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A. S. Rankin

Patterns

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Struck at the Royal Mint

for

Canada

by

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PATTERNS STRUCK AT THE ROYAL MINT FOR CANADA.



PATTERNS, among numismatists, stand for a series of coins usually struck in limited numbers as samples to be submitted for designs when a new coinage, or other change in the circulating medium, is contemplated. They are sometimes produced by engravers, seeking positions in the mint, as specimens of their handwork or by firms tendering for a coinage which the mint, for some reason or other, is unable to undertake. There are instances wherein the whole of a new coinage has been condemned and melted down before any part thereof had got into circulation. Consequently, patterns as a rule, are coins that have never been put into circulation.

Although some patterns are by no means rare, most of those emanating from the Royal mint, London, owing to the care exercised by the authorities, are very rare and are usually found in proof condition. They are as a consequence, much sought after by collectors and command high if not extravagant prices,

Until a few years ago, only five or six of such coins having any relation to Canada were known to Canadian collectors. They had been snapped up, by British collectors of colonial coins, as soon as they were offered, and hidden away in their cabinets, before anyone on this side of the Atlantic had a chance to learn of their existence. But through the dispersion of the Montague, Murdoch and other extensive collections, some 25 varieties have come to our knowledge, a number of which have been secured by the more enthusiastic Canadian numismatists.

As no list of these patterns has ever been prepared, and believing that such a list would be of interest to the many who have taken up the study of Canadian coins, I propose to publish one here, with such historical notes and comments, as may seem to me to be helpful to students of the series. This seems all the more necessary as those who have prepared works on Canadian coins, have in a great measure, overlooked even the heretofore known varieties.

1 *Obv.* GEOR : IV D : G : BRI : REX. laureated and draped bust of George IV to the left.

Rev. COLONIAL 1823. A wreath of oak leaves enclosing $\frac{1}{10}$ | DOLLAR, bronze, size 34 millimeters.

2 *Obv.* As last.

Rev. Similar to last except that the wreath encloses $\frac{1}{10}$ | DOLLAR, bronze, size 26 m.m.

These are patterns, regarding which Christmas claims, in the Numismatic Chronicle of 1862, that : "In the years 1822-1823, an attempt seems to have "been made to institute one universal coinage for "the British Colonies in the terms of dollars and "cents." The Spanish dollar was at that time the main circulating medium of many of these colonies, both in the east and west, and to make the necessary change the dollar was often cut into halves, quarters, eights, and even sixteenths. With the view of preventing this mutilation, a coinage of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and $\frac{1}{16}$ dollars, was issued for Mauritius in 1820, and a similar one in 1822, for the West Indies, with the addition of the half dollar. These have been claimed by some writers as Canadians. It was no doubt following the idea suggested by this colonial silver coinage that these bronze patterns were issued and possibly these helped in the adoption of a decimal coinage for the present provinces of the Dominion, but the suggestion was not carried out until thirty five years later. Both denominations are to be found in Messrs T. Wilson's and Gravel's collections.

PROVINCE OF CANADA

- 3 *Obv.* VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA CANADA
Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left.
- Rev.* 20 | CENTS | 1858 within a wreath consisting of nine maple leaves, two rose leaves and two double maple seeds on each side, silver, size 23 m.m.

This differs from the regular issue on the reverse only. The figures of the date and value and the leaves are larger than the regular issue, which has no rose leaves or seed pods. This reverse was afterwards adopted for that of the twenty cent piece of New Brunswick, issued in 1862 and 1864. In my own collection.

4 *Obv.* VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA CANADA; coronated head of Queen Victoria to the left within an inner circle.

Rev. ONE | CENT | 1858 within an inner circle. Outside of the circle is a wreath of maple leaves with their apexes all pointing outwards, a seed pod between each leaf, bronze, size 23 m.m.

This pattern differs both in size and design from the one adopted. In it, the Queen's head is coronated while the wreath is altogether different. The size although most convenient, was not acceptable, as in the dark, it could have been easily passed for a twenty cent piece. Only two specimens known, one of which is in Mr. T. Wilson's collection and the other is in England.

5 *Obv.* Same as last.

Rev. Plain, bronze, size 23 m.m.

As scarce as the last, there are specimens in Messrs Gravel and T. Wilson's collections.

6 *Obv.* VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA CANADA
Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left within an inner circle.

Rev. ONE | CENT | 1858 within an inner circle and a circle of maple leaves, nickle, size 25 m.m.

This varies from the regular issue only in the metal in which it was struck. There appears to have been some suggestion taken, from the example of the United States in 1857, that nickel should have been adopted. But the old fashioned bronze of the Romans, which had been reintroduced into France, some years previously, was adopted, in this leading the mother country by two years. It was substituted for copper in Great Britain in 1860. Most countries adopting a nickle miner coinage employ a much thicker flan, that it may not be passed for silver. It is in my own collection.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

- 7 *Obv.* VICTORIA D : G : REG : BRITT : F : D : Lau-
reates and draped bust of Queen Victoria
to the left.
- Rev.* NOVA-SCOTIA ONE CENT 1861. A heavy
wreath of roses and rose leaves enclos-
ing a crown, bronze, size 25 m.m.
- 8 *Obv.* Same as last.
- Rev.* As last, except that the last figure in the
date is wanting, bronze, size 25 m.m.
- 9 *Obv.* Same as No. 7.
- Rev.* As No. 7, except the value which is
HALF CENT, bronze, size 20 m.m.

No specimen of either of the cents are to be found in Canada, but the half cent is in Mr. T. Wilson's and in my own collection. This is one of the instances where a design was adopted and dies prepared for striking a coinage which was rejected before it was completed. This fact is testified to by the die on which the last figure of the date is missing, any number of dies can be made from it, upon which the last figure can be punched in to produce a new coinage each year, when it changed. Then too, there are several pairs of the completed dies in the mint museum. In case of an ordinary pattern, only one pair would have been made. The reason for its rejection can easily be seen when it is known that shortly before this, the trailing arbutus or mayflower was adopted as the emblem of Nova Scotia, and appeared on the penny and halfpenny pieces of 1856. The rejected design displayed no mayflower while the regular one does.

10 Obv. Similar to No. 7 but the letters in the inscription and the bust are larger.

Rev. ONE CENT at top and NOVA SCOTIA at the bottom, a wreath of roses and leaves and mayflowers inclosing a crown and the date 1861, bronze, size 25 m.m.

11 Obv. Similar to No. 9, but letters and bust are larger.

Rev. As last, except the value which is HALF CENT, bronze, size 20 m.m.

The cent is in Mr. Wilson's and in my own collection. No specimen of the half cent is known in Canada. The reverse is that of the regular issue but the bust and lettering of the obverse, being larger, are not so attractive. The bust of Queen Victoria on the regular issue is the same as on the imperial coinage.

PROVINCE OF NEW-BRUNSWICK

12 Obv. VICTORIA D. G. REG. NEW-BRUNSWICK
Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left.

Rev. 10 | CENTS | 1862 within a fret work border, silver, 18 m.m.

Two specimens known, one is in the collection of Mr. Gravel. This design somewhat modified appears on the silver coins of Newfoundland, first issued for circulation in 1865.

13 Obv. As No. 9, but the letters are smaller, while the neck and shoulders are more slender.

Rev. As No. 11, except that the name of the province, which is New Bruswick, bronze. size 20 m.m.

This, although not an authorized coin, can hardly be classed as a pattern as it is comparatively common. It was never coined for or issued in New-Brunswick, having been struck through mistake in the mint. The order for the new decimal coinage was received from the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at the same time, and as the former

order called for half cents, it was believed that this coin was required for both, and dies made accordingly. Coins struck from the New Brunswick half cent, dies were sent out with those ordered from Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia standard differed from that of New Brunswick in recognizing the pound sterling as worth \$5.00, hence, the need of half cents to make change for the six pence which passed for $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

14 Obv. Same as No. 12.

Rev. As No. 3, except the date which is 1871 silver, size 23 m.m.

15 Obv. As No. 12.

Rev. 10 | CENTS | 1870 within a wreath of maple leaves, above is a crown, silver, size 18 m.m.

16 Obv. As No. 12.

Rev. As last, but the date is 1875, and the value, 5 cents, silver, size 14 m.m.

The 20 cent piece is in my collection. The two latter are unknown in Canada. I cannot understand why patterns were struck at the Royal mint for New Brunswick, after the province had entered into Confederation and after a coinage had been struck for the whole Dominion. I should have been inclined to class these as mules, but for the fact that the reverse of the 20 cent piece of 1871 is from a special die, while Mr. Caldicott of London, in whose collection, the two smaller pieces are to be found, claims that no mules are ever struck at the Royal mint.

DOMINION OF CANADA

17 *Obv.* Same as No. 3.

Rev. 20 | CENTS | 1871 within a wreath of maple leaves, above is a crown, silver, size 23 m.m.

In my own collection. I am also at a loss to know why this pattern was issued, except that there was at that time an inclination towards a reversion to the 20 cent piece, two years after it had been replaced by the 25 cent piece. The design is the same as the regular coinage of 1858.

NEWFOUNDLAND

18 *Obv.* VICTORIA D. G. REG NEWFOUNDLAND
Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left.

Rev. Wreath as on No. 15 enclosing TWO |
DOLLARS | 1864 with a crown above,
bronze, size $17\frac{1}{2}$ m.m.

This pattern was rejected no doubt on account of its close resemblance in size and design to the ten cent pieces of Canada and New-Brunswick which could easily have been gilt and passed off on the unwary.

19 *Obv.* Same as last

Rev. TWO HUNDRED CENTS above, ONE HUN-
DRED PENCE below divided by orna-
mental designs on the right and left,
2 | DOLLARS | 1865 in block letters within
an inner circle, bronze, size $17\frac{1}{2}$ m.m.

This pattern differs from the regular issue in the size and form of the letters and figures in the value and date.

20 Obv. VICTORIA D. G. REGINA above NEW-
FOUNDLAND divided by a similar orna-
mental design to that on reverse of last.

Rev. As last but 2 | DOLLARS | 1870 is smaller
and in Roman letters, gold size $17\frac{1}{2}$ m.m.

There was evidently some dissatisfaction with the design of the two dollar piece on account of the number of patterns issued. None of them are to be found on this side of the Atlantic.

21 Obv. As No. 18

Rev. As No. 15, except the date which is
1864, bronze, size 23 m. m.

22 Obv. Same as 18.

Rev. As No. 15, except the date which is
1864, bronze, size 14 m.

This would show that there was some intention to adopt the design of the New Brunswick silver coinage for that of Newfoundland, but variations in the design on the rejected pattern ten cent piece of that province took its place. I have not heard of the existence of a ten cent piece, and it would appear from the similarity of the two dollar piece that no coinage of ten cents was contemplated. In any case it has never been such a popular coin in Newfoundland as in Canada. These two patterns are not found in Canada.

23 *Obv.* VICTORIA QUEEN. Laureated bust of the Queen to the left.

Rev. ONE CENT above, NEWFOUNDLAND below, a wreath of mayflowers enclosing a crown and the date 1864, bronze, 25 m.m.

This is a scarce design with the title of the Queen in English, same as that found on the coinages of some of the British possessions in the east, only two specimens known, neither of which are found in Canada.

24 *Obv.* VICTORIA D: G: REG: bust as on last.

Rev. Same as last, bronze, 25 m.m.

In Mr. T. Wilson's and my own collection. It would appear that the order for the new decimal coinage for Newfoundland was received late in 1864 and that a number of pattern dies were prepared that year, but the regular issue did not take place until 1865. This design differs only in date from the regular issue.

25 *Obv.* As No. 7, but the letters of the inscription are smaller and the bust more slender.

Rev. As No. 33, except the date which is 1865, bronze, 25 m.m.

The obverse is the same as that on the Nova Scotia coinage and the reverse that of the regular issue. No specimen known in Canada.

These twenty five varieties are all that are known to Canadians, but specimens of only twelve have

reached Canada. The balance are found in one or more of the English cabinets. They have mainly come to our knowledge through descriptions in coin sales and through the courtesy of Mr. Caldecott of London.

