

May-June 2017

CANADA

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# CONTENTS

May-June 2017

VOLUME 1 NO. 3

## 6 FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to summer!

## 8 BANK OF CANADA UNVEILS CANADA 150 COMMEMORATIVE BANK NOTE

This bank note is intended to captivate our imagination and instill pride in what we, as a nation, have accomplished.

## 12 DISCOVERING COIN SHOWS

Coin shows offer a cornucopia of things to see and do for anyone interested in collecting money.

## 16 COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COINS

A look at Canada's commemorative circulation coins over the years.

## 20 JEAN PAUL GAULTIER'S FRANCE

Fashion's bad boy is the creator of this year's French at-par coins.

## 23 A NUMISMATIC TOOL KIT

Some of the key tools and supplies needed by collectors to enjoy viewing and studying their collections

## 26 RELIC OF LONG-FORGOTTEN EXPEDITIONS

Some numismatic items are more than witsness to history, they are part of it.

## 29 'COIN ARE LIKE SONGS':

New book explores John MacTaggart's ambition for British sentiments on Canadian coinage.

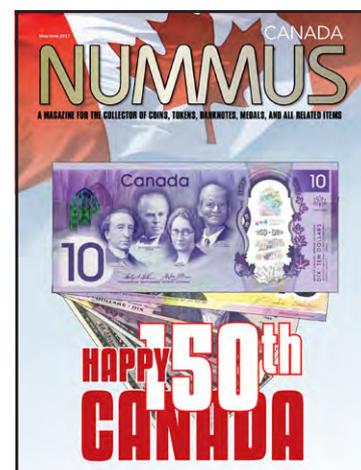
## 32 WHAT IS THE "TRUE GRADE"?

The grade of a coin has significant impact on its value.

## 34 PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR COLLECTION

Tips on photographing items in your collection.

### ON THE COVER



The Bank of Canada revealed its fourth commemorative note, to mark Canada's 150th anniversary.



André Langlois has been collecting Canadian coins for more than 50 years. His interest in evaluating collections and in the various aspects of grading coins led him to write *The Guide to Grading the Coins of Canada*, published by the Association Numismatique et Philatélique de Boucherville in 2015.



Richard Giedroyc is a professional numismatist and research historian. He is a well-known hobby columnist with more than 2,000 byline articles published in various coin collecting publications. The recipient of five Numismatic Literary Guild awards, Giedroyc is also the author of “Superstition, Urban Legends and Our Money” and “The Everything Coin Collecting Book.” His work outside numismatics includes the history book “The 20th Century: The Experiences of a Politically Active Eastern European Family” and a romanticized historical novel about the Christianizing of Eastern Europe titled “Iron Wolf.” Giedroyc is a fellow of the American Numismatic Society in New York, a fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society in London, a 35-year member of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs, a member of the Knights of St. Eligius, and a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.



I must, first and foremost, apologize for the tardiness of this issue, which is due to sickness and technical issues. That is the unfortunate problem that comes with a very small production team.

Summer is at our door and with it comes time to relax, spend time with our family, and—if we’re lucky—time to indulge a little in our hobby (mostly on the rainy days).

The major celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Canada are ahead. To put us in the mood we have a story on the soon-to-be-released commemorative note issued by the Bank of Canada. The story reveals some of the secrets of the note, so I invite you to read it.

Summer is also the time picked by the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association to hold its annual convention. This year’s convention is hosted by the Association des numismates et philatelistes de Boucherville on the south shore of Montréal on 18-23 July. To prepare us, Steve Woodland has written an article to help us discover coin shows (like this convention).

We also have two articles to help you get more out of your collection. Steve Woodland gives us an idea of what collectors should have in their toolbox and François Rufiange gives us tricks for taking photos of our collection.

I’d like to welcome to our team three new contributors: Richard Giedroyc, André Langlois, and Jesse Robitaille. They bring years of collecting experience.

Richard Giedroyc tells us a story of a numismatic memento from a little-known expedition of the First World War.

André Langlois introduces us to coin grades and asks the question: what is the true grade of a coin?

Finally, Jesse Robitaille speaks of a book, soon to be launched, that looks into the coinage of Upper Canada.

Enjoy the beginning of the summer!



Jesse Robitaille has been a multi-media journalist with *Canadian Coin News* as well as *Canadian Stamp News* since February 2015. He has since begun amassing his own collection and currently enjoys world paper money and postal history. At 27 years old, he looks forward to a long future in both hobbies.



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Bank of Canada unveils



# CANADA 150

commemorative bank note

Bank of Canada Governor Stephen S. Poloz and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance Ginette Petitpas Taylor unveiled on April 7, a commemorative 10-dollar bank note celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

“This bank note is intended to captivate our imagination and instill pride in what we, as a nation, have accomplished,” said Governor

Poloz. “It celebrates the natural beauty and majesty of our land and some of the important parliamentarians who helped shape our great country.”

**DESIGN**

The intricately designed note is unique in many ways. For the first time, four individuals are portrayed on the front of a Canadian bank note: Sir John A. Macdonald,

Sir George-Étienne Cartier, Agnes Macphail, and James Gladstone or Akay-na-muka—his Blackfoot name. With Parliament’s Hall of Honour in the background, these four parliamentarians remind us that Canada has been shaped by the vision, courage, and effort of people of different backgrounds.

It is the first time that a Canadian woman and an Indigenous Canadian are depicted as portrait sub-

jects on a Bank of Canada bank note. The design also incorporates Inuit and Metis cultural elements: a colourful reproduction of the artwork *Owl's Bouquet* by world-renowned Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak; and the distinctive arrow sash pattern, an important symbol of the Métis nation.

“Canada’s diversity is our greatest strength,” said Ms. Petitpas Taylor. “As we celebrate Canada 150 we are reminded of what makes us who we are—from our shared history, to our cultures and languages to the breathtaking natural beauty that is instantly recognized around the world. On behalf of the Government of Canada I thank Governor Poloz and the Bank of Canada for their contribution to this truly national celebration.”

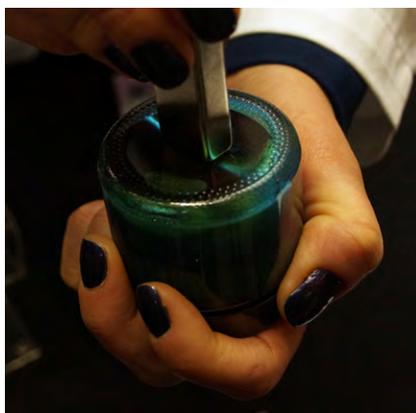
The Canada 150 note also showcases Canada’s natural beauty and unique landscapes. Five different landscapes representing the various regions of Canada are featured on the other side of the note: the mountains called the “Lions” (or as the First Nations call them, the “Twin Sisters”) (Western Canada), a wheat field (Prairie provinces), the Canadian Shield (Central Canada), Cape Bonavista (Eastern Canada) and the Northern lights (Northern Canada).

A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken by the Bank to ensure that this commemorative bank note reflects the input of Canadians. The ideas and suggestions received through public opinion research, consultation and focus groups influenced the note’s content and have been carefully incorporated into the design.

Boyd Laanstra, Senior Analyst, Visual Content, of the Currency Department, was the orchestra conductor of the design, “My job was to translate all comments re-



**The 'magic' green ink in its natural state (above) and under the influence of a magnet (below) [note highlights].**



ceived, convert them into visual components, and bring all of them together before giving this to the designers,” concluded Laanstra.

#### **NEW SECURITY FEATURES**

The commemorative 10-dollar note also has new security features, including a colour-shifting arch depicting an arch found in the Memorial Chamber on Parliament Hill, as well as three-dimensional maple leaves.

Martine Warren, Bank Note Design Specialist, also of the Currency Department, spoke of those anti-counterfeiting elements that are making this note, “even more secure than the notes of the current Frontiers series.”

The Currency Department is particularly proud of the colour-

shifting arch in the upper left corner of the face of the note. There is a checkered pattern in the arch that moves up and down, as you tilt the note, and changes colour from green to blue. “It is not a hologram,” says Warren, “it is a printed element that was realized thanks to the property of the ink.” The pigments of the ink can be controlled using a magnet. A magnet was used during the printing and the drying of the note, to ensure the pigments remained properly aligned.

The notes were printed using the intaglio technique to ensure that there would be raised elements of the design, which are another one of the anti-counterfeiting elements. “We’ve always used raised ink on the front of the note, but we also used it on the back this time,” said Warren.

The last new anti-counterfeiting element is the three maple leaves at the bottom of the window. “They appear to be three-dimensional [in relief], but when you touch them you confirm that the surface of the note is actually flat,” concluded Warren.

Bank note collectors will quickly notice something unusual about the serial numbers. “The serial numbers are a bit special,” said Warren.

Indeed, the prefixes range from CDA and CDF, letters that would not normally be used on 10-dollar notes. “We absolutely wanted to use CDA on these notes,” Warren said.

#### **ONE FOR EVERY CANADIAN**

Forty million notes were printed—one for every Canadian. They will be available from banks on June 1st.

The Canada 150 note will circulate alongside the current Polymer series 10-dollar note, but it does not replace it. ❖



### SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

Macdonald was Canada's first prime minister and a Father of Confederation. Under his leadership and vision, the Dominion of Canada was founded, grew and expanded until it stretched from sea to sea to sea.



### SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER

A Father of Confederation and principal architect of Canadian federalism, Cartier was a proponent of Confederation as a means of safeguarding French Canada and other minorities.



### AGNES MACPHAIL

A champion of equality and human rights, Macphail became, in 1921, the first woman elected to the House of Commons in Canada.



### JAMES GLADSTONE, or AKAY-NA-MUKA (his Blackfoot name)

A member of the Kainai (Blood) First Nation, Gladstone committed himself to the betterment of Indigenous peoples in Canada and, in 1958, became Canada's first senator of First Nations origin.



### NAMES OF CANADA'S PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

The names of all of Canada's provinces and territories and the dates when they entered Confederation are repeated in English and French across the top and bottom of the large window.



### HALL OF HONOUR

The central corridor of the Centre Block on Parliament Hill leads from Confederation Hall to the Library of Parliament. The House of Commons is directly to the west, the Senate Chamber to the east.



### MEMORIAL CHAMBER ARCH

This arch is located inside the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. The chamber honours all Canadian men and women who gave their lives in military service to their country.



### ASSOMPTION SASH PATTERN

Also known as the arrow sash, this is an important cultural symbol of the Métis people. The sash has significance in French-Canadian culture as well.



### MAPLE LEAF BORDER

Thirteen maple leaves, linked by their stems, represent each of Canada's provinces and territories.



### THE LIONS OR TWIN SISTERS, COAST MOUNTAINS

These iconic peaks overlook Vancouver, British Columbia, and were given the name The Lions by John Hamilton Gray, a Father of Confederation. The local Squamish people know the peaks as *Ch'ich'iyúy Elxwíkn*, or the Twin Sisters.



### WHEAT FIELD

Stalks of wheat ripen on a family farm outside Regina, Saskatchewan. One of the most important cultivated crops in all of Canada, wheat is emblematic of the Prairie provinces of Western Canada, where the bulk of Canadian wheat is grown.



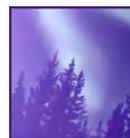
### FOREST, RIVER AND CANADIAN SHIELD

A forest stands on the bank of the Kipawa River, which ripples across the ancient rock of the Canadian Shield in *Parc national d'Opémican* in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of Quebec. The Shield covers 4.8 million square kilometres, roughly half the total land area of Canada.



### THE EAST COAST AT CAPE BONA VISTA

The Atlantic Ocean meets the rocky coast of Cape Bonavista in Canada's eastern-most province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Cape is a possible landing site of John Cabot, who sailed to North America in 1497.



### THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The northern lights dance above Canada's largest national park. Straddling the boundary between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, Wood Buffalo National Park is also the world's largest dark sky preserve and one of the most ideal places on Earth to see the northern lights.



### COAT OF ARMS

This coat of arms is an official symbol of Canada, representing the authority of the state and designed to inspire love of country.

### CANADIAN FLAG

The word "Canada" is included twice so that it can be read from both the front and back of the Canada 150 note.

### OWL'S BOUQUET BY KENOJUAK ASHEVAK

This stone-cut and stencil print is by acclaimed Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak (1927–2013), whose work helped introduce Inuit art to the world. Ashevak lived and worked in Cape Dorset, Nunavut, the last territory to join Confederation, in 1999.

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# COLLECTING

Steve Woodland



# DISCOVERING COIN SHOWS

I often speak with collectors (especially those new to the hobby) who tell me they have never been to a coin show.

Coin shows offer a cornucopia of things to see and do for anyone interested in collecting money. Here are some of the main reasons to attend a coin show.

## COMRADESHIP

Without a doubt, the most important benefit of attending a show is to meet others interested in the hobby as well as dealers and suppliers.

While you may occasionally encounter people who don't like talking about their collecting inter-



ests, there are quite a few that love speaking about them. If you show interest in their area of collecting, be prepared to embark on a passionate and illuminating discussion that may leave you overwhelmed

with information, tips, and ideas.

As you return to the various shows year after year, you will encounter many of the same enthusiasts. You might buy from them, sell to them, or trade with them, correspond with them, learn from them, and socialize with them. Most importantly, however, these people will become friends.

## THE BOURSE

Every collection has a "hole" to be filled or a piece that needs to be upgraded. Numismatic shows offer the best opportunity to add new or better items to your collection. The

## WHERE AND WHEN ARE THE COIN SHOWS?

Coin shows occur all across Canada throughout the year, with the spring, summer, and fall seasons, the latter being the most popular.

Finding a coin show in your area is as easy as contacting the local coin club, watching the newspaper, or going online.

One of the most comprehensive listings of coin shows in Canada can be found on the *Canadian Coin News* website at: <http://canadiancoinnews.com/events/>.

If a show exists in your area, you are sure to find it listed here.

bourse is a large room where many numismatic dealers set up tables or kiosks where they offer two key services: they display items for sale and they buy items you may wish to sell.

In addition to being a source of numismatic material, the dealers on the bourse floor are a wealth of information. Sit down and talk with them about your interests in money collecting. Look at what they have in their displays and ask questions to learn more about the hobby. Just remember to be polite and courteous; don't monopolize the dealers' time and always thank them for their time and assistance.

### EDUCATION

Many of the shows offer educational opportunities where subject matter experts give presentations, conduct workshops, and offer seminars on a wide variety of numismatic topics. These activities are an excellent chance to enhance your knowledge and skills. They also provide a forum for discussion, a time for questions, and the chance to exchange opinions on almost any numismatic subject.

The Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) and the Ontario Numismatic Association (ONA) annual conventions each offer educational seminars (two-



day and one-day respectively). Other shows have different offerings, including workshops on grading coins, talks on storing and protecting your collection, youth workshops, and more.

### EXHIBITS

Larger coin shows will also have a wide variety of numismatic exhibits where hobbyists create displays that highlight an area of numismatics that is of interest to them. These exhibits, particularly the ones that are competing for prizes, examine

specific numismatic topics and often include formal, professional-quality displays of coins, notes, tokens, and medals accompanied by detailed explanatory text.

Some collectors will also mount exhibits solely for informational and educational purposes. These non-competitive displays are less formal, but always offer the viewer the opportunity to see numismatic items they might not otherwise encounter and to learn about them. Such displays may even prompt a new avenue of collecting.

### SPECIALTY COLLECTOR MEETINGS

Numismatic shows are always a gathering point for collectors and "when they gather, they will have meetings." The wide variety of collecting interests in numismatics leads inevitably to a corresponding number of special-interest groups. Whether formal or informal, they will often use a coin show as a venue to meet and share information.

Whatever your numismatic interest may be, a group probably exists for it. If not, you can easily start



one. When you go to a show, just ask other attendees and they will enthusiastically point you in the right direction.

### YOUNG COLLECTORS

Young collectors are an important and essential part of the hobby.

Coin shows inevitably include special activities and events for young collectors. These often include: a “Kids’ Corner,” a youths-only auction, youths-only exhibit competition, special prizes, and much more.

Our budding hobbyists usually pay a reduced entrance fee (if they pay any at all) and they are welcomed with open arms and enthusiastic smiles. Parents are encouraged to bring their “future collectors” to shows so they can see and learn.

### AUCTION

Many, but not all, shows and conventions have a numismatic auction as part of their programme of activities.

## NUMISMATIC SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

Over the years, collectors have gathered to talk about niche areas of numismatics: some broad in nature, some a bit more esoteric; some serious, some social. Here are a few special-interest groups:

- Canadian Association of Token Collectors (CATC)
- Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC)
- Canadian Centennial Collectors Club (CCCC)
- Canadian Errors and Varieties Numismatic Association (CEVNA)
- Canadian Paper Money Society (CPMS)
- Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club (CTCCC)
- Hudson Bay Company Collectors Society (HBCCS)
- Medallion Arts Society of Canada (MASC)
- Military Payment Certificate (MPC) Collectors
- Newfoundland Numismatics Enthusiasts (NNE)
- Society of Bearded (SOB) Numismatists

Conducted by professional auction firms, they provide the opportunity to view and bid on rare and high-quality numismatic items. While online bidding is normally provided, every collector should see and feel the experience of live bidding from the auction floor. (Just remember: do not raise your hand while the bidding is in progress!)

These are only a few of the reasons why collectors, whether novice or experienced, to attend numismatic shows and conventions. You buy and sell, you see and learn, and most important of all, you meet and socialize with other collectors.

See you there! ❖



## AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Australia remembers those who have served twice a year, on Anzac Day (April 25) and on Remembrance Day (November 11).

Originally to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought at Gallipoli against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand to remember all Australians and New Zealanders “who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations” and “the contribution and suffering of all those who have served.”

This year, a coloured circulating commemorative 2-dollar coin was issued. It features a mosaic from inside the dome of the Australian War Memorial’s Hall of Memory.

A collector version with a “C” mint mark, for Canberra, is also available.

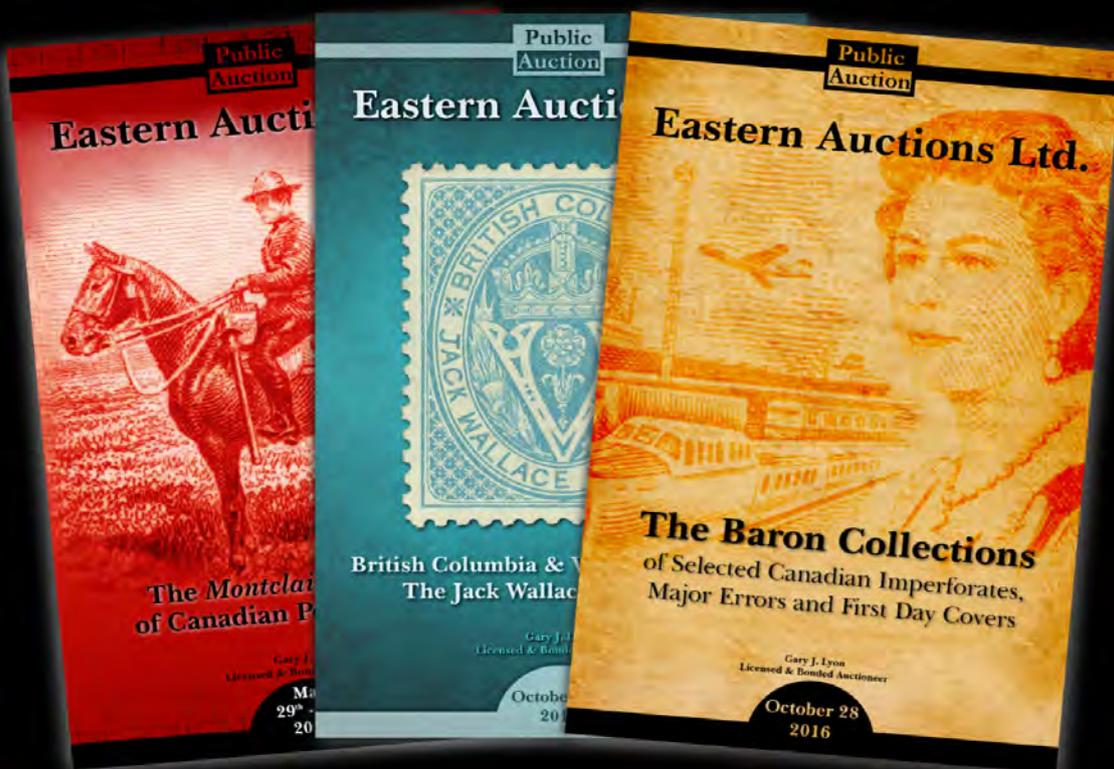
The Australian War Memorial’s Hall of Memory has also inspired a coloured collector 5-dollar coin.

The triangular coin honours the tireless devotion of service nurses.

For more information, consult the Royal Australian Mint’s website at [www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au).

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Serge Pelletier

In this article, we continue our overview of Canada's commemorative circulation coins.

# COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COINS

## 2001 – INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER

2001 was the International Year of the Volunteer. Canada chose to mark this event with a commemorative 10-cent coin. This denomination was chosen in reference to the March of Dimes, a US charity founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to defeat poliomyelitis, a disease he was suffering from. Today, the charity focuses on infant health, with the mission to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

The reverse design, by Stan Witten, features the portraits of three women, linked to a sun by a ribbon, which reads YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS (maple leaf) ANNÉE DES BÉNÉVOLES (maple leaf). The face value and the date were moved to the obverse for the occasion.

## 2002 – QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 50th anniversary of her reign in 2002. To mark this important milestone, the double date 1952–2002 was placed on the obverse of all circulation coins.

A one-year type 50-cent coin featuring special designs was struck for the occasion.

The obverse features a right-facing crowned portrait of a young Elizabeth II, the same portrait used on the 1953 medal marking her accession to the throne. The Queen's Canadian cypher appears in the field at 9 o'clock, behind her head.

The reverse features the current coat of arms of Canada with the double date 1952–2002 in the exergue and the denomination at 12 o'clock.

## 2002 – CANADA DAY

A 25-cent coin was issued in July 2002 to mark the 135th anniversary of Canada's Confederation.

The reverse, designed by Judith Chartier, depicts five people supporting a giant maple leaf. Five other people are featured on the leaf, which is decorated with confetti and garland. The design was chosen from the submissions received in the Millennium Challenge Contest.

## 2004–2010 – LEST WE FORGET

Since the beginning of the 21st century, many pieces have been issued to pay tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of the men and women of Canada's military.



The first of these pieces was issued in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Legion on Remembrance Day 2004.

The reverse features a large maple leaf overlaid with a coloured poppy, making this piece the first coloured circulation coin in the world.

The year 2005 marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. To mark the occasion, a 5-cent “Victory” coin was issued for circulation.

The “Victory” design had been used on 5-cent coins from 1943 to 1945. It features a torch, to represent sacrifice, overlaid on a “V” that represents both the “call to victory” and the value of the coin (i.e., the Roman numeral for 5). The double date 1945–2005 was used.

The Canadian Government also declared 2005 to be the Year of the Veteran. A 25-cent coin was issued to mark the occasion.

The reverse, designed by Elaine Globe, shows the portraits of veterans of two generations.



Another coin featuring a colourful poppy design was issued in 2008 to highlight the 90th anniversary of Armistice declared at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918, which marked the end of the First World War.

The Royal Canadian Navy celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010. A 1-dollar coin was issued to mark the event.

The reverse shows two sailors saluting a ship, a man representing the Navy of 1910 and a woman

## PIERRE DUGUA DE MONS

Pierre Dugua de Mons led the expedition to Saint-Croix Island.

In 1599, he went to New France to found a fur trading station at Tadoussac.

In 1603, King Henry IV granted Dugua the fur trade monopoly in North America and the post of “lieutenant general of North America,” to compensate for the cost of establishing a colony there.



that of 2010. The legend has an anchor at 12 o’clock between CANADA and DOLLAR, with NAVY 1910 ~ 2010 MARINE centred on 6 o’clock.

A 25-cent coin was also issued in 2010 to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The reverse depicts a soldier standing guard at the National War Memorial, *The Response*, flanked by red poppies with a maple leaf in the background.



## 2004–2010– LUCKY LOONIES

The story of the Lucky Loonies begins at the Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games in 2002. The Organizing Committee asks National Hockey League expert, Dan Craig, to look after the ice surface for the Games.

Craig sought the assistance of his Edmonton colleagues, including Trent Evans.

While preparing the ice, Evans noticed that there was no target, or aiming point, at centre ice to assist the referees when dropping the puck during the face-off.



Evans embedded a 1-dollar “loon” coin in the ice surface, which was later covered with a yellow dot. He kept the fact secret from everyone, but eventually told the members of the Canadian men’s and women’s hockey teams.

Both teams won the gold medal that year and the legend of the “Lucky Loonie” was born.

In 2004, the Royal Canadian Mint issued the first “Lucky Loonie” 1-dollar coin.

The coin is used to raise funds for the Canadian Olympic Association and to wish Canadian athletes “Good Luck” at both the summer and winter versions of the Games.

Hence a coin is issued every two years, each with a unique design. The “Lucky Loonie” is recognizable by the Canadian Olympic Association logo.



The first 25-cent coin promotes the fight against breast cancer. The second coloured circulation piece issued by the Royal Canadian Mint, it is adorned with the celebrated pink ribbon.



**2004 – SAINT CROIX ISLAND**

In 1604, the French attempted to establish the first permanent settlement in North America on St. Croix Island, near the mouth of the St. Croix River, which forms part of the international border between Maine and New Brunswick.

than a member of the royal family.

In 1905, the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta left the Northwest Territories to join Confederation. Two 25-cent coins were issued to commemorate these anniversaries.

The second 25-cent piece pays tribute to the Medal of Bravery, Canada’s third-highest award for bravery. It is awarded in recognition of “acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.”



The reverse, designed by Robert-Ralph Carmichael (who also designed the loon reverse), shows a large sailboat headed West (left).

The reverse of the Alberta coin, designed by Michelle Grant, shows an oil well and a sunset in the prairies.

Designed by Paulett Sapergia, the reverse design of the Saskatchewan coin features a bird sitting on a fence with a grain elevator in the background.



The 2-dollar marks the 10th anniversary of our Canadian “toonie” coin.

**2005 – TERRY FOX, ALBERTA, AND SASKATCHEWAN**

Some people are larger than life, either due to their incredible courage or because of the place they occupy in history.

A 1-dollar coin was issued in 2005 to honour Terry Fox. It depicts him running before a background of rocks and trees of the Canadian Shield. The design is based on a photograph taken by Gail Harvey.

**2006 – CANCER, BRAVERY, AND THE 2-DOLLAR COIN**

Three commemorative pieces were issued in 2006, two 25-cent coins and a 2-dollar one.

**2007–2010– VANCOUVER 2010**

In preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver, a program of fifteen 25-cent coins and a 1-dollar coin was implemented. These coins were issued between 2007 and 2010, with the 25-cent coins being issued in three separate groups.

This was the first Canadian circulation coin to feature a person other



The first 25-cent coin group comprises ten coins depicting the sports



of the Winter Olympics: biathlon, bobsled, curling, hockey, figure skating, speed skating, freestyle skiing, downhill skiing, Nordic skiing, and snowboarding. All these coins share the same obverse (i.e., Suzanna Blunt's bareheaded portrait of Queen Elizabeth II with the 2010 Winter Olympic Games logo in the field to the left).

The second group consists of two 25-cent coins dedicated to sports of the Winter Paralympic Games: wheelchair curling and sledge hockey. These coins feature the same obverse, but with the 2010 Winter

Paralympic Games logo to the left of the Queen's efi-  
gy.

The last set of coins depicts the three most important Canadian Winter Olympic moments as selected by Canadians in a survey conducted by the Royal Canadian Mint.

The three winning moments were: the gold medal by the Canadian men's hockey team in 2002, the gold medal by the Canadian women's

hockey team the same year, and the five medals won by Cindy Klassen at the Turin Olympics in 2006.

Two versions of each design were issued: one ordinary and one coloured.

The last piece in the series is a "lucky loon." However, it is not decorated with a loon; it features the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics logo. ❖



## COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COINS, PART 3

- 1 cent 2002 – Double-dated
- 5 cents 2002 – Double-dated
- 5 cents 2005 – Victory
- 10 cents 2001 – Year of the Volunteers
- 10 cents 2002 – Double-dated
- 25 cents 2002P – Double-dated
- 25 cents 2002P – Canada Day
- 25 cents 2004P – Poppy
- 25 cents 2004P – Sainte Croix Island
- 25 cents 2005P – Alberta
- 25 cents 2005P – Saskatchewan
- 25 cents 2005P – Veterans
- 25 cents 2006P – Breast cancer
- 5 cents 2006P – Medal of Bravery
- 25 cents 2007 – Curling
- 25 cents 2007 – Hockey
- 25 cents 2007 – Wheel-chair curling
- 25 cents 2007 – Biathlon
- 25 cents 2007 – Alpine skiing
- 25 cents 2008 – Snowboarding
- 25 cents 2008 – Figure skating
- 25 cents 2008 – Bobsled
- 25 cents 2008 – Acrobatic skiing
- 25 cents 2008 – Poppy
- 25 cents 2009 – Speed skatin
- 25 cents 2009 – Cross-country skiing
- 25 cents 2009 – Sledge hockey
- 25 cents 2009 – Men's hockey
- 25 cents 2009 – Men's hockey, coloured
- 25 cents 2009 – Women's hockey
- 25 cents 2009 – Women's hockey, coloured
- 25 cents 2009 – Cindy Klassen
- 25 cents 2009 – Cindy Klassen, coloured
- 25 cents 2010 – Remembrance Day

# JEAN PAUL GAULTIER'S FRANCE

Since 2010, the Monnaie de Paris (French Mint) has been issuing at-par coin series. At-par coins are those collector coins that are sold at their face value, like the so-called "\$20 for \$20" issued by the Royal Canadian Mint.



The 2017 series depicts France as seen through the creative eye of Jean-Paul Gaultier, "fashion's terrible child."

Gaultier's fashion "trademarks" are the marinière and the corset, which have both a significant presence in the design of these coins.

The series is composed of twenty-four silver 10-euro coins, two uncoloured silver 50-euro coins, two coloured silver 50-euro coins, and a gold 200-euro coin to be issued in two waves.

The 10-euro coins of the first wave are:

## PARIS THE CAPITAL

The first 10-euro coin pays homage to Paris. It features a French Cancan dancer with, in the background, the outline of the Moulin Rouge. This is a tribute to Paris's shows and nights.



## VOLCANIC AUVERGNE

The major industry in the Auvergne is tire production. This is why this coin shows a woman posing with a foot on a tire. In the background, we can see on the left-hand side the Clermont-Ferrand cathedral, and on the right-hand side the Garabit Viaduct and a volcano.



## CHAMPAGNE THE BUBBLY

The Subé Fountain in Reims represents the Champagne region. Dressed with a corset, it is surrounded by bunches of grapes, which symbolize the wine agriculture that is the pride of this region.



## LYON THE BRIGHT

The city of Lyon and its textile history are honoured on this fourth 10-euro coin. In the foreground, we can see a shirtless man weaving...



his own marinière! It is coming out already sewed from the loom. In the background, we can see an outline of the Basilique de Fourvière.



#### CORSICA

This coin presents a feminine version of the commemorative monument of Napoleon I<sup>st</sup> in Ajaccio, Corsica. Dressed in a military outfit, the woman is going down from the pedestal of the Statue that has been extended by a fashion parade podium.

#### ORLÉANS THE VICTORIOUS

The centre area of France and its history are honoured on this coin. It

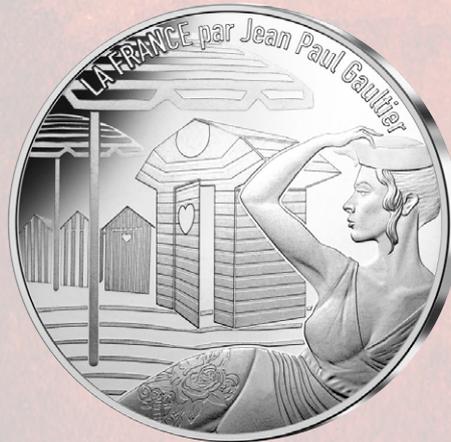


presents Joan of Arc dressed with a corset inspired from Jean Paul Gaultier's collections. Her horse is wearing a marinière. In the background we can see Orléans's Cathedral. This scene is a reference to the siege of Orléans (1428–1429) during the Hundred Year War. Joan of Arc freed the town from the English.



#### RADIANT PROVENCE

A seated sailor wearing a marinière is in front of the Basilique Notre-Dame de la Garde, symbolic of Marseille and Provence. We can also see a sailboat like the ones that can be found in Marseille's Old Port or on the Mediterranean Sea.



#### INSPIRING NORMANDY

On this coin, we can see a woman lying in front of a line of beach cabins. This scene is a reference to Normandy and to its emblematic beach cabins. One of them has transformed into a marinière.



#### BRITTANY THE FISHY

Jean Paul Gaultier is taking us to Brittany where we take part in a fishing scene. The fisherwoman is dressed with a very fashionable outfit and we can see in the background a lighthouse wearing a marinière.

#### EUSKAL HERRIA (THE BASQUE COUNTRY)

Two men are having an arm-wrestling match. On the left-hand



#### LA MARINIÈRE

A marinière is a knitted sweater with horizontal blue and white lines.

First a garment of the French navy, Coco Chanel introduced it to fashion during the First World War. Jean-Paul Gaultier made it his signature in the 1980s.



side, the man is a Basque pelota player, dressed with a marinière. His pelota basket and his tattoo claim his belonging to the Basque Country. On the other side, a surfer is fighting. The wave behind him is a strong reference to the sport that is widely practiced on the Basque coast.



ing on the Pont du Gard. In the background, we can see a view of the Nîmes arenas, a strong reference to the Languedoc area in the south of France.

The first two silver 50-euro coins are dedicated to France's national day and one of Gaultier's trademarks.



proudly wearing a marinière, his comb and feathers are coloured with France's colours: blue, white, and red. In the background, we can see an outline of France.



**DANCING ROUSSILLON**

A couple is dancing the *raditi*, one of the traditional Mediterranean dances. In the background, we can see the outline of Perpignan's Castillet, the city centre of Narbonne and the ramparts of Carcassonne. The dancer is wearing the traditional costume and marinière. The woman wears a dress inspired from one of Gaultier's creation with conical breast.

**ENCHANTING LANGUEDOC**

This coin presents a couple wearing Jean Paul Gaultier outfits danc-



**14TH OF JULY**

This coin presents a hen and a rooster at the 14th of July ball, dancing under the Eiffel Tower. One of France's major symbols, the rooster, is wearing a marinière while his girlfriend, the hen is wearing a corset.

**THE MARINIÈRE ROOSTER**

The rooster is presented in a coloured version. He is

**FRANCE**

The gold 200-euro salutes France through a tattoo designed by Gaultier, which bears the Republic's motto: liberty, equality, fraternity.

For more information on this series consult de Monnaie's website at [www.monnaie.deparis.fr](http://www.monnaie.deparis.fr).



# A NUMISMATIC TOOL KIT

Last issue, we looked at building a reference library of key numismatic books every collector should have. We also reviewed some ways of documenting your collection. In this article, we will discuss some of the key tools and supplies you will need to enjoy viewing and studying your collection.



**Magnifier.** A quality magnifier enables you to examine your coins, tokens, and notes more closely, allowing you to see the fine detail of the artwork and to detect any flaws. For the best viewing experience, be sure the magnifier has a glass lens, which offers a clearer view and is much more resistant to scratching than an acrylic or plastic lens. Magnifiers are avail-

able in a wide variety of styles, so shop around at coin stores and shows trying different ones to find one that meets your needs. Expect to spend about \$20-\$30 for a good 5X magnifier from a reputable manufacturer.



To examine your items in more detail, a high quality 10X loupe is needed. A loupe has higher optical quality than a magnifier, providing a crystal clear and sharp image across the field of view, with no trace of chromatic aberration near the edge. Loupes with two or more lenses are also available, offering the versatility of using the lenses individually or in combination for different magnification ratios. Expect to pay \$30-\$60 for a quality loupe. Like magnifiers, examine several loupes before you buy to ensure it meets your needs.

**Light source.** Proper examination of your coins, tokens, and notes requires good lighting. Ideally, you need a source that is similar

to daylight. This enables you to see the item as if you were viewing it in natural sunlight. While a 100-watt tungsten-filament bulb has been the standard used by numismatists for years, the newer compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and light-emitting diodes (LED) bulbs are alternatives that are highly energy efficient and are much cooler. Note that the CFL and LED bulbs are available in two temperature variants: “cool” (bright blue-white light) and “warm” (more natural yellow light). Halogen bulbs are not recommended because of their high heat and light intensity, which can tire your eyes very quickly. If possible, get a light on a flexible or pivoting arm that allows you to direct the light where it is needed. A desktop light with a swing arm and a “warm” LED bulb will cost from \$50 up to \$200.

**Gloves.** Gloves are really only required when handling uncirculated coins or very expensive coins. Clean, white cotton gloves will pre-





vent

any oil or other substance on your fingers from potentially damaging your coin, token, or note. For example, if you just bought an unopened roll of coins in search of a high-grade Mint State piece, cotton gloves are highly recommended. Latex or non-allergenic medical gloves are an option, but your hands get very sweaty in them.

**Desk cover.** One can never be too careful when examining coins, so it is highly recommended to cover your work area with a soft cloth. Despite your best efforts, coins will occasionally slip from your fingers or out of a holder, so you need a soft surface on which they can fall. A note of caution: be careful what fabric you choose as some contain dyes or other chemicals that may affect your coin (e.g., velvet and some “jewellery polishing cloths”). A thick, un-

coloured fabric such as terrycloth or a hand towel is ideal.

**Caliper.** A caliper allows you to measure the diameter and thickness of coins and tokens accurately. Available in both analogue (mechanical) and digital (electronic) versions, they are simple and easy to use; just make sure your caliper can accommodate the di-



## WHY WOULD I NEED THESE TOOLS?

Some tools are essential to a collector to avoid disappointment.

Two that are also very portable are a magnet and a scale. Both can help to detect counterfeits or find treasures in your change.

Here's how:

• **Buyer beware.** A buyer got a “deal” on a raw (ungraded) 1921 5-cent coin; a price way below Trends. The coin looked fine, so the price was paid. Sadly, the coin was made of a ferrous alloy plated in silver. If the buyer had used a magnet, the counterfeit could have been detected. A scale would also have indicated the coin's incorrect weight.

### • Know your coins:

When Canada's 1-cent

coin was eliminated, a civic-minded young collector asked friends to help gather “pennies” for charity. Our entrepreneur then used a magnet to detect magnetic 2006 pieces and non-magnetic 2006P coins. These valuable pieces he sold to a local dealer and gave the proceeds to the charity.

ameter of all the pieces you collect (e.g., medal collectors

may need a larger one than a coin collector).

Accuracy typically varies between 0.01 and 0.05 mm.

The data provided by the caliper allows you to compare your item against the specifications in a numismatic reference to determine authenticity. Prices for an electronic caliper vary from \$30-\$60.

**Precision scale.** A precision scale allows a collector to verify with great accuracy the mass of a coin, token,

or medal. Used in combination with the measurement data from a caliper, the chances of detecting counterfeit pieces are increased significantly. Unless you are a collector of large, heavy

medals, an elec-

tronic mini-

scale with a

maximum capacity of

100 or 200 g

is more than adequate.

These scales

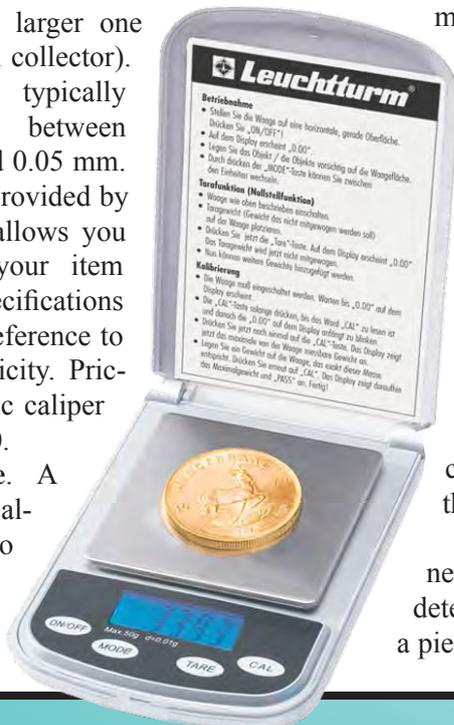
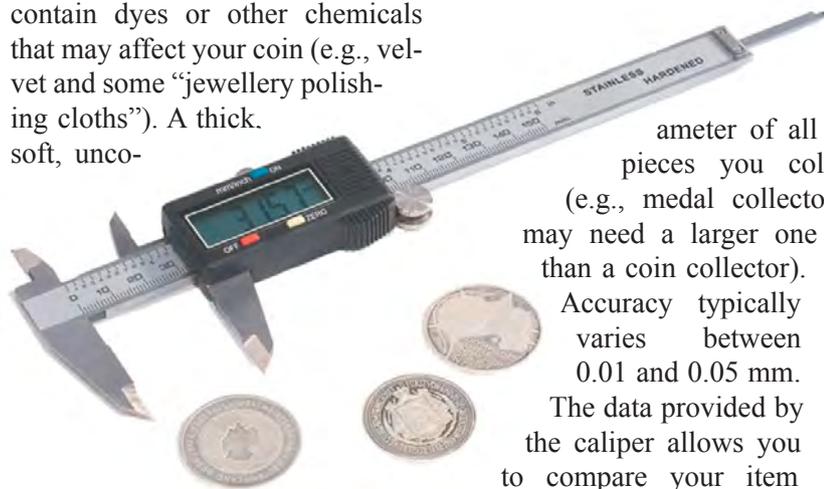
will typically

be accurate to +/- 0.01 g

and can be purchased for less

than \$30.

**Magnet.** Magnets are used to determine whether a piece contains fer-





## WHERE CAN I BUY TOOLS AND SUPPLIES?

There are many places you can pick up supplies and tools to help you manage, examine, track, protect, and display your numismatic collection.

- **Numismatic Dealers** – Dealers who have “bricks and mortar” stores sell supplies for storing/protecting your collection and some of the common tools. Few will have all the items mentioned in the article.
- **Numismatic Shows** – Numismatic shows offer the best selection of tools you can examine and try to see what fits your needs.
- **Online** – Many numismatic supply stores have an online presence. As well, you can also go to each manufacturer’s website. One of the best online sources of tools and supplies for collectors both money and stamps is Trajan’s store at <https://coinstampsupplies.com/>. Remember, do your research and examine each item before you buy to ensure you get what you need to care for and to enjoy your collection.

COIN  STAMP  
SUPPLIES  
[coinstampsupplies.com](https://coinstampsupplies.com)

rous material, typically iron, steel, and nickel. Using a magnet to test coins must be done carefully to avoid scratching the coin; therefore, a powerful rare-earth magnet is not recommended. A simple fridge magnet works well. Ideally, the magnet should be covered with a layer of adhesive tape as a protective measure.

**UV light.** An ultraviolet light often reveals hidden text and images that form part of the security features of bank notes, certificates and other valuable papers. Being able to see these features allows you to verify the authenticity of an item very quickly. Bank tellers and shop keepers use UV lights to validate large-denomination notes as an anti-counterfeit measure. Even some of our coloured 25-cent coins have a UV protective layer! Battery-operated hand-held models are available for around \$20 and desktop (110v AC) models designed specifi-

cally for bank notes are available in the \$50-\$100 range.

**Microscope.** Highly useful to the dedicated numismatist or numismatic researcher who wishes to examine items in minute detail, a microscope (particularly one digital camera equipped) can be an invaluable tool. A lower magnification (say 20X) produces a larger field of view and is ideal for viewing coins and bank notes. Higher magnification (40X or 60X) is better for close-ups and more detailed examination such as viewing hub-doubling in coins and repairs in bank notes. The advantages of a microscope with a digital camera are the ability to view the image on a screen (much easier than looking through the eyepiece) and the ability to save a digital picture. Microscopes are available in the price range of \$125 to \$500.

There you have it – a starter list of items for your “numismatic tool kit”. Undoubtedly, you will add to this list as your collection grows and your interest in numismatics increases.

If you have any suggestions for additional items for a tool kit, please let us know at [editor@nummuscanada.ca](mailto:editor@nummuscanada.ca). ❖



# Relic of long-forgotten expeditions

Bank note collectors view short snorters as damaged notes that are of little interest. A few of these notes were signed by well-known individuals, but most were signed by ordinary soldiers or civilians.

Short snorter collectors agree the best of these autographed notes are those that help to tell something about the individuals and the experiences of those who signed them.

I recently encountered a note that may be the only known short snorter from a long forgotten Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force forage into Russia. The mission was also supported by U.S. and other allied army units during the Russian Civil War that followed the Russian Revolution of 1917.



The note is a 1919 20-kopeck issued by the Chaikovskii Government in North Russia. This short snorter bank note is signed by two individuals, the first message reading “Souvenir [sic]

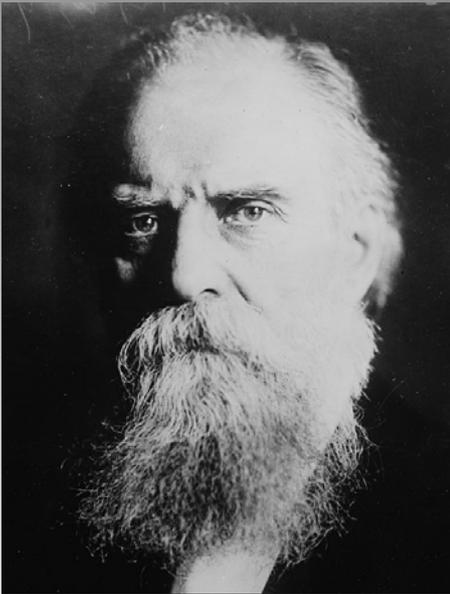
Ruski, to Ralph Sheeley from W.P. Armstrong,” while the other graffiti reads “1918 Rennes France.”

#### THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA

Nikolai Vasilyevich Tchaikovsky (or Chaikovskii) was born on his mother’s estate in Vyatka in 1851 and died in Harrow, England in 1926. An aristocrat, Tchaikovsky

#### SHORT SNORTER

Any type of bank note signed by members of a unit, squad, group or aircrew, often dated, with a location stated for souvenir or memorabilia purpose.



**Nikolai Tchaikovsky**

earned a degree in chemistry at St. Petersburg University in 1872 at a time when only the wealthy attended university.

While at university Tchaikovsky joined a radical revolutionary socialist student group that became known as the Circle of Tchaikovsky. Their ideas formed what became the Narodnick movement. The Narodnick movement

believed political propaganda among the peasantry would lead to an awakening that in turn would liberalize Russia's despotic czarist regime.

Tchaikovsky was arrested twice. He disassociated himself from the Narodnick movement once the group evolved into a revolutionary terrorist organization and joined a social-religious group.

Tchaikovsky helped found a communistic commune at Cedar Vale near Wichita, Kansas in 1875. The commune failed, with Tchaikovsky concluding communist life did not work and that he should return to the "old world of antagonism." He returned to Europe in 1879.

During the First World War Tchaikovsky was elected as a member of the Council of Soldiers, Workmen, and Peasants, as well as a member of the Constituent Assembly in what became Petrograd following the Revolution of 1917.

On August 2, 1918, Tchaikovsky became president of the Supreme Administrative Board of the North

Region following a *coup d'état* in Archangel. He organized the Provisional [Chaikovskii] Government of the North Region later in 1918 following a failed conspiracy by monarchist officers. It was during this time this was issued.

### **THE EXPEDITIONS**

The Canadian Siberian Expedition and the "Polar Bear Expedition" (American North Russian Expedition) were part of the Allied intervention in Russia prompted by the fall of the czarist government in 1917. The Allied intervention was meant to assist the Czechoslovak Legions, secure munitions and armaments in Russian ports, and re-establish the Eastern Front. The expedition failed, a lack of coordination between the foreign forces coupled with a lack of public support proved to be the undoing of the effort.

The U.S. supplied about 5,000 troops to the Allied force supporting the assemblage of White armies between 1918 and 1919. The U.S.



**Canadian Siberian Expedition Force, May 1919**



**Canadian gunner supervises prisoners loading a barge at Yemetskoe**

troops lost 235 soldiers counting all causes of death including those deaths attributed to the barbaric climate of Siberia.

**W. P. ARMSTRONG**

William P. Armstrong had been affiliated with the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association for about 10 years. With the advent of the First World War Armstrong saw an opportunity to promote his ideals

along athletic lines within the U.S. Army.

Armstrong was first a boxing instructor of the army gymnastic staff in Valcartier training camp in Quebec, later being commissioned as a boxing instructor at Camp Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1918. He was one of 20 boxing instructors, with between 200 and 300 assistant boxing instructors being spread throughout the U.S. Army.

According to an article published in the June 9, 1918, issue of *The New York Times*, “There is a distinct relation between the art of boxing and bayonet work, and while stationed at Camp Hancock [near Augusta, Georgia] Mr. Armstrong successfully promoted boxing as a necessary adjunct to bayonet practice.”

The “Interventionists” as they were known in Soviet history are not entirely forgotten today. There is a Polar Bear Memorial Association in Detroit that honours the 339th Infantry Regiment, First Battalion of the 310th Engineers, 337th Ambulance Company, and the 337th Field Hospital of the U.S. Army's 85th Division, all of whom served in the Polar Bear Expedition.

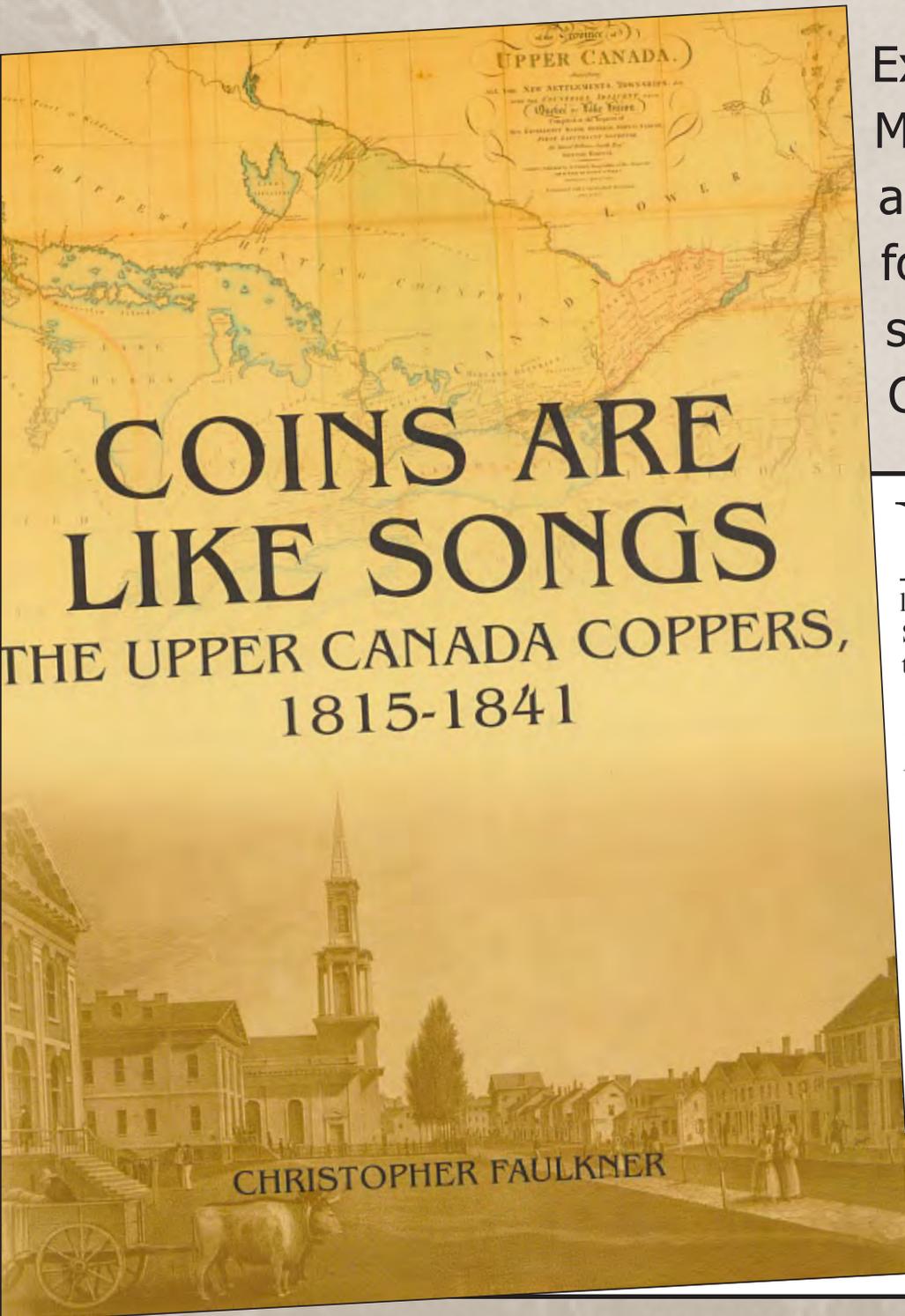
This short snorter may be the only numismatic link between the U.S. involvement and the Tchaikovsky government. ❖



**Northern Russian Expedition**

# 'COINS ARE LIKE SONGS':

Exploring John MacTaggart's ambition for British sentiments on Canadian coinage



Numismatic researcher and author Christopher Faulkner is slated to host a formal launch of his latest book at the Spring 2017 Toronto Coin Expo this June.

His new book, *Coins Are Like Songs: The Upper Canada Coppers, 1815-1841*, begins by establishing the various historical contexts in which the Upper Canada coppers [copper tokens] were issued and circulated. The book's second portion offers an extended, descriptive catalogue of the various copper tokens known to have been issued for use in Upper Canada between 1815, which saw the conclusion of the War of 1812, and 1841, which was the year the Province of Canada was formed. Separate chapters are devoted to the Lesslie tokens; the Brock coppers; the Sloop tokens; as well

as other miscellaneous issues, and each chapter has an introduction to further address the historical contexts in which the tokens were issued.

“I have tremendous respect for early numismatists. They didn’t make many mistakes or leave much out, so I think what we can do now is build on what they did and follow some of the avenues of research that they might have explored,” said Faulkner, who added his upcoming book launch will include a presentation and a question-and-answer session.

“We can look back now and use their work as a springboard, which is what I did when I wrote this book.”

### ‘COINS ARE LIKE SONGS’

Faulkner said his new book owes its title to a comment from John MacTaggart, who worked on the construction of the Rideau Canal from 1826, when he was appointed Clerk of the Works, until 1828.

In MacTaggart’s 1829 book, *Three Years in Canada: An Account of the Actual State of the Country in 1826-7-8*, the civil engineer lists, among the various money circulating in Canada, “silver coins having eagles, stars, and emblems of liberty stamped upon them.” He then writes “the very coins of a realm, like the songs, affect its character.”

“The emblems on the current coins of Canada help to make Yankees of the Colonists. At the same time, it would be difficult to establish a Canadian mint; the Americans must coin for us there, so much the more pity.”

According to Faulkner, the labourers who worked on the Rideau Canal were paid one U.S. 50-cent coin for each day of work, and of course, these coins expressed U.S.



sentiments – “eagles” and “stars” – rather than British sentiments.

“He wanted to make the case we should have coins to express British sentiments,” said Faulkner, who added the coins in circulation in Upper Canada were foreign at this time.

### FULFILLING MACTAGGERT’S AMBITION

There’s another reason coins can be likened to popular song, said Faulkner, who’s also the author of the award-winning 2012 book,

*The Holey Dollars and Dumps of Prince Edward Island.*

“Coins are like songs because they pass from hand to hand and carry meaning, and the tokens used in Upper Canada have devices on them, like ploughs, which speak to the kinds of pioneer labour that drove the economy of Upper Canada before industrialization.

“These tokens do in a way fulfill MacTaggart’s ambition by carrying the music that gave people’s



lives meaning and speaking to their particular attachment to Upper Canada.”

Faulkner said one token in particular—the No Labour No Bread halfpenny token (Breton 1010) issued between 1830 and 1837—fulfills MacTaggart’s ambition.

“It has on one side ‘Speed the Plough,’ which is hope for fertile soil and a good crop, but it’s also the name of an extremely popular dance tune brought to Upper Canada by Scottish, Irish, and English settlers, and would’ve been played widely on fiddles at country dances and so on,” he said. “So here’s a token that carried on its popular music of the day, enshrined the notion that coins are like songs almost in a literal way, and passed hand to hand in Upper Canada.”

#### FIRST STUDY IN A CENTURY

Faulkner’s new book is the first study in more than a century to be devoted to the copper tokens

of Upper Canada. The previous study, *The Copper Tokens of Upper Canada*, was completed by R.W. McLaughlin in 1916.

Published by American Numismatic Association, the book is “much more like a long article, and it’s almost entirely a catalogue of the tokens,” said Faulkner, who added McLaughlin was interested in the “most straightforward cataloguing of the varieties of the Upper Canada tokens, so he wasn’t very much interested in things like die axes, whether the edges were plain or reeded, and he certainly wasn’t interested in die states, so what I tried to do is follow up on that.”

#### RESEARCHER, NUMISMATIST

Faulkner, who’s also the current chair of the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation, said he’s “very much interested in the contexts in which coins or tokens were produced and circulat-

ed,” adding he studies the “larger circumstances that led to production and circulation, and amongst whom they circulated, and what needs they served.”

It’s these historical contexts that pique Faulkner’s interest in the coppers of Upper Canada and numismatics in general.

“There are many kinds of history,” he said. “Economic history and political history form some part of the book because I’m interested in wages and prices and what a handful of tokens might have bought you in Upper Canada, but I’m more interested in social history.”

The book was published by Spink of London with financial support from the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation. “It’s selling very well,” said Faulkner, indicating the book can be purchased through Svetolik Kovacevic, owner of the Toronto-based Ancient Numismatics Enterprise (ANE). Faulkner added that early comments regarding the book have been “very complimentary.”

For more information, visit [jdfergusonfoundation.ca/books.php](http://jdfergusonfoundation.ca/books.php) ❖

### J. DOUGLAS FERGUSON AWARD

In 2013, author Christopher Faulkner was honoured with the J. Douglas Ferguson Award for distinguished service to Canadian numismatics – the highest honour in Canadian numismatics.

# WHAT IS THE “TRUE GRADE”?

*Editor's note: The grade of a coin has significant impact on its value. In this initial article, André Langlois offers an overview of the issues that can arise when grading coins.*

The “grade” is the alphanumeric designation (e.g., AU-50) assigned to a coin as a function of its overall condition as compared to a perfect coin. The meanings of these designations are usually reduced to a structured series of words such as: poor, good, very good, fine, very fine, about uncirculated, and uncirculated (or mint state). Modifiers, such as light (or heavy) bag marks, scratches, cleaned, etc., may be added to describe the piece more accurately. For high-grade pieces, a comment on the amount of original lustre may also be included (e.g., 80% Red for a copper coin).

All numismatic catalogues that provide values for coins do so according to an established grading system. The grade of a coin can have a significant influence on value (for an older piece, a high-grade coin may be worth 200 times that of a low-grade coin).

It is simply a matter of supply and demand. Coins in the best condition are harder to find while well-circulated pieces can be commonplace, even “old” ones. Beautiful, high-grade coins are also more attractive than well-worn and scratched ones. As a result, the value of coins increases with the increasing grade, sometimes exponentially. Of course, this applies more to older coins (say before 1955). At that point, coin collecting became much more popular and collectors began searching out high-grade pieces for their collections. This led to a greater number of beautiful, uncirculated coins being available today. What follows is more relevant to these slightly older coins.

While the value of a coin depends on its grade, rarity can have an even greater impact. Compare the price of a 1925 5-cent coin in VG-8 (\$5000) with that of a

5-cent coin in MS-63 from 1931 (\$900), 1933 (\$1000) or 1934 (\$850).

Human nature being what it is, the seller of a coin tends to over-estimate the value of a coin, while the buyer does the opposite. Therefore, whether you are a buyer or a seller, it is essential to be able to grade a coin accurately to determine its correct value.

To accomplish this, collectors have two choices: learn how to grade coins themselves or rely on the opinion of an expert. While a numismatic dealer may be more or less objective, when expensive high-grade coins are involved, the opinion of a professional third party is always recommended; preferably someone whose competence is recognized.

This is how the third-party grading services emerged, providing a professional opinion on a coin's grade and authenticity. This is usually in the form of a

## GRADES FOR CIRCULATED COINS

certificate encapsulated with the coin. These companies have responded to market need, offering a level of protection to both buyer and seller. No form of protection, however, is absolute; if counterfeiters can alter or imitate a coin, they can do the same for its certification.

The key word here is: opinion. Collectors are likely to develop their individual perception of grading, based on their accumulated experiences. The grading abilities of even the best experts are subject to fluctuations due to tiredness, interest, moods, and so on. Moreover, the level of expertise of individual graders will vary with the type of piece, the period, the importance they attach to a particular criterion, and so on. In the end, all that will be obtained from the evaluator is an opinion, albeit one that is enhanced by experience and professional standards. As a result, the same coin can, and likely will, be graded differently by different graders. The same grader may also offer a different grade when evaluating the same coin at a later time. So, one might ask (and I have heard it more than once): what is the “true grade”?

Assessing the grade of a coin is not an exact science, but rather a matter of informed opinion and consensus. Intuitively, if most experts agree on a grade, then that’s the right one, precisely for that reason. Let’s imagine we have 20 coin-grading experts to whom we show a coin and ask them to write their opinion of the coin’s grade on a piece of paper. We eliminate the top two grades and the lowest two grades and average the remaining 16 evaluations. The result is closest approximation of the concept of a “true grade”: the one with which most people will

G-4 (Good) – Considerable wear; only major features showing; 80% of rim and legend visible.

VG-8 (Very Good) – Rims and legend well worn, but clear; details of major features just visible; fine details worn flat.

F-12 (Fine) – Rims and legend still strong, but wear is evident; most features worn, but visible except on high points; fine details may be weak or missing.

VF-20 (Very Fine) – Rim and legend strong and clear; moderate wear over entire coin, loss of sharpness; fine details missing on high points and exposed areas; no trace of original lustre remains.

EF-40 (Extra Fine) – Slight wear, mostly visible only on higher points, but generally sharp and clear; some original lustre (<30%) remains, usually inside lettering.

AU-50 (About Uncirculated) – Slight traces of wear barely detectable on some higher points; half the original lustre remains, usually within lettering and around portrait (“halo” effect).

AU-58 (Gem AU) – The slightest trace of wear is only barely detectable; nearly all original lustre remains.



agree. This is the grade that will determine the coin’s attraction and hence, the demand for that piece.

One of the most effective ways to learn how to assess a coin’s grade is simply to visit as many coin dealers as you can and examine as many coins of the same type as you can at each location. Looking costs you nothing! Visit more than once, go back, examine, question, and learn. This exercise will allow you to form your own opinions on grading, and also on the merchants themselves (e.g., do

they deviate too often from the average opinion of others?).

To recognize what differentiates one grade from another, look at a few tens of pieces of each grade (for the same type of coin, of course). This will give you a very good understanding. At the same time, you will learn to recognize the natural peculiarities of each type: the surface, the strike, lustre, points of wear, etc. This will reduce your reliance on third-party grading and increase your effectiveness as a collector and investor. ❖

# PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR COLLECTION

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Photos of items in your collection are very useful. They can be used for insurance, to put an article up for sale on the Web, to illustrate a document, or simply to allow you to see the item's details more clearly.

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Over the years, I have gained a lot of experience in numismatic photography. However, it was only recently that I discovered an easy and quick method of taking good photos of numismatic items.

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#### **WHAT IS A “GOOD” PHOTO?**

First, what do we mean by a “good” photo of a coin? Evaluating the quality of the picture is a very subjective matter, so I will offer some suggestions for a technical evaluation.

A good photo is one that is well exposed (not too dark and not too light) and has a good depth of field. In other words, despite the relief of a coin or medal, all details are in focus.

For example, the details of George V’s crown and the marks in the field are all clear and sharp. To obtain this result, all that is required is to zoom in on the details and check that everything remains clear and sharp as you zoom.

#### **THE SCOURGE OF VIBRATION**

I used compact cameras for nearly 12 years before getting the camera I own today. While these gave me good results, I still had a fundamental problem: how to eliminate vibration to capture the coin’s details with sharpness and clarity.

Because you have to physically touch the camera and press the trigger firmly to take a photo, this problem was inevitable with these types of devices. Even using the auto-trigger function, the problem is the same. This because the focus is done at the moment you touch the camera to activate the auto-trigger.

It is incredible to see how a small vibration can make such a big difference. With a little luck, especially after several attempts and a lot of time, it is sometimes possible to get a photo

#### **DEPTH OF FIELD**

The depth of field is the front-to-back zone in an image that appears sharply in focus. It varies according to sensor size, aperture, and lens focal length.

The control is relatively simple: as the aperture is made smaller, the light takes longer to arrive at the sensor, and the depth of field increases.

Consequently, when photographing a room, it is better to use a small aperture opening (e.g., *f*22) rather than a large one (e.g., *f*2.8).

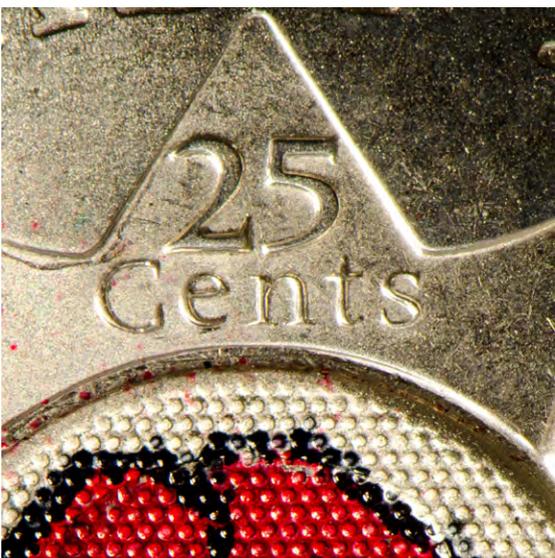
Hint: When photographing coins, always remember to focus on the highest points of the relief.



**Figure 1. Photo taken without attenuation of mirror movement.**



**Figure 2. Photo taken with "2 clicks" that attenuate mirror movement.**



**Figure 2A. Details, 2004 Canada 25 cents (25X magnification).**

that is not only clear and sharp, but also that allows you to get the details (e.g., an error). This is often achieved by taking a photo with a wider field of view than needed.

#### **HOW DO I ELIMINATE VIBRATION?**

First, a good tripod, one that is solid and stable, will help a lot.

I remember building a small wooden stand that was not very stable to hold my first camera (a Canon PowerShot). I then bought a cheap aluminum tripod, but it didn't offer any more stability. Finally, I bought a professional tripod (Manfrotto 190XB) with a pivoting head (Manfrotto 486RC2). Much better!

Second, do not touch the camera while taking a picture. My solution was to get a digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera with a remote trigger.

#### **DIGITAL SINGLE-LENS REFLEX CAMERA**

I bought a Nikon D7000 with a Nikkor 105 mm macro lens. Now I could take pictures using an infrared remote trigger... without touching the camera.

The results were much better, but not perfect. There were still vibrations. Where did they come from? From the inside of the camera! Let me explain. A DSLR camera displays the image, as seen through lens, in the viewfinder. As the shutter opens, the mirror lifts rapidly out of the way to allow the light to hit the sensor. The vibrations originate from the movement of this mirror.

However, after studying my user manual, I found a function that allows a photo to be taken in two steps (i.e., 2 clicks): first click, the mirror rises; second click, after a pause of a few seconds to attenuate the vibrations caused by the movement of the mirror, the shutter releases to take the photo. Finally, no vibrations!! But at what cost? In my case, several thousand dollars.

The images shown in Figures 1 and 2 are pictures taken under the same conditions. The first one was taken in the usual way, while the second used the "2-click" method. Notice the impact of vibrations from the mirror movement on the clarity and sharpness of the photo.

This technique easily allowed me to achieve magnifications of more than 25X (Fig. 2A) because the size of the sensor and the number of pixels enabled me to zoom in as never before.

However, when you touch the camera, the tripod or the surface the coin is on, the vibrations return.

The problem remains: how to minimize the vibrations to get a perfect photo?

#### **CELL PHONE**

The purchase of my last cell phone (an LG-G4) was greatly influenced by the quality of the photos it takes. Without a doubt, this phone takes excellent pictures.

I recently decided to use it to take pictures of numismatic items for sale on the Web. What a surprise! I easily got high quality, accurate photos that I was able to post quickly on the Web.

Taking pictures of coins with a cell phone is more than just picking up a phone and clicking a button. Some thought and preparation are required. Here is my recipe for top results.

First, the phone must be kept completely still. Since my phone has a curved case, I use wedges cut from a white eraser to completely immobilize it (Fig. 3).



**Figure 3. Small eraser wedges to immobilize the phone.**

Secondly, adjust the phone's height to maximize the size of the object in the screen while remaining clear. With larger coins, such as a silver dollar, you will be able to fill the screen and remain in focus. However, with small coins, like a 10-cent piece, this may not be possible.

For my phone, the minimum focal length is about 75 mm (3 in.). The picture in Figure 4 is blurred because the 1-cent coin was a little too close to the lens (about 10 mm). After finding the right distance I got the clear and sharp picture in Figure 5. When taking pictures with your phone, take the time to find this minimum focal length.

To place your phone at the right height, the choice is up to you. You can use books, pieces of wood, or whatever objects are at hand. There is no need for a special stand or holder.

As shown in Figure 6, I adjust the height with small wooden boxes that I found at a local "dollar" store and painted black. I like to use a folding table (Fig. 7) that allows me to adjust the work surface to 56 cm (22 in.) a better height than my worktable which is 78 cm (31 in.) high. The folding table is 61 × 122 cm (2 ft. × 4 ft.), which is especially useful when I have several items to photograph.

Third, you need a movable light source, such as a swivel-arm desk lamp. These are available for as little as \$30 (Fig. 8). This type of lamp allows you



**Figure 4. Photo not in focus (fuzzy).**



**Figure 5. Photo in focus (clear and sharp).**



**Figure 6. Setup with CFL lamp and boxes for height adjustment.**



**Figure 7. Setup with height adjustable table and boxes.**



**Figure 8. Setup with swing-arm lamp.**



**Figure 9. Well-placed light to avoid reflections.**



**Figure 10. Poorly-placed light with undesirable reflections.**

to adjust the light easily for best illumination and to eliminate or minimize unwanted reflections (Figs. 9 and 10). This is especially important when photographing certified coins or bank notes that are enclosed in clear plastic holders.

For the best lighting results, you will need a lamp with a “cool” (around 5000K) compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb with a power rating of at least 40W (This is equivalent to a standard 150W tungsten bulb). I recommend these bulbs for several reasons:

- They simulate daylight very well and reduce colour adjustments. If you use a manual mode for white control, you only need to adjust your camera setting to “cloudy.”
- They generate very little heat, a definite advantage when you have to examine or photograph items over long periods.
- These lamps offer beautiful diffuse light.
- If you want to buy a top-quality light bulb, look for a lamp with a colour rendering index (CRI) of 85% or more to reproduce colours as faithfully as possible.

Before taking your first photo, I suggest you organize the items you need to photograph in an order that will easily allow you to find the photos of these items when you are looking at a full screen of “thumbnail” images.

In other words, do not shoot all your 5-cent coins consecutively. Disperse pieces of other denominations every few coins (e.g., change denomination every ten coins). Why? To save time finding a particular image!

This is particularly important if you are photographing many similar coins and need to choose the right image to download. One trick I use is to simply place the pieces on a work table (or tray) in the order of taking pictures.

Fourth, once you are ready to take the picture, you really need to touch the key to trigger the shutter of your phone. Press your finger slowly and gently until the “click” is done. Your phone’s camera does not have a mirror and the components are so small that the vibrations are negligible. The cell phone camera is truly a remarkable technology!

#### **IMAGE REPOSITORY**

Now, what should you do with your photos? Nothing, if you simply wish to upload them to your computer.

However, I like to organize the images in folders that contain only the photos of a specific session. I like to do sessions of around 20 items (about 40-50 photos) and I identify my folders as follows: 2017-03-20\_Session39, which is the 39th session taken on March 20, 2017. This system ensures your folders will automatically be placed in chronological or-

der in your browser. Why photograph only 20 items at a time? The photos will be very easy to find in your folder listing when you want to upload a photo to the Web.

At this stage, the images can be downloaded from your camera and used on the Web without modification, even though the file size may be very large (several mega-pixels). Do not worry, as many websites will reduce the file size anyway.

You do not even need to “crop” your photos. If the image is not oriented properly, you can easily fix this using the tools available in a web browser, in the camera’s image management, or in other software applications.

The images can also be used to make a catalogue of a collection for insurance purposes (in such cases, remember to take a photo of the certificate of authenticity and grade).

Ultimately, all of these tips and tricks will make you more efficient. Organizing the images will speed up finding a specific photo. Avoiding having to crop or re-orient images will also save time. The end result is more time to look at pictures of your coins!

In the end, taking a good picture depends on paying attention to small details and using a few simple tricks. After all, it is photography, not rocket science!

And now you can go practice! ❖

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**Canadian nature, history highlight Mint's March releases**  
 The Royal Canadian Mint has issued its March numismatic catalogue, and it's all things Canadian in the lead up to the country's sesquicentennial celebration this summer. Among the highlights of the March catalogue is the 50-cent pure gold coin, 'The Silver Maple Leaf', which highlights the beautifully varied Canadian maple species.

Each maple is defined by unique characteristics and is typically identified by the shape of its foliage, especially when it comes to the deeply cut "V" shapes of the silver maple leaf (*Acer saccharum*). This leaf's distinctive silver white underside shines on the reverse of the 50-cent gold coin. The coin's reverse design, the Canadian artist Margaret Best, brings together two silver maple leaves, both of which are depicted in a downward position as they sit to appear naturally when attached to a branch. The view of the leaf's upper surface dominates the field, slightly curving at the tips, it bears the deeply veined pattern that produces an intricate, almost lace-like appearance. The reverse of the two stalks adds a sense of layering as the leaves transition to the second leaf, which presents its silvery underside.

**1935 Series \$100 note highlights recent Torex auction sale**  
 By Jeff Evans  
 This February, a 117-year-old banknote issued by the Dominion of Canada, highlighted a five-session sale hosted by the Canadian Numismatic Company (CNCN) at Torex.

Lot 364 was this \$4 note issued by the Dominion of Canada (DC-16) in 1900. It sold for \$61,760 after a starting bid of \$35,000 at the February 2017 Torex Auction Sale. [www.torex.com](http://www.torex.com)

Lot 364 sold on Feb. 24 for \$61,760 after a starting bid of \$35,000. Its possible estimate was \$60,000-\$80,000.

"Due to the increased volume of consignments, the sale was composed of five sessions, including a pre- and post-fore sale to better manage the sheer volume of material to be sold," said auctioneer Marc Verret, who added the first three sessions included more than 700 lots a piece.

"Overall, the results were quite positive and the auction attendance and the registered internet bidders were strong throughout," he added. "We thank all the participants, consigners and buyers and look forward to our next sales."

**SESSION ONE**  
 Other sessions were highlights included Lot 94, a Ship-Columbus & Commemorative

**Look 1760 British medal offers interesting role at pivotal moment in Canadian history**  
 By Jeff Evans  
 A rare 255-year-old bronze medal struck to commemorate the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was among the most interesting items on the lot at the recent Torex show in downtown Toronto.

Ontario dealer Gary Miller, owner of Numismatics Coins, bought the medal from a U.S. dealer at an undisclosed price.

Miller said the medal is an important Canadian medal, "It's an important Canadian medal," said Miller, who said the medal is an important Canadian medal, "It's an important Canadian medal," said Miller, who said the medal is an important Canadian medal.

This 1760 bronze Canada Subsidium medal (Elmer 680, Bretton 38, Betts 430) is worth about \$2,000 according to Ontario dealer Gary Miller. The medal's reverse design (shown) borrows from Julia Capita coinage, which was issued after the Romans had subdued the Jews during the First Jewish-Roman War.

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**CP stamp issues dropped 30% in 2016, but values up**  
 By Jeff Evans  
 The number of stamp products offered by Canada Post in 2016 has dropped again, with just 82 items, compared to last year's 115. However, the total cost of acquiring one of each could be up to \$60.30 from last year's \$25.00.

One reason for the increase is the greater number of pricey uncut proof sheets. The two sheets issued for the Star Trek stamp set are called S20. Collectors looking for one of each could eliminate the various sheets. Also, since [www.canadianstampnews.ca](http://www.canadianstampnews.ca)

**Star Trek stamp set**  
 Lot 465 featured a well-centered block of eight 1687 eight-cent orange (Ultrafile 872) on vertical wove paper. With original gum and never hinged, it sold for \$4,000, compared to a pre-sale estimate of \$3,000-plus.

**Garcelon sale nets 'strong' bids**  
 By Jeff Evans  
 "The whole sale was strong," Yohann Tangary told Canadian Stamp News. "The Garcelon lots did very well, and the fancy cancels were very hot."

The Garcelon sale brings to a close a stamp story that started in 1952 when Ralph O. Garcelon, a collector who discovered he liked buying and selling stamps more than collecting them, opened up the Garcelon Stamp Company, in St. Stephen, N.B. At first he worked out of a room on the family farm, but by the 1970s the company had its own building and more than 60 employees. The company continued to grow, moving into a larger building in 1982.

Much of Garcelon's business was done in the United States. St. Stephen is a border town, and Garcelon used a post office box in Calais, Maine, to sell US stamps to customers. He was an aggressive advertiser, appearing in newspapers, magazines, and comic books all over North America.

**Special supplement inside for stamp and coin show**  
 Included in this edition of Canadian Stamp News is a pull-out section for the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show. The 12-page section provides details on the two-day show, hosted by Trigon Publishing, which owns CSN and Canadian Coin News, which will also carry the section.

The March 26-28 show is being held this year at a new venue—the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowdale located at 6750 Mississauga Road, in Mississauga, Ont. The Saturday and Sunday show will feature 40 philatelic and numismatic dealers from across Canada. As well, the show is offering a live and online auction of philatelic and numismatic materials from Auction Network. The live auction will be held on Saturday, March 25 at 6 p.m., with viewing throughout the day. Bids will be taken from the floor as well as online at [www.auctionnetwork.ca/auctionlist.asp](http://www.auctionnetwork.ca/auctionlist.asp).

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