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# A Series of Medals Honouring Great Canadians?

by Jerry Remick

Perhaps the Royal Canadian Mint might consider issuing an inexpensive series of medals featuring the portraits of some of our many great Canadians on the obverse side. Either a design concerning the accomplishments of the person featured on the medal or the coat of arms of Canada could be featured on the reverse side. Such a series could be issued over a period of several decades or more with several medals issued yearly. There are a large number of Canadians who deserve to be honored in such a series.

The medals should be inexpensive. I would suggest 36 or 38 mm blanks, preferably in nickel-bonded steel and as a second choice nickel. Nickel-bonded steel specimens have a slightly more brilliant surface and are less expensive than nickel specimens. Nickel-bonded steel was perfected in Canada by Sherritt Mint, a Canadian Company and so it is a fitting medal for Canadian use. Collectors' editions can be struck in proof in silver and in gold.

Each medal could be housed in a simple plastic envelope accompanied with a leaflet concerning the life and accomplishments of the great Canadian featured. An album could be available to house such a collection.

To interest people in a series of medals on great Canadians, a leaflet could be prepared to announce details on the series and perhaps to name a dozen or so of the people to be honored during the first few years of the series.

Distribution could be through the various Philatelic Centers which now operate in the larger Canadian cities and the Post Offices throughout the country. A poster announcing each new medal could be sent to all Post Offices throughout the country, just as is done for each new issue of stamps. Direct counter sales of each medal would be possible at all Philatelic Centers and also at Post Offices in larger cities. Smaller Post Offices could rely on prepaid mail orders to satisfy the demands of their local residents.

I feel certain that if the Mint would use the existing Philatelic Centers and Post Offices to sell their current attractive line of coins, sets and medallions, that sales would increase as those items would be available more easily to a greater number of Canadians, particularly to non-collectors.