrice Pillarde, 2004.

**We are not your average buyers.**

**We buy millions of dollars worth every month.**

**We pay *more* for collector coins, banknotes, tokens, gold and silver coins, and bullion bars.**

**We buy everything!**



## **J&M Coin & Jewellery Ltd.**

127 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5T 1W1  
Tel: (604) 876-7181 Fax: (604) 876-1518  
coins@jandm.com eBay ID: jandm-coins-jewellery  
**Toll-Free Order Line 1-888-244-9999**



Canadian Coins and Banknotes  
[www.jandm.com](http://www.jandm.com)



Gold and Silver Bullion Prices  
[www.bullioncoinsandbars.com](http://www.bullioncoinsandbars.com)



# Carsley Whetstone & Company

**NOW WITH A NEW STORE TO BETTER SERVE YOU!**

with FULL line of supplies and books, including almost everything numismatic from Lighthouse, plus one of Canada's largest selections of world coins, plus tons of paper money, Canadian coins and tokens, ancients, etc. We really have a lot of stuff!

**1117 Ste-Catherine West, Suite 918,  
Montréal, QC, H3B 1H9**

Our hours:

Sunday, Monday - closed  
Tuesday - 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Wednesday - noon - 6:00 pm  
Thursday, Friday - 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Phone: 514-289-9761 or 514-843-3365  
Fax: 514-289-9332  
Email: sales@carsleys.com



**Selling your collection?  
Ask what we can do for you.**

# Unfinished business

by Ron Cheek

Sometimes research yields satisfying results, sometimes it doesn't. I've written a number of articles about how a curious, obscure item was identified and how its origin was unearthed. This article is about two items whose stories remain elusive, despite my efforts. One is a series of merchant scrip from a store in a village in southern Alberta. The other, is a bronze medalet from Peru. Perhaps a reader may have collected, or at least seen, one or both of these brainteasers and can help complete their stories.

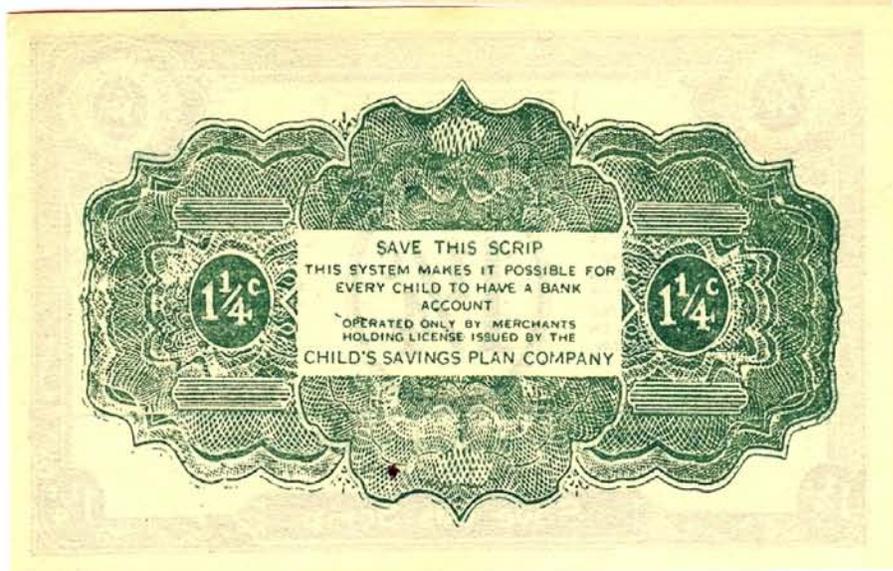
## Unusual scrip

The merchant scrip, shown here, is something I bought in 1990 at the Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. The museum houses a huge private collection of prairie farm equipment and other artefacts. The receptionist showed me a small drawer full of these notes when I asked about numismatic material in the museum. They were being sold as souvenirs to raise funds. Apparently, someone had donated them. I sorted through the hoard and bought the best example of each denomination available. They looked interesting and I intended to learn about their background.

The notes I purchased are denominated as follows: 1, 1 ¼, 2, and 2 ½ cents. There may be other notes with similar small odd denominations, but these are the ones I found. The notes are identical in design, colour, and size, differing only in denomination. They measure 106 x 56 mm. As to their purpose and issuing source, they are quite clear. The face of each note indicates it is CHILD'S SAVING PLAN SAVINGS SCRIP issued by J.E. Best, General Merchant and Hardware, Coutts, Alberta. Furthermore, the way in which the scrip was to be used is explained in detail. It is evident that the issuing store gave out this scrip to customers with purchases, much as the Canadian Tire Corporation hands out its "CTC money." But the scrip could only be returned for value by children, and only to open a savings bank account. The

writing on the face of the notes explains things clearly—the idea is to encourage customer loyalty while also teaching children to save by providing them with a bank account. Intuitively, this scrip dates from the Great Depression era. Both the idea of teaching children to save their pennies (and small fractions thereof), as well as the look and feel of the scrip tells me this must be so.

But what was the Child's Savings Plan Company, and who else besides the store in Coutts, Alberta, participated in this promotional effort? Was it just a Canadian prairies thing or was it more widespread? Was the Child's Savings Plan Company the "bank"? It seems so, but whatever happened to it? Did it blow away like the prairie topsoil during the



---

“dirty thirties” and leave all its youthful depositors disillusioned? Or was it a success? These and other questions, I was determined to answer.

Internet searches on the Child’s Savings Plan Company have so far turned up nothing. The RCNA librarian found one published item on this scrip, a piece by Darryl Atkinson in the June 2001 issue of *Canadian Paper Money Society Newsletter*. He did much as I am doing—he published copies of the scrip and asked if anyone could shed any light on the subject. Mr. Atkinson’s pieces were also issued by J.E. Best, General Merchant and Hardware, Coutts, Alberta but he had denominations of ¼, ½, ¾, 1, 1 ¼, and 2 cents. He noted that the store’s owner commenced operations in the early 1920s. There was no record found of anyone from the CPMS ever responding with further information.

Coutts, Alberta, population about 300, is situated right on the Alberta–Montana border, directly south of Lethbridge. It is noteworthy mainly because it has one of the busiest border entry points in Western Canada—the only 24-hour crossing in Alberta. Back in the fall of 2007, I contacted its cheerful Village Clerk, Lori Rolfe, and explained that I was researching something that originated in her hometown. She told me the J.E. Best store had been gone for decades but she had heard of it. She offered to help me. I sent her scans of the scrip and she very kindly reproduced them in the regular village newsletter, asking if anyone had any recollection or knowledge of this reminder of bygone days. We both had hopes that some long-time resident might remember something—or maybe even have collected the scrip as a child. Alas, no one could tell us much. One old-timer did, however, go in and see Ms. Rolfe and tell her he once bought some lumber from the demolished store. When he went to pick it up, he found boxes containing some old store ledgers in the rubble, and he had kept some. He showed Ms. Rolfe a volume from 1932, and then spent the entire afternoon in her office relating the life stories of every customer whose name was entered in the ledger. We reap what we sow.

Most recently, I was in touch with well-known merchant scrip collector and fellow RCNA member, Tim Henderson. He looked through his collection and found he had seven examples of Child’s Saving Plan Company scrip, also with the name J.E. Best, General Merchant and Hardware, Coutts, Alberta. Mr. Henderson’s collection has the denominations: ¼, ½, ¾, 1, 1 ¼, 2, 2 ½, and 25 cents. He told me he had never seen this scrip issued by any merchant other than J.E. Best, nor had he ever been able to find out anything about the Child’s Saving Plan Company. He agreed with my supposition that the scrip likely dates from the 1920s to 1930s.

And there it stands. Was J.E. Best himself actually the “Child’s Saving Plan Company”? Possibly, although the wording on the scrip implies the scrip was also issued by other merchants. Was this a scheme by J.E. Best, who

perhaps tried to promote the idea to other merchants, or was the Child’s Saving Plan Company some other promoter’s idea? If it was the latter, it seems that J.E. Best may have been the only merchant to sign on to the plan. For the time being, unless someone can turn up more information, we just don’t know. Can anyone provide a lead?

## A Peruvian medalet

My second mystery piece is this little bronze medal, acquired from Graham Neale’s “dollar box” a few years ago. Its design and Spanish inscriptions reveal a little but its purpose I found puzzling. Several have been for sale on the Internet but none of the offers was accompanied by any useful information. However, with some digging, I may have it figured out. You be the judge.

The medalet (let’s call it that) has a diameter of 24.4 mm and weighs 5.5 grams. The obverse has the nicely executed bust of an allegorical figure representing flight, since the legend: PRO VUELO MUNDIAL translates to “Pro (in support of) worldwide flight”. A name, PAREJA, is inscribed below the bust (presumably the designer). The reverse wording, albeit filled with names and clumsily abbreviated titles and organizations, reveals that the medalet is Peruvian. The exact wording is as follows:

APOYADO POR EL PNDTE. DE LA REPUB. / GRAL. DE  
DIV. / O.R. BENAVIDES / C.J. REVILLA PTE. CO/MITE-  
CENTRAL M.E. / UMERES, VICE-PTE. C.C. / A. MAURER  
· TESORERO / M.ARNILLAS · SECRET. / AUSPICIADO ·  
CONGRESO / CONSTITUYENTE. INSTITU- / TOS  
ARMADOS. MINISTE-/RIOS. SOC. FEMININA / Y DEPTS.  
DE LA / REP.

Expanding the abbreviations and translating, and eliminating the breaks for each line in the interests of clarity, this reads: “Supported by the President of the Republic Division General O.R. Benavides C.J. Revilla President (of the) Central Committee M.E. Umeres, Vice-President (of the) Central Committee A. Maurer · Treasurer M. Arnillas · Secretary. Under the auspices of (the) Constituent Congress . Armed Forces. Ministries . Women’s Society and Departments of the Republic.”

The clue to this being a Peruvian piece is the name of the president, Division General (Major General) O. R. Benavides. Oscar R. Benavides was president of Peru from February 4, 1914, to August 18, 1915, and again, following the assassination of President Sánchez, from April 30, 1933, until December 8, 1939. My initial impression in examining this medalet was that it dated from the 1930s. It just has that art-deco look of 1930s coins. The subject of the piece, the support of worldwide flight, also suggests the 1930s rather than the earlier brief period when Benavides was President.

So it seems many important people in Peru wished to express their support of worldwide flight. But why, and what



could have been the intended purpose of this little medal?

I wrote several letters (in Spanish) to the director of the *Museo Aeronautico* in Peru requesting information; I even had one forwarded by the Peruvian Ambassador in Ottawa, but received no response. So all I can offer is informed conjecture based on some further Internet research.

This medalet is a promotional piece of some sort. Was it a fund-raising souvenir in support of an aeronautical effort or aviation show? Why did so many government officials, and even the Women's Society, need to express their support for "worldwide flight"? Did some group or person other than the government produce this medalet? Quite possibly, I thought, considering the crudely executed reverse, and the fact that the Women's Society (a sister organization to the Women's Institute) is included with all the politicians and government groups.

Looking into Peru's aviation history yielded some interesting clues. Peruvians had good reason to be enthusiastic about the exciting new method of world travel in the 1920s and 1930s. While others, like Lindbergh, gained world attention with transatlantic flights and other long-distance aeronautic feats, Peru celebrated its own aviation hero. Carlos Martínez de Pinillos, who initially trained as an aircraft technician, was among the earliest men in Peru to learn to fly. He was a firm believer in the importance of aviation and he eagerly demonstrated its potential. Through the mid- to late-1920s, Pinillos traveled throughout Peru carrying passengers and making demonstration flights in cities where an airplane had never been seen. In 1927 he began an ambitious international flight project. Touring South America by air, he brought together a pro-flight committee (*Comité Pro-vuelo*) to collect funds and support. He traveled

to New York in search of the right aircraft, which turned out to be a CH-300 Pacemaker Bellarea, a high-wing monoplane. He had the aircraft equipped with fuel tanks that gave it a 25-hour flight capability (a range of about 3800 km). He named the aircraft *Peru*. With sponsors arranged, he shipped *Peru* to Lima whence he began his tour or "raid," as it was called. Starting in December 1928, he and his co-pilot toured South America but, after many legs covering over 10,000 km, the aircraft became trapped in Belém do Pará, on the northern coast of Brazil. He was forced to land but had no space to take off again, and there were other difficulties. Pinillos traveled to the USA and had a ship dispatched to bring *Peru* to New York. After the necessary checks and repairs, he flew back to Lima. This flight took place from May 27 to June 25, 1928. Pinillos traveled over 9600 km stopping in 14 cities along his way south and received a hero's welcome when he reached home.

Pinillos continued his aviation career and his promotion of aviation after his famous raid and, in 1932, participated in the conflict between Peru and Colombia. Later, in October 1933, disillusioned and tired of military aviation, he joined Aviation Faucett Cia SA, a Peruvian aircraft manufacturer. He became a test pilot and worked in the industry for the rest of his career. He had flown just under 20,000 hours when he died, of complications following surgery, in 1947.

It seems to me that this *Pro Vuelo Mundial* medalet must be a souvenir that was sold by Pinillos' *Comité Pro-vuelo* to raise funds. Looking back at the wording on it, we notice references to officers of a "Central Committee." It seems plausible that this committee was in fact the *Comité Pro-vuelo* rather than the government as I had earlier

Photo of Pinillos during the "raid."  
 > www.roynagl.0catch.com <



assumed it to be. But a puzzle remains: the pro-flight committee was started in 1927 and its activities would likely have continued through 1929 until after Pinillos completed his celebrated international flight. However, the medalet has the name of the president of Peru, Major General O.R. Benavides, which tells us it could not have been made earlier than April 30, 1933, the date that Benavides became president. Before that time, Benavides lived in exile in Europe (1927–30). He then remained in Spain and England as the new Peruvian government's emissary until being recalled to take over the presidency. So, we must conclude the medalet dates from some time after April 1933 to perhaps October 1933 when Pinillos changed careers and joined industry. This is four years after Pinillos completed his raid. If my conclusions are correct, and the *Comité Pro-vuelo* did issue this *Pro Vuelo Mundial* medalet, then the organization must have carried on its fundraising and promotional work well after Pinillos' famous raid.

What do you think, are my conclusions correct? Can anyone finish this story? ❖

New Venue for the Fall Show- page 21

www.edmontoncoinclub.com
VOL 57, ISSUE 5 May 2010

Edmonton Numismatic Society

## The Planchet

AND RETURN HE DID

DIFFERENT NOTES

A DECADE OF DIMES

VETRANIO

Next Meeting:  
June 9, 2010

Unification of the Netherlands

**The Famous Silver Maple Leaf**

**This month in *The Planchet*:**

- Many Happy Returns
- A decade of 10-cent varieties
- The Canadian Silver Maple Leaf
- Bank Notes: Regular, Replacement, inserts, Check Notes, Errors, Experimental and Test Notes
- Caretaker-in-Chief: A Centennialis of Vetrano
- Numismatic Trivia
- The Netherlands from 1810 – 1830

Please note that the next issue will be published in September. Have a great summer!

www.alliancecoin.com



**Alliance Coin & Banknote**  
 88 Mill Street, P.O. Box 1806  
 Almonte, Ontario K0A 1A0

Telephone: 613-256-6785  
 Toll-free: 888-592-4141  
 Fax: 613-256-7319



**ALLIANCE COIN & BANKNOTE Inc.**  
 Sean Isaacs Numismatist

# The most famous Canadian coin

(in the corridors of some coin shows, at least)

by Jaime Flamenbaum

**W**e all dream about finding a treasure. The more important the coin, the bigger the treasure. How would you feel if you had found a Canadian 1921-dated 50 cents? That is indeed one of the biggest



## U.S. to issue Mother's Day coin

Up to 400,000 silver dollars would be struck in 2014 to commemorate Mother's Day under terms of legislation passed May 5 by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The coin, if authorized, would mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson's proclamation designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

A surcharge of 10 dollars per coin sold would be divided evenly between Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Osteoporosis Foundation to help fund research by the two organizations. The Komen organization fights breast cancer.

treasures one can find, regardless of its grade.

Well, as pictured at figure 1, I have one ... or sort of.

There are those who swear it is dated 1920, others 1929, and a few, 1921. In attempting to determine the actual date, some used microscopes, others used fancy photographing techniques, The results were conflicting... Depending on the angle, one can read any number.

This coin has already passed through the hands of dealers, auctioneers, collectors, and investors. It was the object of heated discussions on forums and on bourse floors. According to my sources, this coin was sent to PCGS twice for authentication, and returned, both times, in a "body bag." It has also been submitted to ICCS, at least twice, and to NGC, once (confirmed). It is also likely that this coin was submitted to other third-party certifying/grading services.

This coin was offered on Ebay a few times, but never sold. It traded hands a few times – the price was never disclosed. Finally, last May, it landed in my hands. I honestly treasure it! It is a coin I have wanted to own since I first saw it – not because it may be dated 1921 – because it is a mystery.

There is a modern technique that can answer the question once and for all. Surprisingly, many numismatists have recommended I not submit it to that scrutiny, arguing that the mysterious date makes it more valuable, because it makes it a "famous" conversation piece.

What do you think? ❖

suite de la page 149

à l'État du Minnesota – frappes de circulation (marques d'atelier P et D) et épreuve numismatique (marque d'atelier S). ❖

### Références :

1. Cross, W.K. *Charlton Standard Catalogue, Canadian Coins, Volume One, Numismatic Issues, 64<sup>th</sup> ed.* North York, Ontario: The Charlton Press, 2010.
2. Cross, W.K. *Charlton Standard Catalogue, Canadian, Canadian Coins, Volume Two, Collector Issues, 1<sup>st</sup> ed.* North York, Ontario: The Charlton Press, 2010.
3. Cross, W.K. *Charlton Standard Catalogue, Canadian Government Paper Money, 20<sup>th</sup> ed.* North York, Ontario: The Charlton Press, 2008.
4. Monnaie royale canadienne et Poste Canada. Certificat d'authenticité, Ensemble timbres et pièce de monnaie de 1 \$, L'Insaisissable Huard, 2004.
5. Bush, Robert H., *Loons*. North Vancouver, BC: Prospero Books, 1999.
6. Goovaerts, Pascal et Stéphane Fanna, *Le Guide des ensembles hors-circulation du Canada*. Laval, QC : Édition Béatrice Pillarde, 2004.



# Universal Coins

Coins • Banknotes  
Gold • Silver • Jewellery  
We buy and sell!

---

2440 Bank Street, Unit 3  
Ottawa, ON K1V 8S1

Tel: (613) 737-3341

Toll Free: (800) 668-2646

Fax: (613) 737-5532

Email: [universalcoins@gmail.com](mailto:universalcoins@gmail.com)

Hours:

Mon-Fri.: 10am to 5:30pm

Sat: 10am to 4pm

- Canadian Coins and Banknotes
- World Coins and Banknotes
- Box Sets
- Numismatic Supplies

Visit us at <http://www.universalcoins.ca>