

THE 1969 LARGE DATE—LARGE SCHOONER DIME

By J. C. Levesque

Probably the most interesting of all Canadian coins to come along in years is the 1969 large date—large schooner ten-cent piece. Though this variety is eagerly sought by nearly everyone involved in Canadian numismatics, no specimens have yet been advertised for sale, nor has any appeared in auction sales.

This transitional variety resulted when a decision was made by mint officials to discontinue the old style reverse and substitute a more aesthetically pleasing design. However, before this change was made, an unknown number of dies was sunk and used to strike a quantity of 1969 dimes of the old style (large schooner). Some of these, or perhaps all, were issued for circulation but the exact number is unknown and evidently very small. At some time in 1969 the old reverse type was withdrawn and coinage began of the new reverse with a smaller schooner. The 1969 Report of the Royal Canadian Mint makes no mention of the transition from the old style reverse to the new.

Only one specimen of the old reverse is known thus far. It was discovered by a lynx-eyed woman who found it in change in Toronto. She brought it to Hans Zoell, the well-known numismatic writer and authority on mint errors, to be photographed. The coin was later proved to be identical to the original matrix at the mint. So far the coin is unique, but the possibility cannot be ignored that there may be other specimens in circulation.

Should a collector find a specimen in circulation or be offered one for sale, he should take care to make certain that it is not a fake. A skillful counterfeiter can easily cut away part of the eight on a 1968 ten-cent piece to fake a nine, or resort to other methods to produce a fake 1969 dime of the old style. Anyone lucky enough to find a coin thought to be a specimen of this rarity should send it away for authentication. The American Numismatic Association Certification Service (ANACS) will examine your coin, for a fee, and advise whether it be genuine or not. A genuine specimen would undoubtedly bring a price of a few thousand at a major auction.



Obverse



Large Schooner
1965-1969



Small Schooner
1969 to date