

Hans Zoell – A Biography
By Henry Nienhuis

Hans Zoell [1906 - 1982] CNA LM30



Hans Zoell was born on May 20th 1906 in Rheinland Germany, the eldest son of eleven children. At the age of seventeen, he was apprenticed as a journeyman in the city of Düsseldorf. Hans continued his education, taking electrical engineering at night school.

In 1928 Hans emigrated to Canada and settled in Regina Sask., living with his aunt. He worked in his profession until 1932 when the great droughts hit the Midwest. He survived by working odd jobs and kept busy during this time by making the rounds picking up stamps from offices and building caretakers. This enabled him to accumulate a nice stock of stamps and soon he was selling his surplus to wholesale dealers in the U.S.

In 1935, he established a Stamp and Supply business, a year later added foreign coins from his personal collection.

Hans married in 1938 and raised four children three boys and one girl.

When WWII put an end to trade with Europe and Great Britain, Hans was forced again the look for an alternate way to make a living. Although he lacked direct experience in the field, Hans took an opportunity to purchase a small printing company and kept the stamp business as a sideline.

In 1953 Hans returned to the coin and stamp business opening “Phila-Coin Co” which was very active in the field of coin varieties. He was also a dedicated collector of error/variety coins, painstakingly photographing and documenting the varieties. In the early 1960’s Hans combined his two businesses by publishing *Canadian Coin and Paper Money* catalogues as well as his famous *Coin Varieties* catalogues.

As a result of ill health, he sold his coin business in 1963. This allowed him to concentrate on error/variety collecting, soliciting and cataloguing variety coins from other collectors, and publishing his catalogues. In November 1965 he began publishing a regular newsletter “*Unusual Canadian Coins*” which changed names to “*Unusual Numismatic Objects*” (UNO) in September 1966 and continued until October 1968.

Hans was one of the founders of the Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association (C.N.V.C.A) and was active in its American counterparts.

Early in 1969 Hans moved to Toronto, opening a coin shop and publishing business “Hobby Publications” located at 92 Jarvis St. where he published the last edition of his *Minor Coin Varieties* catalogue. During the next couple of years Hans assisted the Coin Irregularities Association of Canada (CIAC) by publishing their monthly newsletter, “The Kayak”, from January 1971 to April 1972, when he moved back to Regina.

After an extended illness, Hans Zoell, died on December 23, 1982. The collector's collector, Zoell shunned the numismatic spotlight, but contributed so much.

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LISTING OF CATALOGUES published by Hans Zoell

"Simplified Catalog of Canadian - Newfoundland Coins & Paper Money"

1962	1 st Edition
1962-63	2 nd Edition
1963-64	3 rd Edition
1965	4 th Edition

"Premium Catalog - Prices Paid for Coins. Canada Nfld & USA"

1961-62	7 th Edition
1963	8 th Edition
1966-67	10 th Edition

"Canadian Coin - Variety Catalog"

1960-61	1 st Edition*
1961	1 st Edition*
1962	2 nd Edition

**Both Issues are titled 1st Editions*

"Minor Coin Varieties"

1965 Part Two	3 rd Edition
1968	4 th Edition Supplement to the 3 rd Edition
1970	5 th Edition Supplement to 3 rd and 4 th Editions

"Major Coin Varieties"

1965 Part One	3 rd Edition
1966-67	4 th Edition