

# ALMOST CIRCULATED



## Contact Us

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President - Jim Young

Vice President - George Murray

Secretary - Steve Small

## Upcoming Events

April 22, 2017 - Woodstock  
Collector Show

April 29, 2017 - APNA/Central  
Nova Coin Club Show

May 14, 2017 - Saint John Coin  
& Stamp Clubs/APNA  
Collector Show

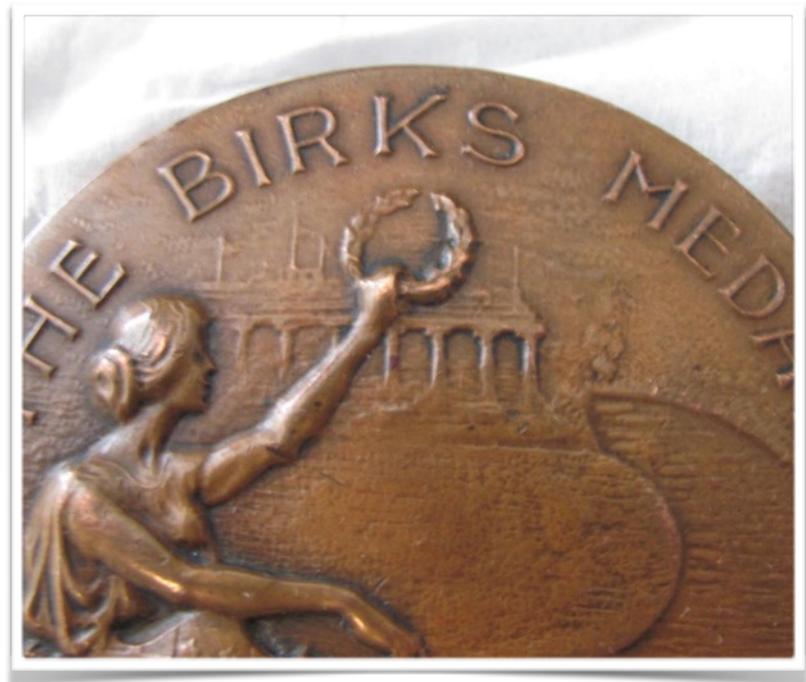
June 1 & 2, 2017 - Geoffrey  
Bell Auctions Ltd. Toronto Coin  
Expo 2017 Spring Sale

## Newsletter Ad Rates

Single 1/4 page ad \$5/issue

6 consecutive months \$20

Contact the editor for details



## Unusual Finds

### The Birks Medal

by Tom Craig

One of the most interesting medals on which information is hard to find is the Henry Birks Medal. I mean specifically, what were the medals made for? They were issued in copper, silver and gold in some cases.

The medal I have is made of copper. It is 56 mm diameter, weight of 62.0 grams. The obverse features Lady Britannia in the seated position with her arm resting on a shield. The left arm, in the raised position, holds a wreath of a sort. The

medal also features a very high relief of the figure on the obverse side. The inscription reads, "presented by HENRY BIRKS & SONS Limited". Of course, this refers to the jewellery store, Henry Birks. Almost all cities have a store of this name featuring its jewellery.

The reverse side bears the wreath of leaves/vine in a circular pattern, but open at the top. Here is a place for inscription, potentially featuring the category or the person's name.



OBVERSE - HIGH RELIEF



REVERSE SIDE

It would appear this medal, copper, was awarded to students in schools, colleges, or any other place of higher learning, for high marks in various subjects. Engineering students were noted in some articles for this award. Of course, the outstanding marks would be awarded the silver or gold medals.

In my research, I was not able to find another Henry Birks Medal that features a sitting Queen Britannia. They were all standing in a vertical position.

Some background information on Henry Birks & Sons: Henry Birks was born in 1840 to English immigrants from Yorkshire, England. His parents moved to Canada in 1832; he was the son of John Birks, who was a pharmacist and Anne Marie. His schooling was in commercial studies at High School in Montreal. In 1857 Henry became a clerk at Savage & Lyman in Montreal, reputed to be the finest jeweller and watchmaker in the province of Canada at that time. He eventually became a partner in that firm, but the company fell into financial difficulties. Henry left that firm and open his own jewellery store with a \$3,000.00 investment on St James Street in the heart of Montreal's financial district.

In 1893 Birks went into partnership with his three sons and the



firm became HENRY BIRKS & SONS. They moved to Saint Catherine Street near Phillips Square in 1894. To this day, that store is still located at the same location. It is located across from the Hudson Bay Store on Phillips Square.

Five successive generations of the Birks family have been involved in the store since its founding in 1879. One of the sons, Gerald Birks, proposed an educational system for Canadian soldiers known as the Khaki University which was implemented in 1917. This has led to the award system that is still in use today for outstanding high marks.

Here is a well known ring box from Henry Birks Jewellery store. The double "B" is well recognized as you can see, with one "B" is reversed or mirrored of the other. The colour of Royal Blue is also the standard used by all the Birks stores.



## Minutes of the Saint John Coin Club 21 March 2017 Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted on a motion by Jim J., seconded by Paul.

Member present were 15 and 2 guests.

Tom presented the financial report which was accepted on a motion by Lloyd, seconded by George.

Jim asked how the show in Florenceville was and Tom explained it was a great success. Attendance was great.

Our show in Saint John is May 14. 20 tables are sold so far. Byron said he would do a display at the show on military medals. A suggestion was made that we state in our ad and we let the public know that the dealers are interested in buying coins and collectables at the show. The tickets for the door prizes will be ready next week. Motion made to place an ad by Paul, seconded by Jim.

Tom passed around the copies of the APNA bylaws.

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Geoffrey Bell  
— Auctions —

Tom mentioned the RCNA medal, noting that we select the design on one side and the other is provided by the RCNA. A motion by George, seconded by Steve, was made to vote on the design and a mockup of the Three Sisters light by Kevin was selected and will be used.

Jim J. passed out this month's trivia quiz. The winner was Paul, with George and Jim Y. tying for second place.

There was a presentation on British North Borneo by Tom, which was enjoyed.

Jim Y. conducted our auction, raising \$155 for the club.

Meeting adjourned.

Steve Small, Secretary

**NEXT  
MEETING**

Chateau Saint John, 369 Rockland Road

• APRIL 18, 2017 •

Saint John, NB 7 PM