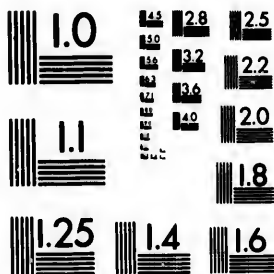


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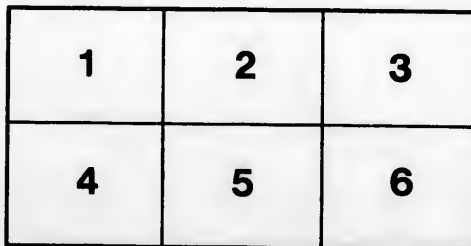
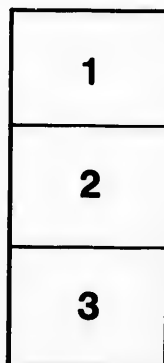
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CANADIAN  
Numismatic Bibliography

A REVIEW

OF

Mr. R. W. McLachlan's "Canadian Numismatics,"

AND OTHER

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

DESCRIBING

CANADIAN COINS & MEDALS

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Montreal :

REPRINTED FROM "THE GAZETTE."

1886.



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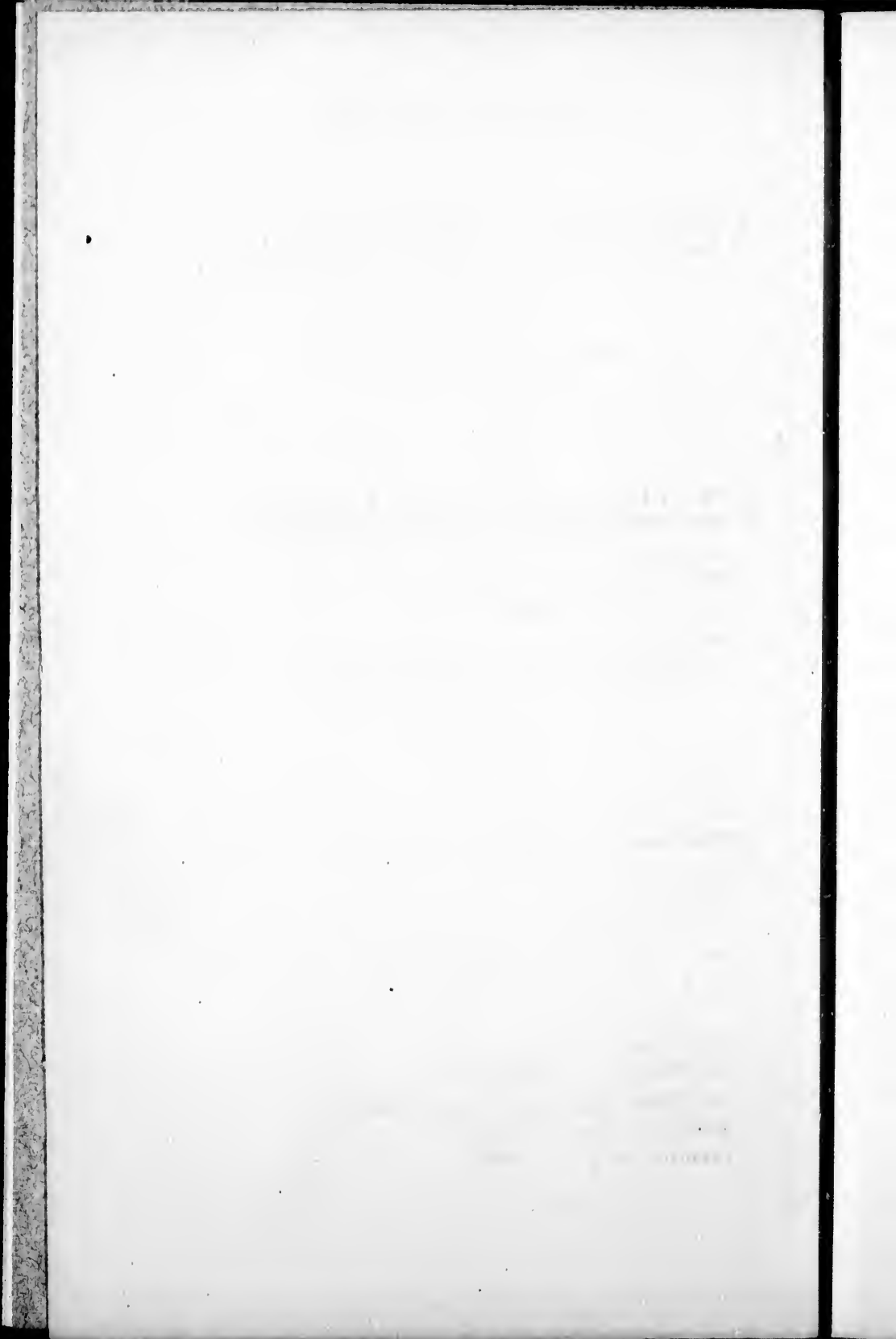
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# CANADIAN NUMISMATICS.

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## A REVIEW.

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A knowledge of the coins of a nation or age is almost equivalent to a knowledge of the history and characteristics of its people. A learned numismatist has a more thorough knowledge of history than the average historian. In their coins we learn as much of the art, the religion, the geography and the history as we do of the currency of the Greeks. The coinage of the Roman republic is a history of its great families. And the details of the history of Bactria and one or two other eastern nations is only known by their money.

The history therefore of any country is not complete without a history of its coinage. And numismatists have in many departments done their work thoroughly. Over and over again has the story of the Greek drachma or the Roman denarius been told with increasing interest. And their descendant, the English penny, tells more fully than aught else of the thousand years throughout which the Anglo-Saxon has risen, developed and spread.

We in Canada also have something to learn from the form and finish of our medium of exchange. We cannot boast of the art of the Greek drachma, the wonderful family history of the Roman denarius or the long eventful reign of the English penny. And

yet our currency is only a lateral development of that penny. Its story too has been told and retold.

In 1862 the Rev. H. Christmas, F.R.S., contributed an article to *The Numismatic Chronicle*, published in London, on "The copper coinage of the British colonies in America." The coinage of the West Indies, as well as that of Canada, is therein described, the whole covering twenty-two pages. He ascribes altogether only eighty-nine coins to Canada and Newfoundland, of which two do not exist and one is undoubtedly Irish. Still a number of the rarer coins, for a long time only known to Canadian collectors through this work, are described.

In the same year the Numismatic Society of Montreal was founded, and little if any time was lost in organizing a committee to describe the Canadian coins. The committee consisted of Messrs. A. J. Boucher, L. A. H. Latour, J. L. Bronsdon and James Rattray, who were "authorized to prepare and publish a complete catalogue of British North American coins." The committee entered into their work with vigor, and, before the close of 1863, sixteen pages were printed, describing seventy-two coins of Lower Canada. A French edition was printed simultaneously. The title page reads:—"A catalogue of the silver and copper coins of Canada and of the other North American provinces." The reasons for entering upon the work are thus set forth in the preface:—

"On the formation of the society, the atten-

tion of the members was directed to Numismatics in general. It was not long, however, before several members very naturally directed their researches toward the coins of these provinces. The comparatively great rarity—the artistic excellence of numerous specimens—and divers curious incidents bearing on these coins, excited the greatest astonishment and furnished ample material for many interesting reflections and surmises.”

“Few persons outside the society, appear to have been aware of many of these interesting facts—indeed the existence of several of these coins hereafter described, appears to have been altogether ignored even by most residents of these provinces.”

Towards the close of the year the energy of the committee began to flag, so that they never got beyond the first sixteen pages. Mr. Rattray died soon afterwards, after which the committee lapsed.

For a time the interest in the work died out, but a numismatic interest was renewed in the city by the sale of Mr. Rattray's collection, followed shortly afterwards by that of another member of the committee, Mr. Boucher.

About the year 1867 another committee was appointed consisting of Mr. Bronsdon, the most active member of the old committee, and Mr. Alfred Sandham. They, finding it impossible to make any use of the old attempt, commenced anew. After considerable progress had been made, Mr. Bronsdon resigned; and Mr. Sandham determined to carry on the work in his own name. In 1869 therefore “The coins, medals and tokens of the Dominion of Canada” by Alfred Sandham was issued. After a historical introduc-

tion of eight pages, he describes two hundred and fifty eight Canadian coins and medals besides mentioning a number of varieties. A supplement was issued to this work, in 1872, describing fifty-one additional pieces, making a total of three hundred and nine. From this should be deducted thirty-one that are not Canadian or that were never struck.

Mr. Sandham has also written several brochures on the same subject. The first of these the "Prince of Wales' medals," appeared in 1871, describing seven medals either commemorative of the Prince's visit in 1860, or presented by him to be awarded in several of our schools and colleges. It consists of twenty pages, printed in Montreal. In 1872 he issued a similar work on "McGill college and its medals," describing altogether eight that are awarded annually in that institution. The main portion of the work, forty out of forty-four pages, is devoted to a history of the college making it of little value as a work on numismatics. Both of these works are printed only on one side of the page; and what gives them their greatest charm is the beautiful photographs, of the medals described, with which they are illustrated. In the same year he wrote a four page pamphlet describing seven "Montreal trade tokens." These private tokens, advertisements of old business firms, are all figured in a full paged lithographic illustration. This was printed in Boston. "The historic medals of Canada," his last work, before relinquishing the study, appeared in 1873. It consists of

twenty-four pages describing a number of medals relating mainly to the conquest. As it was written to be read before the Literary and Historical society of Quebec, it was printed in that city.

In 1874 Mr. William Kingsford wrote a monograph entitled "A Canadian political coin." He attempts to give the history of what is known as the *Vexator Canadensis*, a coin or rather two coins similar in design, whose legend and origin are a puzzle to collectors. By considerable twisting and turning of the almost indecipherable legend on the reverse he makes *Renunillos Viscape* to read *Non illos Vis Cape re* and translates it "Don't you wish you may catch them." This he explains as a satire on the administration of Sir James Craig, who was Governor of Lower Canada in 1811. The monograph first appeared as an article in the *Canadian Antiquarian* and was afterwards printed at Ottawa.

Towards the close of 1877 the extensive collection formed by Jules Fonrobert, was disposed of by auction in Berlin for which a profusely illustrated catalogue was prepared by Herr Adolph Weyl. Part I., a volume of nearly six hundred pages, is confined entirely to the coins of North America. Two hundred and twenty-two coins and medals are therein ascribed to Canada, a number new to collectors and some credited to the Dominion for the first time, although several, as for instance the Bank of England dollar, are improperly so credited. The descriptions are more full than Sandham's, giving, as is the

German custom, much of minute detail. As it was only written as an auction catalogue of a single private collection it is not claimed to be exhaustive or even as an authority, yet it is often quoted as such by numismatists. The Canadian portion of the collection realized upwards of 600 marks (\$150).

A small pamphlet of sixteen pages was issued in 1882 by J. LeRoux, M.D. It is, to a great extent, an abbreviated account of descriptions given by Sandham in which many of his errors are copied. A number of additional pieces are mentioned. He does not attempt to catalogue the medals. The total number described are two hundred and nine, from which should be deducted over twenty that are not Canadian, or which are simply counter-sunk checks.

Dr. LeRoux in 1883 again favored the public with a pamphlet on Canadian coins entitled "Numismatic atlas for Canada." In it he gives cuts of two hundred and thirty coins from which fifteen should be deducted for similar reasons to the last. This is printed in French and English. The illustrations render it invaluable to collectors beginning work on the Canadian series.

Much has been added to the knowledge of Canadian coins through the *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*. There have been contributed to its pages many articles describing or elucidating the history of new or rare coins and medals. The jour-

nal still continues to publish articles on the subject.

Mr. Sandham was the chief mover in establishing the *Antiquarian*, and, while able seconded by other members of the Society, he for a number of years did the bulk of the editorial work, contributing at the same time most of the Numismatic articles. Other articles on this subject were contributed by Mr McLachlan, who, after the retirement of Mr. Sandham, became for a time chief editor; he has ever since continued to contribute many, if not the major part, of the articles on Canadian coins and medals.

Its pioneer on this continent, *The American Journal of Numismatics*, has also devoted considerable space to Canadian numismatics, giving it a place second only to that of the United States.

Notices or descriptions of Canadian coins occur in several books published in Great Britain and Germany, among which may be mentioned Humphrey's "Coinage of the British Empire," and *Beschreibung der Bekanntesten Kupfermunzen*, by Josef Neumann.

The Hon. George M. Parsons, of Columbus, Ohio, wrote, in 1884, a very interesting paper on "The Colonial Jetons of Louis XV, and other pieces relating to the French colonial possessions in America and to their conquest by England." Although it was written from an American standpoint it describes pieces that for the most part have a more direct re-



ference to Canada. A well executed photo-type illustration, portraying some of the rarer varieties, renders the pamphlet much more attractive.

Last year two articles by Mr. E. Zay, of Paris, appeared in the *Revue Numismatique*. In these articles, under the title, *Notice sur Quelques Monnaies des Colonies Francaises*, Mr. Zay describes, among others, all the coins struck for Canada under the old regime. One coin which he describes is altogether new to us. In his researches he had hunted up some of the original documents in which the order was given for the striking of these early colonial coinages. These documents, which he prints in full, show clearly that the *Gloriam Regni* and what are called the Louisiana pieces of 1721 and 1722 were struck for and circulated in Canada.

Papers have also been written on kindred subjects by Mr. James Stevenson, of Quebec, two of which may be noticed; "The Currency of Canada after the Capitulation," and "The Card Money of Canada." A number of other works have appeared relating to the currency which need not be mentioned here.

The number of works that had already appeared on the subject would seem to have precluded anyone else entering the field, but to-day we have before us a copy of "*Canadian Numismatics*, a catalogue of the coins, tokens and medals, of the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland," by R. W. McLachlan. This work describes six hundred and nineteen

coins and medals nearly a third of which are here mentioned for the first time. As is stated in the preface, the work is mainly a reprint of articles that appeared in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, and as the first two of these articles were printed in 1880 and they were not written with the expectation that the work would reach such proportions, the earlier pages are somewhat incomplete. One defect in the work is that there is no historical sketch of the coinage and currency of the Dominion. This defect is, to some extent, made up by the short historical notes following the description of each coin. These notes add much to the interest of the book and relieve it of the dryness connected with a simple catalogue. Some of these may be quoted with interest. In describing the French-American jetons, he states of that of 1755 which bears the golden fleece that:—

“Many were the Jasons in those adventurous days who set out for New France expecting to return with the much coveted auriferous prize. But the fleecing of the poor *habitants* indulged in by some of their governors was the nearest approach to the Golden Fleece which was ever attained by them. To this cause, more than to all others, may we attribute the failure of French anticipations in the building up of a glorious empire in America.”

In describing the T. S. Brown token, Mr. McLachlan states that:—

“This token was issued in 1832 or 1833 as a substitute for change. It not only proved useful, but became a source of profit to the importer. It also coined a name for Mr. Brown by which he has since been familiarly known among his friends—‘Copper

Tommy.' He took part in the rebellion of 1837 commanding the rebels at St. Charles.'

In his opening paragraph the author states that :—

“In preparing an amended catalogue of coins and medals relating to Canada, I intend to depart somewhat from the order adopted by Sandham.”

Sandham and LeRoux had followed in their catalogues the classification adopted by Christmas, who placed Newfoundland first on the list, made a separate heading for the single coin of the Magdalen Islands and arranged those of the old united province of Canada together without distinguishing those relating to Ontario or Quebec. He makes a new division for the coins of the old regime and places the Magdalen Islands' coin with those of the province of Quebec. In the separating of the coins of the two large provinces, two new divisions become necessary, those belonging to the old united province and such as have been issued by the Dominion Government or have no local bearing. All these divisions render the arranging of the coins more easy.

Another feature of the work is the arrangement of the *un sou* series. This group of coins issued during the troublesome times that preceeded the rebellion have always perplexed collectors. How to distinguish and select the different varieties has been no easy question to settle. Mr. McLachlan explains his arrangement thus :

“Before describing the *un sou* tokens it may be well to explain how they are to be arranged.

To me they form the most interesting series of coins issued in Canada, for there is still much of mystery surrounding them—The questions: who were the coiners? where were they minted? who the issuers? and what the number of varieties?—remain to a certain extent unanswered.”

“As all have the same design and the variations are often slight the series is a different one to arrange and properly describe. It will be necessary to give much of minute detail, so as to point out the differences to the collector wishing to know the vacancies in his cabinet. The frequent interchange of dies has made the matter still more complicated. It will be seen that some classification (a grouping) of the forty or more known varieties is necessary. The simplest mode of grouping then is by the variations on the reverse. I shall therefore divide the series into nine groups; (numbered from A to I,) determined mainly by the number of leaves in the wreath.”

Although this is a step in the right direction, a series of illustrations of these coins, bearing the emblematic bouquet, would have been much more helpful to collectors, and here we may state for a work of the kind it should have been much more profusely illustrated. While in connection with the *un sou* series, we may quote an interesting fact regarding the finding of a pair of dies which illustrates how money was privately coined in those days.

“The dies of this coin were found in August, 1863, in the cellar of a building tenanted by Dr. Picault, a druggist. His son, having some taste for numismatics, saved them from the fate of old iron and presented them to the collection of the Montreal Numismatic society, then newly organized, and they were the first treasure of importance

that came into its possession. . . .  
 These dies have never been turned down, so as to admit of a collar, which renders it difficult, almost impossible, to obtain a perfect impression. The design and composition of the bouquet is entirely different from all others of the series. It is likely, especially as the dies were discovered here, that they are the work of some now forgotten Montreal engraver, and that they were finished too late to be used in striking coins for circulation before the copper currency of the times was called down."

Among other papers contributed by Mr. McLachlan to Canadian numismatic literature may be mentioned "The Edward Murphy Medal," describing a medal given by that gentleman for annual award at the Catholic Commercial Academy; "The Temperance Medals of Canada," a pamphlet describing sixteen struck for the different temperance organizations throughout the Dominion, and "The Money and Medals of Canada under the Old Regime," a paper read before the Royal Society of Canada, which appeared as a pamphlet of twenty-seven pages, giving a short history of the card money and describing forty-nine coins, medals and jetons. This is a much greater number than had heretofore been attributed to New France. He also contributed a paper to the American Numismatic and Archaeological society of New York, of which he is a corresponding member, on "The Montreal Indian Medal." This paper, printed in the transactions for 1883, gives an interesting history of an old medal, having a view of the city, that was presented by Sir William

Johnson to the Indian chiefs who accompanied him to Montreal in 1760.

Although descriptions of so many specimens have been added to those that have already appeared in other works, the subject does not seem to be by any means exhausted; as part II, which Mr. McLachlan proposes to issue as a supplement, will contain descriptions of from three to four hundred additional pieces. A supplement is made necessary by the fact that the work appeared first as a serial. And yet no one will regret the necessity of the supplement when we learn that it will contain appendices giving the coins in a tabulated form, translations of the legends and corrections and additional information. It will also contain what is a real necessity a full index. We only hope that we may not have to wait until the close of 1888, for the appearance of this supplement.

*From the Montreal Daily Star.*

"CANADIAN NUMISMATICS" 8vo. R. W. McLachlan, Montreal.

Nations leave no more indelible footprints to indicate their statues of civilization than their coins and medals. This branch of study possesses a rare interest to those who engage in it, and to such Mr. McLachlan's book will be exceedingly welcome. Having been editor of the *Canadian Antiquarian* for many years and an enthusiastic numismatist, Mr. McLachlan has been able to put before the public the result of much intelligent research. The earlier pages treat of the coins and medals under the French régime in Canada, the first of which was issued in the year 1670 by Louis XIV. It is worthy of note that in the number and variety of coins and medals issued, the Province of Quebec leads the Dominion, with

Nova Scotia as second. The entire number referred to by Mr. McLachlan in his work is over 600, and his remarks thereon are uniformly instructive and will prove interesting even to the casual reader. The book is well got up and is ornamented by well executed wood cuts.

—  
*From the Daily Witness.*

Mr. R. W. McLachlan, of Montreal, has published a descriptive catalogue of the coins, tokens and medals issued in or relating to the Dominion of Canada, and Newfoundland. The catalogue is a reprint from the *American Journal of Numismatics*, in which the series of articles, now republished, as a whole first appeared. The work will be interesting to coin collectors, containing as it does short historical notes on many of the coins described. It is well printed on fine paper.

—  
*From the American Journal of Numismatics, Boston.*

CANADIAN NUMISMATICS.—A descriptive catalogue of coins, tokens and medals, issued in or relating to the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, with notes, giving incidents in the history of many of these coins and medals. By Robert Wallace McLachlan. [Arms of the Dominion.] Montreal; privately printed for the author. Royal 8°, pp. 127.

In this volume, largely reprinted from the pages of the *Journal*, Mr. McLachlan has added another volume of value to the slowly increasing list of works by American numismatists. It has been a labor of love to the author, whose diligent study of the coins in his own cabinet,—one of the most extensive, if not indeed the very largest of those devoted to this special department,—has enabled him to make an interesting book, as well as one which shows on every page how large an amount of careful research and industrious application he has bestowed upon it.





