

## Joseph Hooper Monument Maker and Numismatist

by Scott E Douglas

### Did You Know

.....that Joseph Hooper of Port Hope, Ontario was one of several early Canadians who played a prominent role in the establishment of the American Numismatic Association? Hooper would eventually become the first Canadian President of the ANA in 1898.

Joseph Hooper was born in Plymouth, England February 19, 1833. He moved with his family to the United States (Detroit) in 1851 and a short time later settled in Port Hope, Ontario. Hooper operated a monument and stone business in Port Hope, Ontario for about 30 years. Many of the gravestones in the Port Hope cemetery were created by Hooper.

Hooper sold his collection in New York City ( July 21-22 and October 6, 1892 ) through well known American coin dealer Edouard Frossard.

In the 'Numismatist' of 1892 a fellow collector was noted as commenting;

“ Mr. Hooper is the type of the true numismatist; one who loves the science *for the science*. His greatest delight is the study and arrangement of his fine cabinet of coins and medals, and he is ever anxious, that, that which gives him so much pleasure should be shared by others. He has given several highly successful numismatic exhibitions for charitable purposes, and does much to awaken an interest in the science with the young and old. Painstaking and methodical, he is filled to the brim with enthusiasm in the study.”

Joseph Hooper was one of several early Canadians who played a prominent part in the establishment of the American Numismatic Association. Hooper was the first Vice-President (1891) before becoming the President of the ANA from 1898-1901. This was a very critical stage of the organizations development. Hooper wrote a continuing series in the 'Numismatist' entitled “Numismatic Foundation Stones.” In 1892, through those pages, he suggested that the ANA should compile a listing of prices from various past auction sales so that values of coins in various condition could be determined. It was at this time Hooper also proposed an obverse and reverse design for an ANA medal. The obverse incorporated the legend '*De Profundis*' (out of the greatest depth) under a volume titled Ancient History on which stood a lighted student's lamp. This design was immediately embraced and is the ANA symbol in use today.

Joseph Hooper retired from business around 1910 and moved to Rochester, N.Y. where he died in the spring of 1919 at the age of 86.

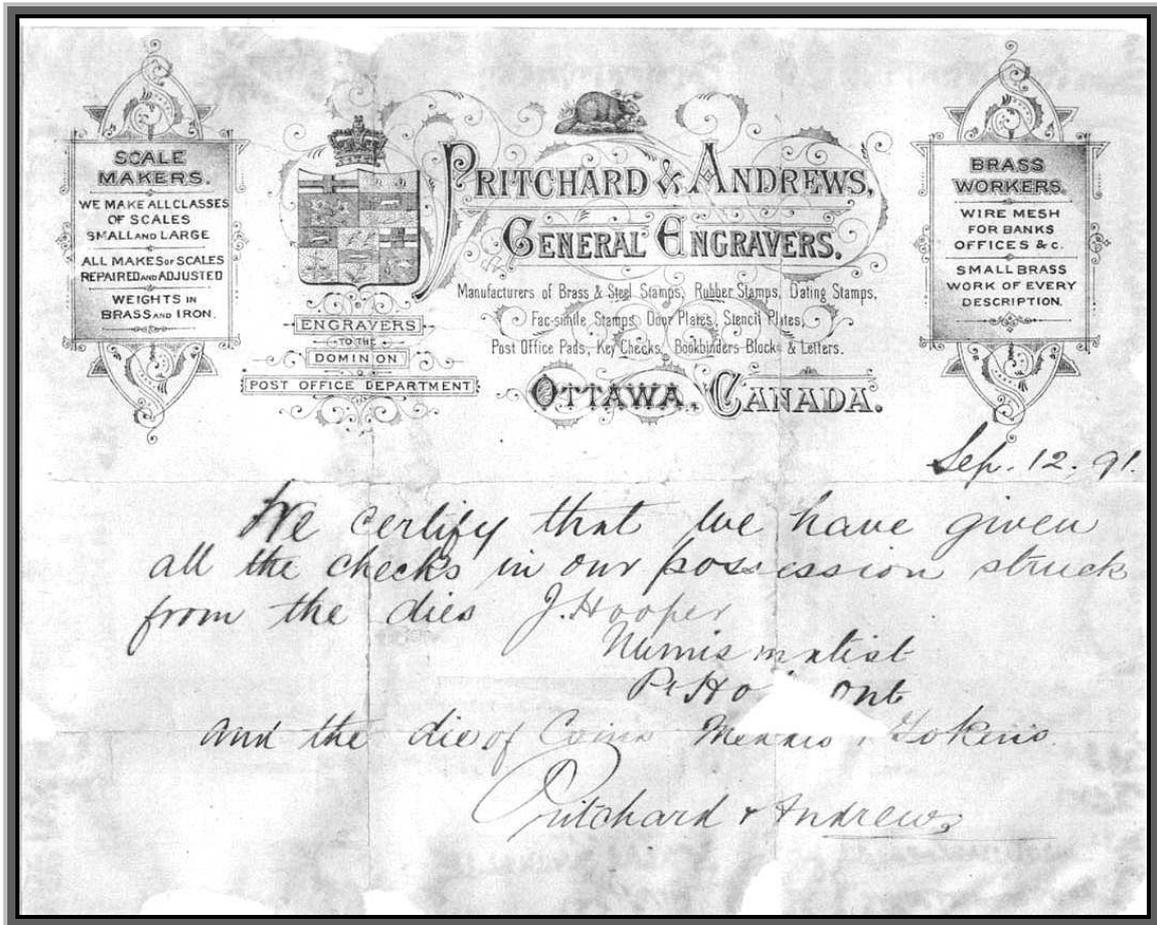


ANA medal commemorating 75 years.

Portraits are:

Dr George Heath founder  
William Jerrems, 1<sup>st</sup> President  
Joseph Hooper, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.





An interesting memo from Pritchard and Andrews to Joseph Hooper certifying that all of the tokens struck for him are in fact in his hands.

The need for this reassurance would likely be as a result of some Ottawa numismatists who were known to have ordered small numbers of off metal strikes of some of the tokens produced by Pritchard and Andrews for the purpose of 'trading' with other collectors. Hooper was keenly aware of this practice and as the letter would intimate wanted to be sure his token issue did not fall victim to this practice.

