

## CFL Pin Collecting

My CFL pin collection started 21 years ago when I caught the pin collecting fever during the Calgary 88 Olympics. The collection started as a Calgary Stampeders pin collection. Then four years ago I had an opportunity to buy a CFL collection and suddenly my collection broadened to encompass the entire CFL. The CFL was founded in 1958 but the origins go back to the 1800's. Earl Grey the Governor General of Canada donated the Grey Cup in 1909. The earlier CFL pins primarily date back to the 1960's but periodically you can find pins listed on eBay with dates earlier than the 1950's. These can often be button/badge style with attached ribbons.

True to pins associated with any sport the pins fall into various categories. There's team pins, league pins, fan pins, media pins, and of course for CFL there's Grey Cup pins.

The team pins are typically helmets and team logos. These pins are usually issued as a set of all teams and over the years there have been numerous designs and logo changes. These pins can also be purchased individually for your favorite team. Periodically a team will issue a unique team pin like the Toronto player pin for Rocket Ismail or the Labor Day Classic pin for Calgary/Edmonton. I've seen a few jersey pins but the jersey pin is a rare design for the CFL. The Saskatchewan Roughriders issued a 24 pin Hall of Fame set with each pin having a player picture. Winnipeg issued a beautiful 75 year All Time Bomber Great 21 pin set also featuring the player picture on each pin. In the 1990's the CFL expanded into the US and there are various pins for the six US based teams.



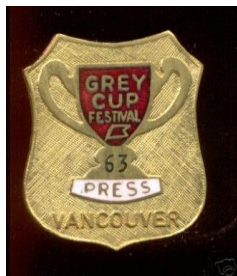
The league pins are typically the helmet with a CFL logo or the logo pin of each CFL team. Numerous styles have been issue over the years. Other league pins include CFL Players Association pins, CFL Hall of Fame Museum pins. Numerous event pins for Schenley Awards, All Star Game, and Coach of the Year Dinner as some examples. A CFL/NFL Alliance pin exists.



The fan pins encompass numerous styles. The CFL issued a set of Football Fan pins for the nine teams that existed at the time which included Ottawa. These pins feature a fan leaning up against a crouching lineman and the pins were issued in two styles, Raised Dye and Cloisonné. Numerous pins exist for Mascots and there's a set of Snoopy fan pins feature Snoopy throwing a football with the team name on the bottom. Other pins I qualify as fan pins are somewhat Grey Cup related but go back over a number of years. The BC Lions have a Grey Cup Bonspiel curling pin which started in 1963. The Edmonton Eskimos have a Spirit of Edmonton pin which started in 1984. Winnipeg BlueBombers have a Touchdown Manitoba pin. Saskatchewan Roughriders have a Plaza of Honor pin, and Calgary Stampeders have a Grey Cup Committee pin. Toronto Argonauts are reputed to have an annual Regatta pin which I have not yet seen.



The media pins can be individual team media like QR77 Stampeders Radio or league media like CFL on CBC. There's likely a TSN CFL pin which I'm searching for. The oldest of the media pins are the CFL Press Pins of a crest design which date back to the early 1960's. The Leader Post in Regina issued a puzzle pin in the shape of the province for the 2003 Grey Cup.



The CFL comes out with a Grey Cup pin each year with recent designs including a Grey Cup helmet and the Maple Leaf with Grey Cup image commemorating the edition and city. Older Grey Cup commemorative pins featuring designs like the stadium and year of the cup. Each year there is a Grey Cup championship pin, featuring the year and name of the Grey Cup

Champion. Older designs are in the shape of the Grey Cup with the logo and year on the cup. A rare Grey Cup pin to find in Canada is the Baltimore Stallions 1995 Grey Cup Championship pin, Baltimore being the only non Canadian team to have ever won the Grey Cup.



Pin prices can be all over the map. New pins at retail stores average five or six dollars. Collectors often value pins from 1990 or earlier in the ten to twenty dollar range. Old pins on eBay can be twenty to two hundred dollars. Recently there were 8 years of CFL Press Pins listed individually on eBay at forty dollars each. The cheapest went at fifty six and the most expensive at one hundred and seventy with most in the ninety dollar range. Trading for pins at events is often the most economical method of adding new pins providing you have desired traders. I'm currently monitoring a beautiful 1967 Grey Cup pin in the shape of a football on eBay that has five bids currently at \$15.50. This may well get sniped at fifty dollars considering I might be the sniper.



This year is the 97<sup>th</sup> edition of the Grey Cup which is being held in Calgary. The Calgary International Pin Club is honored to be hosting a pin trading event in conjunction with the Grey Cup Festival being held in the Convention Centre in downtown Calgary. The event will be running November 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, Friday and Saturday from eleven am to six pm and on Sunday, Grey Cup day from nine am to noon. My CFL collection, approximately 650 pins, will be on display so if you'd like to see that Baltimore Stallions Grey Cup Championship pin or would like to just come down and trade some pins, please join us for what should prove to be a extraordinary event.

Robert Percy