



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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N2J 3Z6



In the July-August issue of the O.N.A. Numismatist I published a letter from Robert Gardner on Page 74. I'll not go into detail about that letter, you can do that for yourself. In order to give the person named in that letter equal time, I have received a response from that person and have included his letter under "From The Mailbag, Page 93. Both the parties have now received equal time and space in our Publication and any further correspondence between these two parties will have to be dealt with either between themselves or the O.N.A. Executive.

I now, on behalf of myself, make apologies to Mike Hollingshead for any embarrassment I have caused.

Let's get on with more pleasant duties.

The fall Coin Shows are now in full swing. Huronia reports a well attended show and dealers doing a brisk business. Woodstock held their 2nd Annual Coin Show and well over 200 paid admission. Dealers there were busy for most of the day. Woodstock calls this their second annual show, but during the 60s they held a successful show and banquet each year at Old St. Paul's Parish Hall. This is their second show since they reorganized after being disbanded for a few years.

I expect to hear or see a great deal of interest from the shows in St. Catharines, Hamilton, Tillsonburg, Stratford, and Waterloo. Check our "Show & Bourse" listings and support all or as many as possible of these Club Shows. Interest seems to be returning to the hobby with the increased attendance at these shows. As a longtime hobbyist who has witnessed both sides of the coin, I'm glad to see that increased interest. I don't know the reason, but I do see a great deal of activity at the dealers tables who have "Sport Cards". Let's hope that phase of the hobby continues.

Mike Hollingshead and his group "The Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club" are off to a great start. Let's hope that interest remains high. At a recent visit to a Canadian Tire Store, I noticed a sign that states that Canadian Tire are no longer accepting certain early issues of their coupons. That surely will create a rush for those early issues.

How soon we forget! This makes the third issue since our 1991 Convention and Election of Officers, and I have not written one word of praise for our Past President Ken Wilmot. Ken was the O.N.A. President for four years and did a remarkable job of keeping the Association together. He was instrumental in introducing new programs and reintroducing older ones. There were a number of issues he would have liked to see introduced or improved upon, and these issues are of great concern for the new Executive and President. Ken's message in most issues helped me as Editor and brought you the members information on the future plans of our Organization. I for one praise you for a fine effort and hope that all members of the Executive, members and readers say....."Thank You For A Job Well Done!"

T. Masters

from the Mailbag

Pg. 93- 91

To: Editor, ONA Numismatist:

Box 1000, Arkell,
Ontario, NOB 1C0
August 24, 1991

It is unfortunate that we must waste valuable space in the ONA official organ, but the letter in the previous bulletin of July/August by Robert Gardner contains some extreme misinformation and must be replied to.

My guess is that the unpleasant taste in Mr Gardner's mouth is more to do with what is coming out of it than with what he thinks he had to swallow.

I suggest that the only truth in the entire letter is that there was indeed some problem in scheduling room use at the Oshawa site. This began when the Token group booked their room through the then ONA President, Ken Wilmot, rather than the 1991 Convention Show Chairman, Bruce Watt, as the CTCCC did. In fact, I feel that most people involved with the 1991 ONA convention would agree that most problems happened due to people not following official channels.

When the Show Chairman discovered the problem with the room scheduling he had no recourse but to assign alternate rooms based on need. I cannot speak for Bruce, but given the circumstances I would not have handled things much differently. Lets take a look at his options given the following:

He had a Hospitality Suite that could accommodate 30 people and a meeting room that could accommodate 100 people. The 100 person room was an additional convention expense, not an expense to the Oshawa Coin Club as suggested by Mr Gardner.

Bruce had two groups needing rooms: one group (CTCCC) had 80 people plus a CBC reporter covering the meeting. This group also required the use of a projector and screen for its guest speaker. The other group (Tokens) had about a dozen people and I don't believe required any equipment. Which rooms would you assign to which groups????

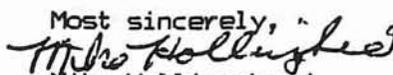
Neither the Token group or the CTCCC are member clubs of the ONA, so I feel that we were both fortunate to be allowed to hold meetings at the convention at the ONA's expense. The CTCCC not only bought a \$35 ad in the souvenir program to help offset expenses, it donated \$50 to the Convention in further assistance. I would question whether the Token group was as thoughtful towards assisting the ONA. Mr Gardner questions the "shabby treatment" his group got from the ONA. What did the ONA get from his group? I think his letter indicates the extent of their gratitude to the ONA.

At this convention, as at all the others before and all the conventions to come, there were screw-ups. But the attitude shown by some in threatening to cancel their memberships is not the attitude that will build the ONA. I suggest that you quickly accept any resignations from wreckers, moaners and any others that are not serious about building the ONA through supporting the efforts of those that are working to do so. Better to have a smaller, dedicated memberships than a larger, divisive one.

If the CTCCC had not had such a large number of people attending its meeting, they would have grabbed the Hospitality Suite, as I understand that a bottle of whiskey was thrown in with the room by Ken!

I trust this clarifies the situation regarding the 1991 ONA.

In another matter, I wish to correct the Editor of the ONA Numismatist regarding the hosting of the 1992 ONA Convention, which he attributes to the Guelph Coin Club. This is not correct. The 1992 ONA Convention is being organized at a Guelph location by some members of the ONA Executive because no club volunteered to act as host. In light of the gratitude the Oshawa Club received for all their efforts in 1991, who could expect anything else?

Most sincerely,

Mike Hollingshead,
ONA #1254

COVER STORY

FIRST COLUMBUS 500th ANNIVERSARY MEDAL
WITH THE INSCRIPTION IN LATIN
PUBLIC MAY USE THE DIE FREE OF CHARGE



A 38 mm medal that commemorates the 500th Anniversary in 1992 of the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus with all inscriptions in the Latin language used in Columbus' time has been issued by Serge Huard, Montreal, dealer in silver and gold coins. It is the first 500th Columbus Anniversary Medal to have all



JÉRÔME H. REMICK
 BOX 9183
 STE-FOY, P.Q., CANADA
 G1V 4B1

inscriptions in Latin. The Latin being the version used by the Catholic Church and other educated people in Columbus' time. It is not the Latin of the Catholic Church today.

The obverse side shows Christopher Columbus' flagship, the Santa Maria, to the left; a portrait of Columbus to the right and above a detailed map of the Island of San Salvador situated in the Bahamas Islands where Columbus is thought to have first landed in the New World on October 14, 1492. This is the first time San Salvador with its many lakes has been shown on a metallic piece commemorating Columbus. "SANCTVS SALVADOR" (San Salvador) is shown on either side of the Island. The latitude "XXIV" and a compass pointing north is below the inscription. "MCMXCII" (1492) is below the drawing near the bottom.

"QVINGENTESIMO ANNIVERSARIO ANNO ADVENTVS CHRISTOPHORI COLVMBI IN AMERICA" (500th Anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in America) is around the outer part. Note..since there was no "U" in Latin, a "V" is used in its place as in the word "SANCTVS" which is pronounced "SANCTUS".

The obverse side of the medal was designed by medalist Robert Ayotte of Anjou, Quebec.

The Latin inscription was researched by Professor Pierre Coulombe, Latin professor at Eudestes College in Montreal.

Nancy Huard, 17 year old daughter of Serge Huard, suggested that Latin be used as the inscription.

Pressed Metal Products, 505 Alexander Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6A 1C8 (telephone 604 251 2454), cut the die from a plaster model made by Robert Ayotte and struck the medals.

Three different reverse dies were used for Huard's Columbus Anniversary Medal. They are: the Great Seal of the United States, a map of Canada with the United States below and the attractive snowy owl (Quebec province's national bird).

All medals were struck on 38 mm blanks in antiqued nickel-silver. Specimens showing any of the three reverses mentioned above are available at \$6.00 postpaid each or 3 for \$15.00 from Serge Huard, Box 402, Pointe Aux Trembles, Quebec, H1B 5K3 (Telephone 514 354 7884). U.S. residents should pay in U.S. funds to cover higher postal costs to the United States.

The Columbus die was paid for jointly by Serge Huard and Jerry Remick.

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COLUMBUS 500th ANNIVERSARY MEDAL (Cont'd)

The public is invited to use the Columbus Commemorative Anniversary die for an issue of their own personal medals. The die may be used free of charge and with the permission of Serge Huard. Users of the die are requested to submit three specimens of their Columbus medal in each metal used to Serge Huard, who will give a copy to Robert Ayotte and Ferry Remick.

Arrangements for striking of medals and a personal die may be made with Pressed Metal Products. The Company can cut a personal die and strike an issue of medals in 5 weeks. Medals are available on 38 mm blanks in antiqued or natural finish (frosted design against mirror background), copper, gold plated copper, silver plated copper, brass, nickel-silver, and commercial bronze.

Several metals may be used for the price of one metal. Each metal is shipped in a plastic envelope. Medals are also available in pure silver, various grades of gold, and platinum.

A personal die with an inscription runs \$200. to \$250. and with a crest or logo from \$250. to \$350.

The cost for medals is as follows: 25 to 49 (\$4.80 each), 50 to 99 (\$3.80 each), 100 to 249 (\$3.30 each), and 250 to 499 (\$2.80 each). Postage and GST (for Canadians only) are extra.

Specimens of Jerry Remick's personalized Columbus medals are available in copper, gold plated copper, and silver plated copper from Box 9183, Ste Foy, Quebec, G1V 4B1.

1990 CANADIAN COINS NOMINATED FOR THREE CATEGORIES

in the

1990 COIN OF THE YEAR CONTEST

by Jerry Remmick

1990 Canadian coins were nominated in three of the eight categories for the 1990 Coin of the Year Contest (COTY) conducted by Krause Publications of Iola, Wisconsin for the 9th consecutive year. Sixty-eight coins from 31 different countries were nominated for the 1990 COTY Contest.

The 1990 Canadian silver dollar was one of eleven coins from 11 countries nominated in the Best Crown category.

The 1990 Canadian Polar Bear coins in platinum of \$30, \$75, \$150, and \$300 face value were nominated as a set in the Most Innovative Coinage Concept category along with coins from 5 other countries. The innovative concept was the polar bear shown in various stages on 3 coins going from land into water.

The 1990 Canadian \$300 platinum polar bear coin was nominated in the Best Gold Coin contest along with 8 coins nominated from six other countries. Platinum and palladium coins are included in this category.

This Fall, a panel of just over 60 judges from various numismatic related fields and a number of countries will vote on their choice for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for coins in each of the 8 categories.

In a second round of voting, the panel of judges will each choose one coin from the list of first place winners of each of the eight categories. The coin with the most votes will be declared The Coin of the Year for 1990.

A FREE DIE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR OWN

PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS MEDAL

by Jerry Remick



A die featuring the Madonna holding her child Jesus modelled after a large ceramic by Renaissance artist Andre Della Robbia, is available at no charge for making 1991 38 mm (1 1/2 inches) Christmas medals. There is a great deal of fine detail on the design and the relief is high.

"1991" and "MERRY CHRISTMAS" in English, Spanish, French, the Cyrillic script is around the outer part. Holly leaves separate each greeting. The greeting in Cyrillic script translates "HAPPY BIRTH OF CHRIST". Cyrillic script is used in Russia, Bulgaria, and Serbia.

A personal reverse die with one's name, address, and if desired, a greeting can be cut for \$200. The name of both the husband and wife can be included. Some families add the names of their children.

Each year a different Christmas picture die is available for use at no charge, so a personalized reverse die can be used yearly for Christmas medals at no further charge. The first Christmas die for personalized medal issuers was made by Pressed Metal Products in 1983. A die has been made annually since then.

Christmas medals can be made on 38 mm antiqued blanks in gold plated copper, and in silver plated copper.

Costs for medals excluding postage and GST (for Canadians only) are as follows: 25 to 49 medals (\$4.80 each), 50 to 99 medals (\$3.80 each), and 100 to 249 medals (\$3.30 each). Medals in pure silver as well as medals in piedfort (double thickness) can also be made.

Each medal is shipped in a 2 x 2 plastic envelope. One can scotch tape the 4 sides of the plastic envelope onto a Christmas card and mail it or deliver it in person.

Inquiries should be sent to Pressed Metal Products, 505 Alexander Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6A 1C8 (Tel: 604 251 2454). Allow 5 weeks for delivery if die cutting is involved. Pressed Metal Products will design your personal reverse die free of charge if you send the data.

Samples of the 1991 Christmas medal with Jerry Remick's personal reverse die are available in antiqued gold plated copper or silver plated copper at \$3.25 postpaid each, or 3 for \$9.25 postpaid from Jerry Remick, Box 9183, Ste Foy, Quebec, G1V 4B1.



FEATURE STORY

This is money

by
JOE CRIBB



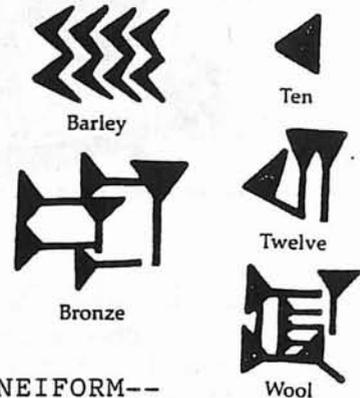
It is difficult to imagine a world without money; every country has its own, and its history reaches back to the earliest written records of human activity. But what exactly is money? Money can be many different things: for most people it is coins, banknotes, plastic cards, and savings in the bank. But for some people in the not too distant past, it has been feathers, stones, beads, and shells, for these were the objects they considered valuable. What allows us to describe all these things with the same word, "money", is that they are all an acceptable and recognized means of payment. This even applies to the money you cannot see or feel--the money that is stored in bank computer records, and which can be spent in the same way as the coins and notes in your pocket. Banknotes, coins, and plastic cards come in various shapes sizes, and colors, money because they are all used to buy

but they are all called goods or services.

THE EARLIEST MONEY

It is not known exactly when money was first used. The oldest written records of it are from ancient Mesopotamia (now in southern Iraq) about 4,500 years ago. Ancient Mesopotamian cuneiform (wedge-shaped) inscriptions describe payments being made with weighed amounts of silver. Since then, weighed amounts of metal have been used as money in many parts of the world, and this practice led to the invention of coins.

By deciphering cuneiform script, scientists have discovered many different ways in which weighed amounts of silver were used as money in ancient Mesopotamia. The characters at right appear in the inscription on the tablet.

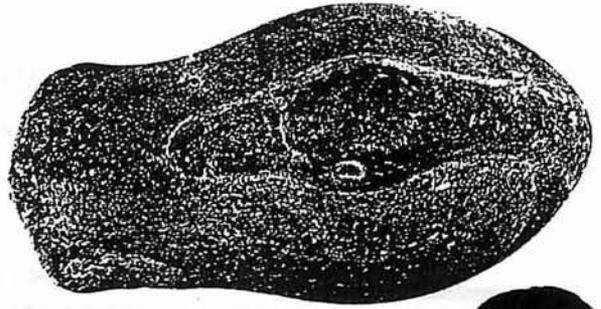


--CUNEIFORM--



MONEY (Cont'd)GOOSE WEIGHT

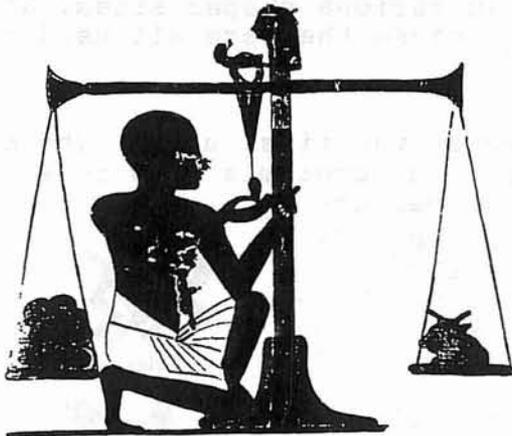
So that silver and other goods could be weighed accurately, the ancient Mesopotamians had made official weights. This example weighs about 30 shekels. There were 60 shekels in a mina.

MESOPOTAMIAN MONEY

The inscription on this tablet commemorates "prices" during the reign of Sin-Kasid of Uruk (1865-1804 B.C.): "In the course of his reign, one shekel (a unit of weight of silver on the local standard could buy three measures of barley, twelve mina of wool, ten mina of bronze, or three measures of sesame oil, according to the price in his kingdom."

HAMMURABI'S LAWS

This big stone column shows a god giving Hammurabi, king of Babylonia (1792-1750 B.C.) laws referring to how silver should be used. Law 204 says: "If a common man slaps the face of another common man, he must pay ten shekels of silver as compensation."

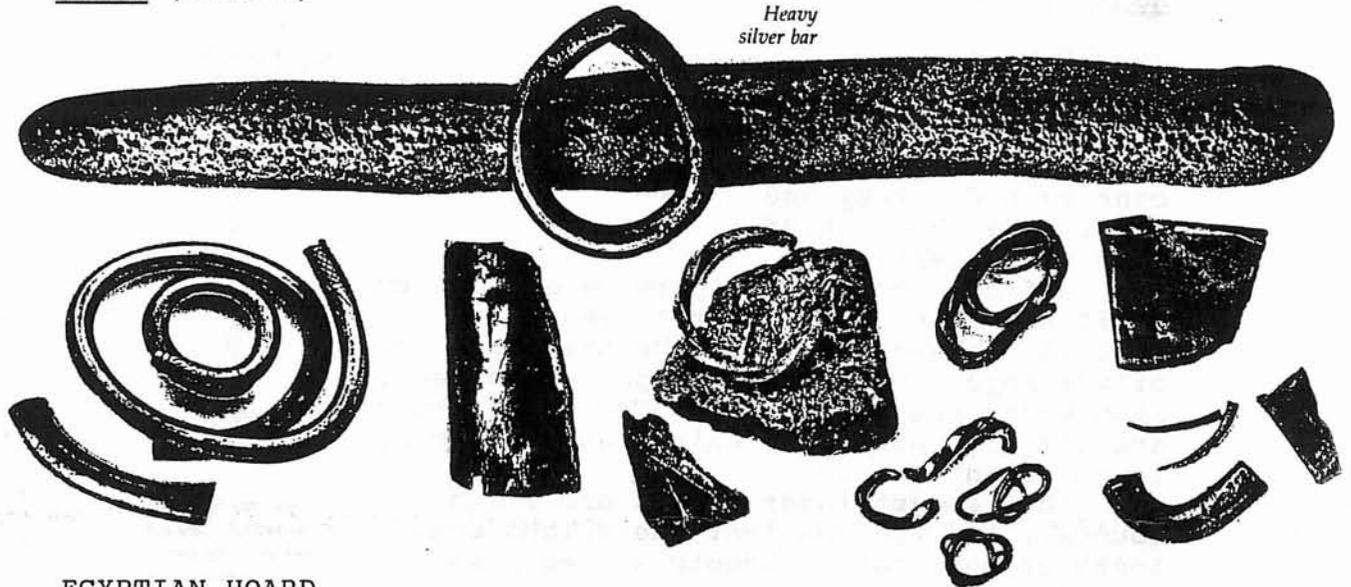
EGYPTIAN WALL-PAINTING

This ancient Egyptian wall-painting (14th century B.C.), found in a tomb at Thebes, shows gold rings being weighed on a balance. The Egyptians used balances and weights to measure the value of precious metals.

Lump of gold.

STONE WEIGHT

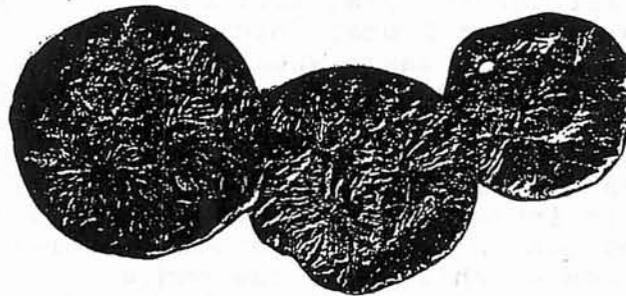
The hieroglyphic inscription on this small Egyptian stone weight is faint, but it tells us that the weight was used for weighing gold.

MONEY (Cont'd)EGYPTIAN HOARD

The ancient Egyptians also developed a money system using weighed amounts of metal; records exist of gold, silver, and copper being weighed out as payments. Because the weight set its value, the shape and size of the metal was unimportant. The money was as varied in shape as the bars, rings, and lumps of silver in this 14th century B.C. hoard from el-Amarna.

FLOWER SILVER

The only official money in 18th century Burma was weighed amounts of silver. Most of the silver was poured out into pancake shaped disks known as "flower silver". The name refers to the patterns of the silver, which were made by blowing through a pipe at the metal as it set.



Burmese weight
made of bronze

LION WEIGHT

All the official Burmese weights, like this one, were in the form of animals such as elephants, ducks, bulls, and lions. A star-shaped mark was stamped on the base of each weight to show that it had been checked by the king's official.



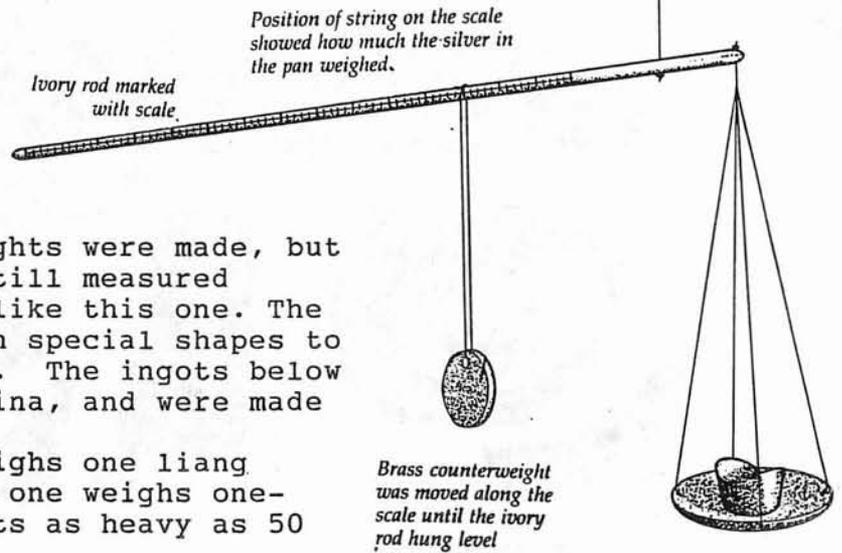
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MONEY (Cont'd)IN THE BALANCE

Although the Chinese had been making coins since the 6th century B.C., they had never made them out of gold and silver.

Official balance weights were made, but until the 1930s traders still measured amounts of hand-balances like this one. The silver ingots were made in special shapes to show where they came from. The ingots below are all from northeast China, and were made in the 19th century.

The largest ingot weighs one liang (ounce), and the smallest one weighs one-tenth of one liang. Ingots as heavy as 50 liang were also used.



Australia and New Zealand

MONEY FROM DOWN UNDER

British pounds, shillings, and pence arrived in Australia and New Zealand with the first British settlers, but because of the many trade ships that went there, Indian, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese coins were more common. In 1792, settlers at Sydney Cove found a form of money more to their taste when The Hope, an American merchantship, delivered a cargo of rum. This precious liquid circulated as money in New South Wales until it was replaced in 1813 by Spanish American silver dollars, which circulated officially until 1829. Today's dollar currencies were introduced by Australia in 1966, and New Zealand in 1967, when both countries adopted a decimal currency system in place of pounds, shillings, and pence.

From 1813 until 1822, dollars with a hole were the official currency of New South Wales. The silver "dump" cut from the middle was also official money. The dollar was valued at five shillings, and the dump at 15 pence.

Although British coins were the official currency of New Zealand, most of the money in use during the 19th century was locally issued copper tokens and notes. More than 140 different tokens were also issued.



"HOLEY DOLLAR" & "DUMP"



Communiqué

"Wisdom" from the Royal Canadian Mint



1991 Platinum Coin Set Honours the Snowy Owl

Ottawa, August 14, 1991: The Royal Canadian Mint released today a set of 4 new platinum coins. They feature the snowy owl and have been designed by Glen Loates, renowned Canadian wildlife artist.

Man has always had a love-hate relationship with the owl. For North Americans, sayings such as "the wise old owl" are indicative of the longtime close association between owls and wisdom. Owls are not, however, more intelligent than any other bird of prey.

In France if a pregnant woman hears an owl hoot, it means her baby will be a girl. In Germany as well as with many cultures, owls are perceived as the bird of the night. For Ojibway Indians in Canada, owls represent a bad omen and indicate that death is imminent. "Navajo Indians are terrified with them to a point where they won't even look at them" says a spokesperson from the Assembly of First Nations. The Chinese thought

at them" says a spokesperson from the Assembly of First Nations. The Chinese thought owls would take away souls, and digging graves was associated with its call. South Australian aborigines believed women were represented by owls and men by bats. Owls play an important role in beliefs, e.g. in Wales if owls hoot someone loses their virginity. In Haiti, the owl's call is associated with voodoo activities and zombies.

For one of the Mint's executive, there is a family memory connected with owls. "As a child, in my family home we had several owls carved in wood. They symbolized wisdom and good fortune. In fact, our family home was named 'Eulenhurst' which means the owl's nest" says Kirsten Petersen, Director of Numismatic Products at the Mint. She added that the main challenge for the mint's Chief Engraver was "to translate the shaded feathers and the facial expressions on the original drawings into three dimensional renderings on the four coins. Loates' renderings were excellent, however, and this made the process easier. Probably the most technically difficult design was the one ounce coin depicting the mother and chicks. Here there are several design elements plus a detailed background. All of this must show perspective and yet, the relief can only be 8/1000 th's of an inch (.35 mm) in height."

Snowy Owls breed on the Arctic Tundras of the world and are not regular migrants to southern Canada and northern U.S.A.. Their southward excursions are periodic, about every four to five years, matching the population lows of the small arctic lemming. The male is almost pure white in contrast to the female, which is streaked in dark brown. The female is also larger than the male, and both can swivel their heads as much as 270°, to compensate for their eyes that cannot move up and down or sideways like most birds.

Each of the four coins in the set is 9995 pure platinum, has a frosted relief on a brilliant field and shows a different arctic tundra habitat setting typical to snowy owls. The 1 ounce coin shows a mother with offspring; the 1/2 ounce an owl about to prey; the 1/4 ounce, a male and a female and the 1/10 ounce, an extreme close-up of an owl's face. Each of the coin is struck multiple times to ensure perfect relief of the original designs. The obverses feature the de Pédery-HUNT design of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mintage is limited to 3,500 sets of four coins. Each set sells for \$1970 CAN (\$1760 US) plus shipping and handling.

To order, contact the Royal Canadian Mint, Box 457, Station A, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9H3 or call, toll free, 1-800-267-1871 ext. #599.

-30-

For more information: André Girard
Communications Manager
Numismatic Products
(613) 993-0310

*Sources: Snowy Owl, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1980; Assembly of First Nations of Canada; "Coin Critters" column by Dennis G. Rainey, World Coin News.

SHOW AND BOURSE

- October 13 TILLSONBURG COIN CLUB ANNUAL COIN & HOBBY SHOW, Tillsonburg Community Centre (Fair Grounds). Info: W. Baxter, 46 Queens St., Tillsonburg, Ont., N4G 3G9.
- October 26-27 TOREX SHOW - Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton St, Downtown Toronto. Info: Ingrid K. Smith- (416)586 0098 P.O. Box 865, Adelaide St. P.O. Toronto, Ont. M5C 2K1.
- October 27 STRATFORD COIN CLUB 31st ANNUAL COIN SHOW, Kiwanis Community Centre, Lakeside Drive, Stratford. Free admission. Info: Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 6T1.
- November 3 TORONTO MILITARY COLLECTORS CLUB OF CANADA MILITARIA SHOW AND SALE. Buy, sell, and trade military badges; medals, and insignia. Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ramada Hotel, 1677 Wilson Ave., Hw ys 400 and 401, Admission \$2.00. Info: Deane Migora (416) 653 6648.
- November 9 WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY COIN SHOW, The Rink In The Park, Seagram Drive, Waterloo, Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: Don Robb, P.O. Box 724, Waterloo, Ont., N2J 4C2, or Tel. (519) 745 6799.
- 1992
- February 8 HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION COIN, STAMP & ANTIQUE SHOW, Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St. N., Barrie. Info: P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario, L2R 7J9.
- March 21-22 O.N.A. 30th ANNUAL CONVENTION & SHOW, College Inn, Stone Road & Gordon Street, Guelph, Ontario. Tel: 1-800-563 9240. Admission \$2.00. Info: O.N.A. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3Z6.
- Second Sunday
Each Month OTTAWA COIN & STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION SHOW, at the Nepean Sportsplex, Woodsroffe Ave., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: Allan Davis, P.O. Box 307, Carp, Ontario DOA 1L0.

IF YOUR COIN SHOW DATE DOES NOT APPEAR IN OUR LINEUP, GET THAT INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR SO IT CAN APPEAR IN FUTURE ISSUES.....

PLEASE NOTE.....

DEADLINE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER-DECEMBER EDITION
(CHRISTMAS ISSUE) IS NOVEMBER 15th.....

COIN HUMOR.....

Funny how a dollar can look so big when you take it to Church, and so small when you take it to the store!

O.N.A. "92"

COINS & COLLECTIBLES SHOW

Ontario Numismatic Association
30th Annual Convention & Show

MARCH 21, 22, 1992

College Inn -
Stone Road & Gordon Street
Guelph, Ontario
1-800-563-9240

For Information Contact:
Ontario Numismatic Association
Box 33
Waterloo, Ontario
N2J 3Z6

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