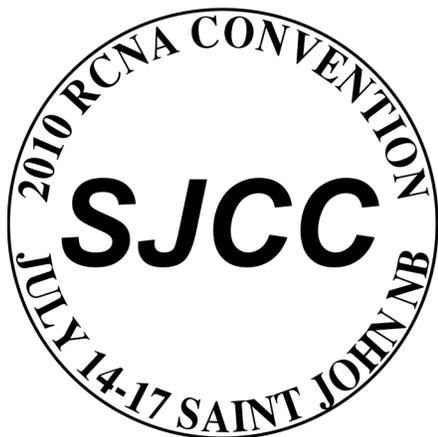


Almost Circulated



Saint John Coin Club

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

Communion Tokens: Part 1 - Introduction

by Jim Butler

The early Christians, because of danger from the Romans, had a secret sign to prove to other Christians who they were. Usually the sign was that of a fish carried as a small carving, drawn on a piece of cloth, or simply drawn in the sand at their feet. The Communion Token or Card served the same purpose to prove who was a member of the Christian community for purposes of taking part in Holy Communion also known as Eucharist.

There are over 7000 types of Communion Tokens worldwide, 5000 types are from Scotland.

PROFILE OF A COIN DEALER

by Tom Craig

This month I would like to introduce you to three people that put on the COLLECTORS' SHOW in Woodstock and Florenceville each year. They are Paul and Lynda Demerchant and Gerald Sewell.

All are from the Woodstock, Bristol area of New Brunswick. Each year they put on a show in the spring at Florenceville and in April or early May, in Woodstock. A collectors' show also takes place in the fall of the year at Florenceville. Paul's wife, Lynda, usually looks after the tables when Paul is busy at these shows. Paul's stock is usually coins only, as Gerald's is also. Both have a lot of customers that deal with these two gentlemen at every show.

Paul goes on a big city trip to Montreal each year, the Nuphilex Coin & Stamp show, with three other collectors. They usually drive up and stay for a day or two. Paul usually has a want list to fill from other collectors that can't make the trip. A lot of good stories are told and lots of information is exchanged during the drive.

These three shows have a common denominator and that is; Paul personally contacts as many of last year's attendees that is possible to inform them about the up-coming show. This personal touch works, as the shows are usually well attended. The attendees fill out a slip for the door prize draw at each show.

It is a two and one hour drive from Saint John, but the roads are in good condition, which makes the driving go faster. Drop in some time. <>



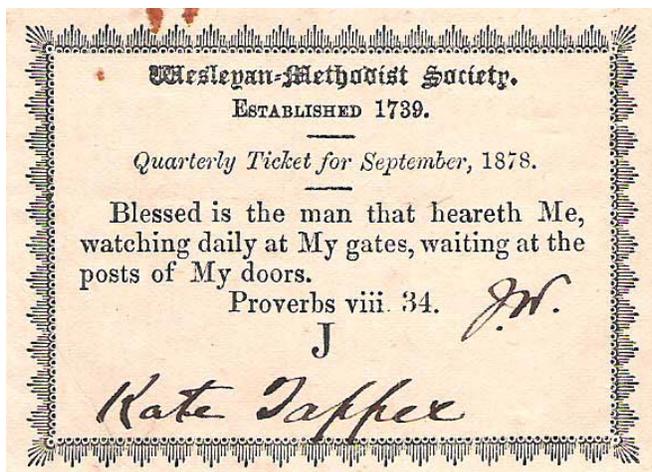
Communion Token Saint John, NB

The beginning of Communion Tokens is obscure. In one place it was said that Communion tokens were first suggested in 1560 by John Calvin and Pierre Viret in Geneva, and although the city council rejected the practice, the following year their idea was implemented. There is a strong connection with the Presbyterian Church during the Reformation in Scotland around 1559. The tokens were used for "closed Communion" to separate regular church members from dissenters for the purpose of receiving communion. The tokens were gate keepers. During this period members who lived at some distance would come to the church for classes from Wednesday to Saturday. On Saturday evening those present and judged good were given tokens, which the communicant placed in the offering plate the next day to receive Holy Communion.

John Wesley, around 1742, began the Methodists' tradition of giving "Class Tickets" to full "accredited" members of the

ALMOST CIRCULATED

Society. In 1745, Wesley is known to himself examined personally and hand written 2008 cards for the Society in London. These Tickets or Cards were given to those who took classes of instruction in the Christian religion. All the leaders in the Methodists were expected to examine the members of their church every three months and instructed not to give the “disorderly walkers” a card. The person’s name was written on the Ticket by the Minister. If a person presents themselves for Holy Communion at any church without a Ticket which they kept with them it would be known right away that they were no longer of the community.



Communion Ticket

The Elders in the United Church would visit the people under their care quarterly and give them a Communion Card with their name on it. If they did not place it in the offering plate, the Elder would visit them that week to



Saint John Communion Token

see if there was something wrong. The expectation was that they would take Communion. The reason for 4 Elder visits a year was because of the Circuit Tradition in the Methodist. In the early years there were not enough Ministers to preside over Holy Communion weekly, so they

Question Period with Jim Jennex

1. What country produced the first gold coins in 700 B.C.? Turkey
2. What is a Johannes? A Portuguese coin
3. What is a Jacobus? English gold coin valued at 25 shillings

These were tough! The person with the most correct was Frank Melanson of the Central Nova Coin Club.

were only available every three weeks. The Circuit was the main functional unit of the Methodists Church.

Both tokens and cards came in a variety of shapes, sizes and design. The material would be a base metal, white metal or lead, thin paper or card. The wording and images varied on both types: The burning bush, Bible, communion cup, or communion table; and they often included the church’s name and or minister’s name, perhaps with a date and scripture verse, such as “This do in remembrance of me” (I Cor.11:24) or “Let a man examine himself” (1 Cor.11:28). “Stock Tokens” were generic tokens made with the denomination’s name on it, Presbyterian, Methodists etc., with a scripture verse on the reverse.



Ι	Ἰησους	=	Jesus
χ	Χριστός	=	Christ
θ	θεός	=	God
ύ	υἱός	=	Son
ς	σωτήρ	=	Savior

Communion Tokens are not typically rare, but can be. Tickets or Cards can be very hard to find. Because they usually had the member’s name on it, they were considered very personal. Often they were kept as a keepsake after the person died or were buried with them.

See the next issue for Part 2

Upcoming Numismatic Events

April 25, 2015 - Woodstock, NB, Y’s Men’s Club

May 24, 2015 - Saint John, NB SJCC Collectors’ Show, Fort Howe Howard Johnson

July 22-26, 2015 - RCNA Convention, Westin

Profile of a Coin Dealer Photos



Above: Lynda & Paul Demerchant

Below: Gerald Sewell helping a customer



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ALMOST CIRCULATED ANNUAL COLLECTORS SHOW

STAMPS

COINS-PAPER MONEY

SPORT CARDS

MILITARY ITEMS

Sponsored by: SAINT JOHN COIN CLUB -- SAINT
JOHN STAMP CLUB

HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL---Main Street --- SAINT JOHN N.B.

Sunday - MAY 24TH, 2015 --- FREE PARKING --- FREE ADMISSION
OVER 35 DEALERS TABLES SET UP ---- SEE YOU THERE!



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Collectors' Show and Sale

Coins, Paper Money, Militaria, Stamps,
Sports Cards and other collectibles.

SATURDAY, April 25, 2015
10:00AM - 3:00 PM.

Adults \$ 2.00 16 and under FREE

At the Woodstock Y's Men's Club, 145 Connell Park Rd,
Woodstock, N. B.

VENDORS TABLES AVAILABLE
CALL PAUL AT 392-6111 OR GERALD AT 392-6207

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Next Meeting: April 21st, 2015
Howard Johnson Fort Howe, Portland and
Main, Saint John, NB 7pm

Minutes from the Saint John Coin Club on March 17th, 2015

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved on a motion by Tom Craig, seconded by Kevin Day-Thorburn.

There were 14 members present.

The treasurer's report was given by Tom and approved on a motion by Kevin and seconded by Jim Jennex.

Tom reported on the show in Florenceville, saying there were 80-100 people through the door and it was a good show overall.

Tom then spoke about our collectors' show in May, saying we had 20 tables sold, with far more to come.

It was mentioned that the RCNA show was approaching in July in Halifax.

Jim Butler gave an excellent presentation on communion tokens, telling us why they were important for the church and why they were used. He had some of his own nice examples to pass around.

Jim Jennex held his question period quiz, complete with prizes for the top scorers. Paul Carvell and Kevin had the most correct.

There is a collectors' show April 25th in Woodstock.

There was an auction with coffee and desert on hand.

Tom asked members to help out with our upcoming show; there will be tickets to sell on the door prizes; and he requested some members submit a display.

Steve Small, sect.

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The advertisement features a collage of various Canadian coins and banknotes, including a 1910-1925 one-dollar banknote, a 1999 one-dollar coin, a 1948 five-dollar banknote, and a 1999 five-dollar coin. The text is set against a dark background with a decorative border.