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Most comprehensive, complete collection of Canadian coins on block at Heritage sale

What's being called the world's most comprehensive and complete collection of Canadian coins – including one of only two 1911 silver dollars and the finest-known 1936 “dot” cent – is heading to auction this summer.

Late numismatist George Cook devoted more than 25 years to collecting every major rarity issued by the Canadian government and successfully assembled one of the most significant numismatic collections in North America, according to auctioneers.

“In some cases, he owned the rarest of all specimens in the best condition and even possessed every example of special coins available for private ownership,” reads a recent statement issued by the Texas-based auction house Heritage Auc-



The ‘extraordinarily rare’ 1911 silver dollar – one of only two struck in silver – is one of nearly 400 lots slated to cross the block during the sale of the George Cook Collection on Aug. 13-17. Photos by Heritage Auctions.

tions, which will present the Cook Collection at the American Numismatic Association (ANA) World's Fair of Money on Aug. 13-19 in Chicago.

“I worked with George for over a decade helping him build his Canadian set, and we became friends,” said Cris Bier-

renbach, vice-president of international numismatics at Heritage. “George was one of the most focused collectors I have met in my 25 years in numismatics. He loved coins and he loved the challenge of finding the absolute best specimen for each denomination and date,

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Royal Academy prize medal survives with original case, personalized ivory ‘ticket’

By Jesse Robitaille

A silver medal produced in 1768 to mark the institution of the Royal Academy of the Arts was awarded nearly half a century later as a prize to one of its top students.

Awarded in 1811 to portrait and subject painter Thomas Millichap, who enrolled in the academy earlier that year, the 54-millimetre medal (Eimer 724) is accompanied by its original case as well as an “extremely rare” personalized ivory disc also presented to the artist.

“It is one of the most beautiful medals I’ve seen in a while, but I’ve seen these medals before,” said collector and dealer Gary

Miller, owner of Londinium Coins.

“But I’ve never seen one of these discs.”

Known as a ticket – or more commonly, a “bone” – the ivory disc would’ve been given to Millichap as a form of identification upon his enrolment in the school as it was given to all Royal Academy students beginning in the early 19th century.

“When a Student is admitted, he shall receive an Ivory Ticket, marked with his name and the date of admission,” reads the *Rules of the Royal Academy Schools*. “When he attends the Schools, the Lectures, or the Exhibition he shall produce his Ticket to the Doorkeeper, or to any of the Officers of the Academy who may require it, to identify him as a Student.”

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An ivory disc known by contemporary students as a ‘bone’ was given to students of the Royal Academy for identification purposes.

WCS celebrates 60 years alongside local dignitaries

By Jesse Robitaille

This is the first story in a two-part series highlighting the Waterloo Coin Society's 60th anniversary.

Exactly six decades after its first meeting, the Waterloo Coin Society (WCS) celebrated its 60th anniversary on March 12 alongside numismatic dignitaries and local politicians.

Founded in 1959 by longtime numismatist Bill English, the WCS is a long-time member of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) and Ontario Numismatic Association (ONA) and a more recent

member of the U.S.-based Central States Numismatic Association.

“When the Waterloo Coin Society first started, its president,

Bill English, enrolled in the RCNA, and they’ve been a member ever since,” said RCNA President Henry Nienhuis, who presented Babbili

with a certificate to mark his club’s 60th year of continuous membership in the RCNA.

Nienhuis was also joined by RCNA Executive Secretary Paul Johnson, who gave a keynote presentation highlighting numismatics in 1959, when the

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Waterloo Mayor Dave Jaworsky (right) and ward three councillor Angela Vieth (centre) congratulate Waterloo Coin Society (WCS) President Maher Babbili on the club's 60th anniversary this March.

Waterloo...

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WCS was established, and what's changed in the hobby since then.

"There continues to be a need for coin clubs – like the Waterloo Coin Society – to exist to bring collectors together for educational, commercial and social reasons," said Johnson, whose full presentation will be covered in the next issue of CCN.

In addition to Johnson and Nienhuis, other special guests of the March 12 meeting included:

- ONA Treasurer and immediate past-president Robb McPherson, who's also a former president of the WCS;
- Bardish Chagger, Liberal MP for the riding of Waterloo and the first female government house leader;



WCS Secretary Peter Becker holds the society's second annual banquet medal.

celebrate with yourselves," said Chagger, who congratulated the WCS on reaching its recent milestone.

"An occasion like this is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday and the hopes of tomorrow. Your love of coin collecting will ensure future generations are also aware of our history and heritage. You have every reason to be applauded and feel proud of the milestone you have reached. On behalf of the constituents of the riding of Waterloo, please accept my appreciation for your time and commitment and my sincerest wish for your continued success in coin collecting."

Mayor Jaworsky also congratulated the club and its members, adding he wanted to attend the anniversary meeting "because it's something that's very special."

"As time goes on, people have less and less time for hobbies, but we really need to make time for our hobbies," said Jaworsky, who was a coin collector before beginning his career and added the meeting represents the intersection of "the tangible and the virtual."

"The tangible world is something that continues to go on, so we need to continue to showcase the value of this hobby to newcomers."

WCS NEWS

"All of you, of course, are special guests," said WCS President Maher Babbili. "Without the members of the club, there wouldn't be a

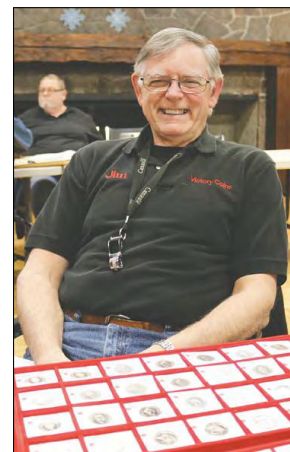
club, so I appreciate everyone attending tonight."

One long-standing WCS member, Jim McHugh, owner of Victory Coins, was among a handful of dealers manning a booth at the back of the meeting room.

"I do a few local shows each year, but I'm offering a huge deal for tonight's anniversary," said McHugh, who was selling his wares at half price during the March 12 meeting.

Babbili also thanked the volunteers who helped with the "Club Promo Day" on March 2 at the Cambridge Centre Mall and the 28th Annual Cambridge Coin Show the following week.

"You're giving the coin club exposure to the greater community," he said, adding there was "an excellent turnout" at the show on March 9.



Jim McHugh was one of a handful of dealers set up in the club's meeting room.

For more information about the WCS, visit waterloocoinssociety.com.

See the next issue of CCN for a follow-up story highlighting numismatics in 1959, when the Waterloo Coin Society was formed, and how the hobby has changed in the past six decades. 🍁

A WCS member browses Canadian Coin News before the 60th-anniversary meeting began.



The WCS will also host a summer barbecue in the coming months.

"It's a great day to come out and enjoy some activities at Bingemans," said Babbili, who added WCS members will receive admission at a discounted rate on the day of the barbecue.

The WCS was established in 1959 by long-time numismatist Bill English.



WCS member Murray Stoddart browses the auction held at the meeting on March 12. A 50- or 100-lot auction is held at every WCS meeting.

Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) President Henry Nienhuis (left) presents Babbili with a certificate to mark the WCS' 60th year of membership in the RCNA.



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