



Happy Hunting submitted by **Judy Blackman**

Each month I look forward to my visits to **Colonial Acres Coins** (many thanks again to them on giving me images for my website and articles) on Victoria Street in Kitchener, where I pick up my pre-orders, Blow-out Specials, e-Bay items, backorders, and other investment opportunities. While I am there, I browse the cabinets and bins for interesting and unusual items. My August 14th, 2008 visit was yet another adventure I really enjoyed! I am not a sophisticated collector by any means, but I do know what I like and enjoy. Some recent articles in some publications have balked at new releases from



the **Royal Canadian Mint** as they are not in the common circulation, and there is question as to if they hold their value. Although I realize in some cases the value won't be held, in others the value grows. For example the Dragon is now fetching around \$135-\$140 for this \$15 coin (the Tiger much more!), and I was fortunate during an RCM Superganza Special to get 4 of these Dragons, of which I sold one in a club auction and now wish I had held onto it. Some RCM items I purchase for historical reasons, family reasons, for gifts, or simply because the artistry is just too breathtaking and I enjoy it. Most recently I purchased two of the 2008 Canadian 9999 Pure Silver 38mm,

3.15mm thick, reeded, Rat Privy Mark Maple Leaf coins guaranteed one troy ounce each and only 8,000 mintage worldwide. The frosting makes it particularly attractive. I also finally received (was a long wait on this one) my 2008 Canadian \$20 Fine Silver 99.99%, 31.39 gm, diameter 38mm "Royal Hudson" coin with a Type 4-64 locomotive to represent the "Iron Voyage". As the RCM certificate explains "During the 19th Century, a new mode of transportation began to redefine life for Canadians. Unlike a horse, it didn't get tired or hungry. Unlike a boat, it could still travel when water froze in winter. In fact, it could run day or night, pulling passengers and cargo across the land --- sometimes as fast as 50kph(31mph)! It was the locomotive. Suddenly, the isolation that plagued early communities seemed to disappear. Everybody wanted the locomotive to travel to their door." There were only 10,000 minted worldwide. The one I was so excited to get, and again you will have a long wait if you can still get one, is the 2007 Canadian Sterling Silver 92.7% and 7.5% copper, 50.1 gm, 38mm, \$20 Blue Crystal Snowflake 6-sided dendrite ice crystal coin with crystallized Swarovski elements overlaying the "snowflake" with either 6 aquamarine or 6 iridescent crystals and one central clear crystal. Mintage 10,000 worldwide. As per RCM certificate "We slide in it, make snowmen and forts with it and even try to catch it on our tongues! Winter's wondrous gift of the snowflakes turns months of frigid cold into a season of joyful play – and incredible beauty." This is probably one of the most beautiful coins I've ever seen and had the pleasure of having in my collection. I held it up to the window with the sun shining in the effect on my walls was amazing. I took it outside and faced it to the sun and again what an experience. It's too bad those these beautiful collections have to leave home and go to secure storage, as unfortunately this world has criminals so best not to keep your more valued collections in your home. So I tell these beauties to remain gorgeous until the next time I journey to add or remove from the secured storage.



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So now moving off of the RCM lines, or British Mint, or Australian Mint, or U.S. Mint, or wherever in the world I seen something to add....over to the unusual small ticket items that you discover in bins, at fairs, at garage sales, in attics, etc....and don't usually need outside secured storage facility for.

What discoveries did I add to my collection? Here we go...

- An Italian phone token "Gettone Telefonico 7705" with grooved bar on one side and two grooved bars on other side. Per **Wikipedia**: The Gettone phone token was introduced in 1927 by STIPEL and used during much of the 20th Century and the last version was reproduced 1959 to 1980. One Gettone was valued 50 lire up to 1980, 100 lire up to 1984, and 200 lire from 1984. The word "Gettone" is also Canadian slang for "foosball".



- A North American Lucky encased coin. It's an aluminum horseshoe which reads "Keep me and Never Go Broke – Good Luck" with a 3 leaf clover at the top on one side, and the back reads "Souvenir Washington D.C." and in the center is an encased 1930 U.S. penny.

- A 1935 Tax Laws Tax Token "Tax on Purchases 10 cents or less" Tax Commission State of Washington CA-180 and has a hole in the middle. There is one currently trading on e-Bay with bids still



coming in but right now it's \$3.99 U.S.



- A medallion that reads on one side 1870, 1970, 2070 Manitoba is Happiness to mark 100th Anniversary (Centennial), it's 1.25" diameter and seems like tarnished silver. I think those are Vikings ships on the front (obverse)? There were many Manitoba is Happiness trade dollars and medallions made up, most specify a town or city of Manitoba whereas this is a provincial medallion.

- 1867-1967 Confederation Canada Sterling Silver Medallion in mint case with natural tarnish. The medallion was modelled by Thomas Shingles, and there is one currently selling on line for U.S. \$19.99.



- The Toronto International Coin Fair March 20-22, 1981 wood, and this show had over 3,100 in attendance and well over 100 dealers. I've never collected woods before, so I have no idea if this has a value and I got it from the miscellaneous bin but it is 27 years old and in very good condition. I determined there were 3 International Coin Fairs in 1981 in Toronto (March, April and November at 3 different locations and one was in conjunction with C.N.A.) – according to the Internet if that is correct??



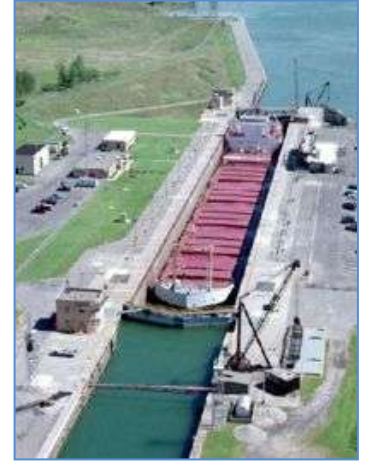
- 1877-1977 University of Manitoba Coin Club wood - could find no history on this at all, and don't know if it has any value, but again it's in good condition for being 31 years old.
- Now this one was really interesting to me, on the obverse George VI and Queen Elizabeth double head crowned and the bottom reads

“Crowned 1937, Long May They Reign”, and the reverse has a nine line legend reading “This medal struck at Windsor, Ont. By Ford Motor Company of Canada minted of Canadian copper alloy used in the 1937 Ford V-8”. It’s 33mm, copper, and I found on line where it’s selling for XF/AU U.S. \$25-\$35+ So my medallion is in very good shape, and I only paid a smidgeon, so it looks like this was a good investment!

- The next item may be a recent commemorative (since it’s bilingual), or it could be an original medallion issued for the June 26th, 1959 event. The obverse side says in both English and French “Opening of St. Lawrence Seaway”, and the reverse



says “Great Canadian Moments – Canada U.S. Joint Enterprise Largest Ever By Two Nations In Peace Time” again in both English and French. The St. Lawrence Seaway is operated jointly by both nations and it is about 3,781km or 2,350mi in length. The Queen and President Eisenhower jointly “opened” the seaway. I could not get my medallion to photo well, nor could I find an image of it on the internet, but I did find a commemorative coin that was issued.



- The next one is silly I guess, as the obverse reads “Chuck E. Cheese” at the top, and at the bottom it reads “in Pizza We Trust” all in English, and then the reverse is the same but in French. Why I find this unusual, is I’ve seen plenty of “Smile America Says” Chuck E. Cheese pizza game tokens before, but never have a seen a bilingual one like this. This image here is not my token, but an online image, as there are actually clubs that just collect Chuck E. Cheese token and there is quite a variety with many changes over the years.



- 1867-1927 Canada Confederation on obverse, and in Latin on reverse A MARI VSQPE AD MARE brong-copper token. It has King George and wife on obverse, and reverse is Royal Coat of Arms.
- I also got a coin with a horseshoe that has a star ovetop of it on the obverse, and the reverse has an Eagle and reads “No Cash Value”, and I have not idea what this is, likely a gaming token I

expect?

- Also a coin with the word FREEDOM across the top of the obverse side along with an Eagle over a Coat of Arms, and the reverse reads “No Cash Value” so again possibly a gaming token or ride token?
- A EuroCoin London and that’s all it says on both sides. EuroCoin made these for their launch in London on Sept. 20th, 2006. They are plain brass, light gold colour, generally their thickness is 1.8-2.3mm and size is 22.3-27.8mm.



- Then possibly some sort of pirate reproduction coin or could it be real given the strange shape, wear, and dark colouring??? Obverse is some sort of coat of arms, and the reverse reads Gold Cob Pistole / Pistole Bout Barre Dor. Whether reproduced or legit, it's emphasis is the Spanish-American Cob dollar. A Pistole is actually a gold dobla. I doubt this has any value, but I got it because the strange shape interested me, it's almost shaped like a sponge you see swimming in the Carribean Sea. Also seen this one being sold recently at a dealer's too.

- Being Catholic, I really care about Christian medals and Papal coins. I have some very old medal Italian medals which I've taken to my church rectory over the years and had them blessed. What I had not seen before, but I guess I must be in the dark and I now understand these are actually quite common, is ones with an English message of "I am a Catholic in case of accident please notify a priest" which is what is written on the reverse of the coin made into a pendant that I got, and on the obverse is Saint Christopher Protect Us. It's seems like it might be gold-plated and it's very beautiful. This I will have blessed and then ensure it's one of the medals that I carry with me at all times.



- Also in the bin and now in my hands, is a Worry Coin with the obverse picturing an angel with wings holding a lamb, and the reverse with the word "Healing", this coin is silver and very smooth in there are no rough edges, so feels nice to roll around in your hand. Also got a coin that has 4 heads on it, but don't know who they are, the one nearest to the front looks like a widow veil Queen, the the next two are regal men, and the one farthest away looks like a young regal boy. A hole has been drilled to make it a pendant. The printing around the edge seems to have been removed but there are still faint tracings of reeding and some lettering. The reverse has been polished smooth. This seems to be silver, and again is very nice feel to hold in your hand.



- And the last item is from some game show that was called "Break the Bank". The obverse side simply reads "Break the Bank \$100,000 TV Game Money" and the reverse side reads "Break the \$100,000 Bank". Now I can't even remember a television show by this name and I tried to google it and the token comes up but nothing on the actual show!

So you can see that by rooting around during my monthly visit, I found nearly 20 unusual items. This in addition to the 3 1-lb bags of Foreign coins that I got, and from those found nearly 60 great items....but that's for another story!!! So happy hunting, you will be amaze if you really look what you might stumble upon!!!

