

Almost Circulated



Marks of Distinction

by Kevin Day-Thorburn

When it comes to storing coins, whether long-term for the collector or for sale by the dealer, those usually-white cardboard 2x2s rule the hobby world. They are relatively inexpensive, offer space-saving storage options, do a decent job of protecting the coin, are readily available, and offer a place to write information about the coin that is easily viewed. It's this writing with which I'm going to concern myself, with particular emphasis on one individual, in this article.

Most of us, collectors and dealers alike, are guilty of scrawling the date and maybe the denomination, country, and/or grade haphazardly across the front of a fresh 2x2 after having inserted the appropriate staples (and crimping the backs, hopefully!) and stuffing them in a box or a sheet for inclusion in a binder and not giving a whole lot of thought to the process. I use the box storage method and I'm as guilty as the next person when it comes to poor planning because I recognized too late that my placement of the date in the bottom left corner was not efficient when it comes to locating a certain coin quickly later on, since that particular corner goes unseen until you remove the flip from the box. For this reason, I would have been much smarter placing the date on one of the top corners.

Saint John Coin Club

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

Saint John Coin Club 1970

by Kevin Day-Thorburn

This Saint John Coin Club medal of 1970 is a recent and welcome addition to my collection. The quality workmanship that goes into each piece, along with the low mintages make medals particularly attractive to collect.

This silver example, with nice original toning, features the sailing vessel – a unique three-masted clipper ship – that



1970 Saint John Coin Collectors Club Silver Medal

would become the fastest in the world, the Marco Polo. The ship was launched at Marsh Creek in Saint John in 1851 and would build a name for itself and the ships being put out in Saint John until it sprang a leak in the St. Lawrence River, eventually running aground near Cavendish, PEI in 1883.

The reverse displays the familiar crest of the APNA as the medal was issued to commemorate the organization's Spring Rally, which was held at the Admiral Beatty Hotel on May 2nd of that year.

It was struck by the Wellings Mint of Toronto and the Halifax Coin Club book, "Official Medals of the Numismatic Associations and Clubs of the Atlantic Provinces" states there were 300 issued in bronze, 200 in silver, and three 2 ounce 24kt gold pieces, although I have reason to question the details on the gold medal. This particular item displays edge number 78.

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Some have taken all this to an entirely different level, having planned out an efficient labelling method combined with a distinct, recognizable, eye-pleasing style and if you've collected coins in Canada for any length of time you've likely purchased one of the most distinguishable 2x2 styles that has been around for decades – the Bob Armstrong flip.

Bob Armstrong is a retired Ontario coin dealer who has built a reputation as a talented coin grader, respected dealer, and a fair person with which to deal. Words such as conservative, smart, knowledgeable, kind, and ethical have been used to



An example of a Bob Armstrong 2x2 that made its way to New Brunswick - I purchased this coin from Tom

describe him. He has worked with many dealers across Canada in addition to, from what I've read, having been employed by ICCS as a grader.

In fact, while some major auction houses will require coins they sell to be third party graded, some will state in the auction description that the item has been graded by Mr. Armstrong, which can be witnessed by the writing on the holder. This essentially makes anything in one of his 2x2s to be considered as good as being in an ICCS or CCCS flip.

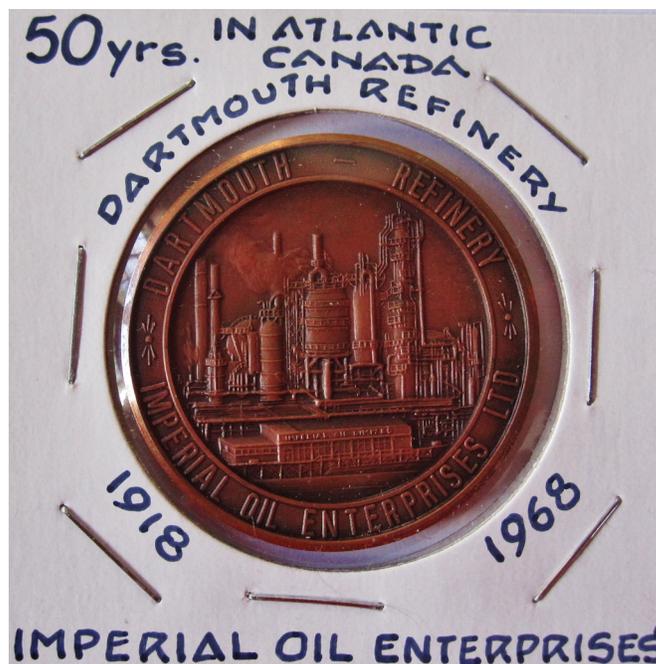
With the proliferation of counterfeit coins and, more recently, counterfeit third party holders, this brings up the matter of authenticity as some have suggested that his style could be copied for the purpose of deceiving a potential buyer. Due to my background of working in a bank doing signature verification, as well as authenticating celebrity autographs on my own time, I feel comfortable in saying that I've not seen anything that has been able to fool my eyes.

Another dealer who is closer to home that has a highly distinctive labelling style is Citadel Coins in Halifax. When I bring up the subject of distinctive handwriting on 2x2s, Martin's handiwork is inevitably mentioned. He has actually taken the recognizability factor and turned it into calligraphic art.

Alliance Coin in Almonte, Ontario utilizes a similarly efficient style to Bob Armstrong and I always remember the smart, neat rubber stamps often used by Nova Coins and Stamps in Lower Sackville, NS.

I like that recognizable flips give a sort of pedigree to the coin. Of course, the best advice is to buy the coin and not the holder, but if you're unsure of your abilities on a certain coin, the holder can add a bit of confidence. I'm looking forward to becoming familiar with even more dealers' 2x2s.

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A Dartmouth, NS medal in a Citadel Coins flip

Woodstock Show Summary

by Tom Craig

The annual collectors show was held in Woodstock on October 25th, 2014.

The weather was not the best this year, so attendance was down slightly in the morning but the afternoon picked up. People that were coming to the show were in a buying mood – maybe getting ready for Christmas? At day's end, it was noted



Customers looking over paper money



Paul Demerchant serving a customer



Jim Young left & Tim Henderson front

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that just under 100 people paid at the door for entry to the show. The show is organized by Gerald Sewell and Paul Demerchant. This year was no exception and regarding the running of the show, everything went like clockwork. Well done Paul and Gerald.

It was announced that a person was being sought to organize a show in the spring for Fredericton now that Dale Kenny is no longer doing coin shows.

Several local members of the SJCC were also in attendance for this show and reported a good day of sales.



Gerald Sewell at his table

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Upcoming Numismatic Events

November 22, 2014 - Geoffrey Bell Auction, Moncton, NB

November 23, 2014 - Coin Cabinet show, Moncton, NB

November 29, 2014 - The Canadian Numismatic Company, online auction

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Saint John Coin Club Minutes October 21st, 2014

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved on a motion by Jason, seconded by Don.

There were 15 members present.

Financial report: The bank balance is \$3109.80. Motion to accept the report made by George, seconded by Jim B.

Jim read over a letter from Brian Bell regarding our newsletter and how it could help the Moncton club get more motivated. Jason will bring more info on what is required from us and we will forward what we can.

This fall is another election of officers for the Saint John Coin Club.

Tom brought up that Dale was approached by the City of Saint John regarding Hobbies for the Winter, November 8-14 at Market Square. Jim B and George said they would be available to set up a table.

The Christmas meeting was at the Mediterranean Restaurant last year and it was suggested that we return. December 16th was suggested for the supper. Tom will check for availability.

There was a presentation on Richard III done by Jim B.

Auction was done by Jim Y.

The meeting was called to a close.

Steve Small, Secretary



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**Next Meeting: November 18th, 2014
Howard Johnson Fort Howe, Portland and
Main, Saint John, NB 7pm**

Question Period with Jim Jennex

1. What numismatic term is used to describe an experimental or trial coin?
2. Which coin is known by the nickname, "Prince of Canadian Coins?"
3. What was the popular name for a Spanish Colonial gold coin?
4. What is the name used to describe a blank piece of metal on which a coin design is stamped?

Email your answers to the editor and the name of anyone with them correct will be published in the next newsletter.

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A 2x2 from Nova Coin & Stamps in Lr. Sackville, NS

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