



MEMBERS ONLY

FEBRUARY: ALL ABOUT LOVE



Welcome to our first edition of “Members Only”! As a member of The Carleton Place and Beckwith Historical Society, you’ll get these exclusive, monthly newsletters as our thanks.

We’ll keep you up to date on what’s happening behind the scenes at the Museum, and share parts of the artifact collection that you may not see otherwise.

Enjoy!

Contact Information:

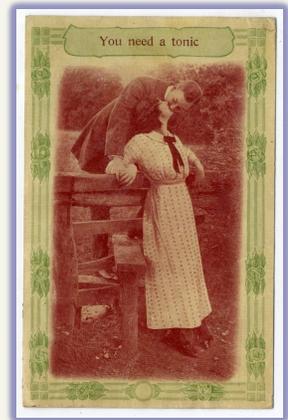
267 Edmund Street
Carleton Place, ON
K7C 3E8
613-253-7013
cpbmuseum@outlook.com



In 2018 the museum received a postcard album containing a wide assortment of postcard styles, including some fabulous Valentines Day cards! The card above was sent to Pearl Baird in 1918.



VALENTINES CARDS IN OUR COLLECTION



THE MONTH OF LOVE



A heart shaped pin cushion with glass beading.



Cookbook produced by Maple Leaf Flour, 1930



Detail from the back bridge railings c. 1970

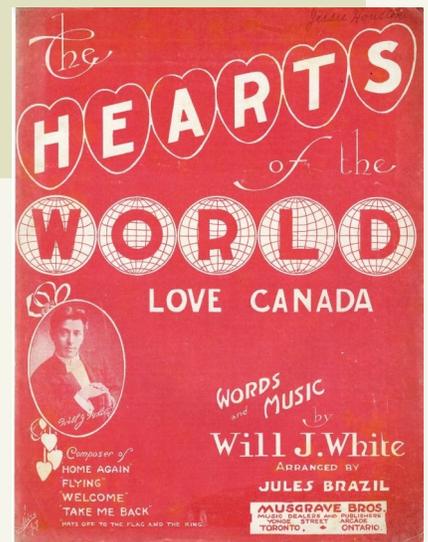


A tiny box of candy hearts, 1940

A Valentine Thought

When Valentine, that famous Saint,
 Was feeling much depressed
 Because the others in his group
 Great talents all possessed,
 A voice inside him seemed to say,
 "Just do the little things."
 Thus that kind man went thro' his life
 And won his Saintry wings.
 So few of us are talented
 With minds or voices rare
 But all can 'do the little things'
 To show we really care.
 So on this day of Valentine
 Remember his kind deeds
 You too, can 'do the little things'
 To answer many needs.
 By Leita Andison, 1972

Leita was born in Carleton Place and was a well loved teacher and Girl Guide leader in the area.



Sheet music dated 1918

FOR THE LOVE OF COINS

Perhaps you were lucky enough to attend a presentation on Love Tokens given by our Vice-President Ryan Goode in February 2019. If not, he's graciously shared his story with us!

I started collecting coins at a young age, my father had a coin collection that I was fascinated by. It was a typical hobby collection, consisting of Canadian one and five cent coins sparsely put together in small blue books arranged in order by date. I found the one cent coins the most interesting; particularly the large cents that were produced between 1858 and 1920. These coins were ancient as far as 10 year old me was concerned, they were also the size of dinner plates by the time I told my friends at school about them.

Eventually the collection was handed down to me, and full of excitement and enthusiasm, I was determined to find them all. I was going to finish what he started, and so I set out to find the missing dates. No piggy bank was left unsearched! No couch cushion left unturned! I was going to find every one of them.

At first it was easy, filling in the common dates that I could find in my change; then, as the holes started to fill in, I was left with the task of hunting down the harder to find dates. I scoured local coin shops in search for the elusive coins that I needed to complete the set. By this time I was collecting all denominations of Canadian decimal coinage, a task I had severely underestimated. It seemed like the harder the coins were to find, the more

expensive they became. It didn't take long until I became frustrated. By this time I was a young teen. Not only did I not have the budget to proceed, but I was finding that collecting Canadian decimal coins was getting stale.



I was still interested in collecting coins, and with my previous mission on the back burner, it meant I was free to branch out. I started collecting whatever interested me. Canadian colonial and local merchant tokens were some of the few, and with no game plan or end goal it meant I could just have fun, and could search for and buy coins and tokens that fit my budget.

One day there was a coin dealer that set up a small kiosk in a nearby mall. Most of his stock consisted of the less impressive beaver and caribou coins I was all too familiar with. But I noticed one of the silver 25 cent pieces had been deliberately worn down, and furthermore, somebody had gone the extent of engraving their own design where Queen Victoria should be. "How interesting" I thought, "I'm sure there's a story here" I said to myself. The coin was a sterling silver 1874 Canadian 25 cents, the obverse was engraved the initials "AMH". The engraving was a little crude but it was sincere.



It wasn't until years later after joining a Coin Club at Alliance Coin and Banknote in Almonte that I learned the purpose of this engraving. We would gather once a month and share our collections and our stories. Each month was a different topic or theme and when February rolled around, naturally the topic was "love".

Normally I could find something from my collection to at least creatively fit the theme but this month I came empty handed.

Sean Issacs, the host and owner of Alliance kicked off the meeting by passing around a small collection of coins on a tray, they were all Victorian era coins that had been worn down and beautifully engraved on one side.

FOR THE LOVE OF COINS CONT.



They were “Love Tokens”!

All this time I thought that the coin I had found years earlier was a one off, but this was real Victorian era trend! A love token is a coin that has been defaced on one, or sometimes both sides then re-engraved with a loved one’s initials, a sentimental object or even a landscape.

Love tokens would often be made into jewelry such as pins, bracelets and necklaces, some consisting of multiple love tokens. These were most often engraved by a jeweller and then given to somebody as a token of love or remembrance in a time when photography was quite costly.



I have been collecting Love tokens and coin jewelry ever since!

They seem to pop up unexpectedly in flea markets and thrift stores, hidden amongst old jewelry and unbeknownst to the vendors as to what they are. The engravings are truly beautiful. At an estate sale one summer I patiently waited in line for my turn to peer into a cabinet of jewelry, thinking there wouldn’t be much left by the time it was my turn. I was quite surprised to not only find a love token, but a necklace consisting of 19 Canadian Victorian era 10 cent coins each engraved with different initials on the reverse. I could hardly contain my excitement and keep a straight face while making a counter offer on a price that was already a steal!

On another occasion I was in a flea market looking over a showcase full of coins looking for anything interesting. I spotted yet another engraved coin, this one had a full name engraved on it, “Ned Fleming”. When I picked up the coin I flipped it over to see what country it was from and I was surprised to see the other side was also engraved with a violin and a catfish: definitely a mystery I was willing to try and solve!

It turns out, Ned Fleming was “Captain Ned Fleming”, and was the Captain of the Rideau King, a steamboat ferry that would travel the Rideau Canal from Ottawa and Kingston, and was an avid violinist and a poet. This token was his pocket watch fob!

I often pick up old coins and wonder where they have been, what they were used to buy and by whom. Love tokens offer a window into their history; they still hold the meaning of a love that once was and in some ways, still is. Even though the people are gone, a token of their love still remains. I still continue to collect coins, collecting whatever interests me. I like to find things that have a great story.

A few years ago I went to a coin show and bought an 1858 Canadian one cent coin. I made a stop at my parents’ house on the way home to show my dad. It was the first year for the Canadian one cents and it filled the last hole in my collection for that denomination. At last, I had finished what I set out to do - I finished my Dad’s collection!

