



TWO CENTS WORTH

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Member of A.N.A # C-1122583, C.S.N.S # R 11789, I.L.N.A. # C-2718

Our next meeting (#407) is Monday April 4, 2016

Program: BIO OF AUGUSTUS SAINT GAUDENS by Mike B.

Meetings 1st Monday each month at the Hillside Community Center, 1 Lind Street, Hillside, IL 60162, one block West of Wolf Rd, one traffic light North of Roosevelt Rd, (just west of Proviso High School).

The Hillside Coin Club Membership list is kept confidential

IN THE LOUPE

as 'eye' see it

By Jim Maurer, Secretary

Here is a follow up article about Canadian coins **Loonies, Toonies & Maple Leafs... Why Canadian Coins Captivate**



By [Littleton Coin Company](#)

Spanning 3,987 miles (5,525 if you include Alaska) the U.S. – Canadian border is one of the longest in the world. In the early 1990s, I lived near it for a few years. My kids, who were young, called their babysitter’s parents *mémé* and *pépé*. Because we lived close to the border, occasionally on weekends we’d head north to Montreal. We’d go to an Expos game or visit the Biodome, and feast on Quebec’s signature dish, *poutine*.

But while the kids enjoyed the activities and food, they were positively enthralled by all of Canada’s coins.



They wondered aloud what kind of bird was on the “gold” one and how much it was worth. “It’s a loon,” I explained, “and that coin is a dollar, called a ‘Loonie.’”

And did I see the “gold” and “silver” one with a bear...? “That’s a polar bear, it’s found in the arctic, and that’s a \$2 coin, called a ‘Toonie.’ Toonie combines two for \$2 bill with ‘Loonie’ – it rhymes.”

For years, Canada’s innovative coinage has intrigued both old and young alike. Canada’s Loon dollars were introduced in 1987, and the bimetallic \$2 Toonies (which replaced the \$2 bill) followed about a decade later in 1996.

However, global enthusiasm for Canada’s coins had really begun a few years earlier, when the [Royal Canadian Mint](#) launched a new bullion series.

Maple Leaf Series Begins in 1982!



The landmark **Maple Leaf** series premiered in 1982 with a 99.99% gold coin released to compete with the gold [Krugerrand](#). By 1985, Canada's new series had captured 65% of the world market! A few years later, the first 1 oz. 99.99% silver Maple Leafs came along. Since then, the Royal Canadian Mint has released a number of 1 oz. silver coins featuring animals – the wolf especially was a hit with collectors.

Following up on the success of silver coins with animals, the mint began the popular 99.99% Silver **Wildlife Series** in 2011, releasing two designs per year. Each of the coins had a different reverse featuring: the wolf, grizzly, cougar, moose, pronghorn antelope and wood bison, which ended the series in 2013.

Lunar Coins – Collector Favorites!



The **Chinese Lunar series**, which kicked off in 1998 and now is in its second round, proved to be another favorite – after all, who doesn't like owning a coin that gives them insight into their personality traits. Each animal in the 12-year lunar cycle was represented by a small privy mark on the reverse of the silver Maple Leaf.

A beautiful offshoot to that series is the Lunar Lotus 92.5% silver coin with unique scalloped edges. This series began in 2010, and now celebrates the **Year of the Monkey** with its 2016 release.

Most recently, the Royal Canadian Mint's innovation has earned it a [2016 CoTY Award](#) for the **Best Crown Coin**. The final issue in the 2014 colorized silver **Maple Canopy** series, called **Autumn Allure**, took top honors in that category.

Even though it's been nearly 30 years since those days when I lived near Canada, those in northern New England are close enough that we often find Canadian coins (which are accepted at par at most places) in our change. With varying series and fresh designs, Canada's coins offer lots of different ways to put a collection together. If you haven't considered these coins, they're definitely worth a look.

[Minutes of our meeting on March 7, 2016:](#)

Our 406th consecutive meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by our President, Kevin M, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 27 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as posted in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: The following is a calendar with some of our programs filled in. Do you have something to share? Consider being one of our monthly program presenters! See any of the officers for details.

APR BIO OF AUGUSTUS SAINT GAUDENS

MAY OPEN

JUN OTHER HOBBIES

JUL PEST FREE PICNIC OPEN

AUG MEMBER AUCTION

SEP OPEN

OCT WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION (good of the club)

NOV OPEN

DEC CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Harold E. will represent the ANA in presenting a program during National Coin Month. Portage Park Library, 5108 W. Belmont, Chicago at 6:30pm on 4/20/16. Call 312.744.0152 for details.

NEW BUSINESS: Nick W. was back in the hospital. Get well soon, Nick, we miss you! Alan M. was going in for some surgery to remove something he doesn't need. We hope they don't take away his wonderful sense of humor!

It was suggested that we might have a grab bag and/or entertainment at the next Christmas party. Any other musicians out there? Please contact Jim M. if you used to gig.

If you haven't already done so, it's time to pay your 2016 dues of \$ 15. Thanks!

SHOW AND TELL:

Keith L. showed a nice selection of jewelry, belt buckles and the like made with coins. It is amazing how creative some people are. Check it out at the next meeting and see if he is wearing any of the items.

David G. always has interesting stuff to show us! This time it was a nice 1858 Canada cent, which was the first year for their large cent. He also told a story, complete with evidence, of a fellow who used to make a living making counterfeit 1944 War nickels.

Richard H. a fairly new member showed off a Blue Ridge Railroad Bond, several engravings (complete with a story) of American Bank Note engravings and a nice Willys stock certificate. Nice to have Richard in the club!

Harold E. seems to have more exonomia than anyone can imagine. This time he had an encased wooden nickel from a past Will County Coin Show. Who said you shouldn't take any wooden nickels?

We would encourage any of you who may have something of interest to your fellow club members to bring it with you to a future meeting and share it.

BREAK FOR SWEETS: We needed some sustenance for the wonderful presentation that was to follow!

MAIN EVENT: A PANORAMA OF CANADIAN COINS

First up was **Kevin M** who started us off with a wonderful primer on circulating coins from our neighbor to the north. Long ago, they had some French coinage, then England gained control, so they had English coinage. Finally, things evolved to the point that now they have two mints in Canada, Ottawa and Winnipeg. The RCM (Royal Canadian Mint) is recognized as being one of the truly great mints of the world in terms of quality and innovation. Kevin walked us through each series, from the cent through the half dollar. In the process, he touched on the different metals and alloys that were used throughout the years. His favorite coin is the quarter, which is where he spent the most time and where the RCM is very prolific, in some years producing a different circulating quarter for each month of the year.

Jim M. wrapped things up with his favorite denomination, which is the silver dollar. Canada didn't issue these until 1935, when the U.S. was minting the last of their cartwheels. These were made from 1935 through 1967 in 80% silver every year except for a five year break for World War II. During that time there were 6 different circulating commemorative pieces, dealing with Canadian culture and ROYAL happenings. There were also 3 different monarchs represented, Kings George V and VI and Queen Elizabeth II. As each monarch took over, their portrait alternated direction (more or less, as King Edward VIII tried to put a monkey wrench into this tradition).

All in all, there is a lot to like and a lot to collect from Canada.

RAFFLE PRIZES WINNERS:

Bob S.	2 Walkers w/story card
Bev K.	Silver Eagle
Bob W.	NGC PF 69 ULTRA CAMEO 1989S Kennedy Half
Tory S.	1850 Large Cent VG (retail \$ 25)
Ed K.	1968 MINT SET w/historical highlights
Albert M.	? Mystery envelope
Henry K.	1943-S Mercury dime
Albert M.	1736 Dutch "Duit" New York Penny
Kyle K.	Raleigh NC, \$ 1 bill, Sept. 1, 1862

RING TOSS WINNERS: Tory S, Henry K, Kyle K.

MEMBER PRIZE ?????, Franklin half

SPLIT THE POT Bob H. (\$ 14)

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:04

UPCOMING COIN SHOW SCHEDULE:

Mar 31-Apr 2 Milwaukee Coin Show.

April 3. Palatine. 1st Sunday Coin Show.

April 10. Countryside. 2nd Sunday Coin Show.

April 10. Tazewell Numismatic Show, Pekin

April 17. Itasca. NOISE 3rd Sunday Coin Show.

April 27-30 CSNS Annual Show Schaumburg

May 1. Palatine. 1st Sunday Coin Show.