



May, 2014

Volume 31, Issue 3

# THE SHORELINE

Official Publication Of The North Shore Numismatic Society

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
Editor's Notes	2
Volunteers Dinner Pics	3
Encased Coins	4
Encased Coins Cont.	5
Canadian Encased	6
NSNS Club Auction	7
2014 Show Calendar	8

## THIS MONTHS PROGRAM

### **Concentration Camp & Ghetto Money Part 2**

Doors Open  
at 7:00

Bring a Friend

**Next Coin Show  
June 15th (Sun)**

See back page for more info.

## THE CASE FOR ENCASED COINS: WHAT THEY ARE AND ARE NOT

BY: RITA LAWS



# THE NORTH SHORE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

WE ARE A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY  
WORKING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF NUMISMATICA AT ALL LEVELS

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL  
INTERESTED PARTIES

*Meetings are held the  
Third Tuesday  
of each month at:*

**Bonsor Recreation Centre**  
**6550 Bonsor Ave.**  
(Behind Metrotown)  
**FREE Parking**

**Meetings start at 7:00 pm**

**Most Meetings Include:**  
**A Numismatic Presentation**  
**Show & Tell**  
**PLUS... A Numismatic Auction**  
**& Free Refreshments**

***Non-Member Drop-Ins***  
***Welcome***

**For more information contact:**

msouza1866@gmail.com

simgenles@shaw.ca

(Club website)

northshorennumismaticsociety.org

## President's Message Lynn Balmer

As many of you are aware, we are in need of a new location for our coin shows, beginning in January 2015. Redevelopment at Oakridge is making the auditorium unavailable.

We have looked at several possibilities, but we need a location that is convenient for customers and dealers, where our costs are reasonable, with plenty of parking and preferably where we do not have to rent tables. Schools in Vancouver would cost far more than Oakridge and they will not take reservations until the new year. We are looking into community centres, but we are up against other groups with prior commitments.

If anyone has suggestions, please do some preliminary investigation, and contact anyone on the executive. We need to get our new location in place ASAP.

Thank you for your help.

Lynn Balmer

## Editor's Notes Gene Simms

The April meeting saw the largest turnout we've had in a long while, over 30 members and guests were in attendance to enjoy Mike Souza's excellent power point presentation on Concentration Camp & Ghetto Money, and the very social aspects of our meetings. It was very evident from the professional quality of the presentation that Mike has dedicated a lot of hours to the project, and it certainly showed. I know we can expect the same high standards for part two of the program at this coming meeting. Thanks again to Mike, and all the executive's for their dedication and hard work - both at the meetings and behind the scenes. It takes a lot hard work by a few dedicated people to bring you consistent and interesting meetings, and coin shows (5 shows a year). We all do it because we want to but a little show of appreciation to the ones putting in the effort is always welcome. A good way to show that appreciation (apart from the basic but important "Thank-You") would be to contribute to the cause with program suggestions, an occasional article for the Shoreline (defiantly wouldn't go astray), or just volunteering at the meeting to sell tickets or auctioneering would go along way. We are fortunate to have a very active and growing club, and a great group of people. With everyone's participation we can make it even better and keep it moving forward.

A reminder that our next one day show is less than a month away, Sun, June 15th. (free admission). We hope to see you all there.

The volunteers dinner we had planned for uncle Willy's fell through. After reading some bad reviews and health scares, it was decided that we would have the dinner at Earls instead. It was a nice choice. The fifteen of us who attended certainly enjoyed ourselves. The food and service was excellent. My dessert, a sticky toffee pudding with ice couldn't be beat (pictured). Nor my usual Cajun chicken Caesar salad. And of course it goes without saying, the company was excellent (see the pictures on page 3). Sorry for the picture quality. They were taken with my iphone and the lighting was poor.



# NSNS Volunteer's Dinner at Earls





# The Case for Encased Coins: What They Are and Are Not

Rita Laws, Ph.D.

Have you ever wondered how the penny in an encased coin stays put inside the outer ring, decade after decade? It's not glue. The answer lies in the manufacturing process. When the coin is placed inside the donut-shaped encasement, it is a loose fit. As the die stamps the design into the encasement, or outer ring, the metal flows inward and tightens up around the coin in the middle. The fit is so tight, the coin's edge actually caves in slightly. This is why coins that are later placed into encasements as substitutes cannot fit, and will always lie at an angle, if they can be fully inserted at all.

This inward movement of the coin's edge is why encased coins are considered altered coins, even though they are not changed in any obvious way, as an elongated coin is. It is almost always a bad idea to remove coins from their rings because of their dates or rarity. The damage to the edge has already compromised the coin's catalog value. In most cases, encased coins are worth more left in their encasements anyway. They are highly collectible. In addition to collectors of cents and encased coinage, they are sought out by folks who collect advertising, world fair and expo souvenirs, and "lucky" items. The majority of encased coins, at least the older ones from the first half of the 20th century, have wording on them about luck, or have lucky symbols in the design.

Indian head and Lincoln wheat design cent specimens are particularly popular with collectors, as are oddly-shaped encasements, higher denomination encased coins, and low mintage pieces, i.e., fewer than 300 pieces. When a mintage total is available for an encased coin, rare except for modern issues, the mintage refers to the number of encasements produced, and has nothing to do with the coins.

## What They Are and Are Not

Encased coins are technically not tokens or medals because, by definition, they have legal tender value, but they can rightly be classified both as coins and as exnumia. As "altered coins," they belong to the same category that encompasses elongates, cut and carved coins, and coins with other after market changes.

Encased coins should not be confused with bimetallic coins, even though they are typically bimetallic. The main difference is that bimetallic are made that way at their respective mints, and the outer rings are part of the coin, not a case.

Sometimes encased coins are also confused with coins that are mounted in bezels. A bezel is a metal frame for a coin or gem, sometimes held in place with a tiny screw, and having a loop at the top, or some way to attach the bezel to a chain. Putting a bezel on a coin does not make it an encased coin.

Rather, bezels make coins into jewelry pendants.

## History and Purpose

Just as elongated coins owe their existence to a World's Fair (the 1893 Columbian Expo), so too does the encased coin. Even though encased coins were made as early as the 1880s, they first achieved popularity at the Pan Am Expo in Buffalo, New York in 1901, the same year that a new process for making them was patented. This is the same Expo made infamous by the assassination of President McKinley.

Encased coins are produced with five different purposes in mind: As advertisements, souvenirs, announcements, personal calling cards, and as collectibles. They caught on quickly as advertisements because the people receiving them were not likely to throw them away. Who would throw out cash? Often, one side

claimed to bring luck or good fortune to the owner making it more likely that the ad would end up as someone's "lucky pocket piece." Many early types were holed and worn as charms, or made into key chains.

Automobiles, beer, insurance, shoes, and drug store wares, to name a few, were routinely advertised using encased coins. Sometimes, the encased also functioned as a good-for. The middle might contain a penny, for example, but the ring would read: "Good for 5 cents off your next purchase at ----." Once the cent was redeemed by a customer, it could be given to someone else as change, and the cycle would begin again.

During the Great Depression, the common message of "Keep Me and Never Go Broke" brought a smile to many people for whom the specter of poverty was a constant companion. Others said, "I Bring Good Luck," and "If You're Stuck in a Pickle, Here's a Nickel."

Encased coins have also functioned as inexpensive souvenirs for Expos, fairs, and at National Parks and popular attractions. As announcements or commemoratives of important events and dates, they are ideal. They have been used as birth announcements, for example, by numismatically inclined parents, in lieu of cigars. And more than a few automobile and insurance salespeople and coin dealers have commissioned encased coins to be used as business cards. Why give someone a cardboard rectangle when you can hand them a lucky encased coin?

Finally, in modern times, some encased coins are produced as collectibles to be sold for profit, and are not given away gratis. These may be artistic, commemorative, informative or patriotic in design. Coin clubs and shows will sometimes sell encased coins they have designed in order to raise awareness of their existence, but also as fund-raisers.

## Surprising Values

Encased coin values are affected by rarity, age and condition, just like all coins. Keeping mintage records is a recent phenomenon when it comes to encased coins. This begs the question, "How do you know how old a piece is?"

Although there are exceptions, encased coins can generally be dated by the coin in the center. Manufacturers past and present use newly minted coins because customers prefer shiny uncirculated coins and because clean uniform coins are better for the machinery. The age of the coin is a guide,



**1904 ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR  
ENCASED INDIAN HEAD CENT  
KEEP ME AND NEVER GO BROKE**



but not an absolute proof of age. Many modern encased coins, made since 1960, can be purchased for less than \$5 apiece. The year 1959 is a kind of cut-off between vintage and modern encased coins, for two reasons. First, the 1950s are considered the Golden Age of encased coin production. Secondly, the Lincoln cent reverse changed in 1959. Indian Head and Lincoln wheat cents are generally more valuable than encased coins made with the Lincoln Memorial reverse design.

Encased world coins, with legends in English, German, Spanish, French and other languages are usually very affordable, too. Cents encased with bottle caps, an advertising gimmick popular with some bottling companies in the 1950s and 60s, are unique and inexpensive.

This is not a hobby that requires huge sums of money. However, there are encased coins with surprisingly high values.

Among the most popular are the many varieties made in 1901 for the Pan American Expo with Indian Head cents. This was the first national introduction of the encased coin, and many expo and business varieties were created that year.

The relatively more common 1901 Pan Am Expo four leaf clover encased Indian Head Cent sells for a respectable \$20 and up, depending on condition. However, the 1901 Pan Am Expo frying pan-shaped or dustpan-shaped encased Indian Head cent sells for \$100 or more in excellent condition ..

One popular older encased contains an Indian Head cent, usually dated 1901 to 1904, that has been sliced in two with only half of the coin encased. The advertisement for the Milwaukee Harvester Company claims that just "One half cent Per Acre Will Keep A Milwaukee In Repair." These can sell for over

\$100.

Late nineteenth century celluloid encased cents are tough to find in excellent condition and can sell for hundreds of dollars.

In July, 2008, a rare celluloid-encased 1898 Indian Head cent advertising a barrel of Friedenwald Whiskey for \$3.00, attracted 15 bids and sold for \$380.00 on eBay. We can date this encased both by the coin and by the advertising. By 1900, a barrel of this same whiskey sold for \$3.50.

Anything from the first decade of the twentieth century, such as the 1904 Lewis and Clark Expo in Portland, Oregon, or the 1907 Jamestown Expo in Virginia, will do well. The rare Indian Head cent pocket mirror encasements from the early 1900s routinely sell for \$50 or more. Unusual shapes from the early 1900s, like chamber pots and loaves of bread, are often worth several times as much as simple round encasements.

Encased Peace and Morgan dollars sell for \$75 and up because of their scarcity; a value that is much higher than that of the coin alone. The Buick automobile company supplied bronze ring encased silver Morgan dollars to some of its salespeople in the 1940s to award to customers who actually bought a new car. Curiously, these Morgan dollars almost always date from the 1880s. The reverse of these encased Buick dollars reads, "When Better Automobiles are Built, Buick Will Build Them." There are however different obverse legends. The standard message is "You Can Bet A Million, It's The Best Buick Yet." And then there's the Red Curtice legend, to wit, "You Can Put Your Bottom Dollar on 1940, "Red" Curtice."

Harlow Herbert "Red" Curtice began his career as a

General Motors bookkeeper and then rose through the ranks as comptroller, vice-president in 1948, and GM president in 1953. He was famous for the luxury automobiles produced during his tenure. In 1955, he was Time magazine's Man of the Year.

Curtice gave out his customized encased dollars, housed in red and blue cardboard boxes, to business associates and customers. Generally, a Curtice encased dollar will sell for ten to twenty per cent more than a standard encased Buick Morgan.

But perhaps the King of Encased Coins, value wise, is the rare and highly sought after Kolb Bakery Indian Head Cent with its



**Kolb Bakery Indian Head Cent with Teddy Bear-shaped encasement. The obverse reads: "Bear Us In Mind," and the reverse, "Kolb's Bakery, Philadelphia, Teddy Bear Bread."**

Teddy Bear-shaped encasement. The obverse reads: "Bear Us In Mind," and the reverse, "Kolb's Bakery, Philadelphia, Teddy Bear Bread." With dates in the first decade of the 20th century, these century old cents command a premium.

When four Kolb examples came up for auction on eBay in June and July, 2008, two of them having Kolb family provenance, they sold for \$402, \$410, \$449, and \$474 each. Interestingly, a token value guide published in 1991 lists this same encased coin with a value of \$25 to \$40. That means it has increased in value more than ten fold in 17 years.

## Finding Other Encased Enthusiasts

Spend a little, spend a lot; the encased coin hobby welcomes people of all means. You can find out more about encased coins by visiting ECI. The Encased Collectors International club is easy to join and has no dues requirement. Launched in 2004, Encased Collectors International has 483 members as of 3-13-09\*. The URL is <http://www.encasedcollectorsinternational.org>



**Chamber Pot encasement: A.I. WHITE & CO. GREENWOOD B.C. WITH 1907 INDIAN HEAD CENT GO WAY BACK AND SET DOWN A POT FULL OF MONEY KEEP ME AND NEVER BE CAUGHT SHORT**



**Horse Shoe Encasement: DOON PIONEER VILLAGE WATERLOO COUNTY ONT. WITH A 1968 CAN.CENT KEEP ME AND NEVER GO BROKE I BRING GOOD LUCK**



## Sidebar

### A Case of Numismatic Reincarnation?

Elaine S. Rexdale, a New Jersey book publisher, began collecting encased coins as a child after an auto salesman gave her one of the novelties. "It's not just an encased coin," she says, "It's the good luck it promises and the feeling you get thinking about all the people and places that have touched it."

When Rexdale began her own publishing house, she began using encased coins to advertise her titles with the very first book. She calls this advertising tool "low tech and inexpensive." She has encased US coin denominations from the cent to the dollar and several types of world coins, too.

The designs employed by Rexdale come from encased coin designer and researcher, Bryan G. Ryker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and are made by the Penny Press Mint. Bryan's interest in encased coins began when he married the granddaughter of Earl Fankhauser, the "Penny Man," and the most prolific creator of encased coins in US history. Between 1948 and 1965 Fankhauser made more than 670 different pieces for businesses and individuals. Ryker wrote a book about his famous grandfather-in-law as he was getting more and more involved in encased designing.

He says, "After I made a piece for the 40th anniversary of our local coin club, occasionally people would contact me asking where they could get a piece of their own made. I would usually offer to help them with the design, because it is a fun thing to do."

And then Elaine Rexdale got him started creating designs for the books she was publishing. Ryker says of Rexdale, "She is like the Earl Fankhauser of our day. Elaine has taken encased coin production to new heights. I've lost track of all the different pieces she has had made, but among our "firsts" are the first multi-colored piece, the first gold-plated piece, the first all-aluminum piece (made with an aluminum Panamanian centesimo), and the first buffalo nickel - Indian head cent combination piece. After the first couple of pieces, we started putting artwork on her pieces, which has made it all the more interesting and fun."

Whether the numismatic spirit of Earl has been reincarnated in Elaine, or has only inspired her, Elaine is a champion of the encased coin. And this writer has to say that it has been a thrill to work with her and Bryan Ryker in the creation of not one but two different encased coins for the promotion of my new book, released in January, 2008.

Both of these, an encased 2007 gilded

Sacagawea and an encased 2008 Oklahoma quarter, were created by Ryker and Rexdale to advertise my non-numismatic humor book, "This Explains A Lot." Ryker even signed the designs, "BGR." Elaine Rexdale's company, Presbyopian Press, ordered 300 of the first and 400 of the second that were manufactured by the Penny Press Mint.

Serendipitously, the mintage figures for those two different US coins happen to be relatively low for their respective series, a fact that will help the value of the encased coins grow in the distant future.

Friends, relatives and potential book-buying customers are always happy to receive an encased coin. It is not only lots of fun to promote my work using encased coins, but the designs and coin choices are meaningful to me both as a member of the Oklahoma Choctaw Nation and as an Oklahoman who served on my state quarter design commission. An added bonus is the tiny buffalo in the design of each encasement. I am an avid collector of bison-theme medals and tokens.

When it comes to hobby-related fun, it just doesn't get much better than this.

*As published in COINage magazine, March 2009, Volume 45, Number 3, Miller Magazines.*

## Here are a few more examples of Canadian Encased Coins



**REXDALE  
ENCASED COINS**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Door Prizes**

Canada 1988 Double  
Dollar Proof Set \$35

Germany 1704 Gulden  
Restrike (Silver) \$12

Canada 1963 \$1 Silver \$16

France 1963 5 Francs  
Silver \$7

Five Hong Kong 5 Cents  
1888, 1890H, 1891, 1895  
and 1905 \$10

Five Canada BC-46b UNC  
Crow-Bouey \$1 \$10

Canada 5 Cents 1913 \$5

Canada 25 Cents 2000  
"Family" Proof \$10

\*\*\*\*\*

May 20, 2014  
**NSNS AUCTION**

To facilitate paying for your successful bids, please bring small bills (\$5s or \$10s) or coins. We only have a limited amount of cash on hand to make change.

- 1- 5 Canada Silver Dollars - 1958-62 - AU-50 - MS-62  
Est. \$75 Res. \$65
- 2- 5 Canada Silver Dollars - 1963-67 - MS-60 - MS-62  
Est. \$75 Res. \$65
- 3- Belgium 250 Fr. 1976 MS-60  
Est. \$30 Res. \$20
- 4- Canada 1911 Large Cent - MS-63  
Est. \$80 Res. \$60
- 5- Canada 1947 Dot 5 Cents - F-12  
Est. \$30 Res. \$22
- 6- Rome Constantius Follis 337-61 AD  
Est. \$15 Res. \$10
- 7- USA 10 Cents - 1875 VF-20 - Est. \$25 Res. \$18
- 8- Canada 10 Cents - 1901 VF-20 - Est. \$55 Res. \$40
- 9- Japan 1980 Mint set - Est. \$10 Res. \$7
- 10- Australia 1 Pound - 1966 -EF - Est. \$30 Res. \$20
- 11- U.K. 10 Shillings - 1955 - VF - Est. \$15 Res. \$10
- 12- Canada \$1-1954 Devil's Face - AU  
Est. \$125 Res. \$100
- 13- Galapagos 500 Sucres 2009 - Est. \$5 Res. \$3
- 14- Canada 1990 Specimen Set - Est. \$16 Res. \$10
- 15- Canada 1994 Proof Set - Est. \$40 Res. \$30

If you wish to place a item or items in the auction and have your entry appear in the Shoreline email Lynn Balmer at [balmoralnu@shaw.ca](mailto:balmoralnu@shaw.ca)

Floor submission items can be submitted by members at the meeting.

All submissions FREE of charge.

Keep the Auction interesting - Bring Your floor submissions.

The auction is a good way to clear out some of those extras  
that accumulate.

**THE NORTH SHORE  
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**

***COIN & STAMP  
FAIR***

**OAKRIDGE AUDITORIUM 41st & CAMBIE**  
(West Side of Oakridge Shopping Centre)

***BUY - SELL - FREE APPRAISALS***

**Coins - Stamps - Bank Notes  
Tokens - Medals - Post cards & More**

---

***2014 Show Schedule***

***(Doors Open -10am - 4pm)***

***Jan. 19th (Sun) Free Admission***

***Apr. 5th & 6th (Sat & Sun) \$2 Admission\****

***Jun. 15th (Sun) Free Admission***

***New -Sept. 13th & 14th (Sat & Sun) \$2 Admission\****

***Nov. 16th (Sun) Free Admission***

---

**For more information contact:**

**msouza1866@gmail.com / simgenles@shaw.ca**

**NSNS Website: [www.northshorenumismaticssociety.org](http://www.northshorenumismaticssociety.org)**

---

***Don't Forget To Purchase Your Door Prize Tickets:***

**2 Great Prizes - 5 Chances to WIN for only \$2.00**