



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Nickle Galleries

**Power, Identity and Alexander the Great
Numismatics Symposium**
Nickle Galleries, University of Calgary
In partnership with the Calgary Numismatic Society
April 29-30, 2023

PROGRAM

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

9:30-10:25am Susan Taylor

Communicating Thoughts, Ideas and Identity through Portraiture

10:30-11:25am Serge Pelletier

Portraits on Canadian Municipal Trade Tokens: Celebrating Historical Figures

11:30-12:25pm Mike Walsh

Canadian Numismatics and Publications

12:30-1:30pm LUNCH

1:30-2:25pm Terence Cheesman

The Lifetime Coinage of Alexander the Great

2:20-3:25pm David Bergeron

“Imitation is the greatest form of flattery...”: Exploring Alexander imitative coins, 3rd-1st Century BCE.

3:30-4:25pm Carolyn Willekes

The Boy and His Horse: Alexander, Bucephalus, and Royal Identity on

5:00-8:00pm

Reception with light food and cash bar

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

9:30-12:30PM Francois Rufiange

Understand Wear on Coins: Presentation: 45 min (9:30-10:15am presentation)

Workshop: 60 min (10:30-11:30 workshop)

11:30-12:30 lunch break

1:00-3:00pm Francois Rufiange

Grading Bank Notes: Presentation: 45 min (12:30-1:15pm presentation)

Workshop: 60 min (1:30-2:30pm workshop)

REGISTRATION

<https://nickle.ucalgary.ca/event/symposium-power-identity-and-alexander-the-great/>

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 - SPEAKERS



Susan Taylor

Communicating thoughts, ideas and identity through portraiture

Royal Canadian Mint, Engraver

Being hearing impaired since birth, lip reading was and still is a very important means of communication between myself and those around me. Significantly, facial expression gave context to the movement of the lips of the person speaking and to the sounds that I could hear. Portraiture as a medium of expression drew from this life experience and from my understanding of the power of communicating thoughts, ideas and identity through facial expression. As a result much of my work reflects on the importance of sculpting portraits with a realistic human likeness to convey a message. My talk will focus on sculptures, coins and medals produced as a student at McMaster University, as a Senior Engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint, on commissions and on personal projects.

As a retired Senior Engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint, the Vice Delegate for the Fédération Internationale de Médaille, and past President of the Medallic Art Society of Canada, Susan Taylor is passionate about her craft and has helped promote the medal as a means of expression in Canada and around the world. With over 30 years of experience designing, sculpting, producing coins and medals, Susan's work has been published in art catalogues and exhibited at international expositions. Recipient of the 2016 American Medal of the Year, her medal "Remembrance" is part of the medal collection at the British Museum, UK and the University Museum of Bergen, Norway.

Susan has had the privilege of designing and sculpting several medals awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements for many global organizations including the Gairdner Foundation, Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, Royal Canadian Mint, Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and the World Maritime University.

Susan holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University and a Mint Engraver certificate from the Royal Canadian Mint.



Serge Pelletier

**Portraits on Canadian Municipal Trade Tokens:
Celebrating Historical Figures**

Numismatics Writer and Book Author

Serge Pelletier returns to his first love to present us portraiture on Canadian municipal trade tokens. He began collecting money when he was seven years old from the *leftover* coins and notes his parents brought back from their travels.

He discovered Canadian municipal trade tokens in 1978 and started writing about them then. He was barely out of high school. Two years later, the Charlton Press published his first book, *The 1980 Charlton Canadian Trade Dollar Guide*.

Since then, Pelletier has published three other catalogues about these pieces that are considered the *bibles* on the subject. His articles on a variety of numismatic subject have since appeared in English and French in some of the world's leading numismatic periodicals in Canada, the United States, France, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Pelletier recently published *Numismatics for Everyone*, a bilingual encyclopaedic dictionary that includes numismatic information extracted from books of the past four centuries.

In 2015, Serge Pelletier received the J. Douglas Ferguson Award, the highest distinction in Canadian numismatics. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association, a Fellow of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society, a Fellow of the Ontario Numismatic Association, and a Knight of the Order of St. Eligius.



David Bergeron

**“Imitation is the greatest form of flattery....”:
Exploring Alexander imitative coins, 3rd-1st
Century BCE.**

Bank of Canada Museum, Curator

The presentation will explore the production of imitation coins styled on Alexander’s gold and silver coinage from the 3rd to the 1st century BCE. I will show the wide variety of examples drawing from various sources including the Bank of Canada Museum’s own collection. I will also attempt to explain the purpose of producing imitations, their distinction from counterfeits, and hopefully reopen the historic debate of the significance of portraiture on coinage as it applies to the production of imitative coins. It sounds complicated but it’s pretty straight forward. The theory is that portraiture made the coins recognizable to the users in commercial trade and were therefore easily attributed to their issuer and hence exchanged with trust. The Alexander coins, along with other historic pieces, like the Athenian owls, were so widely recognized and therefore imitated to perpetuate their acceptance, especially beyond the frontiers of Alexander’s empire and into the non-hellenistic civilizations, namely the Celts, Thracians and Arabs. My presentation will show how far the imitations diverged from the original coins, yet their acceptance was believed to be largely unchallenged

For over twenty years, David Bergeron has been curating the Bank of Canada’s National Currency Collection. The collection consists of over 130,000 objects mainly of money, and items related to the design, production, distribution, storage, saving, spending and promotion of money. The collection is primarily a comprehensive collection of Canadian currency and a representative collection of foreign currencies from all periods, from Antiquity to current. A lifelong student of history and amateur collector during his childhood, David became seriously interested in economic and monetary history when he first frequented the Bank of Canada Currency Museum as an intern in mid-1990s. David holds a Master’s degree in History from the University of Ottawa, and is a frequent contributor to many Canadian and International numismatic publications. He is a Director and Secretary of the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation and is currently the President of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society.



Mike Walsh

Canadian Numismatics and Publications

Numismatics Publisher

Mike's presentation will focus on Canadian Coin News, its role and impact on Canadian numismatics during the last 60 years, and how CCN and other publications are responding to the dramatically changing landscape created by digital technology and emerging new technologies as AI (artificial intelligence). Mike will also provide techniques on how clubs can capitalize on digital marketing to open doors to engage new collectors.

Mike Walsh is co-owner of The Trajan Publishing Corporation. For more than 30 years, Mike was a reporter, editor and publisher of weekly and daily newspapers across Ontario. In 2013, he joined the Trajan team and continues to serve as Publisher and Editor of Canadian Coin News and Canadian Stamp News. Besides attending numismatic conventions and coin shows, Mike is active in the numismatic community as a board member of both CAFNE (Canadian Association of Numismatic Education) and The J Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation. Mike is also Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers.



Terence Terry Cheesman

The Lifetime Coinage of Alexander the Great

Expert and Collector

The talk will discuss the development of Alexander's coinage looking at the history of scholarship on the subject and up to the present times.

Terry Cheesman is an expert collector and numismatist. He generously loaned many of his precious Hellenistic coins for the exhibition *The Birth of Portraiture: Alexander the Great and His Successors*.



Carolyn Willekes

The Boy and his Horse: Alexander, Bucephalus, and Royal Identity

Mount Royal University

The ‘taming’ of Bucephalus by a young Alexander the Great is one of the most iconic events of his adolescent years. The story as recounted in Plutarch’s *Life of Alexander* is variously used as an example of Alexander’s precociousness, as foreshadowing of his military conquests and, of course, as an early example of a need to out-do his father Philip in everything. It is also tempting to brand the Alexander-Bucephalus tale as representation of hyper-masculinity: male domination over a ‘violent’ and unruly stallion, but this is not the case. There is much more to the story. At the root of it is a relationship between boy and horse founded in an understanding of equine behaviour. Moreover, the ‘horse and his boy’ motif went on to become a common literary and visual trope, as exemplified in books like Walter Farley’s *Black Stallion*; this motif owes its origins to Plutarch’s account and the subsequent ‘mythologizing’ of the Alexander-Bucephalus story, and the enduring nature of this motif speaks to the tangible experience of the human-equine bond and its importance in defining the legacy and lore of Alexander from antiquity to the 21st century.

Dr. Carolyn Willekes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of General Education at Mount Royal University. Her research focuses on the human-equine relationship in antiquity. She is the author of *The Horse in the Ancient World: From Bucephalus to the Hippodrome* (I.B. Tauris, 2016), and she has published several articles and chapters on the significance of the horse in ancient sport, warfare, and art, including her most recent article “Realism as a Representational Strategy in Depictions of Horses in Ancient Greek and Egyptian Art: How Purpose Influences Appearance” (*Arts*, 2022) with L. Delpeut from the Institute of Egyptology at the University of Vienna.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30



François Ruffange

Lectures and Workshops

With over 20 years of experience in numismatics, François always enjoys preparing and delivering presentations to collectors at club meetings, shows and conventions. As a professional numismatic photographer, his presentations are packed with outstanding pictures showing minute details, always so important in numismatics. François is a retired Royal Canadian Air Force aerospace engineer and is currently the president of the Société numismatique de Québec (SNQ).

Understand Wear on Coins

This presentation reviews all the grading levels in details using the Langlois' Guide to Grading Canadian Coins. With the help of high-resolution pictures, we will study gradual coin wear going from mint state (new) to a very low grade (very worn). The presentation concludes with going over all major wear points for all Canadian monarchs.

Following the presentation, we will carry on with the Coin Grading Workshop.

The aim of the Workshop is to improve your examination technique, better recognize what is wear and appreciate that small details can make a big difference!

This most popular workshop is focused on the relative state/ wear of a coin compared to another. This workshop is done in teams. Each team is given a set of coins (ex. 1 cent, Edward VII) and is asked to place them in order, from the most worn to the least worn. The monitor

provides advice as required.

The workshop includes 22 sets of coins of various degree of difficulty totaling 124 coins! The more experienced collectors can attempt to assign a grade to each coin.

Bring your loupes (5X and 10X)

Grading Bank Notes

The purpose of this presentation is to show you how to grade bank notes.

Using the Charlton catalog, we will discuss in detail the terminology (with pictures) and learn how to evaluate circulated and new (MS) notes as well as the demerit point system. We will also discuss wear of polymer bills. A demonstration will follow to show you the technique for looking at a note and seeing all the details that will allow you to assign a grade.

This 45-minute presentation will be followed by a hands-on workshop where you will be able to examine and grade various notes.



QUESTIONS:

Marina Fischer

Curator of Numismatics

Nickle Galleries, University of Calgary

m.fischer@ucalgary.ca