

## ELVIS STRIKES AGAIN!

### THIS TIME IT'S A CANADIAN MINT ERROR!

Just when you thought you've heard the last of the controversy surrounding Elvis Presley, a new "error" has shown up to add fuel to the fire. This time the debate surrounds a series of silver rounds made at The Canadian Mint!

In 1987 the owner, Mike Makri, of Legendary Coins, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, placed an order to have the Royal Canadian Mint strike some Elvis silver proof medals according to designs supplied by them. Mike Makri was new to the field of coin collecting and did not distinguish between medals and legal tender coins, referring to both types as coins. Consequently, Mr. Makri supplied designs to the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) which had a \$10 denomination as part of the reverse design.

The Royal Canadian Mint has a reputation for scrutiny over the products which they issue. Their quest for precision and accuracy is well known. Subsequently the order was approved and accepted and production of the silver proof medals was started.



Elvis Medal Obverse

After 1000 of the medals were struck, an RCM official realized that the medals should not have the monetary symbol included in the design. The "\$10" designation is reserved for legal tender coins only, and usually for gold coins. Since these

medals were never intended to be legal tender, the \$10 design feature was improper.



Elvis Medal with Error Reverse

Elvis Medal with "Normal" Reverse

The error dies were destroyed and the remainder of the first edition, and the subsequent second and third editions were made with dies which did not have the \$10 feature as part of the reverse design.

The significance of these medals is the fact that the usually meticulous Royal Canadian Mint allowed this design feature to slip through their screening processes, making the Elvis medal the only known medal which has a monetary value struck into it by the national Mint of a country. The RCM only allows coins with the Queen's image to bear monetary identifications. This error medal slipped through with a design feature (\$10) reserved for legal tender coins only.

A collector who has a single medal of that first 1000 pieces will not see the significance of the flaw unless he has a second medal from the later editions. Side by side, the absence of that \$10 reverse design feature becomes extremely obvious. Our thanks to Jesse Limoli of Nanuet, NY, for sharing these unusual error medals with us.