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Saint John Coin Club

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Volume 3 - Issue 3

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March 2016

Coins of Chaos - A Book Review

by Kevin Day-Thorburn

Most collectors likely have more than one book about coins to facilitate research into their value or history, but how many of us have read fiction that revolves around a certain coin or type of coin? It seems many hobbyists look for ways to involve their love of coins with the everyday, so finding stories about coins seemed like a good way to combine reading with my numismatic interests.

Coins of Chaos, edited by Jennifer Brozek, is a 2013 book that caught my eye when I was browsing the Kobo website looking for some light reading I could load onto my phone and e-reader to have something handy when I'm out and about somewhere and need to pass the time. Even though I didn't know anything about the stories or any of the authors – it is a collection of short stories – I bought it and eagerly began to read.

The volume features 17 stories by different writers who each penned a tale about hobo nickels which were all created by one person, "The Carver" in the anthology, and cursed so they would bring trouble to those who possessed them, fuelling his immortality.

Each of the coins in the book began their life as a 1913 American buffalo nickel, the first year of issue for the series, before being transformed into these evil little works of art. Of course, hobo nickels are a real thing; free-spirited nomads would carve them and trade them for meals, shelter, or sell them outright. Older, original hobo nickels can be quite valuable and they're even produced today by artists

Florenceville Collector Show

A collector show was held in Florenceville, NB at the local Royal Canadian Legion. This has been a regular event organized capably by Paul DeMerchant and Gerald Sewell.

Attendance started out strong when the doors opened in the morning, aided by attendees at a dart meet in the same venue. A number of other factors contributed to a strong show, namely good weather for traveling and the larger size of the bourse.

There was a good mix of material for collectors, with coins dominating, but followed closely by sport cards, plus a number



Florenceville Collector Show

of antique collectables. Some inventive licence plate dustpans caught my eye and there was even a cheque signed by Bob Newhart – remember him!

There was a two dollar admission charge, which nobody seemed to mind, and attendees were asked to fill out a small form with their names, email address, collecting interests, and whether or not they were on Facebook. The canteen had snacks available for those wanting a quick bite too.

It was another successful show in the province, which bodes well for the future of our hobby. <>

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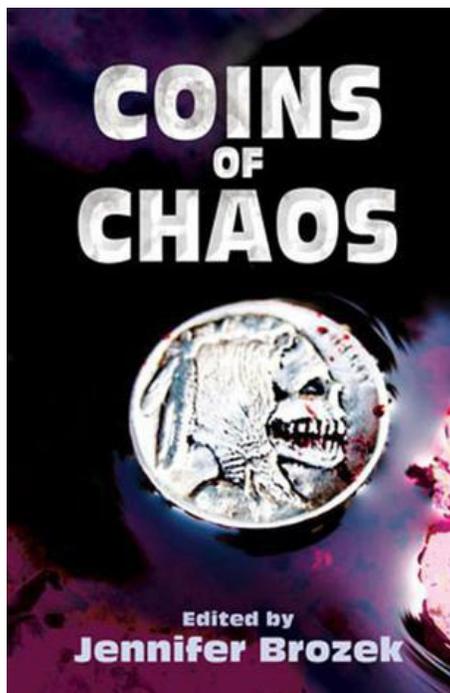
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with varying degrees of skill.

I found the stories enjoyable enough. They entertained with their enthusiasm with the subject matter, but none stood out as great prose or invoked suitable interest in the authors for me to search for more of their work. Vinegar Pie was a favourite, not only because I wasn't aware such a dish existed, and Incubus Nickel admirably captured the despair and destruction that would have been World War II London during the bombings.

The stories achieve their intended results and the book is worth obtaining should you wish a ghoulish little distraction from the world with a numismatic twist.

Can you think of any books where coins play a significant role? I'd love to hear about them, or better yet, write up a little review. <>



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Canadian International Exhibition Medals

by Kevin Day-Thorburn

The Saint John Coin Club had the good fortune to be the recipients of a presentation by Tim Henderson on Saint John medals in November 2015. As is often the case when viewing such a large volume of spectacular material, it can become difficult to recall specific items, particularly when you're unfamiliar with such pieces. Below is information on the Canadian International Exhibition medals that were issued for the Saint John event.

All medals issued were struck on New Brunswick 20 cent pieces, making their composition .925 silver and adding to their numismatic history. The obverse of each medal features an aerial view of the exhibition buildings with "Exhibition Buildings" above and "St. John, N.B." below. The reverse has the date in the centre with "International Exhibition St. John, N.B." around the perimeter.

Medals were issued from 1895-1899 with three distinct varieties. The 1895 has a raised date. A second variety has the date 1896 with the 6 incuse over the raised 5. The third has a silver plug over the date with the date of issue engraved on the plug and these can be dated 1896, 1897, 1898, or 1899.

These medals can be found with and without an attached loop at the top for suspension.

The photo features a piece from my collection showing the second variety and it's interesting to note that there appears to have been a lamination issue with the host coin.



1896 Canadian International Exhibition St. John, NB Medal

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Busy bourse floor at the Florenceville Collector Show Saturday, March 12, 2016



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Fundy Coins & Collectables

84 King St
Saint John, NB
506.642.2646

Contact Us

Editor - Kevin Day-Thorburn

• harbouredtreasures@gmail.com

Treasurer - Tom Craig

• ycart@rogers.com

President - James Young

Vice President - George Murray

Secretary - Steve Small



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Next Meeting: March 15th, 2016
Chateau Saint John, 369 Rockland Road,
Saint John, NB 7pm

Kevin prepared another club newsletter.

Jim Jennex conducted another of his popular coin quizzes. Paul was the winner.

Tom showed a number of videos on the production of gold.

The auction was conducted by Jim.

Steve Small, Secretary

Minutes for the Saint John Coin Club for the February 16, 2016 Meeting

15 members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted on a motion by Tom, seconded by Kevin.

Tom delivered his financial report., which was approved on a motion by George, seconded by Kevin.

The Florenceville collectors' show is March 12th.

Our collector show is May 15th. Tome asked for a volunteer to look after arranging the manning of the door at the show. Kevin had a large banner sign made up to hang outside the venue to promote the show about a week before it opens.

Upcoming Numismatic Events

April 21-22, 2016 - Geoffrey Bell Auctions, Toronto Coin Expo Spring Sale

April 23, 2016 - Woodstock Collector Show

April 30, 2016 - Central Nova Coin Club coin show

July 20-22, 2016 - Geoffrey Bell Auctions, RCNA Sale, Ottawa, ON

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