

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 11 – April 30, 2005:

An electronic publication of the Canadian Numismatic Association
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INTRODUCTION

In the "From the President" column published in the March 2005 CN Journal, official publication of the Canadian Numismatic Association, Charles Moore stated: "I received the seventh edition of the C.N.A. E-Bulletin on my computer. I am pleased to announce that John Regitko has accepted the position of permanent editor of the C.N.A. E-Bulletin. John established the electronic communication of the C.N.A. several months ago with the intention of turning it over to someone else once it was up and running. But as he stated in the latest edition, he is having too much fun with it, and once you start receiving it you will also."

Actually, Canadian Coin News was the first out of the starting gate to "out" me, and I didn't care since I was ready to come out of the closet anyway. For the many people who are reading this and asking "John Who?" I am publishing my numismatic resume at the end of this bulletin. I just hope you don't find it too boring.

CUSTOMER OF THE WEEK/ PHONE CALL OF THE WEEK

By Tony Swicer

Another installment from a segment in my talks at the local club meeting called "customer of the week" or "phone call of the week." These are true stories of people who have called or come into the coin shop.

1. A guy calls. "Are you an authorized PCGS dealer?" Yes we are. He comes in with 3 common date Franklin halves in fine condition. I said, "if you send these coins in to be graded for \$15 per coin, when they come back graded, they will still be worth \$2 each just like they are now."
2. A phone call, "I've got an ancient coin and a treasure coin." Bring them in. The lady comes in with these 4" diameter pot metal reproductions.
3. Two guys come in with a coin. One guy is wearing a tee shirt, "Proud To Be An American." They say, "You-espeak Spanish."
4. A guy comes in with two dimes and he says "I think I have an error coin because both the dimes are not facing the same way." I look at them and one is a Mercury and the other is a Barber. That's the way they are made.
5. I offer a lady \$46 for a coin, but she says a guy on the Internet offered her \$200. So I said "sell yours to him, then come back and buy mine for \$55 and sell them to him for \$200." I never saw her again.
6. A customer comes in and buys a state quarter album. Then he looks at our tray of MS-63 Morgan dollars and says "MS-63, why that's almost uncirculated or close to it."
7. Ray get's a call: "I have a silver \$100 bill, what is it worth?" We realize it is 4 ounce silver reproduction worth \$25, not \$99 like he paid.
8. A guy comes in with a heavily polished \$5 gold piece. He says it is like the one on e-bay worth \$3000. "You know, somewhere between MS-67 and MS-68." That's when I busted out laughing in the back room.
9. The bank of Palm Beach called with a customer who wants to sell 10 gold eagles. Ray offers \$2 per coin over spot. The lady wants us to come over and pick them up and they also want a cashiers check. Ray tells them to forget it. They come in the next day with the coins.

10. A guy came in with 16 Morgan dollars that he bought as BUs 25 years ago. After I examined them, 7 were BU and the others were AU because of various degrees of cleaning. It turns out that the guy had been dipping the coins over the years to get rid of the tarnish, without rinsing the coins off. Many were spotted and ruined.
11. Many times on the phone people cannot explain to me what they have for sale. They give me a few clues and I have to guess what it is and give them a price over the phone. Here is a good example. This lady calls and says "what does fine mean?" I said that that was the purity of the metal. She then says "what is 999 and ¼ oz silver?" I said, "congratulations, you have a ¼ oz. silver bar worth \$1."
12. A guy comes in and wants to buy either a gold Maple leaf or American eagle. I explained to him that there was sales tax on the ML and none on the eagle. He buys the ML plus tax and leaves.
13. This gentleman comes in from Okeechobee with a 1895 dollar and he wants to get it certified. It is polished and I can see where the S mint mark had been removed. I tell him what I think and he says that that's impossible, since he has owned the coin 40 years. He also has with him 4 miniature Confederate \$500 bills which he says he traded a \$500 boat motor for. I broke the bad news to him on those too.
14. A lady comes in with a cosmetic case full of cotton balls and cosmetics. She brought in the wrong case.
15. A guy comes in with 3 of the new reproductions of the 1933 \$20 gold piece. He bought them for \$19.95 each and he wants to sell them to us for \$300 each. I told him that they were reproductions with no precious metal in them and that they were virtually worthless. He left.

CCN BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY NAMES CREDIT CARDS

A recent program on CCN featured the top ten "Breakthrough Technologies." It included 1) the wireless world (mobile technology, internet text messaging, cell phones, hotspots in coffee shops), 2) defense technology (smart bombs, laser guided bombs, satellites, spy planes, robots for warfare), 3) alternative fuel vehicles (hybrids), 4) biotechnology (manipulating genetically modified grains), 5) personal computer (small size), 6) lasers (creates and amplifies a narrow beam of light, now measures things in medical applications to correct vision), 7) genomics (organism and credit given to the mouse, human genome, cures for Parkinson's and cancer).

Number 8 was the breakthrough technology from cash to debit and credit cards that has driven people away from cash and paper purchases. PayPal payments, ATM machines and computerized money transfers were also mentioned. They acknowledged that cash would not disappear soon because it has one attribute: privacy.

EASY OFF BAM

There is a new commercial on TV for Easy Off Bam. To make the point how good it is, it mentions that a coin looks like new after being cleaned with the product.

Great. Another new batch of nice, shiny coins are about to hit the market!

OUR KIND OF MATH – YOUR AGE BY COIN CLUB MATH

This is circulating on the Internet. Should we publish it or not? Oh, what the heck, let's change eating chocolate to attending coin club meetings to make it numismatically related.

1. Pick the number of times a week that you would like to attend coin club meetings or coin shows (more than once but less than 10)
2. Multiply this number by 2 (just to be bold)
3. Add 5 (for Sunday)

- 4.. Multiply it by 50 (we'll wait while you get the calculator)
5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1755. If you haven't, add 1754
6. Now subtract the four-digit year that you were born.

You should have a three digit number left.

The first digit of this was your original number (i.e. how many times you want to attend coin club meetings or coin shows each week).

The next two numbers are your age (oh yes, it is!!!)

This is the only year (2005) it will ever work, so pass it on while it lasts. For your non-collecting friends, relatives and spouses, you can ask any other question, such as how many times a week they like to each chocolate. We could give you other examples, but this is a family bulletin.

GAS PRICES

Last week-end, I drove for over four hours north from Toronto to attend the Ontario Numismatic Association's annual convention, returning on Monday. On Tuesday, I drove for a couple of hours to Niagara Falls on 2006 C.N.A. Convention business. This past week-end, I drove four hours to Windsor to man a complimentary C.N.A. Information Table at the Windsor Coin Club's Spring Show. Double it for the return trip. I had to fill up the SUV a number of times, each time stopping off at the bank to take out a loan to pay for it. And to think in three week-ends I am driving to Columbus, Ohio, to attend the Ohio State Show.

Think a gallon of gas is expensive? The following might make you think, and also put things in perspective. Since the majority of our readers are in the U.S., we are using U.S. pricing. We hope it helps ease the pain of your next trip to the pump.

Compared with Gasoline:

Diet Snapple 16 oz \$1.29	\$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz \$1.19	\$9.52 per gallon
Gatorade 20 oz \$1.59	\$10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray 16 oz \$1.25	\$10.00 per gallon
Brake Fluid 12 oz \$3.15	\$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6 oz \$8.35	\$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4 oz \$3.85	\$123.20 per gallon
Whiteout 7 oz \$1.39	\$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5 oz \$0.99	\$84.48 per gallon

And this is the REAL KICKER

Evian water 9 oz \$1.49.....\$21.19 per gallon. \$21.19 for WATER. And the buyers don't even know the source.

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, or Whiteout. Or heaven forbid Pepto Bismol or Nyquil.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Michael Turrini, C.N.A. Area Director for Western U.S., for receiving a President's Citation for Excellence from James H. Laird, President of the Diablo (Coco/Walnut Creek, California) Numismatic Society. According to Numismatic News, the club celebrated its 45th anniversary, causing the President to present a number of awards, including the one to Turrini.

To C.N.A. member Walter Ostromecki for taking the time to address 135 young students at a school in Arcadia, California. Most numismatists, both collectors and dealers, who speak to junior groups never get their good deed reported. For example, your editor recently spoke to 159 students at a downtown Toronto school. Ron Darbyshire, Fred Freeman and Chris Boyer, all members of the C.N.A.'s Coin Kids Committee, regularly speak to school groups. If you speak to kids, or know someone that does, I wish you would e-mail us at cnnews@look.ca and tell us about it, we will give them some credit in these pages!

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Ralph Burry, on his recent passing. Ralph joined the C.N.A. in 1975 and served as an Area Director.

To the family of Cameron Johnson, on his recent passing. According to the London (Ontario) Numismatic Society bulletin, he was a collector for a number of years and knowledgeable in the history of the British monarchy.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

"Perhaps the odd month, a few credit cards and the wife's fingers from time-to-time!" – quote from the Waterloo Coin Society May 2005 bulletin.

SPECIAL KRAUSE SUPPLEMENT PRAISES WORLD MINTS

Recent issues of Numismatic News, World Coin News and Bank Note Reporter included a special supplement covering "Modern Commemoratives." Featured along with pricing on modern U.S. commemoratives is an article entitled "World mints keep busy in 2005" which covers some of the coins issued by various mints. For example, the Austrian and Australian Mints are covered in a total of about 17 column inches. The only other Mint covered is the Royal Canadian Mint, in over 30 column inches. While Austria and Australia have 2 illustrations each, the Canadian mint rates 5 illustrations due, no doubt, to the beautiful designs and the popular topics covered.

As a further bit of Canadian content, the supplier mentioned for the availability of the Austrian coins is Euro Collections International of Victoria, British Columbia.

WINDSOR SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS

Almost every week-end out of the year, there are a number of coin shows in a given area from which one must choose. The people who traveled to Windsor, Ontario to attend the 54th Annual Spring Show hosted by the Windsor Coin Club on May 1 certainly said the drive was well worth it. They came from up to 6 hours away just to be there, knowing from previous shows that they would not be disappointed. The show has been held on the same Sunday of the year for numerous years at the Caboto Club, a topnotch private facility large enough to cater to conventions three times the size of a C.N.A. Convention. The coin show's bourse room is large enough to have wide aisles, a snack area, lunch facilities right on the premises or in a number of eating establishments within walking distance (including the highly sought-after Tim Hortons).

As is typical, the bourse was sold out again, except for the area reserved by the show organizers for a C.N.A. Information Table in a prime location. Actually, two full 8' tables holding not only information on the benefits of membership in the C.N.A., but also C.N.A. Correspondence Courses, salable items such as the C.N.A. 50th anniversary items (medals, pins, notes and books), a few remaining 2004 convention medals, junior kits and plenty of

information on the just-announced one-day workshop at Humber College in Toronto on November 12 and the 2005 C.N.A. Convention scheduled for July in Calgary.

Because of the \$1 admission, which included draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize, it was easy to come up with an accurate attendance figure of well over 300. Since Windsor is not exactly in the middle of the Ontario numismatic scene, that would be considered quite a good number. And it does not include junior collectors that were admitted free and therefore not readily trackable. By the club representative's estimates, thirty young collectors entered the show, however judging by the ongoing activity around the C.N.A. Young Numismatist area, we estimate it at least double that amount.

Forty-two dealers set-up shop. Although some well-known professional numismatists attended from some distance, numerous part-time dealers and collectors also set up shop to dispose of duplicate merchandise at bargain pricing. At a bourse fee of only \$50, everyone could afford to set up shop. If your C.N.A.-Bulletin editor was a dealer, he would attend the show purely to buy a lot of stock from the people disposing merchandise at very attractive pricing. Dealers must buy right and sell right, and this show had both!

We are told that fourteen volunteers worked on making this show a success. A lot of them were the same people that made the C.N.A. Convention so successful when the Windsor Coin Club hosted it in 2003. The club has a lot to thank Margaret Clarke for in being the driving force behind the show and assuring that everything went so smooth!

It's never too early to plan. For a good and profitable time, contact Margaret Clarke at mclarke@wincom.net for information on the Windsor Coin Club's next show.

CALGARY TO HOST C.N.A. CONVENTION

I am having great difficulty curtailing my enthusiasm!

One of my responsibilities, between running a C.N.A. office and churning out this bulletin, is to liaison with the Calgary Numismatic Society's committee that is charged with organizing the 2005 C.N.A. Convention that will be held at the Westin Hotel in Calgary on July 20 to 23. The current committee, reorganized following the death of Earl Salterio, former Co-Chairman, has been hard at work whipping everything into shape, including finalizing the Program of Events and the Registration Form as well as all arrangements for tours and with the hotel, sending details to coin clubs and lighting fires under the numismatic press to get ready to swing the promotional machine into high gear.

From my personal experience in running C.N.A. Conventions and the Toronto International Coin Fair (at the time Canada's largest coin show), I see them doing everything the way things get done for a successful convention. A great team. A great city. Hope to see you all there!

Although the Program of Events and the Registration Form are now posted at www.canadian-numismatic.org, most of you will not take the time to visit the site. I want to personally invite you to the Convention and as a start, I will be publishing the Program of Events in the next C.N.A. E-Bulletin to whet your appetite, with the Registration Form and hotel information in the subsequent bulletin.

SHOW BUSINESS

To be listed, C.N.A.- member clubs and regional/national associations throughout North America and beyond can contact us at cnanews@look.ca with details.

May 5-8, 2005 – St. Louis, Missouri – Central States Numismatic Society's 2005 Convention. America's Center, St. Louis, Missouri. 278 bourse tables. Details at www.centralstates.info .

MAY 14, Peterborough, ON - Peterborough Coin Club Show, Portage Place, 1154 Chemong Road. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: Peterborough Coin Club. For more information, contact Colin (705) 742-0114.

MAY 15, Moncton, NB - Coin Cabinet Collector Show, Howard Johnson Brunswick Hotel, 1005 Main Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3. 65 tables buying, selling, appraising, coins, stamps, sportscards, and militaria. Sponsor/Affiliate: Coin Cabinet. For more information, contact Brian Bell / Mike Wilson, 118 Cameron Street, Moncton, NB E1C 5Y6, Phone/Fax (506) 857-9403.

MAY 20 - 22, Hamilton, ON - TNS, Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. East. Dealer set-up Friday from 2 p.m. Show pass \$20. Public admittance Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. Adults \$4, seniors and young collectors \$2. Auctions by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions, Inc., Saturday and Sunday. Sponsor/Affiliate: The Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers. For more information, contact Terry MacHugh at (905) 570-2434, fax (905) 318-1638, or e-mail cand@cogeco.ca.

May 20-22, 2005, Columbus, Ohio - Ohio State Numismatic Association's 2nd Annual OSNA State Coin Show at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 300 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. Rooms available at "The Columbus" a Renaissance Hotel, 50 North Third Street by calling 614-228-5050. Bourse set-up Thursday 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. Open to public Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. each day. The C.N.A. will be manning an Information Table.

May 28, Dartmouth, NS - APNA Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association Spring Coin Show, Dartmouth Seniors Centre, 45 Ochterloney. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coins, stamps, militaria, Door prizes include a 1967 Proof Set with \$20 gold coin. Sponsor/Affiliate: Halifax Regional Coin Club. For more information, contact Bob Ronan, (902) 435-6703, bobronan@eastlink.ca.

WILL 50 CENT SUFFER FROM INFLATION?

Everywhere we turn, we keep reading about 50 Cent! In People Magazine. At the Oscars and Emmys. In the entertainment sections of daily newspapers. Is this about the Royal Canadian Mint discontinuing fifty-cent pieces?

No, we're talking about a recording artist who picked a numismatic name.

With inflation, will he reinvent himself as Loonie? Depending on your taste in music, that might not be too far off!

ACTIVE IN NUMISMATICS FOR OVER FORTY YEARS

We are pleased to announce, somewhat belatedly (like 11 issues), that John Regitko has been churning out these bulletin for your enjoyment.

John started collecting coins in the early 1960s when he was employed at a variety store after school and on week-ends. He had seen an ad about the rare Canadian 1936 "dot" cent and one day a customer gave him a 1936 cent in change. John looked at it and sure enough, it had a dot above the date, between "smaller than" and "greater than" symbols (<•>). He took it to Carmichael's Coin Store located in the Bloor subway entrance on the Yonge Street subway line.

Neil Carmichael explained to John that the dot on his coin was on every 1936 cent and was not the rare one that had the dot just below the date. Carmichael introduced John to Jim Charlton's coin catalogue that showed a photo of the rare 1936 dot cent.

Customers of the store where John worked in the mid-50s tendered a variety of coins, including 50 cent pieces and silver dollars. What especially caught John's eye was the fact that Queen Victoria, George V and George VI coinage was still in circulation along with the newer Queen Elizabeth II coins. He put aside all the Queen Victoria and George V coins he came across, as well as the lower-mintage George VI coins such as any denomination dated 1937, 1938, 1939, 1948 and Queen Elizabeth 1953 shoulder strap and 1954. He also started to collect U.S. cents which were readily found in change.

He began noticing a number of die breaks in the 10¢ schooner and 50¢ George VI pieces as well as some of the 5¢ beaver and 25¢ caribou coins. That got him hooked on varieties, to the point where he went to the bank regularly and obtained bags of cents and dimes to look through. He was lucky enough to find hundreds of die varieties as well as quantities of clips and off-centers, some of which he still has 40 years later.

When he had accumulated hundreds of older and lower-mintage cents, he placed an ad in Coin World offering to trade his Canadian cents for U.S. cents he still needed, catalogue value for catalogue value. Receiving hundreds of responses and being unable to accommodate them all, he sought out the then Executive Secretary of the CNA, Louise Graham, to advise him how he could contact other Canadian collectors who might be interested in exchanging their duplicates with U.S. collectors. Louise suggested John attend a meeting of the Toronto Coin Club. After attending a few meetings, John was asked to serve on their executive, initially as a director, later as program director, vice president and, eventually, President. During his presidency, he also retained the titles of program director and editor. His bulletins, up to 18 pages long, won 3 consecutive "Best Local Coin Club Bulletin" awards from the CNA, a feat never before accomplished. As well, they also won 3 consecutive "Best Local Coin Club Bulletin" awards from the ANA against hundreds of clubs from around the world, again a feat never before accomplished by any other club.

When the Central Coin Club was founded at the Y.M.C.A. in Toronto, he was elected program director, a position he held for many years, planning weekly meetings. The club boasted weekly attendance of over 300. He was also appointed chairman of the Central Coin Club's annual shows held at the Westbury Hotel in downtown Toronto.

Because of John's interest in errors and varieties, he joined the executive of the Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association (CNVCA) and became chairman of their First Annual CNVCA Convention held at the Central Y.M.C.A., Toronto. Later, he teamed up with Hans Zoell (the father of Canadian error collecting) and others to found the Coin Irregularity Association of Canada (CIAC). He became its vice president (under president Bill English) and Editor of their monthly publication, the KAYAK, until the association decided to go into hibernation in 1971. During its existence, it boasted a membership of over 400, promoting Canadian error collecting throughout North America.

He also chaired the coin exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, the world's largest permanent annual exhibition, for a number of years, winning awards from CNE management for best display in the Arts, Crafts, Hobbies Building.

For all that John had done for the hobby up to 1971, the ONA presented him with their highest award, the ONA Award of Merit, at the Peterborough convention.

In the 1970s, he gave up all involvement in the hobby because of lack of time and other interests. Early in 1979, Jack Veffer called on John to ask if he would let his name stand for a position on the executive of the CNA. John told him he couldn't do that because he was no longer a member. Jack told him that it would be taken care of. Jack further told him that he was running for the presidency and wanted John to run as his first-vice president. In case the irony escapes anyone, here is John not even a member of the CNA and he is being asked to let his name stand for the second-highest elected position! His name was published in a subsequent CNA Journal as a new member applicant. Two months later, he was nominated for the first vice-presidency by none less than J. Douglas Ferguson, honorary president of the CNA. He ran unopposed, as he did two years later, in 1981, when he let his name stand for the presidency. He was installed as president at the banquet at the 1981 CNA Convention, of which he was general chairman.

Because world-renowned sculptor and coin designer Dora de Pedery-Hunt counted John as one of her friends, she agreed to donate her time and talents in designing the convention medal (he used to chauffeur her to coin club meetings and to a lot of toy stores to buy plasticine when her normal supplier of professional plasticine had quality problems - it became brittle and unworkable to create plaster models).

Following his stint as President, he was appointed CNA Liaison to the Royal Canadian Mint by subsequent presidents. He met many people at the Mint who took the time to explain the minting process in minute detail, which enabled John to publish a series of articles about the Mint's inner workings in the CNA Journal and Canadian Coin News. It also gave him the accurate knowledge of how errors occur, information which he put to good use as a presenter during the educational seminars sponsored by the CNA and in speeches to local coin clubs.

"After being president of the national hobby group, what do you do, become a member of the executive of some local coin club again? Sounds like fun, but I wanted something more! The alternative, after being responsible for running a national organization and national conventions, was to run your own national shows." He purchased the Toronto International Coin Fair (TICF) from Leslie and Chuck Moore (who, by coincidence, is currently President of the C.N.A.).

So highly were John's TICF shows...and his organizational skills...thought of that the Ontario Numismatic Association allowed TICF to host their 1986 Convention. Also unprecedented was the fact that the CNA allowed TICF, a privately-owned registered limited company, to host the 1991 CNA Convention, with John as general chairman.

Combining his hobbies of error coin collecting and photography, he created a series of slide presentations involving the minting process and the errors that occur at various stages of production as well as how to authenticate genuine errors. He also photographed his odd and curious and primitive forms of money. A number of presentations that were photographed by John are available for loan from both the C.N.A. and ONA audio visual lending libraries. He was even asked to present an educational program at the CNA Convention in Charlottetown on photography.

He has been one of the presenters, on the Minting Process and Error Coinage, at the CNA/NESA seminars at Humber College in Toronto, as well as the educational seminar sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mint for its employees in 1998.

His methodical presentation landed him an assignment teaching a numismatic night school course at Yorkdale Secondary School on 4 separate occasions and at the prestigious George Brown's Casa Loma campus. He also organized a 2-day educational seminar (over 2 consecutive Saturdays) in conjunction with various coin clubs around Ontario. John is also a frequent speaker at coin club meetings and at coin club annual banquets where he earned a reputation of adding humor and a fantastic array of draw prizes. He has been named as the keynote speaker at the banquet at the upcoming Ohio State Numismatic Association's Show in Columbus over the May 20-22, 2005 weekend.

He has the distinction of having the CNA Executive agree to have him write a column in Canadian Coin News about the inner workings of the CNA, where he pulled no punches in his criticisms when it was due.

John also found the time to take on the positions of marketing manager and treasurer of Coiners Press, owned by Jack Veffer, publisher of the book "My 2 Cents Worth" that received critical acclaim from all reviewers.

When John was asked what he considers his numismatic highlight over the 41 years that he has been a collector, his answer came swiftly: "The 1991 CNA Convention and everything that happened there!" John, as owner/operator of the Toronto International Coin Fair, received the rights to host the CNA's annual convention, the only time the convention was ever awarded to a private company. It was promoted by John as his farewell swan song, since he was planning of disposing of the assets of the largest coin show in Canada and going into numismatic retirement. "We had the biggest registration kit ever at the 1991 CNA Convention," John stated. "We had more draw prizes than any Canadian convention before and since. We had some of the most fantastic draw prizes at the Banquet, including coin designers' original artwork. We had more numismatic specialty groups meeting there than at any other time in Canadian history."

"But what I remember most about that convention was when the late Earl Salterio, Chairman of the CNA Awards Committee, announced the first of the 'Fellow of the CNA' awards and it turned out to be me, followed immediately by the announcement of the Chairman of the Ferguson Foundation, Sheldon S. Carroll, of the highest award presented at C.N.A. Conventions and it again turned out to be me. Here I stood at the podium announcing my retirement from numismatics. I even had a wooden nickel struck saying so. And they showered me with the C.N.A.'s top awards," John stated. "Maybe they appreciated me retiring," he quips.

He gave up the Toronto International Coin Fair following the 1991 C.N.A. Convention. "I ran TICF for the fun of it. When I felt I could devote my time towards other projects, including running my computer supplies business, I turned over the registered name and initials to Paul Fiocca of Trajan Publications, owners of Canadian Coin News, who changed the initials TICF to The International Coin Fair and continued to run the show, first in Niagara Falls and finally in its current location in St. Catharines."

So what has happened since his retirement from numismatics in 1991? "I am spending much more time on my hobby than I did back then. If you have never edited a 36-page letter-size bulletin for the Ontario Numismatic Association, where you wind up writing a lot of the information yourself that you cull from 30-odd monthly local club bulletins and other press releases or research information about people, then you don't understand how time-consuming it can be. He was also appointed Chairman of the Club Services Committee for both the CNA and the ONA, introducing numerous new VCR tape programs on numismatics. He has given up these positions since then.

He was appointed the C.N.A.'s Executive Secretary in 2002, which also included responsibilities for the Association's financial record-keeping and annual financial reports. He also became responsible for updating the C.N.A.'s Website, establishing and maintaining e-mail addresses, and membership promotion for which he spends a number of week-ends travelling to coin shows, at his own expense, manning C.N.A. Information Tables. Since then, he has also been asked to take on responsibilities for the advertising portfolio for the CN Journal and the editorship of the C.N.A. E-Bulletin.

After 41 years of involvement in the hobby, what does the future hold for John? "Actually, I don't have time to collect coins. I can see myself being involved with the C.N.A. in a major way for a long time yet and giving speeches at schools, local coin club meetings and annual banquets if invited."

CONCLUSION

Because I just returned from the Windsor show today, Monday, this bulletin is one day late. The time of the next planned bulletin, May 10, seems so close. Since I will be in Ohio on May 20, it is my intention to issue the next C.N.A. E-Bulletin on May 15, with the subsequent one on June 1.

John Regitko
C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor
Canadian Numismatic Association

The Canadian Numismatic Association is a not for profit organization devoted to serving those who enjoy coin collecting/numismatics by promoting fellowship, communication, education and providing advocacy and leadership for the hobby.

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