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The new \$20 commemorative, which was unveiled by Richard Wall (left) and Governor General David Johnston (right) is a modified version of Polymer series' \$20 denomination.

New \$20 commemorative a crowning achievement

By Jesse Robitaille

On Sept. 9 at about 12:30 p.m. EST, as Queen Elizabeth II added another milestone to an already lengthy list, the Bank of Canada unveiled – for only the third time ever – a commemorative banknote to mark the occasion.

Only the third commemorative bill to be issued by the Bank

of Canada since it first began issuing banknotes in 1935, this new \$20 note honours Her Majesty's historic reign, which, on Sept. 9, became the longest in modern Canadian history at more than 63 years (however, the longest-reigning monarch of Canada was arguably Louis XIV, who ruled for 72 years, although many will ignore these pre-Confederation sovereigns).

"Prince Philip and I are very grateful for the warmth of your welcome on this occasion," said Elizabeth II at a speech made at the new Borders Railway, which she declared open to the public, in Scotland on Sept. 9. "Many ... have also kindly noted another significance attaching to today, although it is not one to which I have ever aspired. Inevitably, a long life can pass by many milestones; my own is no exception. But I thank you all, and the many others at home and overseas, for your touching messages of great kindness."

Meanwhile, back in Canada, celebrations were held from coast to coast to coast, including at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, where

Governor General David Johnston and his wife, Sharon, hosted a special event to celebrate. Also on hand were a trio of Crown corporations, including the Bank of Canada, Royal Canadian Mint and Canada Post, which respectively unveiled a banknote, a series of coins and a stamp marking the historic milestone.

"These lasting items, created with such care and attention, symbolize the trust we place in Her Majesty and she places in us," said Johnston to about 100 attendees. "As our Queen, she has conducted 22 royal tours of Canada, the most of any Commonwealth nation."

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'A lot of great material' at Coin Expo Auction

By Jesse Robitaille

More pieces of numismatic history are set to cross the auction block at the 2015 Toronto Coin Expo this October.

The semi-annual coin expo is held every spring and fall at the Toronto Reference Library on 789 Yonge St. Regular daily admission to the fall show, which runs Oct. 2-3 between 10 a.m.

and 5 p.m., will cost \$6, although children 16-and-under are free.

Jared Stapleton, expo organizer, said it's one of Canada's top shows, offering collectors the chance to buy, sell, trade and appraise all kinds of items at the highest prices.

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Lot 118, an 1839 Banque du Peuple penny (Breton 525) in Choice About Uncirculated, is estimated at \$25,000-\$30,000.

Mint marks Queen's historic reign

On Sept. 9, as part of Ottawa's celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's recent milestone, the Royal Canadian Mint unveiled a series of coins marking Her Majesty's reign, which is now the longest in modern Canadian history.

On that day at around 12:30 p.m. EST, the Queen's reign exceeded that of her great-great-grandmother, Queen

Victoria, who reigned for 23,226 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes.

"In addition to featuring four effigies of Her Majesty on the obverse of Canada's coins since her accession to the throne, the Mint has a long and proud history of commemorating significant

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Auction...

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"The venue is very important as it relates to numismatics and research," said Stapleton, about the largest public library in Canada, which was founded in 1885. "And with world-renowned dealers in attendance, you'll be sure to get the best market price."

The live auction, which is open to the public and free to attend, begins a day early on Oct. 1 and runs until Oct. 2. Lot viewing is between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and the bidding starts at 6 p.m.

Stapleton, who's also the owner of Metro Coin and Ban-note in Toronto, said the sale, presented by New Brunswick's Geoffrey Bell Auctions, is always an expo highlight.

Geoff Bell, auctioneer and owner of Geoffrey Bell Auctions, said the sale is "one of the highest-powered auctions" he has even been a part of.

"There's a lot of great material," said Bell. "It's a very significant sale"

SESSION ONE

Session one includes the Richard Cooper Collection, which accounts for lots 93-319.

"It's phenomenal," Bell said. "There's stuff in there people won't see for another generation. His material is even better than what I had in my collection. It's going to be a once-in-a-generation opportunity."

Bell said the Cooper Collection consists of four sections, the first of which includes a section of Bank of Montreal (BMO) halfpenny tokens in "top-notch condition."

The highlight of the BMO halfpennies is lot 129, which is a rare example dated 1845



Lot 681, an 1861 Eastern Townships Bank \$4 bill, is estimated at \$7,000-\$8,000.

(Breton 527). It's one of only four known to exist, Bell said, and it's estimated at \$40,000-\$50,000.

"I don't remember one coming on the market in my day."

Bell said the Cooper Collection also includes about a dozen "extremely rare" sideview tokens, the highlight of which is lot 118, an 1839 Banque du Peuple penny (Breton 525) in Choice About Uncirculated.

"It's just outstanding, and it's going to bring a big pile of money," Bell said, adding the lot is estimated at \$25,000-\$30,000.

The third section of the Cooper Collection includes blacksmith tokens.

"This is probably the best blacksmith token collection since the Warren Baker collection sold in the United States a number of years ago," said Bell. "It's a fabulous collection with all the rarities. In fact, I'm sure some of these were Warren Baker's at some time."

One highlight of the blacksmith tokens is lot 174, a Ships, Colonies and Commerce token (Wood 9a variant) estimated at \$3,500-\$4,000.

The last section of the Cooper Collection includes a "big section" of countermark coins.

"Cooper had the finest countermark collection in existence," Bell said.

One highlight of Cooper's countermark collection is lot 314, an

Lot 314, an 1839 BMO sideview halfpenny token (Breton 524) with a Maplebeck and Lowe countermark, is estimated at \$2,500-\$3,000.

1839 BMO sideview halfpenny token (Breton 524) with a Maplebeck and Lowe countermark. With a provenance of 122 years – having been sold by Sotheby's in 1903, when it realized two pounds, and then by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions in 1995, when it realized \$720 plus buyer's premium – it's now estimated at \$2,500-\$3,000.

Overall, Bell said the Cooper Collection is "every bit as strong as the Ford Collection that was sold in Chicago in 2013, and that was pretty famous stuff."

London's historic Guildhall. The obverse depicts a detailed interior view of the council chamber flanked by two heraldic panels; on the other side, the reverse depicts Londinia standing before the civic chair attended by Mercury and Commerce. The medal is cased to show both the obverse and reverse and is estimated at \$800-\$1,000.

SESSION TWO

Session two includes a "nice variety" of material for all levels of collectors.



Lot 735, an 1880 St. Stephen's Bank \$2 bill, is estimated at \$10,000-\$12,500.

Rounding out session two are the Canadian medals, which range from historical to modern, Bell said.

"Every time there was a noteworthy event, like a visitor from a foreign country or the dedication of buildings, the corporation of the city of London issued a medal," said Bell. "They're huge bronze medals in beautiful cases, and they're all engraved. There were about 30 originally put out, and we have a run of 15 in our auction. They're really outstanding."

One highlight is lot 424, a bronze medal commemorating new council chambers at

"There's nice Maritime coins, a decimal section, errors, test tokens and Mint coins," said Bell. "There's something for everyone."

Many of session two's top highlights are in the paper money collection, Bell said.

"It's one of our strongest paper money collections ever sold."

Among the top highlights is lot 712, a "rare" 1872 Niagara District Bank \$5 bill that's estimated at \$20,000-\$25,000.

"This note is quite likely the only example in private hands and the only note listed with this signature combination," Bell said.

Another highlight is lot 735, an 1880 St. Stephen's Bank \$2 bill that's estimated at \$10,000-\$12,500.

"There are only two known, and one is in an institution," said Bell. "This is the only one available to the general public."

Lot 716, a 1900 Bank of Nova Scotia £1 note, is another highlight.

"Only two are known," said Bell, who added the lot is estimated at \$10,000-\$12,500. "That one has come out of the woodwork. It's a new note to us."

Rounding out the highlights is lot 681, an 1861 Eastern Townships Bank \$4 bill that's estimated at \$7,000-\$8,000.

"That's also a discovery note – something we weren't aware of – and we think there are up to five known, two of which are in museums."

DETAILS

Bell said he's excited for the upcoming sale and expects good interest to be generated among the coin community.

"I'm excited because it's so seldom you're able to get new

material, as hard as you try. And this isn't the biggest sale, but the stuff is high-powered material. It's a really great opportunity for collectors," he said. "And as you know, there's a lot of interest online."

Stapleton agreed bidders are "sure to find one-of-a-kind treasures."

"It's an event you'll want to attend," he added.

The 2016 Spring Expo is scheduled for April 22-23 at the same location. For more information or directions to both the spring and fall shows, visit canadiancoinnews.com/event/toronto-coin-expo.