

THE CANADIAN TOKEN

A QUARTERLY NEWS-LETTER FOR COLLECTORS OF CANADIAN TOKENS

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PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

By "Slugger"

After a few years of collecting, many exnumists accumulate a bewildering array of slot machine tokens. The majority of these read "good for 5¢ in trade" or "for amusement only" which are easily understood values. Some, however, are "good for one tune" or "good for one race". Good for a tune? A race? We might also wonder why so many of these tokens have a centre hole, with the very early pieces sometimes losing some of their lettering when this was done. So, while one's curiosity is soon aroused, it is not always easily satisfied.

The earliest slot machine tokens are probably about 85 to 90 years old - beyond the memory of most old-timers. Owing to cultural disapproval of gambling, very few printed works provide any references which are of value to the collector. It therefore becomes a problem of absorbing bits and pieces of information derived from a variety of sources and then drawing conclusions which may be close to the truth.

While there does not appear to be any biblical injunction against gambling, the Christian countries have generally considered it to be immoral. As early as 1388(1) England legislated against this unproductive recreation. It is not surprising, then, that introduction of the first slot machines was soon followed by legal persecution across the western world. John Scarne(2) credits Charles Fey with making the first of our present type of slot machines in San Francisco in 1895. Fay, a 29 year old mechanic, manufactured them by hand and rented them out for 50% of the proceeds.

This first "one-armed bandit", the Liberty Bell, may be viewed with other early machines at the Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant in Reno, Nevada, which is owned by grandsons of Charles Fey. Scarne lists other machines made by Fey as Draw Poker, On the Level, Policy, 4-11-44, Three Jacks, On the Square, Little Chief, Duo, Little Vender, Silver Cup, Silver Dollar and a "36" dice machine. The Silver Dollar, the first machine to accept these large coins, had a special award of \$75.00 if the symbols 777 turned up, which may have been the inspiration for B.C. 3440a.

While Fey is credited with manufacturing the first slot machines in the form we know them today, there were many other machines in prior use. Herbert Stephen Mills and his well known Mills Novelty Company of Chicago, founded in 1889 was producing gambling devices well prior to the turn of the century. Caille Brothers of Detroit was another early manufacturer of these machines and is credited with its own modern type "Liberty Bell" machine in 1898(3). The name of a successful machine was soon adopted by the competition. Mills better known machines included the Dewey, Owl, Chicago, On the Square, The Judge, 20th Century, Roulette, Cricket and Big Six. Caille Brothers advertised the Eclipse, Puck, Black Cat, Marquette, Star, Cupid, Uno and The Fox. Nearly all were available as a simple gambling machine or with a music box attachment. As Mills explained on a metal sign for use with their musical slot machines:(4)

"THIS IS NOT A GAMBLING DEVICE. Any person desiring to gamble must not put any money in this machine. As a consideration for the use of this music machine and the music furnished, it is expressly agreed that all nickels which come out of the cup below must and shall be played back into the machine, thereby giving more music".

Nicely said to impress the local law enforcement officers in order to circumvent the law. Judging by the large number of surviving tokens which are "good for one tune", the operators were quite successful for a while, at least. One of the Caille Brothers' Puck machines, of pre-Fey design, is located in the Glenbow-Alberta Institute collection in Calgary. A plate, attached to it indicates the distributor was J. H. Bigelow of Sioux City, Iowa. Unfortunately, this machine has had the Swiss music box removed, but otherwise is still in perfect condition. One deposits a token and pushes the crank at the side of the machine to spin the disc, which would at one time have also wound and started the music box. The writer won six tokens on his first play of this old machine and was able to imagine the long-lost pleasure of playing to the sound of an old-fashioned music box. The operators of these machines could purchase brass tokens having an obverse struck from a stock die which portrayed the Puck machine, with the name on each side and a reverse struck to the order of the purchaser. These machines were usually located in saloons, pool halls and tobacco stores.

Another attractive device of the early 1900's was the sporting piano.(4) The Mills Race Horse Piano, the Western Electric Derby and the Seeburg Greyhound were best known, but Rockola, National, Nelson-Wiggen (with Gray slot machine equipment), Evans and the Operators Piano Company all manufactured machines. Instead of the usual three reel slot machine built into the piano, machines of the first three named above were designed to simulate a race. Dropping a coin or token in the slot started the piano and also activated a miniature merry-go-round with eight race horses or racing dogs which revolved for a few seconds and then stopped with the numbered animal nearest the finishing post declared the winner. While the piano music would continue for several minutes, the races could be run every few seconds if desired. With no payoff cup, the gambling was done by side-bets. The existence of tokens indicates some proprietors may have let the gambler choose his horse or dog and probably paid off at odds loaded in favour of the house. Again the combination of music and gambling was designed to cloak it in legality.

As an alternative to the music "defence" against charges of gambling, operators in many areas bought machines which delivered a small package of mints or gum with each play. This would have been expensive and time-consuming to service, so the slot machines were made to permit the candy to drop each time a coin was inserted, but when a token was used a pin would pass through the hole in it preventing the mint from dropping. This led to the defacing of many older tokens with large centre holes. It also left us a legacy of tokens with the names Quality Mints, Canadian Mint Co., Royal Mint Co. and so on.

One of the last legal devices attempted was the striking of tokens which read "For Amusement Only". If they could only be used to play the machine, then in theory they had no value and hence there was no gambling. It didn't work for long, perhaps, but long enough to leave many thousands of souvenirs.

It might not be out of place to mention here that Mills and Edison, at least, specialized in arcade machines for many years and it is not uncommon to find tokens which read Penny Vaudeville or Automatic Vaudeville and even "good for picture machines" which were intended for use in these amusement parlours.

That, in brief, is a small portion of the story and is offered with no warranty that it is completely accurate nor that it applies in all parts of the country. Anyone interested in this subject should not miss an opportunity to read a fascinating book by Q. David Bowers, the prominent professional numismatist, writing about his hobby of collecting automatic music boxes. Entitled 'Encyclopedia of Automatic Musical Instruments' this comprehensive volume covers the history of music boxes and refers to their use in slot machines in some detail. The author is obliged to Mr. Bowers for his contributions to this field.

- (1) Encyclopedia Britannica
- (2) Scarnes Complete Guide to Gambling John Scarne 1961
- (3) Playboy Magazine March, 1974
- (4) Encyclopedia of Automatic Musical Instruments Q.David Bowers
Vestal Press, Vestal, N.Y. 1972

THE TRAVELLING PERMITS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY.

By Barry Uman

One of the great resources of Canada is her forests. During the formative years, this staple product was first exported to England and later to the United States. Today the pulp and paper industry is Canada's largest based resource industry of which the bulk is exported to the United States.

The Canadian International Paper Company is a subsidiary of the International Paper Company of the United States. This company began operations in Canada in the early 1900's. Until the mid-twenties, these operations were almost exclusively lumbering, that is, supplying sawmills with needed logs.

In the middle 1920's, this company acquired the assets of the Riorden Pulp Corporation on the Rouge and Upper Ottawa Rivers with pulp mills located at Hawkesbury, Ontario and Temiskaming, Quebec. Shortly after, newsprint mills were constructed at Three Rivers and Gatineau, Quebec and at Dalhousie, New Brunswick. In the mid fifties, by which time C.I.P. Company had been in existence some 25 years, the company acquired a pulp mill and its limits at La Tuque, Quebec.

Canadian International Paper Company operates in three Canadian provinces; Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. Its logging operations are situated at the Ottawa River, Gatineau River, Red River and St. Maurice River watersheds. There are additional logging operations in the Gaspé and in New Brunswick situated at Baie des Chaleurs and the Miramichi River watershed.

Four types of travelling permits are now known for the Canadian International Paper Company of which three have been actually seen. All four pieces are made of brass and each has a pin securely soldered on the reverse except for Type IV, which has provision for inserting in a button hole

Type I	Brass, Oval, 52mm x 30mm;	C.I.P. Co./100/1926-27
" II	" " 41mm x 32mm;	C.I.P. Co./2717/1927
" III	" Round, 32mm	;C.I.P. Co./5/JOBBER (No date)
" IV	Oval, 50mm x 37mm;	PERMIS DE CIRCULATION / C.I.P. Co./2487 1930 TRAVELLING PERMIT

The first 3 types have both digits and letters incused with black enamel. The central part of type IV is similar to the other types except for a 5mm border surrounding the name of the company, date and serial number. In raised letters within this border is the inscription, at the top, "Permis De Circulation" and at the bottom, "Travelling Permit".

On type I,II and IV, the date is located on the bottom left side so that additional dates could be added for other years. Type III has no date but it was probably used in the 20's and 30's.

Both type I and III are illustrated in the 1928 catalogue of the Montreal Stencil Works Limited which was established in 1875. Type I has this company name incused in small letters on the reverse. This catalogue describes these pieces as being made in either brass or nickle plated brass.

Montreal Stencil Works Limited has informed me that the dies used to stamp these travelling permits were hand made, a method no longer used today. The die used to strike type I is still in existence. It is 85mm long while the width varies from 25mm wide at the base of the die to 40mm by 29mm at the face of the die. The serial numbers were added afterwards in accordance with the amount of travelling permits ordered.

These travelling permits were issued to workers on the C.I.P. Company woods operation in the 1920's and 1930's during the spring and summer months. Anyone travelling or working in the bush required a government permit due to forest fires which occurred from May to September. These travelling permits together with paper certificates issued by the Government fire rangers served this purpose and also provided a record of those people who travelled in the bush in any area. These travelling permits also served for identification of employees for the timekeeper, storehouse clerk, payroll clerk and to permit travel through the woods and past the gates. These pieces were in common use by the larger pulp and paper companies during the twenties and thirties. The metal permits have long been replaced by celluloid ones where a non permanent type is acceptable.

Recently another brass travelling permit was discovered dated 1946 for the Anglo Canadian Pulp & Paper Mills Limited which is similar to type IV except that it has a pin on the reverse.

Type V : Brass, Oval, 48mm x 37mm; PERMIS DE CIRCULATION
A-C.P. & P.M.Ltd/11980/1946
TRAVELLING PERMIT

It is hoped that this information will aid in identifying similar pieces and that those who know the whereabouts of other travelling permits will inform me of their existence.

COLLECTING CANADIAN POLITICAL TOKENS

By Ken Palmer

Over the years there appears to have been relatively few political tokens issued in Canada, or at least few of these items bearing a political theme seem to have survived for to-days collectors.

However, a small number of these interesting pieces can still be found in the junk boxes of coin dealers, and in the trays of "collectibles" at flea markets. Most are of comparatively recent issue, but a few date back to the 1940's.

In the hope that other collectors will have more to add, brief descriptions of some of these political tokens, recently issued in Eastern Canada, are given as follows:

HAMILTON, ONT.

John Smith M.P.P./Good Luck/John Smith(in script)/Hamilton Mountain (a horseshoe).

Ontario/Parliament Building/Queens Park/Toronto/
Province of Opportunity (Parliament Buildings) A-R-41

(Mr. Smith was re-elected in the last Ont. Provincial Election)

LONDON, ONT.

Progressive Conservative/Vote/Allen/Middlesex South

Ontario/Parliament Building/Queens Park/Toronto/
Province of Opportunity (Parliament Buildings) A-R-41

TORONTO, ONT.

Leonard A. Braithwaite M.P.P./Good Luck/Leonard A. Braithwaite (in script) Etobicoke Riding.

Ontario/Parliament Building/Queens Park/ Toronto/
Province of Opportunity (Parliament Buildings) A-R-41

For five years of Good Luck/Vote/Neil Cameron (Profile of Cameron)

I wish you/Good/Trade Mark/Luck/1940-1945 (clasped hands) B-R-32

(Mr. Cameron was the unsuccessful Liberal Candidate in Davenport Riding in the 1940 Federal Election)

March on to/Box 232/Post St O/Toronto/16/Ottawa
Candn People free enterprise/Social Credit PL-R-26-Green

ONTARIO

Progress through Leadership/George A.Drew/Aug.17,1943-Oct.19,1948/
1943/Thomas L.Kennedy/Oct.19,1948-May 4,1949/Leslie M.Frost/May 4,
1949-Nov.8,1961/1968/John P.Robarts/
Nov.8, 1961-/Al Eagleson for President (Trillium)

Ontario/Province of Opportunity (Coat of Arms) A-R-41

NEWFOUNDLAND

(Mirror)

Will the lady on the other side/Joey/Please vote Liberal/
Made in U.S.A. Dalo Button Co. N.Y.C.10010
(Profile of Mr.Smallwood with three dimensional effect)

R-88-Blue-White Lettering

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We thought we would get the April issue out on schedule for a change! Not many submitted advertising material this time but, we can offer a couple of fine articles, and a list of most welcome new members, plus some equally welcomed reinstatements.

At this time of writing some 25 members have not paid their 1974 dues. May we hear from you by return mail?

Our friend the "Slugger" has been busy again, and has given us another excellent article on the subject of slot machine tokens. These bring back memories of the tokens used by Pin Ball machines, which were very popular in parts of Canada in the 1930's and 1940's. The operators of these ingenious devices attempted to circumvent the strict anti-gambling laws by claiming that an element of skill was required in order to win a Jack-pot. Tokens, rather than coins were awarded for "Skillful" playing.

Perhaps one of the most common tokens used was a 25mm chrome plated piece with a large "R" in a circle on both obverse and reverse sides. Around the outside of this circle was the message "This Token awarded for skill" and, "This token has no cash or trade value.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS:

Membership applications have been received from the following:
(These have been reviewed and accepted).

- #74 Garry Braunworth, (R.Smith)
Box 17, Site 9,
R.R.#5, Calgary,
ALBERTA
(Wooden money, Agriculture Medals, Tokens of
Alberta, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii).
- #75 Saul Hendler, (Palmer)
P.O.Box 554,
Montreal 379,
QUEBEC
(Canadian Tokens and Medals)
- #76 Terry C. Browne, (Palmer)
82 Willowbank Blvd.,
Toronto,
ONTARIO
(Canadian General)
- #77 Ron J. Dickinson, (Palmer)
Box 781, Sta. "A"
Toronto 1,
ONTARIO
(Canadian General)
- #78 Greg Prgomet, (Palmer)
2113 Walnut St.,
Harrisburg,
Pa. 17103
U.S.A.
(Transportation tokens)

REINSTATED

- #C-7 Byron L. Place,
534 St. Louis St.,
Toledo,
Ohio 43605
U.S.A.
- #C-13 Ted Leitch,
1527 Mardell Pl.,
London, ONTARIO

- #C-17 Lloyd T. Smith
123 Arundell St.,
London, ONTARIO
N5Z 2K1
- #C-26 Dr. F.C. Pace,
412 Sparks St., Apt.1,
Ottawa, ONTARIO
K1R 5A2
- #C-29 Harold Don Allen,
N.S. Teachers College,
Truro, N.S.
- #CJ-32 Kenneth R. McGrath,
198 Regent St.,
London, ONTARIO
- #C-35 Mildred B. Barton,
625 Superior St.,
Angola,
IND. 46703
U.S.A.
- #C-45 Ed Kuszmar
Box 313,
Bladensburg,
Maryland, 20710
U.S.A.

DECEASED

- #C-40 Walter Holst,
19 Maple Court
Waterloo, ONTARIO

TOKENS AVAILABLE.

SELLING PRICE - 25¢ each plus postage

Calgary, Alta	:	Stewart's Bakery - one loaf	(Alum.)
Red Deer, "	:	Red Deer Bakery - one loaf	(Alum.)
Oissa, B.C.	:	P.A.L. coin car wash	(Brass)
Kimberley, "	:	City Milk Distributors - 1 qt.	(Alum.)
"	:	" " " - 1 pt.	(Alum.)
Nanaimo, "	:	Stan Peacock - 10¢	(Alum.)
Revelstoke, "	:	Modern Bakery - 1 loaf (2 types)	(Alum.)
Herbert, Sask.	:	Western Can. Supply Co. Ltd. - 50¢	(Alum.)
Saskatoon, "	:	Co-op car wash	(Brass)

Write to: D.M. Stewart, 950-335-8 Ave.S.W., Calgary, Alta, T2P 1E1

SELLING PRICE - \$1.00 each

Calgary, Alta	:	Calgary Aquarium - Plastic set of four	
High River, "	:	Powell's Bakery - 1 loaf (3 vars.)	(Alum.)

Write to: D.M. Stewart, 950-335-8 Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alta, T2P 1E1

ADVERTISING MESSAGES

FOR SALE: Mark Pennies

G.R.C. No.1	-	Kingston, Ont	\$5.00
G.R.C. No.2	-	Hamilton , Ont.	4.00
G.R.C. No.6	-	Hamilton, Ont.	5.00
G.R.C. No.7	-	Belleville, Ont.	5.00
G.R.C. No.8	-	Toronto, Ont.	4.00
G.R.C. No.77-		" "	4.00

Write to: K.A. Palmer, 10 Wesanford Pl., Hamilton, Ont.

L8P IN6