

moneta

The official publication of the Ottawa Coin Club

Volume 1, Number 9

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Fall colours | Les couleurs d'automne



Also in this issue:

- ✓ The Canadian 5-cent coin | La pièce canadienne de 5 cents
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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 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

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On the cover...

In the "O" of *moneta*, the reverse of Canada's latest dinosaur lenticular coin that features the *Sinosauropteryx*.

Reverse of the 2007-dated coloured silver Maple Leaf designed by Stan Witten.

editor's word

Time flies when you're having fun! My favourite season is here: the Fall. It's my favourite for three reasons, because of the wonderful colours and the fact that you can go hiking without being bothered by pesky flies and mosquitos, and because the frequency of numismatic activities usually increases. It seems that Steve agrees when it comes to colours and he has found a way to combine his love for them with coin collecting. Steve also gives us an overview of one of Canada's most favourite coins, the 5-cent.

Thanks to François, we are launching a new column: "From the collector's den." The intent of this column is for each of us to share something about an item in our collection. François speaks of his oldest wildlife coin. It is always interesting to see how looking up information about one of your pieces can take you down a wonderful discovery trail. I invite you to follow in François's footsteps and share one of your stories.

Our favourite monarchist, Ron, challenges us in his article to come up with worthy designs for medals to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee in just two years time.

Finally, I was fortunate to attend a conference in Croatia that allowed me to discover this beautiful country and its currency.

It is hard to believe that the next *moneta* will mark the end of my first year as editor... where has the time gone? We already have a few articles lined up for that issue but we're always looking for more input. This is your last chance to contribute for this year, so please, get back to me soon!

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 inclurons un lexique bilingue lorsque ce sera jugé approprié.

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Wikipedia Common: 235, 237, 241

from the

President

Last meeting was certainly not a regular meeting. We not only finally decided on a club logo design, but it was strongly voted to ensure that any markings on the final logo design be bilingual. A healthy debate took place prior to the vote and the members have spoken. It was recognized that the Ottawa Coin Club is not a bilingual club, but we are trying to be one within the very limited resources that we have to make it so. So the new logo will tell the numismatic community that the Ottawa Coin Club very much respects the large community of Francophone collectors in the National Capital Region. At this time, that is not a bad thing! In closing on this subject, I just want to thank John for having brought forward this motion and to all members who expressed their opinions.

About expressing our opinion, we also had a very good discussion on the possibility of removing the 1-cent coin from circulation. Steve, on behalf of the RCNA, represented the collecting community before the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance. The consensus was, in Ottawa anyway, let's get rid of it. Let's move on. It no longer has buying power and it is cumbersome to commerce. New collectors now focus on the 25-cent coins because of all the varieties. And the hunt is not that easy. Try to find a 1992 25-cent coin in circulation!

I am very excited to announce that Mr. Mike Marshall will visit us at our October meeting. It is due to Mike's initiative and great investment with the RCMP that the selling of Canadian counterfeit coins was forced out of Ebay. His talk will be about their efforts and how best to recognize these coins.

For November, Steve proposed a friendly display competition, but with a different twist: you can only display one numismatic item on a background no bigger than 11 x 17 inches. What will be your item? I know that it will be a tough choice for me. Thank you Steve for this great idea. See the website for rules.

In closing, the following shows are happening very soon: the Société numismatique de Québec's 50th anniversary Show (Québec City, 16-17 Oct), Torex (Toronto, 22-24 Oct), and Nuphilex (Montréal, 29-31 Oct). If you get a chance, try car pooling to go to them. Happy hunting!

François

Did you know?

Did you know that the design of the "Victory" 5-cent piece was created by Thomas Shingles? Shingles, who had been employed at the Royal Canadian Mint since 1939, became chief engraver in 1943. He cut the reverse die himself, by hand, since the Mint did not have a Janvier reducing machine at the time. This was the first die ever produced in Canada making this the first coin to be entirely conceived and produced in the country. Because of this historic importance, the die is kept at the Bank of Canada National Currency Collection.

OTTAWA COIN CLUB since 1946

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

Email: info@ottawacoinclub.com

Website: 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 3rd 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^e étage) du Heron Road Multi-Service Centre, 1480 chemin Heron, Ottawa.



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Your Club Executive:

President:

François Rufiange, FONA
<president@ottawacoinclub.com>

Vice-President:

Steve Woodland
<vp@ottawacoinclub.com>

Secretary:

Kim Zbitnew
<secretary@ottawacoinclub.com>

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<info@ottawacoinclub.com>

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The Canadian 5-cent coin

by Steve Woodland

One of the most fascinating Canadian coins to collect is the 5-cent piece because of the variety it offers. First issued by the Province of Canada in 1858, this low denomination varies more in size, weight, metal composition, shape and design than any other coin in Canada's history. And there is even more variety when you factor in the marks used on the 5-cent piece and the varieties. Let's have a look!

Size

Canada's 5-cent coins can be divided into two size groups: the small pieces (nicknamed "fishscale"), issued from 1858 to 1921, and the large pieces, issued since 1922. The small 5-cent pieces are 15.50 mm in diameter, while the diameter of the large pieces varies from 21.10 mm to 21.30 mm.

Weight

As with size, the weight of the 5-cent coin varies significantly over the years. From 1858 until 1910, the coins weigh 1.16 g. The weight increases to 1.17 g for the period 1910-1921. With the adoption of the larger 5-cent coin in 1922, the weight almost quadruples to 4.54 g (i.e., 100 coins weigh a pound [16 oz.]). This weight remains unchanged until 1990, when it is increased to 4.60 g. The introduction of nickel-plated steel blanks in 1999 dramatically

La pièce canadienne de 5 cents

par Steve Woodland

L'une des pièces canadiennes les plus plaisantes à collectionner est sans contredit la pièce de 5 cents. Émise pour la première fois par la Province du Canada en 1858, les pièces de cette dénomination offrent plus de variété dans la taille, le poids, le matériau, la forme et le motif que tout autre pièce de l'histoire canadienne. Et il y a encore plus de diversité lorsque l'on considère les marques et les variétés. Jetons un coup d'œil sur les pièces de cette dénomination.

La taille

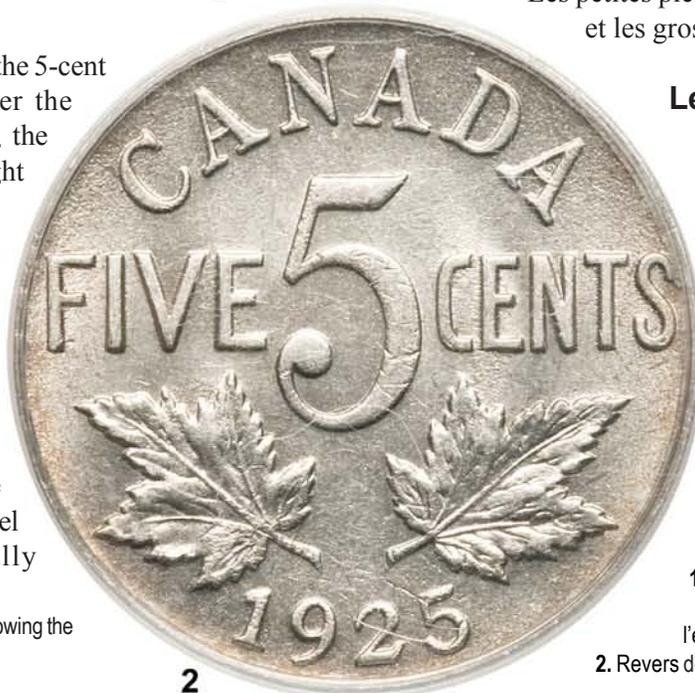
Les pièces canadiennes de 5 cents se partagent en deux groupes : les pièces à petit module (surnommée « fishscale » [écaille de poisson]), émise de 1858 à 1921, et les pièces à grand module, émises depuis 1922. Les petites pièces font 15,50 mm de diamètre et les grosses de 21,10 à 21,30 mm.

Le poids

Comme la taille, le poids des pièces de 5 cents varie grandement au fil des ans. De 1858 à 1910, les pièces font 1,16 g. Le poids augmente légèrement à 1,17 g de 1910 à 1921. L'adoption de la grosse pièce de 5 cents, en nickel, en 1922, voit le poids presque quadruplé à 4,54 g (c.-à-d. 100 pièces à la livre



1



2

1. Reverse of the silver 5 cents 1902H showing the location of the "H" mint mark.
2. Reverse of the nickel 5 cents 1925.

1. Revers de la pièce de 5 cents en argent millésimée 1902. La flèche indique l'emplacement de la marque d'atelier « H ».
2. Revers de la pièce de 5 cents en nickel millésimée 1925.

3. Obverse of the silver 5 cents 1902H showing a young head of Queen Victoria. 4. Obverse of the silver 5 cents 1910 showing the bust of King Edward VII. 5. Obverse of King George V (1925). 6. "High relief" variety of the obverse of the 1951 chrome-plated steel 5-cent piece showing a bust of King George VI. 7. "Shoulder fold" variety of the Queen Elizabeth II laureate bust (1954). 8. Tiara bust of Queen Elizabeth II (1965).



3



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7



8

3. Avers de la pièce de 5 cents en argent millésimée 1902H montrant un jeune buste de la reine Victoria. 4. Avers de la pièce de 5 cents en argent millésimée 1910 montrant le buste du roi Édouard VII. 5. Avers du roi George V (1925). 6. Variété « haut relief » de la pièce d'acier plaqué chrome millésimée 1951 montrant un buste de George VI. 7. Variété « pli sur l'épaule » du buste lauré d'Élizabeth II (1954). 8. Buste diadémé d'Élizabeth II (1965).

reduces the coin's weight to 3.95 g, where it remains today.

Metallic composition

This area is one that features many changes over the years, varying from silver, to nickel, to tombac, to chrome-plated steel, to cupro-nickel, to the current nickel-plated steel. Until 1919, the small 5-cent pieces are struck from sterling silver (.925 silver, .075 copper). The silver content is reduced to .800 for 1920-1921.

The coins of 1922-1942, 1946-1951, and 1955-1981 are struck from pure nickel. Since nickel is needed for the war effort during World War II, a brass-like alloy named tombac (.880 copper, .120 zinc) is used to strike the pieces of 1942 and 1943. Although bright and shiny like brass when first issued, these coins soon tarnish to a dark brown very similar in colour to that of a 1-cent coin. In 1944 and 1945 and 1951-1954, the 5-cent is struck on steel blanks plated with 0.0127 mm of nickel and 0.0003 mm of chromium. The rising cost of nickel brings the adoption of cupro-nickel (0.75 copper, 0.25 nickel) in 1982. The 5-cent piece is first struck on nickel-plated steel blanks (0.945 steel, 0.035 copper, and 0.02 nickel) in 1999, but strictly for testing purposes. The first pieces of this composition are put into circulation in 2000. That material is still used today.

Shape

Two key shapes have been used during the century and a half that the 5-cent piece has been struck: round and 12-sided. The original round shape was changed to 12-sided with the introduction of tombac in 1942 to facilitate the differentiation between 5-cent and 1-cent coins. The dodecagonal shape is retained until 1962, when the round format is returned.

Design

Although we are used to seeing the beaver on the 5-cent coin, the designs, both on the obverse and on the reverse, have changed quite

[16 oz.]. Ce poids demeure jusqu'en 1990, il passe alors à 4,60 g. L'utilisation des flans d'acier plaqué nickel, en 1999, amène le poids à réduire considérablement, à 3,95 g.

Le matériau

Le matériau utilisé pour la frappe des pièces de 5 cents est l'une des caractéristiques qui a le plus varié au fil des ans, passant de l'argent, au nickel, au tombac, à l'acier plaqué chrome, au cupronickel et enfin à l'acier plaqué nickel.

Jusqu'à 1919, les pièces de 5 cents sont frappées d'argent sterling (92,5 % argent, 7,5 % cuivre). Le contenu d'argent est réduit à 80,0 % en 1920 et 1921.

Le nickel pur est utilisé pour frapper les pièces de 1922 à 1942, de 1946 à 1951 et de 1955 à 1981. Comme le nickel est essentiel à l'effort de guerre, on utilise le tombac (88,0 % cuivre, 12,0 % zinc), un alliage semblable au laiton, pour la frappe des pièces de 1942 et 1943. Bien qu'elles soient éclatantes à l'émission, les pièces frappées de ce matériau ternissent rapidement pour prendre une couleur brun foncé semblable à celle des pièces de 1 cent. En 1944 et 1945 et de 1951 à 1954, on se tourne plutôt vers des flans d'acier plaqués d'une couche de nickel de 0,0127 mm d'épaisseur et d'une couche de chrome de 0,0003 mm d'épaisseur.

La hausse constante du prix du nickel amène l'utilisation du cupronickel (75,0 % cuivre, 25,0 % nickel) en 1982. C'est en 1999 qu'apparaissent les premières pièces frappées sur des flans d'acier plaqué nickel (94,5 % acier, 35,0 % cuivre, 2,0 % nickel), mais strictement pour des fins d'essais. L'année suivante des pièces de ce matériau, qui est encore utilisé aujourd'hui, sont mises en circulation.

Les formes

Les pièces de 5 cents sont rondes ou dodécagonales. C'est l'utilisation du tombac qui amène l'introduction de cette dernière forme. Celle-ci permet de distinguer les pièces de 5 cents de celles de 1 cent. On

a bit over the years. Let's have a look at them.

The obverse has changed, of course, with the monarchs, whether it be in appearance or altogether. When the 5-cent coin is introduced, in 1858, Victoria is our queen and a young image of her, called "laureate bust," graces the obverse (Fig. 3). There are several known varieties of the effigy, but that is the type. The coins of the reign of Edward VII feature the right-facing crowned portrait of the king and the legend **EDWARDVS VII D.G. REX. IMPERATOR** (Fig. 4). The pieces of King George V's reign feature the left-facing crowned portrait of the new king on both the small and the large 5-cent coins (Fig. 5). The legend of the obverse catches people's attention in 1911 when the letters D.G. (for *DEI GRATIA* – "by the grace of God") are dropped. The public is appalled – we now have "godless" coins. The outcry is such that the letters return in 1912. The introduction of the larger 5-cent piece in 1922 has no bearing on the obverse. King George VI replaces his father on the obverse in 1937 (Fig. 6). The independence of India, in late 1947, affects the obverse legend by forcing the removal of the epithet **ET IND: IMP:** (and Emperor of the Indias). Queen Elizabeth II first graces the obverse of the 5-cent coin in 1953. Since then, five busts have been used: the "laureate bust" (1953-1964) (Fig. 7), the "tiara bust" (1965-1978) (Fig. 8), the "modified tiara bust" (1979-1989), the "crowned bust" (1990-2003), and the "mature portrait" (2003-present). Two legends have been used: **ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA** (1953-1964) and **ELIZABETH II D.G. REGINA** (1965-present).

The reverse design did not change as often as the one on the obverse. The design on the small 5-cent pieces features a maple wreath of either 21 or 22 leaves surmounted by St. Edward's crown, accompanied by the text **5 / CENTS** in the centre, under which the date appears (Fig. 1). In 1902, the Royal Mint plans to make two key changes: move **CANADA** to the reverse and replace St. Edward's crown (depressed arches) with the Imperial crown (raised arches), but due to an extremely high workload, only the former was achieved, yielding a 21-leaf reverse with the text **5 / CENTS /**

retient cette forme jusqu'en 1962 et ce malgré le retour à des matériaux de couleur argentée.

Les motifs

Bien que l'on soit habitués à voir le castor sur la pièce de 5 cents, les motifs, tant à l'avvers qu'au revers, ont varié quelque peu au fil des ans.

L'avvers a changé, bien sûr, avec les monarques, tant en apparence qu'en entier. Lorsque la pièce de 5 cents est introduite, en 1858, Victoria est notre reine. C'est donc une jeune image d'elle, appelée « buste lauré » qui orne l'avvers (fig. 3). On en connaît plusieurs variétés, mais c'est le type. Les monnaies d'Édouard VII montrent un portrait couronné du roi, à droite, et la légende **EDWARDVS VII D.G. REX. IMPERATOR** (fig. 4). Les pièces de 5 cents du roi George V, tant au petit qu'au grand module, montrent également un portrait couronné du roi, mais à gauche (fig. 5). En 1911, c'est la légende qui attire l'attention alors que les lettres D.G. (*DEI GRATIA* – par la grâce de Dieu) sont omises. La population est horrifiée, nous avons maintenant des pièces « athées » ou « impies ». Le tollé est tel que les lettres reviennent dès 1912. La mise en circulation de la pièce de 5 cents à grand module, en 1922, n'affecte aucunement l'avvers. Le roi George VI remplace son père à l'avvers en



9. Reverse of a 1943-dated tombac 5-cent piece showing the famous "Victory" design.

9. Revers d'une pièce de 5 cents en tombac millésimée 1943 montrant le célèbre motif dit « Victoire ».

CANADA/— centred above the date. The crown is changed in 1903 and a 22nd leaf is added to the wreath. The advent of the large, nickel 5-cent piece in 1922 results in a complete redesign of the reverse to feature the text CANADA / FIVE 5 CENTS above two maple leaves with the date centred at the bottom (Fig. 2). This design is replaced in 1937 with the well-known beaver on a log design, still in use today (Fig. 10). The beaver is temporarily replaced by the famous “Victory” design during World War II to promote the war effort (Fig. 9). Featuring a Roman numeral “V” instead of the traditional “5.” The “V” combined with the lit torch also symbolizes sacrifice. Around the edge the denticles are replaced by a message in Morse code (dots and dashes): “We win when we work willingly.” This design (without the message) returns on a commemorative piece in 2005.

Two other commemorative designs are used over the years. In 1951, the 200th anniversary of the isolation and naming of the element nickel is commemorated by a nickel refinery and the dual dates of 1751-1951. In 1967, Canada’s centennial is marked by Alex Colville’s “hopping rabbit” design and the dual dates 1867-1967.

Marks

A mint mark is often included on a coin or medal to

1937 (fig. 6). L’indépendance de l’Inde, en 1947, affecte la légende à l’avvers puisque l’on doit enlever l’épithète ET IND : IMP : (et empereur des Indes). C’est en 1953 que la reine Élisabeth II vient à orner l’avvers des pièces de 5 cents. Depuis, cinq bustes différents ont été utilisés : le « buste lauré » (1953-1964) (fig. 7), le « buste diadémé » (1965-1978) (fig. 8), le « buste diadémé modifié » (1979-1989), le « buste couronné » (1990-2003) et le « portrait mature » (2003-aujourd’hui). Deux légendes sont utilisées : ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA (1953-1964) et ELIZABETH II D·G·REGINA (1965-aujourd’hui).

Le motif du revers n’a pas changé aussi souvent que celui de l’avvers. Les pièces de 5 cents au petit module arborent une couronne composée de 21 ou 22 feuilles d’érables surmontée de la couronne de saint Édouard, au centre de laquelle on retrouve le du texte 5 / CENTS et le millésime (fig. 1). En 1902, la *Royal Mint* prévoit apporter deux modifications au revers : ajouter le mot CANADA et remplacer la couronne de saint Édouard (aux arches abaissées) par une couronne impériale (aux arches remontantes), mais fautes de temps, seul la première modification est apportée résultant en une couronne de 21 feuilles au centre de laquelle on retrouve le texte 5 / CENTS / CANADA / et le millésime. La couronne est changée en 1903 et une 22^e feuille est ajoutée à la couronne de feuilles. L’avènement de la pièce à grand module, en 1922,

amène un nouveau motif qui montre le texte CANADA / FIVE 5 CENTS au dessous duquel on retrouve deux feuilles d’érables qui sont à leur tour au-dessus du millésime (fig. 2). C’est en 1937 qu’apparaît pour la première notre bien-aimé castor (fig. 10). Celui-ci est remplacé temporairement par le célèbre type « Victoire » pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Ce dernier visait à promouvoir les efforts de guerre. Au centre de celui-ci on retrouve le chiffre romain « V » plutôt que le « 5 » habituel (fig. 9). Le « V » est accompagnée d’une torche allumée ce qui symbolise le sacrifice. Le grènetis composé de denticules est remplacé par un message en code Morse (qui utilise des traits et des points) : « We win

10. Le motif du castor fut introduit en 1937. Cette pièce millésimée 1947 porte une feuille d’érable (marque d’identification de frappe) qui indique qu’elle a été frappée en 1948.

10. The beaver design was introduced in 1937. This 1947-dated piece bears a maple leaf (strike identification mark) that indicates it was struck in 1948.



10

indicate which mint struck it. Until 1907, Canada's coins are struck in England at either the Royal Mint or the Heaton mint. The coins struck at the Royal Mint bear no mint mark, while those struck at the Heaton mint bear an "H" on the reverse under the wreath of maple leaves (Fig. 1). In 1908, the Royal Mint's facility in Ottawa opens and takes over the striking of our coinage. This responsibility is transferred to the Winnipeg facility of the Royal Canadian Mint in 1976. Coins struck in Canada bear no mint mark – except those in uncirculated sets that are struck in Winnipeg (instead of Ottawa) and bear a "W."

You will also encounter three other types of marks of 5-cent coins. The first is a strike identification mark – a tiny maple leaf beside the date – on coins dated 1947 (Fig. 10). That maple leaf indicates that these coins are actually struck in 1948. The second type of mark used is a material mark (often incorrectly called "composition mark") – "P." This mark is used from 1999 to 2005 to indicate that the coin was struck on a nickel-plated steel blank. The final type of mark is a corporate mark – this is the logo of the Royal Canadian Mint (often called "circle M"). It is introduced in 2006 to remind Canadians that the RCM was striking their coins. Its use is suspended in 2010.

Varieties

There are many major varieties that have been discovered over the years: near and far 6 for 1926, high and low relief for 1951, without and with shoulder fold of Elizabeth II's laureate bust, extra water line for 1964, and so on. These can also be added to your collection.

One note of caution about the so-called "1937 Dot" variety. The dot shown after the date was actually intended to be present as part of the design, so all 1937 pieces have it. The dot was removed in 1938.

Wasn't I right? The variety offered by the Canadian 5-cent piece clearly makes it fascinating to collect. Happy collecting! ❖

Reference:

Cross, William, ed. *A Charlton Standard Catalogue: CANADIAN COINS 2009, 63rd edition*, pp 41, 57-73, 196-197

when we work willingly » (nous gagnons lorsque nous travaillons volontiers). Ce motif est repris (sans le message) en 2005 à titre commémoratif.

Deux autres motifs commémoratifs sont utilisés au fil des ans. On souligne le 200^e anniversaire de l'isolation du nickel, en 1951, avec un motif qui montre une raffinerie de nickel et le double millésime 1751-1951. En 1967 on souligne le centenaire du Canada avec le motif du « lapin bondissant » d'Alex Colville et du double millésime 1867-1967.

Les marques

Une marque d'atelier est souvent utilisée sur les monnaies et médailles pour indiquer l'atelier qui les a frappées. Jusqu'en 1907, le monnayage canadien est frappé en Angleterre soit par la *Royal Mint*, soit par l'atelier privé de Heaton. Les pièces frappées par la *Royal Mint* ne porte aucune marque d'atelier tandis que celles frappées par Heaton portent un « H » au revers, sous la couronne de feuille d'érable (fig. 1). L'atelier d'Ottawa de la *Royal Mint* ouvre ses portes en 1908 et assume la frappe du monnayage canadien. Cette responsabilité est transférée à l'atelier de Winnipeg de la Monnaie royale canadienne en 1976. Les pièces frappées au Canada n'arbore aucune marque d'atelier – sauf les pièces des ensembles hors-circulation frappées à Winnipeg (plutôt qu'Ottawa) qui portent un « W ».

Trois autres types de marques ont été utilisés sur les pièces de 5 cents. Le premier est une marque d'identification de frappe – une feuille d'érable – sur certaines pièces millésimées 1947 (fig. 10). Cette feuille d'érable indique que la pièce a été frappée en 1948 plutôt que 1947. Le second type de marque est une marque de matériau – « P ». Cette marque, utilisée de 1999 à 2005, indique que la pièce a été frappée sur un flanc d'acier plaqué nickel. Le dernier type de marque est la marque corporative – le logotype de la Monnaie royale canadienne (parfois appelé « M encerclé »). Son utilisation débute en 2006, pour rappeler aux Canadiens que c'est la MRC qui frappe le monnayage canadien, et a est suspendue en 2010.

Les variétés

Il existe plusieurs variétés majeures, notons entre autres : les 6 rapproché et éloigné de 1926, les reliefs élevé et normal de 1951, l'absence ou la présence du pli sur l'épaule sur le buste lauré d'Élizabeth II, la ligne d'eau supplémentaire en 1964, ainsi de suite. Vous pouvez également ajouter celles-ci à votre collection.

Mais attention, la variété dite « 1937 Dot (point) » n'en est pas une. En effet, ce point avait été prévu dans la conception du motif et est donc présent sur toutes les pièces de ce millésime. Le point a été retiré du motif à compter de 1938.

N'avais-je donc pas raison? Les différences présentes dans la pièce canadienne de 5 cents la rendent des plus intéressantes. Bonne collection! ❖

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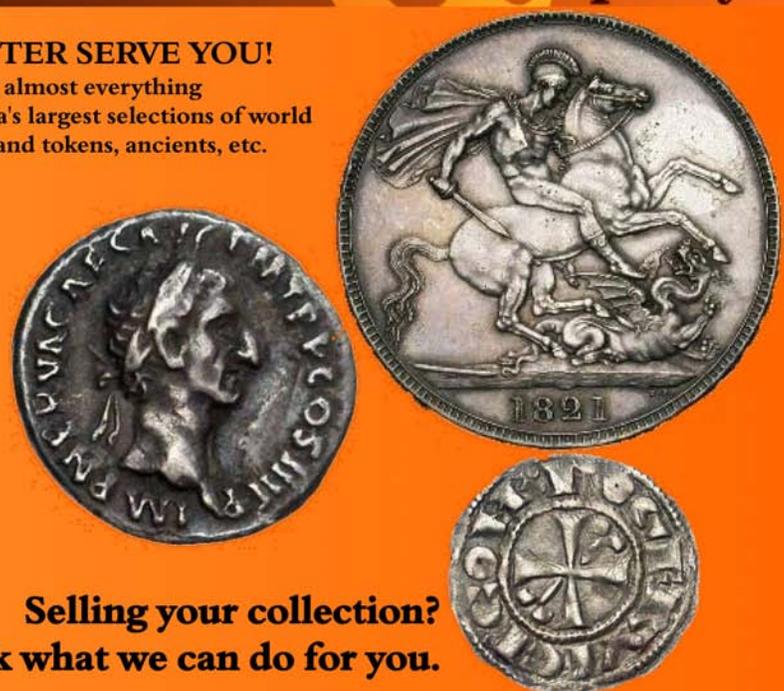
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Fall colours

by Steve Woodland

“I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.”

These words, immortalized by Joyce Kilmer, run through my head as I awake one fall morning just as the sun spreads its orange-gold rays of dawn across the countryside outside my bedroom window. What I see is dazzling: a kaleidoscope of greens, yellows, oranges, reds, and browns as a light breeze stirs the leaves on the huge sugar maple in our yard. The richness of the dawn sunlight and the myriad of beautiful colours remind me once again of the wonders the Creator has wrought.

Autumn has arrived. As the flora and fauna prepare for the arrival of winter, we are witness to innumerable changes in the world around us. Where I live in Eastern Ontario, the squirrels have begun building winter nests out of fallen leaves in the forks of the trees; our horses have begun growing winter coats; and geese by the thousands fly southward overhead and land in the neighbouring corn fields. (If you have ever heard several thousand geese “honking” in a cornfield as they prepare for their morning departure on the next leg of the long journey south, you understand why I am awake very early on a Saturday!) Despite my desire to roll over and go back to sleep, I continue to marvel at my favourite part of the fall season: the changing colours of the leaves.

Have you ever wondered why the leaves change colours at this time of year and why some turn yellow, while others become orange or red? I certainly have, ever since I was a toddler who stood in wonder looking at the multihued trees above my head. While I knew that weather changes such as cooler temperatures, shorter days, and moisture levels were the trigger for the fall artwork, I have never understood what really goes on. It

turns out this gap in my natural knowledge is a direct result of my short attention span during Mr. Scott’s Grade 10 biology class.

According to conservation researcher Sarah Jones, the weather changes tell the tree to begin harvesting the nutrients contained in the leaves before they fall off. As a result, photosynthesis stops and hence chlorophyll production

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Les couleurs d'automne

par Steve Woodland

« *Je crois que je ne verrai jamais un poème aussi joli qu'un arbre.* » [traduction libre]

Ces mots de Joyce Kilmer me viennent à l'idée à mon réveil, en ce matin d'automne, alors que les rayons orangés du soleil de l'aube couvre le paysage offert à ma fenêtre. Ce que je vois est éblouissant : un kaléidoscope de verts, jaunes, oranges, rouges et bruns... ce sont les feuilles de l'énorme érable à sucre dans notre cour, feuilles bercées gentiment par une légère brise. La richesse de la lumière de l'aube et la myriade de couleurs éclatantes me rappelle, encore une fois, les merveilles offertes par le Créateur.

L'automne est arrivé. Tandis que la flore et la faune se préparent pour l'hiver, nous ne pouvons qu'être témoin des changements qui nous entourent. Là où je vie, dans l'Est ontarien, les écureuils ont commencé à construire leurs nids dans la fourche des arbres à l'aide des feuilles mortes, le manteau d'hiver de nos chevaux commence à faire son apparition, et les oies, par milliers, s'envolent vers le Sud et prennent une pose dans les champs de maïs avoisinants. (Si vous avez déjà entendu les cris de milliers d'oies se préparant à prendre leur envol, vous comprendrez pourquoi je suis incapable de dormir même s'il est tôt le samedi!) Malgré mon désir de me retourner et de retomber à nouveau dans

les bras de Morphée, je ne peux m'empêcher de m'émerveiller de ce qui me plaît le plus à l'automne : le changement de couleur des feuilles.

Vous êtes vous déjà posé la question à savoir pourquoi les feuilles changent de couleur, au jaune, à l'orange, au rouge, en ce temps de l'année? Moi, si, depuis ma tendre enfance, alors que j'admirais les teintes diverses dans l'arbre au-dessus de ma tête. Bien que je sache que les changements météorologiques comme la baisse des températures, le raccourcissement des journées et la baisse des niveaux d'humidités soient des facteurs dans le développement de ces jolis tableaux d'automne, je n'ai jamais vraiment compris ce qui ce passe. Il semble que ce manque dans mon éducation naturelle soit dû à ma courte durée d'attention pendant la classe de biologie de M. Scott, en 10^e année.

Selon Sarah Jones, une chercheuse en conservation, les changements météorologiques annonce à l'arbre qu'il est temps de récolter les nutriments emmagasinés dans les feuilles, avant que celles-ci ne meurent. Conséquemment, la photosynthèse arrête tout comme la production de chlorophylle. (Tout va bien jusqu'à présent M. Scott.) Au cours de l'été, la production de chlorophylle domine les autres

pigments, ce qui donne cette belle couleur verte aux feuilles. En absence de chlorophylle, à l'automne, les caroténoïdes (oranges) et xanthophylles (jaunes) commencent à prendre le dessus. (Attention M. Scott, je commence à être distrait... au secours!) Pour ce qui est du rouge, c'est une tout autre histoire, elle résulte de l'accumulation d'anthocyanes à la surface des feuilles. Les anthocyanes tournent au rouge lorsqu'exposés à la lumière et agissent comme un écran solaire en protégeant le dessous

suite à la page 227





1. The first Canadian coloured coins. Limited edition set issued to mark the 20th anniversary of the gold Maple leaf.

1. Les premières pièces canadiennes coloriées. Ensemble souvenir à tirage limité qui marque le 20^e anniversaire de la Feuille d'érable en or.

continued from page 224

stops. (So far so good, Mr. Scott.) During the summer, the production of chlorophyll dominates the other pigments present, giving the leaf its nice, green colour. In the fall, without the chlorophyll, the carotenoids (orange) and xanthophylls (yellow) begin to show through the green and give the leaves their colours. (Mr. Scott, I'm beginning to drift off, help!) Red tints are another story: they are the result of anthocyanins, which gather in the palisade cells on the surface of the leaf. This pigment turns red when exposed to sunlight and acts in a similar fashion to sunscreen, protecting the underside of the leaf and allowing the plant extra time to recover nutrients before the leaves are shed.¹ (Sorry Mr. Scott!! ZZzzzz!) Regardless of how the colours are created in the autumn leaves, the majesty and beauty they produce enthrall and awe us each year.

Leaves on coins

Leaves, in particular the maple leaf, have been present in the designs of Canadian coins since the first issues of both the Province of Canada in 1858 and the Dominion of Canada in 1870.

Our large cents (1858-1859, 1876-1920) have always featured a serpentine of 16 maple leaves on the reverse, while our small cents have featured both a two maple-leaf

design (1920-1936) and a maple twig design (1937-present, less the 1967 commemorative piece).

Our early silver coins (5-, 10-, 20-, 25-, and 50-cent denominations) all featured a reverse design incorporating a wreath of 21 or 22 maple leaves until redesigned in either 1922 or 1936. Our 5-cent coin features two maple leaves on its reverse to the present day.

The maple leaf is also used as strike identification mark to identify those pieces struck in 1948 that still had the obverse legend **ET IND: IMP:**

We also find the maple leaf on many commemorative 25-cent and 1-dollar pieces, as well as at the top of the obverse of the 2-dollar piece.

Several test tokens and pattern pieces also feature a maple leaf or a grouping of maple leaves. A large number of issues of collector coins, not struck for circulation, also contain a maple leaf in their designs. Of particular note are the medalets included in the 1999 and 2000 Millennium souvenir 25-cent sets, the Canada Day series of 25-cent pieces, and the gold and silver Maple Leaf bullion coins.

As beautiful as these coins are, with their maple leaf designs, the advent of new technologies in 1999 and 2000 now enables Canada's coins to "show their true colours." Since 2000, the Royal Canadian Mint has struck dozens of circulation, collector, and bullion coins with colour on them,

continued on page 229

des feuilles ce qui donne plus de temps à la plante pour récupérer les nutriments avant que les feuilles ne tombent. (Désolé M. Scott... ZZzzzz!) Peut importe ce qui se passe dans les feuilles, leurs couleurs d'automne nous enivrent par leur beauté.

Les feuilles sur les monnaies

Les feuilles, plus particulièrement la feuille d'érable, sont omniprésentes sur les monnaies canadiennes depuis l'émission des premières pièces de la Province du Canada, en 1858, et du Dominion du Canada, en 1870.

On retrouve au revers du cent au grand module (1858-1959, 1876-1920) un serpent de 16 feuilles d'érables, tandis que le revers du cent au petit module ait été orné de deux motifs différents : un composé de deux feuilles d'érable (1920-1936) et un montrant une ramille d'érable (depuis 1937, exception faite de la pièce commémorative de 1967).

Le monnayage d'argent (les pièces de 5, 10, 20, 25 et 50 cents) est orné d'une couronne de 21 ou 22 feuilles d'érable jusqu'à ce motif soit remplacé soit en 1922 ou 1936. Les pièces de 5 cents à grand module sont ornées de deux feuilles d'érable depuis leur mise en circulation.

Notons que la feuille d'érable est si présente à l'esprit qu'elle fut choisit comme marque d'identification de frappe pour identifier les pièces frappées en 1948 qui portaient toujours la légende ET IND: IMP:

On retrouve également une feuille d'érable sur de nombreuses pièces commémoratives de 25 cents et de 1 dollar ainsi qu'au haut de l'avers de la pièce de 2 dollars.

De nombreuses pièces d'épreuve sont aussi ornées d'une ou de plusieurs feuilles d'érable. C'est également le cas de nombreuses pièces de collection. Notons aussi les médailles retrouvées dans les ensembles des pièces 25 cents du millénaire émis en 1999 et 2000, des pièces de 25 cents émises à l'occasion du Jour du Canada et des Feuilles d'érable, ces lingots monétaires d'argent et d'or.

Bien que tous ces motifs soient attrayants, nous n'avons pu apprécier la pleine beauté des feuilles d'érable tant que la Monnaie royale canadienne n'eut utilisé certains avancés technologiques en 1999 et 2000. Depuis lors, la MRC a émit de nombreuses pièces polychromées de circulation, de collection, d'investissement, qui, grâce à l'application d'hologrammes ou de peinture, nous permettent d'apprécier notre symbole national dans toute sa splendeur.

La feuille d'érable dans toutes ses couleurs

Plusieurs ensembles et séries de pièces nous offrent notre glorieuse feuille d'érable dans toutes ses couleurs : l'ensemble commémoratif du 20^e anniversaire de la Feuille d'érable (le lingot monétaire) en or, certaines Feuilles d'érable en argent émises depuis 2001, les pièces à la « goutte de cristal » émise depuis 2007 et des pièces de 75 dollars en or millésimées 2010.

Pour souligner le 20^e anniversaire de la mise en circulation de la

suite à la page 229

Feuilles d'érable en argent montrant les quatre saisons. 2. 2001. 3. 2002. 4. 2003. 5. 2004.

The four seasons on silver Maple Leafs. 2. 2001. 3. 2002. 4. 2003. 5. 2004.





6



7



8



9



10



11



12

More coloured silver Maple Leafs. 6. 2005 – The bigleaf maple. 7. 2006 – The silver maple. 8. 2007 – The sugar maple. 9. 10. 11. 12. These 2010-dated gold 75-dollars also depicts the four seasons.

D'autres Feuilles d'érable en argent coloriées. 6. 2005 – L'érable grandifolié. 7. 2006 – L'érable argenté. 8. L'érable à sucre. 9. 10. 11. 12. Ces pièces de 75 dollars en or, millésimées 2010, montrent aussi les quatre saisons.

which, because of the use of paint or a hologram, enable us to appreciate our national symbol in all its splendour .

The maple leaf in all its colours

Several sets and series display our maple leaves in all their beauty: the coloured gold Maple Leaf set of 1999, the 5-dollar colourised silver Maple Leaf series beginning in 2001, the crystal raindrop series beginning in 2007, and the recently issued 2010 gold 75-dollar four-coin set.

The gold Maple Leaf set celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Maple Leaf Program, which began in 1979, with a limited edition five-coin set (1-, ½-, ¼-, 1/10-, and 1/20-oz) struck in 0.9999 gold (Fig. 1). These are the first coloured Canadian coins. Only 500 sets were made.

The silver Maple Leaf issues feature two sub-series: first, four seasonal depictions of the maple leaf in Autumn (2001), Spring (2002), Summer (2003), and Winter (2004) (Figs. 2 to 5), and second, displays of different types of maples including the bigleaf maple (2005), the silver maple (2006), and the sugar maple (2007) (Figs. 6 to 8). All coins are struck in 0.9999 silver, weigh 1 oz (31.39 g), have a diameter of 38.00 mm, a thickness of 3.15 mm, a reeded edges, and a medal die axis. The number of pieces struck varies from 11,000 to 50,000, depending on the year.

The 2010 gold 75-dollar pieces (Figs. 9 to 12), like the silver Maple Leaf series, feature four seasonal views (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) of maple leaves in 14-karat (0.5833) gold. Each coin weighs 12.0 g, have a diameter of 27.00 mm, and a medal die axis. Only 1,000 of each coin have been produced.

The crystal raindrop series comprises two 20-dollar coins that feature a coloured maple leaf and a raindrop of Swarovski crystal (Fig. 13). These pieces have the same specifications as the silver Maple Leaf issues described above.

These magnificent coloured coins enable us to appreciate the majestic beauty of the maple leaf, our national symbol, all year long. ❖

1 Jones, Sarah. Chronique "Ask the Expert" *Wildlife: A Magazine of the Canadian Wildlife Federation*, Vol. 16, No. 2, September/October 2010, p. 44.

2 Cross, W.K., *A Charlton Standard Catalogue CANADIAN COINS, Volume 2, Collector Issues*, 1st ed. p. 272.

13. The 2009-dated 20-dollar "crystal drop" coin.

13. La pièce de 20 dollars millésimée 2009 dite « goutte de cristal »

Feuille d'érable en or en 1979, la MRC a émit, en 1999, un ensemble à tirage limité à 500 exemplaires. Celui-ci se compose de cinq pièces contenant respectivement 1, ½, ¼, 1/10 et 1/20 oz. Troy d'or fin (999,9 ‰). Ce sont les premières pièces canadiennes coloriées (fig. 1).

La série de Feuilles d'érable en argent montre, dans un premier temps, des feuilles arborant leurs couleurs saisonnières (automne en 2001, printemps en 2002, été en 2003 et hiver en 2004) (fig. 2 à 5) et, dans un second temps, des feuilles des différentes sortes d'érables (l'érable grandifolié en 2005, l'érable argenté en 2006 et l'érable à sucre en 2007) (fig. 6 à 8). Portant une dénomination de 5 dollars, ces pièces contiennent 1 oz. Troy (31,39 g) d'argent fin (999,9 ‰), font 38,00 mm de diamètre et 3,15 mm d'épaisseur, ont une tranche cannelée et, comme la grande majorité des pièces canadiennes, présentent une frappe médaille. Le tirage varie de plus de 11 000 à près de 50 000, selon les années.

Les quatre pièces en or de 75 dollars (fig. 9 à 12) émise en 2010, nous présentent également les quatre saisons. Elles contiennent 12,00 g d'or 14 carats (583,3 ‰), font 27,00 mm de diamètre, ont une tranche cannelée et présentent une frappe médaille. Le tirage de chaque pièce est limité à 1000 exemplaires.

La série dite « goutte de cristal » comprend deux pièces de 20 dollars qui arborent une feuille d'érable coloriée et une goutte de cristal Swarovski (fig. 13). Ces pièces ont les mêmes caractéristiques techniques que la Feuille d'érable en argent.

Posséder ces pièces vous permet donc de pouvoir apprécier pleinement, et ce peu importe le temps de l'année, la beauté majestueuse de notre symbole national, la feuille d'érable. ❖



globe**trotter**

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 Croatia

by Serge Pelletier

The Republic of Croatia (*Republika Hrvatska* in Croatian – thus the country code of HR) is a country in South-Eastern Europe on the Adriatic Sea. Croatia borders Slovenia in the north, Hungary in the north-east, Serbia to the east, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the south and Montenegro at its very southern tip. The capital and largest city is Zagreb.

Croatia covers an area of 56,594 square kilometres and has a population of some 4.5 million. The country is divided into 20 counties and is home to seven world heritage sites: the historical complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian, the old city of Dubrovnik, Plitvice Lakes National Park, the episcopal complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in the historic centre of Porec, the historic city of Trogir, the Cathedral of St. James in Šibenik, and the Stari Grad Plain on the island of Hvar.

History

The Croats arrive in what is Croatia today in the early 7th century. They organize the state into two dukedoms. The first king, King Tomislav is crowned in AD 925 and Croatia is elevated to a kingdom. The Kingdom of Croatia retains its sovereignty for almost two centuries, reaches its peak during the rule of kings Peter Krešimir IV and Demetrius Zvonimir. Croatia enters a union with Hungary in 1102. In 1526, the Croatian

parliament elects Ferdinand from the House of Habsburg to the Croatian throne. In 1918, Croatia declares independence from Austria–Hungary and co-founds the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. An independent Croatian state briefly exists during World War II. After World War II, Croatia becomes a founding member of the Second Yugoslavia. On June 25, 1991, Croatia declares independence and becomes a sovereign state.

Croatia is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, NATO, the World Trade Organization and the Central European Free Trade Agreement. The country is a





1. Silver banovac of Bela IV (1235-1267) shows a marten running left with a star above and below. 2. The current 100-kuna note features Croatian poet Ivan Mazuranic (1814-1890).

candidate for European Union membership and is a founding member of the Union for the Mediterranean. Croatia is classified as an emerging and developing economy by the International Monetary Fund and a high income economy by the World Bank.

Currency history

Introduced on May 30, 1994, the currency unit of Croatia is the *kuna*, divided into 100 *lipa*. The name *kuna*, which means marten, takes its origins from Roman times. The word *lipa* means linden (as in tree).

The Romans collected taxes in the provinces of upper and lower Pannonia (today Hungary and the Croatian county of Slavonia) in the then highly valued marten (Latin *martus*) skins. It is from this origin that the Croatian word for tax, *marturina*, is derived. The kuna is a currency unit in several Slavic states, most notably Kievan Rus (today Ukraine) and its successors until the early 15th century.

While many foreign monies are used in Croatia in the Middle Ages, a local currency is created circa 1018. From 1260 to 1380, the Croatian viceroys issue a marten-adorned silver coin called the *banovac* (Fig. 1). It eventually disappears because of the diminishing autonomy of Croatia within the Croatia-Hungarian Kingdom.

The idea of a kuna currency reappears in 1939 when the Banovina of Croatia, established within the Yugoslav Monarchy, plans to issue its own money. In 1941, the Independent State of Croatia adopts the kuna as its currency. This currency remains in circulation until 1945, when it disappears with the establishment of a socialist state.

Following its independence, Croatia adopts the dinar as its currency on December 23, 1991. It is a transitional

currency that replaces the Yugoslav dinar at par. Only bank notes are issued in this currency. The kuna replaces the dinar at the rate of 1 kuna = 1000 dinara.

The self-proclaimed Serbian entity Republic of Serbian Krajina does not use the Croatian dinar or the kuna. Instead, it issues its own Krajina dinar until the region is reintegrated into Croatia in 1995.

Coinage today

With the introduction of the kuna in 1994, coins are put into circulation: 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 20-, and 50-lipa pieces as well as 1-, 2-, and 5-kuna ones.

The obverse of all lipa coins features a flowering twig of the linden tree, over which is superimposed the numerals of the denomination. Below the numeral is the currency unit **LIPA** or **LIPE**. Above, around the circumference, is the name of the country **REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA**. The coat of arms is at 6 o'clock, flanked by a Croatian three-strand pattern (not present of the 1 and 5 lipa because of the size of the pieces) (Fig. 12).

The 1- and 2-lipa pieces are struck from an aluminum-manganese alloy. The 1-lipa, 17.0 mm in diameter and weighing 0.70 g, features two corn cobs on the reverse (Fig. 4), while the 2 lipa is also 17.0 mm in diameter but weighs 0.92 g and is adorned by a grape vine with bunches of grapes (Fig. 5).

The 5- and 10-lipa pieces are struck from aureate steel. The 5 lipa is 18.0 mm in diameter and weighs 2.50 g and bears an oak branch on the reverse (Fig. 9), while the 10 lipa is 20.0 mm in diameter and weighs 3.20 g and shows a tobacco plant (Fig. 10).

Finally, the 20- and 50-lipa pieces are struck from nickel-

bonded-steel. The 20 lipa is 18.5 mm in diameter and weighs 2.90 g and features an olive twig (Fig. 3), while the 50 lipa is 20.5 mm in diameter and weighs 3.65 g and is adorned by flowering linden twig (Fig. 11).

The obverse of all kuna coins features a marten on which rests the numerical value of the denomination. Below the numeral is the currency unit KUNA OF KUNE.

Above, around the circumference, is the name of the country. The coat of arms is at 6 o'clock, flanked by branches (Fig. 13).

The 1-, 2-, and 5-kuna pieces are struck from cupro-nickel. The 1 kuna is 22.5 mm in diameter, weighs 5.00 g, and bears a nightingale (Fig. 6). The 2 kuna is 24.5 mm in diameter, weighs 6.20 g, and is adorned by a tuna (Fig. 8). Finally, the 5 kuna is 26.5 mm in diameter, weighs 7.45 g, and features a brown bear (Fig. 7).

Interestingly enough, the legend on the reverse of the coins is in Croatian on coins bearing an odd year, and in Latin on coins bearing an even year.

All these coins circulate fully; I received every one of them in change during my visit.

From time to time the Croatian National Bank also releases circulating commemorative 25-kuna pieces. The bimetallic piece is dodecagonal in shape, measures 32.0 mm in diameter and weighs 12.75 g. The ring is made of cupro-nickel and the centre (round, 18.0 mm) is of aluminum-bronze. The first pieces of this denomination are issued in 1997. Actually, there are three different 1997 pieces: one that celebrates the Croatian Danube Region, one that celebrates the admission of Croatia into the United Nations, and one that marks the holding of the first Croatian Esperanto Conference. The following year, a piece is issued to mark the holding of the International Expo in Lisbon, Portugal. In 1999, a 25-kuna piece celebrates the birth of the euro. The arrival of the Millennium is marked in 2000 by a piece that shows a fetus. A 2002 piece marks the 10th anniversary on the international recognition of the Republic of Croatia. Croatia's entry into the European Union is celebrated on a 2004 piece. Finally, this year's holding of the annual meeting of the Reconstruction and Development Committee of the European Bank in Zagreb has also merited an issue (Fig. 14).

Paper money

As far as paper money is concerned, the Central Bank of Croatia issues 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, 200-, 500-, and 1000-kuna notes, which vary in size, growing with the value. The 5-kuna note does circulate even though there is a coin of the same denomination – I received both in change. The notes are well made and have the latest anti-counterfeiting devices.

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

Coin reverses: 3. 20 lipa 1993. 4. 1 lipa 1993. 5. 2 lipa 1993. 6. 1 kuna 1993. 7. 5 kuna 1993. 8. 2 kuna 1993. 9. 10 lipa 1993. 10. 20 lipa 1993. 11. 50 lipa 1993. 14. 25 kuna 2010. Coin obverses: 12. 50 lipa 1993. 13. 5 kuna 1993.



Zadar



My trip to Croatia actually took me to Zadar, a beautiful city on the Adriatic coast with a long history. How long? A first settlement was built on a small stone islet in the 9th century BC. So, forgive me if I don't get into its detailed history. Let's just skip ahead to the 19th century:



“After the fall of Venice (1797) with the Treaty of Campo Formio, Zadar comes under the Austrian crown and once again became united with the rest of Croatia. In 1806, it was briefly given to the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy. In 1809, it was added to the French Illyrian Provinces. In 1813, all of Dalmatia was reconquered and brought back under the control of the Austrian Empire.”

I found out that the French and Italian name of Zadar is Zara... and that the reconquering was done after a siege. Since “obsidional coins” is one of my areas of interest, I looked into it and found coins issued in 1813 by the besieged French army. Unfortunately, I was unable to locate any in the city itself... mind you this specimen recently selling for over US\$5,000, I don't think I would have been able to purchase one. ❖

Top – French of 9 francs 20 centimes issued during the siege of “Zara.”

Bottom – Zadar's St. Donat Cathedral was built on the Roman forum.



From the COLLECTOR'S DEN

François Ruŕiange

This column is dedicated to you, the collector. It is a place where you can tell others about your favourite piece or about any item in your collection.



My oldest wildlife coin: A tetradrachm from Akragas (464-450 BC)

For many years, I have been collecting circulating coins and bank notes that portray wildlife. It is my “fun collection” and I have to thank all the kids to whom I taught numismatics for inspiring me to start this wonderful collection. Thanks also go out to the late Frank Fresco and his fabulous world type collection, which had many duplicates I was able to acquire. As a result, I have increased my collection significantly and I have coins from Frank’s collection that I will cherish forever.

By fun collection, I simply mean that I keep an eye out for coins of this type when I go to shows or when I travel, but I do not get stressed out by the “hunt” for them; it is all about opportunity finds. It is also a fun collection because most coins that I find are not very expensive. Well, there

are a few exceptions, for example: the Magdalen Islands token with the seal on it does come with a hefty price tag, but it’s worth it. The hunt is made even more fun by the fact that countries around the world are issuing more and more circulating commemorative coins. Luckily, the global electronic marketplace (e.g., eBay) makes it reasonably easy for me to acquire these coins online. Needless to say, my collection will never be complete.

One of my most recent purchases was a Greek coin dating back to 464-450 BC! Not only is it my oldest wildlife coin, it is also special because both sides bear a wildlife image. The obverse portrays a standing eagle, while the reverse shows a simple crab (Fig. 1). I bought the coin from a dealer on the VAuction Website (<http://>



2. Old map showing the location of Agragas.

www.vauctions.com). This site groups reputable dealers in ancient coins from around the world. Holding such a piece of history in my hands is intriguing for me, as it brings many questions to mind: Where does this coin come from? Why a crab? Why an eagle?

The story begins...

The starting point is easy: the dealer's attribution itself (see details on next page). It pointed me to the ancient city of Agragas in Sicily, Italy. According to Wikipedia,¹ Agragas (also spelled Acragas, Latin *Agrigentum*, modern *Agrigento*) was one of the richest and most famous of the Greek colonies of *Magna Graecia* (Greater Greece). Agrigento was founded on a plateau overlooking the sea, close to two rivers, the Hypsas and the Agragas, with a ridge to the north offering some natural fortification. Established around 582-580 BC, it is attributed to Greek colonists from nearby Gela, who named it *Akragas*. It first prospered under the tyrant Phalaris and continued to grow under the tyrant Theron. After Theron's death, his son Thrasydaeus was overthrown and a democracy was established, which continued until Agragas was sacked by the Carthaginians in 406 BC. It revived, to some extent, in the time of Timoleon (334 BC), but suffered

badly during the Punic Wars. It was again wealthy during the time of the Roman governor Verres and, with the rest of Sicily, received full Roman citizenship after Julius Caesar's death in 44 BC.

Today, Agrigento is a major tourist region due to its extraordinarily rich archaeological legacy.² Beautiful temple ruins are clear evidence of the ancient splendour of this city during the golden age of Ancient Greece. There are 18 archaeological sites to visit at Agrigento including the well-preserved Temple of Concordia.

At this point, you might ask yourself who were the Carthaginians and why did they destroy Agragas in [406 BC](#)? The answer required further reading, but was indeed fascinating. I learned, for example, that the [Phoenicians](#) were among the greatest traders of their time and their trading routes were mostly concentrated in the Southern region of the Mediterranean Sea. This included the famous city of [Carthage](#), the most strategically important city in North Africa, directly across the narrow (100 km) strait from Sicily. I also read about the [Punic wars](#), in particular, the [Battle of Cannae](#), which was a major battle of the Second Punic War that took place on August 2, 216 BC, and is regarded as one of the greatest tactical victories in military history to this

day. (Have you ever heard of Hannibal crossing the Alps? That's the one!) I invite you to visit the Wikipedia website and learn by simply clicking on the links above.

Coins of Akragas

From the dealer, the attribution of my coin reads as follows:

Country: Sicily
City: Akragas
Metal: AR (silver)
Denomination: Tetradrachm (4 drachms)
Grade: Good VF
Year: ca 464-450 BC
Diameter: 26 mm
Mass: 17.45 g
Obverse/ reverse: eagle standing left / crab
Catalogue identification: SNG ANS 976-8.

The attribution failed to indicate the markings on the obverse: AKRAC-ANTOS. After an hour of research on the web, I was able to find out that AKRAC means Acragas (Ἀκράγας) in Greek,¹ but I could not discover what the other word means. I can only speculate that ANTOS was the magistrate of the time.

The coinage of Akragas begins during the prosperous period between the fall of the tyrant Phalaris, in 550 BC, and the accession of Theron to supreme power in 488 BC.³

In Greek mythology, the eagle symbolizes Zeus and the crab, Poseidon. However, much of the documentation I encountered during my research indicated that the crab could also simply represent the very common crab that was likely abundant in and around the Akragas river. Should this be the case, which I believe, then the crab represents the river Akragas and is the emblem of the city. Humphrey notes in his *Coin Collector's Manual*: "The crab, a production of the Italian and Sicilian seas, is frequently found forming one of the minor types of other maritime towns of the island; but seldom as a principal one, except on the money of Agrigentum."⁴

I was very surprised to find out how many different coins bear the eagle/crab combination. Frequently, the reverse has not only a crab, but also includes smaller elements below the crab, such as corn, grain, fish, a cockle shell, Scylla, a young male head, a Corinthian helmet, crayfish, a sea monster swallowing fish, a rose, a star, or a volute ornament (Fig. 3).^{3,5} The crab and eagle designs can also be found on the ½-, 1-, and 2-drachm; the ½-, 1-, 1½-, 2-, and 5-litrae; and a few gold coins such as the 1½ litrae (or diobols).^{5,7}

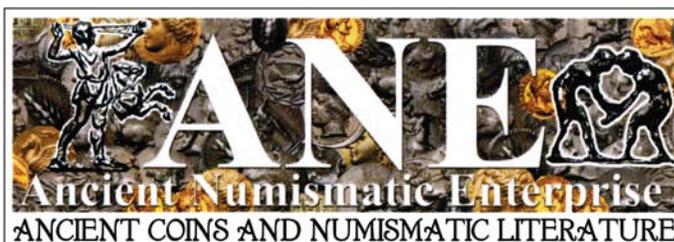
I hope that you have enjoyed learning about my oldest wildlife coin. I found it fascinating to discover the quantity and quality of information that is available on the Internet about this piece. It really is amazing to discover how a simple coin can tell us about history, about how people traded, and about the wars they fought. I encourage you to study your



coins in more detail, to learn about them, and then to share what you find with others. ❖

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- 1 *Wikipedia*, <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrigento>> [2010-10-02, encyclopaedic article]
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- 5 *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*, <<http://www.sylloge-nummorum-graecorum.org/>> [2010-09-30, Research Project]
- 6 Plant, Richard, *Greek Coin Types and their identification*, London UK: Seaby Publication Ltd, 1979
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Svetolik Kovacevic

2219 Queen Street East, Lower Level, Toronto, ON M4E 1E8
www.vcoins.com/ANE

Thoughts on diamond jubilee medals for 2012

by Ron Cheek

February 20, 2012 will mark an event the likes of which we will not see again. If you think about it and do the math, probably our grandchildren won't either. I'm referring, of course, to Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee.

Our system of government is a constitutional monarchy, under the rule of law, a system that has developed over nearly 800 years. While we inherited it from France and Great Britain, it has evolved and been tailored to suit our distinctly Canadian character. It seems to be working, so let's celebrate this milestone. Set grumpiness and cynicism

about government aside. Let republican chatterers in the press settle down while they read a history book or two, and perhaps study Political Science 101. The Queen's diamond jubilee is a huge occasion to celebrate how lucky we are to live in this country and enjoy the benefits of freedom that have come with our constitutional monarchy.

The last diamond jubilee to be celebrated in Canada was Queen Victoria's. In fact, it has been the only one. It was celebrated in 1897, 113 years ago. Victoria came to the throne at the age of 18 and lived a long life. She was on the throne for 63 years. Such a long reign necessarily removed the possibility that her son, grandson, or great grandson would live to reign for anywhere near 60 years. They were all too old when their turns came. Elizabeth II ascended to the throne on the death of her father in 1952. King George VI was only 52 when he died of cancer.

At age 25, Elizabeth was, therefore, still quite young when she became Queen. Considering her mother's longevity, and her own good health, she should easily live to celebrate her 60th year on the throne, and many more. As remarkable as that will be, though, it means that her successor, whether it be her son, who will celebrate his 62nd birthday next month, her grandson, Prince William who is already 28 years old, perhaps even her unborn great grandchild, will be too old to reign 60 years when his or her time comes. So the 2012 diamond jubilee deserves to be recognized and celebrated in a manner that our descendants will look back on with pride, just as we look back on the huge occasion that was Victoria's diamond jubilee. To mark Queen Victoria's 60th year on the throne, statues were erected, hospitals, schools, bridges, and other public structures were named in her honour, and organizations such as the Victorian Order of Nurses were founded. And, of interest to numismatists, many beautiful and interesting medals were produced. What will we do in 2012?





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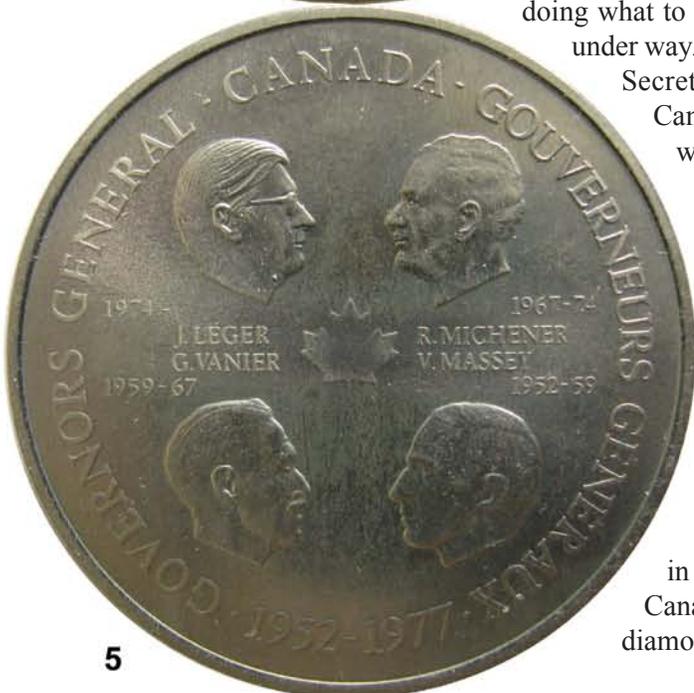


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1. 2. 3. Ontario's and Nova Scotia's medallic tributes to the Queen's Silver Jubilee were these little 31.9 mm diameter aluminum discs. 4. 5. Canada's 1977 official Silver Jubilee medal in cupro-nickel (45.0 mm diameter) was appropriately Canadian. With the contemporary tiara coin portrait of the Queen on the obverse, the reverse has portraits of the four Governors General who served Canada during the first 25 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign.



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According to the website of the British Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills, diamond jubilee celebrations in the United Kingdom will be marked by an extra long weekend June 2 through 5, 2012. An extra bank holiday on Tuesday, June 5 will be added to the already long weekend. We can expect parades and ceremonies befitting this illustrious occasion. Regarding diamond jubilee coins and medals, the Royal Mint advises that details are still being finalized, but information should be available on its website by the end of October 2010. How will coins marking the diamond jubilee fit in with the, no doubt gigantic, "London 2012" Olympic coin program? We'll have to wait and see. In Canada, I have, thus far, been unable to determine just who is doing what to mark the diamond jubilee. But I am assured that plans are under way. Kevin S. MacLeod, CVO, CD, Usher of the Black Rod and Secretary to the Queen in Canada, chairs the Government of Canada's Diamond Jubilee Committee. He advises that plans will be announced in the coming months, perhaps by February 6, 2011. Recently, Senator Serge Joyal proposed in the Senate that the Canadian 20-dollar note be redesigned for 2012 with a new portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in full ceremonial regalia, and identifying Her Majesty as Queen of Canada, our Head of State. Thank you, Senator Joyal. But, as with plans in the United Kingdom, we'll just have to wait for our government to announce what will be done here to mark our Queen's 60th year on the throne. Let's hope that a lasting medallic tribute will result, and that our circulating coins will also suitably mark the diamond jubilee. It will be helpful to take a glance at how previous milestones in Queen Elizabeth II's reign were "numismatically marked" in Canada. Then, let's look at a few of the many Queen Victoria diamond jubilee medals and examine what we might do for 2012.

Queen Elizabeth II's 1977 Silver Jubilee spawned some commendable, but also some "underwhelming," Canadian medals. Look at the chintzy aluminum creations from Nova Scotia and Ontario (Figs. 1, 2, and 3). These little aluminum discs didn't even have a portrait of the Queen. What were the people responsible thinking? I've seen more elegant arcade tokens! But then there was an official medal (Figs. 4 and 5) that is really quite handsome. The attractive contemporary coin portrait of the Queen and the legend **GOD SAVE THE QUEEN - DIEU PROTÈGE LA REINE** graces the obverse. The reverse has the busts and names of the four Governors General who held office during Queen Elizabeth II's first 25 years as our Queen. Altogether, this is an elegant medal, and very Canadian. It would be a nice theme for a 2012 diamond jubilee medal but the designer would have to figure out how to fit eleven Governor General portraits on the reverse. That is how many there have been during Queen Elizabeth II's reign. Remarkable, is it not? And many of them held the post for seven years, not the five-year term that is now the custom. Maybe it can be done well. Remember this idea when we look, a little later, at a Victoria diamond jubilee medalet.

In 2002, of course, all denominations of our circulating coins marked the Queen's Golden Jubilee by having the dual dates 1952-2002. Then, there was the beautiful 2002 circulation 50-cent piece that carried the 1953 "coronation bust" on the obverse. These 50-cent coins were undoubtedly saved in great numbers as treasured mementos. Compare the 2002 50-cent coin (Figs. 8 and 9) with the bronze coronation medal that was given out to every school child in Canada in 1953 (Figs. 6 and 7). The 2002 coin recalls the occasion 50 years earlier when much of the world watched Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. For most of us who were around at the time, it was the first time we had ever seen television.

For diamond jubilee medal themes, we can look for inspiration to the era when medallic art in Britain reached its pinnacle. The Victorians were prolific in creating beautiful commemorative medals, most of them official but, for the diamond jubilee, there



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6. 7. Bronze coronation medal (33.3 mm diameter) given to every Canadian school child in 1953. 8. 9. Canada marked the 2002 golden jubilee by placing the dual dates 1952-2002 on that year's circulating coins. The "circulation" 50-cent coin bears the 1953 coronation portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. 10. This cupro-nickel U.K. 1977 silver jubilee medal with an unbecoming portrait of the Queen is an example of how a 2012 diamond jubilee medal should not look.

were many local and private issues as well. Loyal companies, organizations, school boards, and private individuals across the British Empire produced the wonderful array of jubilee medals that we find today. Here are some images of both British and Canadian efforts that might inspire ideas.

The large, official diamond jubilee medal by De Saulles, with legends in Latin (Figs. 12 and 17) has on one side the coronation-year image of young Queen Victoria and, on the other side, the "jubilee bust" used in 1897. The legend on the "young portrait" side translates as: "Victoria successfully completed the sixtieth year of reign June 20, 1897." The legend on the other side translates: "Length of days is her right hand and glory is in her left." This is a fine idea for a large official 2012 diamond jubilee medal. But let's say the official Canadian Government-issue jubilee medal has to look more "Canadian." Why, then, in honour of its royal status, can't our Royal Canadian Numismatic Association produce such a medal for Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee? How appropriate to recall this past glory of medallic art, and what a fine medal it would be! And I'm sure we could do better with its design than the official U.K. silver jubilee medal portrait (Fig. 10). This image, like the provincial silver jubilee medals noted earlier, is included to illustrate how not to do it.

Other Canadian and British diamond jubilee issues of 1897 are interesting to note. Quality of design and execution vary, but all put forward the same loyal sentiments. The medal by P.W. Ellis of Toronto (Figs. 14 and 15) is particularly fine, with its intricate workmanship and high relief. So is the medal presented to Ottawa school teachers (Fig. 16), also by Ellis, but with the name of Ottawa silversmiths Olmstead and Hurdman on the reverse. Even the Mellin's Food Company came up with an



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PREVIOUS PAGE:

11. This 1897 bronze medalet (19.5 mm) manages to contain no less than 21 royal portraits of Queen Victoria and her family is an example of Victorian overcrowded design that works. Couldn't we fit 11 Governor General portraits onto the reverse of a larger, say 40 mm diameter, official 2012 Canadian medal? 12. 17. The official U.K. Queen Victoria diamond jubilee medal illustrates the elegance and excellence of medallic art in the late 19th century (bronze, 55.5 mm). Why couldn't the R.C.N.A. produce a medal in this style for Queen Elizabeth II? 13. Henry Grueber, a London (U.K.) die cutter, produced this handsome 1897 diamond jubilee medal with the popular "four generations" theme (bronze, 32.2 mm). 14. 15. This privately issued 1897 diamond jubilee medal by P.W. Ellis of Toronto was similar to an earlier 1887 medal by the same firm (white metal, 35.0 mm). 16. Ottawa school teachers were presented with this fine 1897 diamond jubilee medal (bronze 38.8 mm). 18. Mellin's Food, a baby food supplement popular throughout Europe and North America, included one of these foil-covered cardboard diamond jubilee "medals" in its packaging. When new, the souvenir must have looked impressive (31.9 mm).

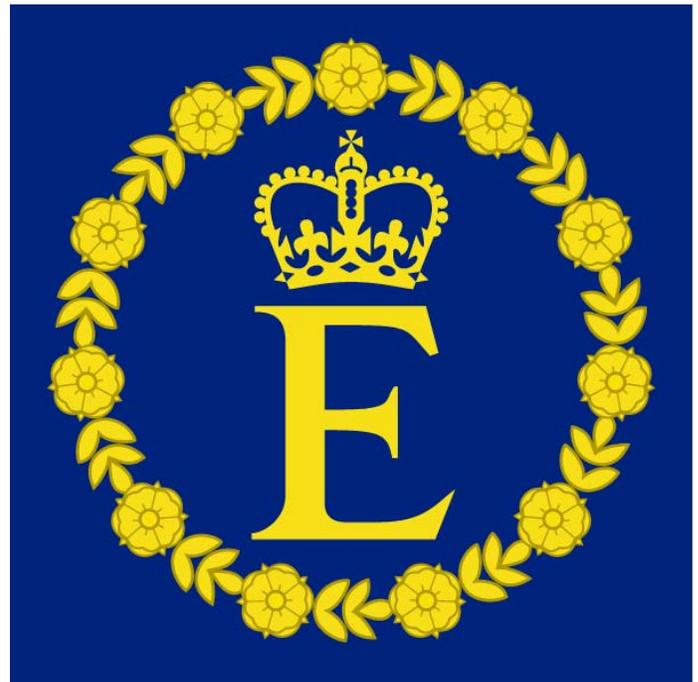
attractive souvenir "medal" – albeit made of foil-coated cardboard (Fig. 18).

The medal illustrated in Fig. 13 deserves some comment. It is a private issue piece by Henry Grueber, a London die cutter. Showing the conjoined portraits of Queen Victoria, her son, grandson, and great-grandson, it has four generations of the Royal Family – the Queen and her three immediate heirs to the throne. This was a popular image in 1897 - similar portraits of the four generations can often be seen at antique shows. This theme, if used for a 2012 diamond jubilee medal, would, of course include only three generations. Prince William and Kate Middleton are believed to be planning their marriage in 2012 so a fourth generation is not going to appear in time for the Queen's diamond jubilee. The "generations theme" is not likely to be chosen for the design of an official Canadian medal but it would be another great candidate for an R.C.N.A. medal. Or why not an Ottawa Coin Club diamond jubilee medal? It is not as though there will be another such occasion, ladies and gentlemen. What about it? Are we not up to the task?

The diamond jubilee medalet at Fig. 11 was the subject of an article in the February 2009 issue of *The Canadian Numismatic Journal*. It has portraits of Queen Victoria, her nine children, their spouses, and her grandson and his wife, the future King George V and Queen Mary – 21 portraits and names in all – and this fit onto a medalet the size of a Canadian small cent! A Victorian overcrowded design that works. Could we possibly figure out how to fit eleven Governors General into the reverse design of a large 2012 jubilee medal? How about using the obverse designs of the eleven Governor General medals that cover Queen Elizabeth II's reign? I think it could be done. It could be a fine medallic "history book" suitable for Canada's official Jubilee medal.

In conclusion, let's look for inspiration at what people did in 1897 and come up with some ideas for our own diamond jubilee medals. Lobby your Member of Parliament for an official Canadian medal. As for the R.C.N.A. and your coin

club, think how elegantly designed and well-made medals would become lasting keepsakes, in the spirit of our hobby. *Carpe Diem!* ❖



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