



## PUBLISHER & EDITOR:

Mike Walsh (Ext. 228) mw@trajan.ca

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Ted Banning, Stanley Clute, Tim Grawey, Randy Heimpel, Tony Hine, Sean Isaacs, Dick Logan, George Manz, John Regitko, Ian Robertson, Jesse Robitaille, Sean Sinclair

**ADVERTISING:** advertising@trajan.ca

Mike Walsh (Ext. 228),

Jim Szeplaki (Ext. 223)

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:** jims@trajan.ca

(Ext. 223)

**CIRCULATION:** office@trajan.ca

(Ext. 221)

**COMPOSITION & DESIGN:** jims@trajan.ca

Production Co-ordinator – Jim Szeplaki (Ext. 223)

Mary-Anne Luzba – mluzba@trajan.ca

**OFFICE:** office@trajan.ca

Accounts Receivable (Ext. 230)

**PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

GST #10638 6139 RT

Canada: \$51.99 for one year (26 issues) plus applicable tax;

\$97.99 for two years (52 issues) plus applicable tax;

\$140.99 for three year (78 issues) plus applicable tax;

U.S.A.: \$63.99 for one year (U.S. funds);

Foreign: \$256.00 for one year (Canadian funds).

**DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

GST #10638 6139 RT

Canada: \$37.99 one year (26 issues) plus applicable tax;

US/Foreign \$37.99 (Canadian funds) one year (26 issues);

Add digital to print subscription for only \$5.99 extra for one year (26 issues)

**CANADIAN POSTMASTER**

Send address changes to Canadian Coin News,

PO Box 25009 Rose City RO, Welland, ON L3B 6G9

**Publications Mail Agreement No. 40069699**

Registration No. 09137,

Postage paid at Welland, ON.

Return postage guaranteed.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Circulation Dept.,

PO Box 25009 Rose City RO, Welland, ON L3B 6G9,

e-mail: office@trajan.ca

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Funded by the Government of Canada

Canada

**EDITORIAL POLICY:** *Canadian Coin News* is a hobby magazine endeavouring to bring worldwide numismatic news and views to its readers with the major emphasis on Canadian numismatics. Opinions expressed in signed columns, stories, and letters are not necessarily those of *Canadian Coin News*.

**Auction and sales reports:** *CCN* staff or assigned contributors write pre- and post-sale articles. Writers conduct interviews as needed and use information provided by the auction house as source material. As with all news articles, story selection, which sales to cover, and final placement in the magazine are news decisions made by the editor(s). Statements regarding sales are verified against prices realized. Lots that fail to meet reserve, or are bought by the consignee or their agent, are considered non-sales for the purpose of reporting. From time to time, *CCN* staff may request a copy of the invoice covering the auction transaction. Due to the public nature of auction transactions, this should not be needed often, but will be required in private treaty sales. Any information other than the price will be kept in confidence.

**Attributions and values:** Items attributed or values in *CCN* editorial content are offered as a service to our readers. In no way should they be construed to be an endorsement or official opinion on a specific item. Readers looking for definitive answers should seek the services of a professional numismatist. While we strive for accuracy, errors or mistakes can occur. As a matter of policy such errors or mistakes, when discovered, will be corrected in the next available edition.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** *CCN* welcomes and encourages letters to the editor to further promote a diversity of voices and opinions in our magazine. Letters should be between 100 and 200 words (and no longer than 400 words) and refer to a recent *CCN* article or numismatic-related event, and all letters must be signed by the sender. Also provide your phone number or email address for possible verification by *CCN*. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters.

**REPRINT RIGHTS:** *Canadian Coin News* assumes that letters to any department and all unsolicited material submitted are contributed gratis and are for publication unless otherwise stated. Solicited material will be deemed accepted upon publication. Payment will be made two months following publication. *Canadian Coin News* reserves the right to edit all material submitted, solicited or unsolicited.

**PRIVACY POLICY:** Occasionally *Canadian Coin News* makes its subscriber list available to other reputable companies with offers of goods and/or services specific to collectors. If you wish not to be part of this service, please phone or fax us, or e-mail office@trajan.ca. You can also request a copy of our Privacy Policy, or see it online at www.trajan.ca.

**PHOTOCOPYING RIGHTS:** No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written consent of the publisher or, in the case of photocopying or other reprographic copying, a license from Access Copyright (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), 6 Adelaide St. East, Suite 900, Toronto, ON, M5C 1H6

This publication makes references to various Charlton Numbers. The copyrights to these Numbering Systems are the property of CHARLTON INTERNATIONAL INC.

*Canadian Coin News* (ISSN 0702-3162) is published bi-weekly by Trajan Publishing Corp., PO Box 25009 Rose City RO, Welland, ON CANADA L3B 6G9. Periodicals postage paid at Buffalo NY and additional mailing offices. Known Office of Publication: 145 Gruner Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14227. Publication number 761790. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Canadian Coin News, PO Box 59, Buffalo NY, 14205-0059. Publication Mail Agreement #40069699. Return undeliverable US addresses to Canadian Coin News, PO Box 59, Buffalo NY, 14205-0059, email office@trajan.ca (GST 10638 6139)

*Canadian Coin News* is indexed in the Canadian Magazine Index by Micromedia Ltd. ISSN: 0702-3162

*Canadian Coin News* is owned and published by

TRAJAN  
PUBLISHING CORPORATION

PO Box 25009 Rose City RO

Welland, ON L3B 6G9

WWW.TRAJAN.CA

TELEPHONE: (905) 646-7744 FAX: (905) 735-1909

TOLL FREE: 1-800-408-0352



Magazines  
Canada



# New fake toonie types found

By Jesse Robitaille

Ontario collector Brent Mackie, who has searched through hundreds of boxes of \$2 circulation coins looking for fakes, recently discovered a new obverse type plus three new die crack varieties and a die crack progression.

The counterfeits were first reported last fall (“Dozens of counterfeit toonies allegedly passed in Toronto,” *CCN* Vol. 58 #10). This year, collectors have found the fakes circulating across the country (“Surge of suspected fakes hits cities across Canada since fall, collector finds,” *CCN* Vol. 59 #1).

Since March, Mackie has been cataloguing what he calls the “Camel Toe” counterfeits (named after the tell-tale marker on the polar bear’s right paw), but he’s also listing the coins produced at the so-called “Montreal Mint,” which struck fake 2004- and 2005-dated toonies before it was shut down by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

“Yet another new obverse has been discovered for the Camel Toe counterfeit toonies. This time it’s a 2010 date,” Mackie, who has pored over more than 100,000 toonies, told *CCN*.



**Brent Mackie reports a new counterfeit \$2 circulation coin obverse, this one dated 2010, has been found in circulation.** Photo by Brent Mackie.

He’s also reporting two new 2004 die crack varieties, an already known 2006 die crack that has progressed and a new reverse die crack.

So far, Mackie and other collectors, including award-winning counterfeit coin expert Mike Marshall, have found seven dates – 1996, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and now 2010.

Mackie’s catalogue also records more than 20 die cracks.

He believes the number of known die cracks could point to the prevalence of these counterfeits in circulation, where millions of fakes may already exist.

The Royal Canadian Mint began “monitoring the situation” this summer, according to the Crown corporation’s media relations manager Alex Reeves.

To view Mackie’s online catalogue, where all of the known counterfeit types are illustrated and described, visit cameltootoonies.ca. 🍁

## Pick our BRAIN

*In this corner of each issue, our writers will work with collectors, dealers and other numismatic leaders to uncover practical knowledge for people who are looking to bolster their hobby. To submit an inquiry, email info@trajan.ca or write to ‘Pick Our Brain,’ PO Box 25009, Rose City RO, Welland, ON L3B 6G9.*

**Reader J. Cormier writes: “Hi, my son found this coin, and we can’t find information on it. Can you help? We live in New Brunswick and would greatly appreciate any help in identifying it.”**

According to Robert Kokotailo, the owner of the Calgary Coin Gallery and a dealer for more than three decades, this piece appears to be a Spanish silver “cob” coin; however, it’s not a genuine example. *The Practical Book of Cobs*, a 1987 book by father-and-son auctioneer duo Daniel and Frank Sedwick, explains Spanish mints in Mexico, Peru, Colombia and other locations struck and

trimmed the genuine cobs by hand in the 1500s through the 1700s. The coins “are handsomely crude,” the Sedwicks write: nearly all of them feature a cross as the central design on one side plus a coat of arms or a “tic-tac-toe-like pillars and waves” design on the other side.



Silver cobs are called “reales” while gold cobs are called “escudos” (so two eight-reales pieces, each weighing about 27 grams, equal one escudo). The Sedwicks add some cobs were struck with a date and most of them show a mint-mark and an initial or monogram for the assayer (the mint official responsible for weight and fineness). Because size and shape were “immaterial,” according to the Sedwicks, most cobs “are far

from round or uniform in thickness.” Kokotailo, who received the 2019 Charles D. Moore Professional Numismatic Award from the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association, adds: “What I can say with certainty is that it is not a genuine coin. The general style is a

Spanish or Spanish colonial cob coin, but the spots with the mint mark, assayer mark and denomination indicator are garbled to the point it is not possible to know which specific issue they were copying.

There is what appears to be an attempt at a date, but it is also garbled and is in the wrong place.” While he’s certain it’s not a genuine cob, Kokotailo is unsure when or why it was made. “The way the edges are formed suggests it is likely of relatively recent manufacture, probably not before the 20th century. The last original cobs were made in the 1770s. There are a few possibilities, one of which is a marker for a game.” 🍁

### New digital catalogue biggest coin database in German-speaking Europe

A new web portal of public numismatic collections, complete with information about more than 90,000 coins, is now live and freely accessible.

Launched this May, on International Museum Day, the portal is hosted at ikmk.net and is known in German as the Interaktive Kataloge der Münzkabinette (IKMK). It’s the largest coin database in the German-speaking world, holding tens of thousands of pieces from nearly 30 institutions, including the Münzkabinett in Berlin, its counterpart at Vienna’s Kunsthistorisches Museum plus dozens of other smaller museums and university collections. The contributing institutions, which hold 1.4 million objects altogether, plan to continue adding to the database.

After seven years of planning, the searchable database now offers high-resolution images and detailed descriptions, including provenance and research information. Images and text are free to use for academic and private non-commercial purposes.

The more than 90,000 numismatic items listed on the IKMK represent “in many ways just the beginning of a sustainable and methodical publication of the collections,” according to a statement issued by the Berlin State Museums. “The digital transformation of our numismatic cultural heritage is a task for generations.”