

# CANADIAN COIN NEWS

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## Third poppy coin in circulation

**By Peter Evans**

The Royal Canadian Mint has brought out a third coloured circulating 25-cent poppy coin.

Although *Canadian Coin News* had earlier reported an anticipated launch date in November, the coin was unveiled Oct. 25, and set to go into circulation on Oct. 28.

The primary launch ceremony was held at Rideau Hall, official residence of Gov. Gen. David Johnston. The new Governor General received the first coin from Royal Canadian Legion Dominion president Patricia Varga. Other ceremonies were held in Halifax, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Belleville, Ont. The coin launch was a preliminary part of events planned for Nov. 11, to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The Mint has announced a mintage of 11 million of the coins, which have been put into circulation and are being distributed through some Canada Post outlets. But since the coins will be distributed through more than 4,700 outlets, and Canada Post has more than 6,600 outlets, the coins will not be available at every location.

However, the Mint said Canada Post would ensure availability in urban, rural and northern communities.

"The Mint is proud to have produced the coloured 25-cent poppy circulation coin to honour Canada's veterans and active Canadian Forces members without whose sacrifices our values and freedoms could not have flourished," Mint master Ian Bennett said. "As Canada prepared to thank and remember its war veterans on the 65th anniversary of the Allied victory which ended the Second World War, collecting the 25-cent poppy coin pays enduring respect to all men and women who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Forces."

Bob Merrifield, Minister responsible for the Mint, said the coin "will serve to remind all Canadians of the importance of thanking our veterans and active Canadian Forces members for their selfless defence of Canada's values."

The coin has the same specifications as existing 25-cent circulating coins. It is struck on insulated steel blanks, with a weight of 4.4 grams and a diameter of 23.88 millimetres. The reverse shows a soldier in dress uniform standing in the position of "rest on arms reversed". Reversed arms are a sign of mourning in military drill, and the rest on arms reversed is traditionally used by honour guards at funerals or placed on duty at memorials and cenotaphs.

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## Tokens, paper popular items at Torex

**By Hans Nickerson**

While it was rare paper and an unusually large number of scarce 30-cent coins that propelled the biggest sales figures at the October Torex auction, it was the huge amount of colonial tokens - more than 4,000 - that drew the most attention from bidders.

"Some of the highlights of the weekend were the merchant and colonial tokens, which sold very well," said Eric Pappert of the Quebec City-based Canadian Numismatic Company, which conducted the three-session, 3,400-plus lot sale in Toronto Oct. 21-23.

Most of the tokens were sold in bulk lots, which rarely failed to be hammered down, but there were several rarities sold as single lots as well.

Among them was a pair of Bank of Montreal "side-view" tokens. An 1879 example in EF to AU sold for \$5,000 against a \$5,000 to \$6,000 estimate, while an 1838 piece in VF went for \$4,200 on an estimate of \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Other colonial tokens sales included an 1815 Magdalen Island token, which sold for \$1,200 against a \$1,000 to \$1,500 estimate.

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The Mint will strike 11 million of the 2010 circulating poppy coins.

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