

Almost Circulated



Saint John Coin Club

Our newsletter continues. Submissions encouraged.
Contact the editor. Visit us at www.sjcoinclub.com

Question Period with Jim Jennex

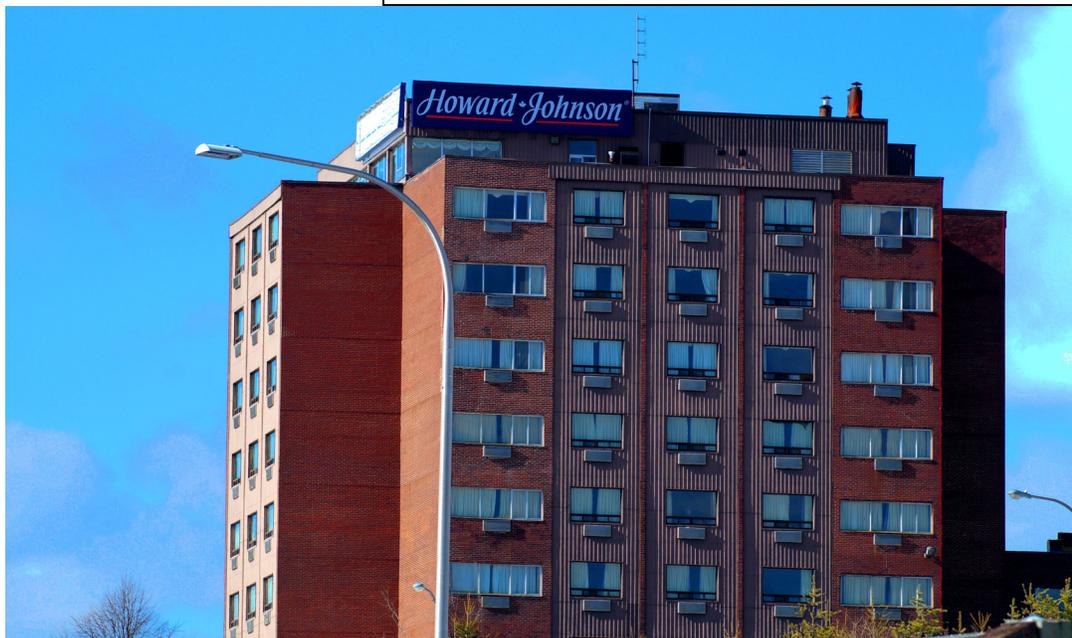
Here's a sample of the fun Jim has been providing us since our move to the Howard Johnson Fort Howe.

1. What does a numismatic "bibliophile" like to collect?
2. What do you call an engraved portrait or picture on the back of Canadian paper money?

Collectors' Show

Time for our annual Collectors' Show is approaching. In conjunction with the Saint John Stamp Club, it will be held at the Howard Johnson Fort Howe. The date set is May 25th, 2014 from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

Eight foot tables are available at a cost of \$40 and the bourse categories are coins, stamps, sport cards, military, and misc collectables. There will be approximately



Join us March 18th, 2014 at the Howard Johnson Fort Howe

50 tables, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Last year's show was a big hit and we look forward to even more success this year.

Contact Tom Craig for more information at ycart@rogers.com or 506-650-0669

3. In early times, North American natives used shells of clams as a form of money. What was the name given to this money which was strung into belts and necklaces of several feet in length?

4. What is the name given to Canada's 1942 and 1943 five cent pieces that consisted of 88% copper and 12% tin?

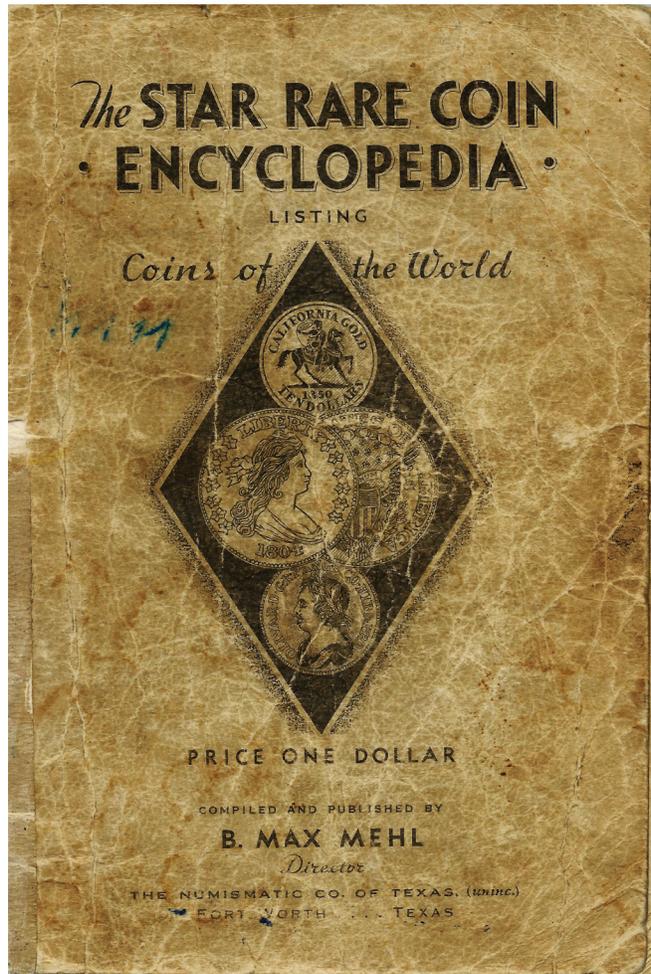
Bring your answers to the next meeting, Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 and don't cheat!

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2

March 2014



The Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia 1947

[B. Max Mehl and The Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia](#)

by [Kevin Day-Thorburn](#)

At the last club meeting, Jim Young let me borrow a copy of *The Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, a somewhat tattered paperback book on coins that has been thoroughly enjoyed and oozes history.

The cover declares the book was compiled and published by B. Max Mehl, Director of the Numismatic Co. of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas. The first page – there are over 200 pages – proclaims they are the largest rare coin establishment in the United States and that they've been in the same place, same business, same ownership for over 47 years. This edition was published in 1947.

I absolutely love that Max has listed on page three the following information: "Never clean a rare coin. A

somewhat corroded coin is oftentimes more valuable than a cleaned one. The cleaning of a rare coin considerably decreases its value." That's a piece of information often forgotten or ignored today and it says to me that this man is serious about numismatics.

The book's content and style, along with its very charisma made me want to learn more about its story, and there's quite a story behind this unassuming little book. The *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia* appears to have started out as the *Star Rare Coin Book* and first circulated around 1906 and continued being published until the end of the '50s.

Here's where it gets really interesting: B. Max Mehl, it seems, was a bit of a marketing genius. In 1906 he rented space in a building in Fort Worth, Texas and placed an ad in *Colliers* magazine, at a cost of \$12.50. He sold his *Star Rare Coin Book* for 50 cents and it served as a price guide of sorts, listing the prices he would pay for certain coins – well, any coin. This generated such an interest that it has been reported that more than half of the mail for Fort Worth went to his office.

Sometime around the depression, at a time when it would have been quite a bonus to earn a premium from your pocket change, he listed that he would pay \$50 for a 1913 Liberty head nickel. Of course, this particular coin was not a regular issue and was never intended for circulation, still being only five known today, but it got people looking through their coins in hopes of finding such a rarity.

Jim's 1947 edition offers to pay \$500 for the mentioned 1913 Liberty head nickel; \$1 for a "good" 1916 D mercury dime and \$10 for an uncirculated one; a 1794 half dollar could fetch you \$5-\$10; and, my favourite, a nice 1908 Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold piece could bring you \$30.

B. Max Mehl, with his *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, brought coin collecting to the masses. Because of him and his innovative marketing, American citizens became aware that there were circulating coins from which a profit could be made. Was this from a love of the hobby or a love of money on a more general scope? The evidence, or pricing, in his book would suggest the latter.

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The RCNA 2010 convention is a huge feather in the Saint John Coin Club's cap. Below is an article by Tom Craig with some after-convention thoughts.

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AFTER THE RCNA CONVENTION

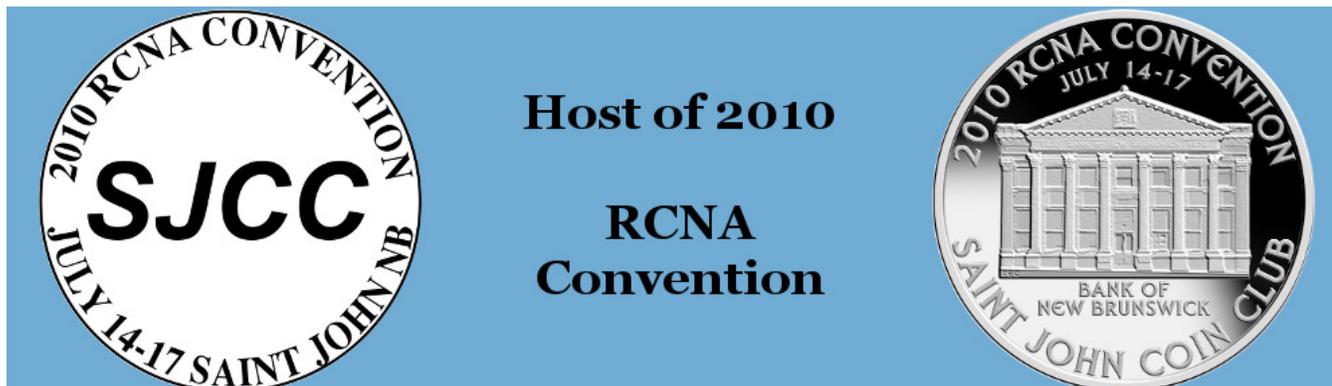
Putting on a convention like the RCNA in 2010 was a huge task in addition to responsibility. It is hoped that one has covered all of the thousands details. This was

**Next Meeting: March 18th, 2014
Howard Johnson Fort Howe, Portland and
Main, Saint John, NB**

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3

March 2014



the feeling at the 2010 convention last July 2010 in Saint John N.B. We as a group never put on a show of this magnitude for several days.

The lesson learned at this conventions was; be prepared for last minute changes -- that you will have no control over.

Case in point was when days before the opening date, the R.C. Mint announced it would bring the Vancouver Olympics Medals to the show and the door admission was to be eliminated! All of the posters had to be reprinted, where possible, radio changes, etc, all at the last minute. The door passes which were designed and printed, were obsolete. Manning schedules for the door and various other functions had to be changed but the club members rose to the challenge and all duties were performed.

One major setback occurred when the display case for the R.C. Mint to display the medals suffered several broken panes of glass and was temporarily unusable. The call went out and as luck would have it, one was sourced for rent during the three day period and the display went on as planned. It was tense for several hours to say the least. Here again, local people came to our aid.

The show was a fantastic success and experience for the SJCC members and several locals who were not members of the SJCC.

On a side note to this convention, a lot of collectors made lasting friendships with other collectors and coin dealers from across this great land of ours. Bottom line to all of this was the comment from many dealers and collectors of the SJCC "Wouldn't change anything"

Every convention does have a glitch that may or may not be well known. The 2010 convention had one; at the reception held after the dinner, somehow or someone, forgot to order the food and drink for this reception! So while guests looked out the window at the fantastic view of the water front, the hotel staff produced food and drink a short time later. Soon the event was forgotten. The ironic thing about this is the same thing happened at Edmonton Alberta in 2009! Must follow tradition!

The Saint John Coin Club wishes to thank Paul Johnson and Dan Gosling for all of their help in pulling this convention off. I'm sure the event memories will be with us for many years to come.

Good luck to Brett Irick in the show for 2011 coming up within the next few months. See you there!

TOM CRAIG

Event Chairman 2010 SJCC

Upcoming Coin Shows

March 15, 2014 - Florenceville-Bristol, NB

March 21-23, 2014 - Nuphilex Show - Montreal, PQ

March 29, 2014 - Canada Numismatic Co. Auction

April 5, 2014 - The Atlantic - Fredericton, NB

May 29 -30, 2014 - Geoffrey Bell Auctions - Toronto
Coin Expo

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4

March 2014

Saint John Coin Club February 18th, 2014 Minutes Summary

The minutes from the last meeting were read with a motion to accept.

Tom Craig delivered the treasurer's report.

The Royal Canadian Numismatic Association sent a membership form for anyone interested in joining the national organization – see the treasurer for more information.

President Jim Young read a newsletter from the Halifax Regional Coin Club – they have no updated APNA information to report.

Our first newsletter has been published and a second issue is due out March 15th.

Jim and Tom read out a list of upcoming shows.

A slide presentation on Upper Canada Tokens was delivered by Kevin and Tom.

Jim Jennex passed out his latest coin quiz and first place was won by George Murray and second prize went to Brian Bell.

Our auction brought in \$90 for the club, which was followed by coffee and cookies.

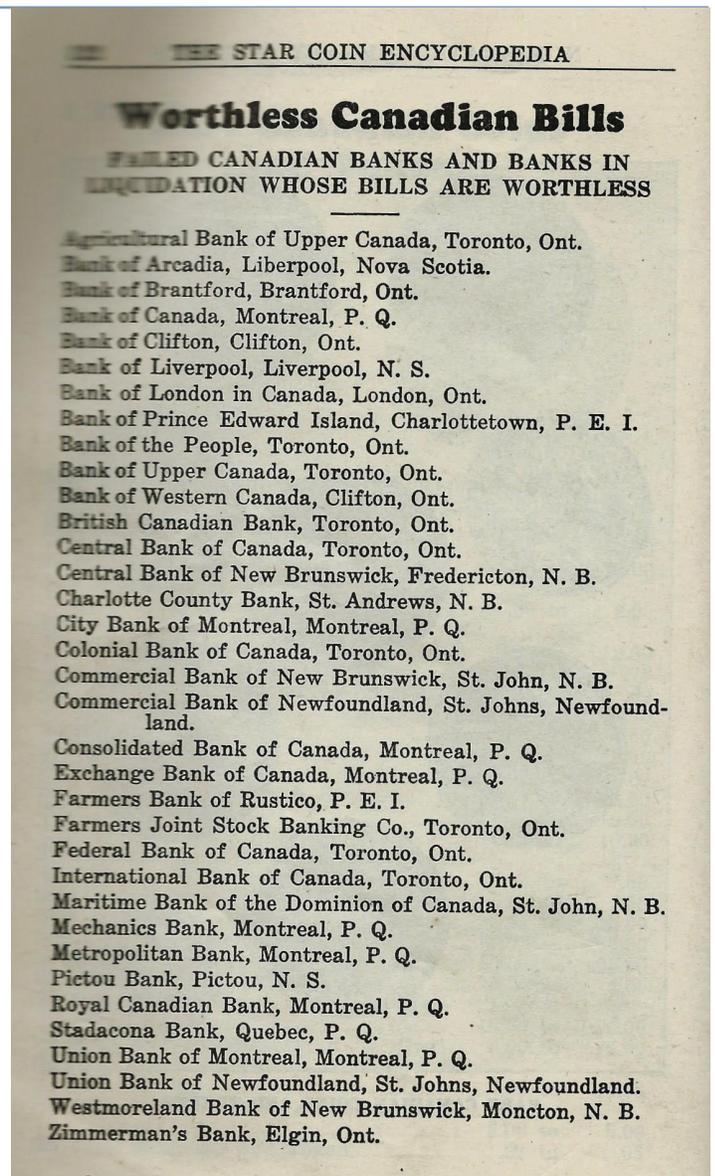
Meeting adjourned - Steve Small.

Silver in Circulation

One of the biggest complaints from new collectors today, and one of the biggest challenges for those of us wanting to grow the hobby, is convincing potential new numismatists that it is possible to find collectable coins in circulation.

Many can remember a time when you could simply pick out the silver from your change and set it aside, but now there is a bit more of a learning curve, since you need to take some time to learn about varieties and errors. Die clashes, die chips, die cracks, misaligned dies, doubled dies – the list seems endless and the road to knowledge

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A page from the Rare Coin Encyclopedia listing the "worthless" Canadian bills. I wonder how many may have been discarded because of this information?

can appear steep. Soldier on though, it really does just take commitment and a little time. We take the ability to notice a silver coin in circulation for granted, but just the other day my wife came home and said, "I have a coin that looked different and it's probably nothing, but I brought it home for you to look at anyway." That's



the coin in the photo. So, keep your head up, there's still treasure to be found!
By Kevin Day-Thorburn



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