

A RARE LOYALIST CASE

By
*Brian McConnell, UE**

It could be the only one of its' kind or it might be one of several that were made as part of a promotional effort by a Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association in the 1930's but no matter what the cigarette case with the old insignia or Decoration of the UELAC on it that I recently acquired is unique. How and when it was made make it a rare Loyalist case.



Antique silver cigarette case measures 4" x 3 ½" x ½"

After seeing the cigarette case for sale in June, 2020 on Ebay I successfully purchased it for \$59 Canadian from a seller in Southwestern Ontario. When it arrived by regular mail I was interested to see it had markings or Hallmarks on the inside that would help to determine the age and where it was made.

I contacted the Vendor to ask if he could provide information on its' history but unfortunately he indicated when he obtained it he was not given any.

On the inside of the case is a marking that identifies it as made in England. By researching the meaning of the other markings or Hallmarks it was learned the case was made by Charles S. Green & Co. in Birmingham, England in 1928. (1)

I contacted a representative of Charles S. Green & Co. to ask whether adding the UELAC Decoration to the outside of the cigarette case had been part of the work they carried out. They advised that they did not have that information.



Deco ration on top of cigarette case



On inside of cigarette case are Hallmarks

Further research and assistance from UELAC members including Past Dominion President Fred Hayward confirmed that one or more Branches had provided members of the Association with medals having the same insignia on them from the 1930s onward.



Old Medal from UELAC

At a meeting of the Executive of the UELAC on January 20, 1931, Major Morris Stanley Boehm and William Roaf noted the Decoration of the Association would continue to resemble that of the former United Empire Loyalists' Association of Ontario with a cross at the centre and motto. (2) It was further decided that in the centre would be, in old English, the letters U.E.L., and above the cross the letters G.R. surmounted by the British Imperial Crown. The motto to be: Ducit Amor Patraie meaning 'Patriotism leads me'.

Major Morris Stanley Boehm was the President of the UELAC from 1925-26, His Loyalist ancestors came from the Palatine to Pennsylvania before the American Revolution and then to Ontario. (3) He was raised in Elora, Ontario and served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force overseas in World War I. His grave is in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.



**Major M. S. Boehm, 4th President of the
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**

The image or Decoration of the Association confirmed in 1931 was also adapted for a line of jewellery that included a man's pin or tie tack, cuff links, lady's charm and a tie bar. (4) This jewellery was available until the successful application by the UELAC and registration of the Armorial Bearings of the Association in 1972 by Letters Patent under the authority of the Royal Arms of the Queen in right of Canada. (5)

The Armorial Bearings include Arms, Crest, Motto and the Badge which is now worn by members of the Association on clothing and that also appears as a pin. This replaced the use of the former decoration.



Badge granted for use by Members of UELAC in 1972

In conclusion, it appears based on the available information this cigarette case may be the oldest article of UELAC memorabilia of its kind that exists. Although it cannot be determined when the insignia was put on the case, it is of a type used to make promotional items in the early 1930s. Since the cigarette case was made in 1928 it predates the other medals made by the UELAC. Doubtless then, this is a rare Loyalist case.

Notes:

* This article was completed by Brian McConnell, UE on July 25, 2020. To contact him email: brianm564@gmail.com

(1) See “Hallmarks of English Silver - Maker’s Mark Identification - Illustrated Listing” accessed on June 18, 2020 at <http://www.silvercollection.it/ENGLISHSILVERMARKSXCDUE2.html#421ING>

(2) Hayward, Fred, “Loyally Yours - 100 Years of the UELAC”, published in 2014 by Global Genealogy, p. 158.

(3) Boehm, M. S., “History of the Boehm Family” , 24th Annual Report of the Waterloo Historical Society, 1936 accessed on July 18, 2020 at <http://www.whs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/1936.pdf>

(4) Hayward, op.cit., p. 158.

(5) Swan, Conrad, “Armorial Bearings of the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada”, Loyalist Gazette, Vol X, No. 2, Autumn 1972. Accessed online on July 18, 2020 at <http://www.uelac.org/UELAC-history/Armorial-Bearings-Gazette-1972.pdf>