

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 13 – June 1, 2005:

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INTRODUCTION

Thanks to write-ups in the numismatic press, our mailing list keeps getting larger and larger. In discussions with a number of recipients at the ONA Convention in Sudbury, the Windsor Coin Show and the Ohio State Numismatic Association Convention, we were somewhat surprised how many people either pass it on to other members and friends vi e-mail, or copy it for their club members to borrow from their library. It would appear that there are a lot of people out there that appreciate some light-hearted humor and fun & fellowship in an otherwise serious hobby.

We also heard from a number of people that they were missing a recent issue or two. For example, some received the latest, but were missing a previous issue or two. Others asked why they did not receive the latest issue. There does not seem to be any rhyme or reason for this. We will discuss it with our ISP again. In the meantime, I am pleased to advise that, thanks to the C.N.A. Associate Webmaster, Dan Gosling, all past C.N.A. E-Bulletins are now posted on our Website. Go to www.canadian-numismatic.org and link to the E-Bulletin.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Tony Padgett: "Re the episode on The Learning Channel, "Jackpot Overnight Millionaires," everything you wrote is exactly what I remember. By any chance, do you or anyone you know have a copy of a tape of that episode? TLC doesn't carry transcripts or videos of this show. The internet is mum on the subject. The person that I really need to know about is the gentleman who makes the \$18,500 a week in interest. By my calculations, after taxes, lump sum payout, etc, he's earning ~30.5% to ~31.5% interest. Of course, you have to have tens of millions to deposit to get this royal treatment. Anyway, if you, your readers, your friends, your 1st grade teacher, I mean anyone, has any info on this guy, I would like it. Sometimes, the local newspapers, etc do stories on these people." – Well, Tony, we're here to serve. We know things that even your grade one teacher can't answer. The gentleman's name is Dave Edwards. He states that "every morning I wake up, I am \$18,500 richer." And we have the video to prove it! Which we are pleased to send you so you can eventually tell us how much he won and what sort of interest he claims to get and from whom.

From Kent Froseth: "First I want to say I enjoy your newsletter, well-written and funny. Second, just a quick anecdote re being creative in bed. The opera composer Rossini liked to compose in bed. Many of his most inspired melodies were said to have been created there. Occasionally, a page of composition would fall to the floor. Whether it was because of his corpulence or just laziness, instead of getting out of bed to retrieve the page, he took a fresh piece of manuscript paper and rewrote the fallen notes." – I have a similar problem. When I fall out of bed, I don't bother picking myself up either.

From John Billwiller: "First of all, thanks so much for the Journal. I have recently gotten re-interested in collecting and the E-Journal is a welcome adjunct to my membership in CNA. Defective punctuation characters that I noticed are as follows: a) Line 3 "Copyright () 2005" -----whatever is in the brackets doesn't read properly; b) "Customer of the Week" #7 -----symbol in front of 1/4 oz; c) "Least Successful Fraud" ----- the numerals for the original and altered cheques don't make sense." – We were so hoping that we had overcome our problem. Did others find the same problem with the same letters?

From Tolling Jennings: "About a year ago I attended a coin show in Palm Springs, Ca. I was showing off some of our Lasqueti Mint Bullion coins to dealers there when I got one of those questions that showed me just how far we have fallen from the original concept of "money." I had mentioned to one dealer that our coins were used in trade on our island and in other parts of the world. He asked me, "Who backs your bullion coins?" I had to think for a second or two and then I said, "We back them with Paper, any kind you would like!" He seemed fine with that answer. Backing Bullion with paper???? We really do live in strange times." - And the paper is backed by faith.

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 customer drives up in a \$200,000 Ferrari. It's got an emblem of a stallion standing on it's back legs. A minute later another customer comes in and asks "what kind of Mustang is that parked in the front?"
2. A guy comes in with one of those full page buying ads. The ad states they are paying up to a certain value on each type of coin, such as "up to \$5000 on half dimes." This guy thinks that if he buys our \$10 half dime, the ad will pay him \$5000. I tried to explain that he was in for a rude awakening, but he would not listen. He bought \$55 in coins and left. I told him no returns.
3. A young hot shot calls: "what are you paying for 1 oz Maple leaves?" Answer: "Buying at \$406 and selling at \$426". The guy asks why such a spread? Knowing that the guy wanted to sell his, we respond: "ok, I'll sell for \$416."
4. The bank of Palm Beach calls with a customer that says she has proof gold eagles for sale, in the original boxes. We quote \$530 each. She comes in with the new 1933 copies that she paid \$19.95 for. We bought them for \$10 each.
5. A guy calls with jewelry. We tell him we don't buy modern jewelry. He says, "Oh, your going to want to buy this jewelry it's 28 karat." I said, "that's interesting since pure gold is only 24 karat."
6. A guy comes in with two \$2 bills written on in heavy black magic marker, "Happy Birthday Uncle Jack." I just said spend them.
7. The 28 karat gold guy calls again. "What are Spanish cien peso gold coins worth?" I said that those coins were made of brass. He said, "Oh no, they are gold, let me speak to Mr. Rechant" Ray told him the same thing.
8. A customer calls and asks how much a Red book is. I tell her \$12.95 plus tax. She come in, has no cash and a credit card which we do not accept. So, she pulls a MS-64 NGC graded Morgan dollar out of her purse which I accept and give her change.

FIND THE WOODEN NICKEL – PART 2

In the last bulletin, we asked you to tell us where the wooden nickel is shown in the movie Men in Black II. We offered 38 wooden nickels to the first person that gave us the correct answer.

Since we had only one incorrect answer that simply gave us the name of a town in New Brunswick, there was no winner.

Why the strange quantity of 38 wooden nickels as a prize? Because it's the scene inside locker C38. The locker is just an ordinary locker like you might rent at a railway station or at a mall. But when it is opened, you see a lot of strange aliens inside (it's a science fiction movie, remember). One of the aliens is standing on the huge wood.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

by Francois Rufiange, President of the City of Ottawa Coin Club, as published in their club bulletin.

“For any club to be successful required an active participation from all its members, not just a select few. The reason for that is simple: if only a few do the work, they will get tired of it very quickly and will give up. Then what? As your new President, I believe I have a lot to offer to our club. But let me tell you up front why I am willing to do it? It is because I want to have fun, meet new and interesting people and learn more about one the most complex and fascinating hobby that exists: Numismatics. I would like to ask you why are you a member? What are your expectations? What would it take for you to say after a meeting, that the meeting was successful?”

CIBC IN THE HOT SEAT AGAIN

In previous C.N.A. E-Bulletins, we reported that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) had send dozens of the bank's confidential faxes to a West Virginia junkyard, send faxes to a Montreal business, had one of its cash machines dispense Canadian Tire money instead of \$20 bills, had up to 3,061 customers receive erroneous tax reassessments from the Canada Revenue Agency after the federal tax collector was mistakenly told they had cashed in part of their RRSPs, dismissed a rogue employee who allegedly participated in a stock scam linked to the Hells Angels biker gang, had a trading desk supervisor ordered by regulators to pay penalties of more than \$500,000 for his part in a scheme that used the bank's money to make illicit trades, has settled with regulators in the U.S. and Canada over its involvement with Enron Corp. and its entanglement in Eliot Spitzer's probe of widespread misconduct in the U.S. mutual fund industry, agreed to pay \$5 million for failing to cooperate with regulators probing whether it accepted bribes from a now-defunct telecommunications company, apologized to customers after a computer glitch left clients unable to get account balances, got criticized for their accusations that the junkyard they mistakingly send confidential faxes to violated Canadian privacy laws by going public with the information, admitted to...okay, enough already!

So what did they do now? A customer who was facing an income tax audit asked the bank for a list of his account transactions for a 20-month period. When he opened the envelope he discovered details of account activity for more than 100 other customers over the same period. According to the column “Money 301” by Ellen Roseman published in The Toronto Star, he reported it to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, to the CIBC which was already under attack for all of the above transgressions, and he called the people at the “On Your Side” column of the Toronto Star which is famous for revealing misdeeds by businesses and government agencies.

Incidentally, the same customer found an unauthorized withdrawal of \$1,000 from his chequing account the previous month, which the bank replaced.

DON'T THE POPPY QUARTERS HAVE PIMPLES?

We have seen so much ink spilled on the color of the poppy, be it wearing off or never there or the wrong shade. Don't the poppy quarters have pimples or bumps or gouges?

For every other date, we keep reading about the minor dots that, let's face it, are of limited interest to most collectors. But on the poppy quarter? Nothing! Does that mean that there have been no die varieties or errors produced? Or is everybody busy analyzing the shade of red or brown, that they haven't had time to look at the rest of the design?

We have also heard a number of reports about the coloring being in the wrong location on the coin, coming off, or not being there in the first place. This E-Bulletin is as good a place as any to let others know what errors and varieties you found. If you e-mail cnanews@look.ca we will publish a list of all the varieties from time to time. That way you don't have to wait a year before the catalogue comes out.

The C.N.A. information line and e-mail address receives hundreds of inquiries each month. Do you know how many have been received about the color on the Poppy Quarters? Did we receive an unprecedented number of calls on the different shades of red or brown? Did we speak to callers about the lack of color on them, whether due to wear or determined scrapping? Did we get asked time and again what sort of a fortune people had in their pockets due to these so-called "error" coins?

Answer: not a single call! Zip! Nada! Zero! Except for one from the Canadian Press wire service. Amazing what a few letter writers and an editor or two can stir up in the numismatic press!

The latest article, distributed by Canadian Press and carried in a number of daily newspapers across the country on May 24, deals with poppy coins that were rejected for having the red color on the Queen side. The article quotes John Regitko, Executive Secretary of the C.N.A., as stating "I don't think too many collectors are rushing out to pay big bucks for it." When he made that comment during an interview, he had in mind the articles he read from time to time that stated that the finder of, say, an off-center struck coin, turned down a million dollars for it.

The Mint might have manufactured a number with the red paint on the Queen side. Heck, I know from my personal collection that they have produced error coins over the years. Just like the car companies, or that TV and refrigerator I bought recently. But how many got out? It's called Quality Control, and we must congratulate the Royal Canadian Mint for the outstanding job they do in that department. We haven't seen too many errors over the past few years because of their dedication to quality. We can only conclude that Canadian Press has not seen a single poppy quarter with the red on the wrong side, since they chose to illustrate a normal quarter only in the article.

The write-up mentions that 270,000 poppy coins were rejected for showing a blushing Queen, but they were apparently caught and destroyed before getting out of the Mint. We better not tell them about our interviews with a former Vice-President of Manufacturing who admitted to us that when they have found problems with a die, a whole day's production might have been sent to the scrap heap just so that we would get virtually perfect coins into circulation.

Here is the deal: If you have a poppy quarter with the red die on the Queen side and you are the first one to prove it to me, I will send you \$10 worth of Tim Horton gift certificates and a couple of poppy quarters with various degrees of wear of the color - not, we hasten to point out, on the Queen side.

OHIO STATE BANQUET FEATURES REGITKO AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Ohio State Numismatic Association Show, held in Columbus May 20-22, counted nearly 150 tables in a sold-out bourse and over 50 cases of exhibits. Some of the displays were the best I have ever seen in my close to 50 years of attending coin shows. The display on Bellaire, Ohio Numismatics by Tom Havelka was especially outstanding (it received Best of Show), as were the displays on Austrian Notgeld, Medals of Martin Luther and the hand-painted woods of Garry and Glen Littrell. The last display was entered by C.N.A. member Larry White, who

received the Jean Bullen Award for best Canadian decimal display at last year's C.N.A. Convention.

As has been typical of U.S. coin shows over the past few years, there was a lot less bullion material on sale and much, much more collector material, including non-slabled lower-priced items. Surprisingly, dealers almost exclusively sold numismatic material, with very little of the usual non-numismatic items such as post cards, watches, militaria, jewellery, antiquities and postage stamps.

The banquet, attended by 85 people, featured Wendell Wolka as Master of Ceremonies, with the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor as guest speaker, who had traveled from Toronto to attend the show to man a complimentary C.N.A. Information Table. John's presentation, entitled "Putting the Fun Back Into the Hobby," covered the fun the late Jack Veffer had running the S.O.B. Numismatists and reading from a number of numismatically related greeting cards.

Incidentally, a few people commented after John's presentation that he did not use a single "Eh!" during his speech. Mind you, he also did not use "You all!" either.

We ask for input in two areas:

We realize dealers have to make money to cover their expenses and make a profit, but how do you feel when you travel some distance to attend a coin show and you find that the majority of a dealer's table is filled with non-numismatic items? The C.N.A. has a policy that stipulates that the greatest majority of material must be numismatically related, which was indeed the case at Ohio State. The Ohio State show saw many people drive some distance to attend, including three from Toronto (they drove back and forth the same day for 14 hours) and a number from Michigan, New Hampshire, West Virginia and other States. I bet they were all there for numismatics and not other hobbies. How do you feel about dealers at your shows overrunning their table with non-numismatic stuff? Send your comments to cnanews@look.ca.

Secondly, it came as quite a surprise that nearly half of the attendance at the Banquet was dealers and their spouses, something that just does not happen at shows in Canada and, we're willing to bet, most shows in the U.S. Does any dealer wish to comment on this? But please don't tell us that after spending all day behind a bourse table, you want to get away from coin collecting, because we know you spend time in the dining room and bar talking about nothing but coins until the wee hours. Anyway, collectors also spend all day at their hobby, but without making money, and they still come and enjoy the fun and fellowship at receptions, banquet, viewing displays, meetings of specialty collector groups, trading their wooden nickels or whatever with fellow collectors, showing off their latest acquisitions over a coffee.

CNA SALUTES CNA

While attending the Ohio State Show, I was handed a copy of a bulletin that featured, amongst beautiful colored photographs, an article with the heading "CNA Annual Dinner." It appeared in a bulletin whose editor is C.N.A. Junior member Katie Heinrich. The bulletin includes a number of interesting articles, club news, a Banknote of the Month column, numismatic dictionary, a short quiz, a listing of local club meetings and shows, other references to the CNA and more. It reports that Katie and a friend executed a program for young numismatists called the Money Hut for the recent CSNS Convention in St. Louis. She did this to earn her Girl Scout Silver Award. It was reported that the YNs had a great time and the parents commented that "It was nice having our kids pull us around the bourse instead of us having to drag them long."

In addition to being the editor, Katie is also corresponding secretary. Her father, David, is club president and treasurer.

The club referred to in the bulletin is the C.N.A.'s namesake (actually, initialsake), the "other" C.N.A., the Cincinnati Numismatic Association.

IS YOUR CLUB REPRESENTED AT CNA AND ANA CONVENTIONS?

The annual conventions of the C.N.A. and ANA are coming up. We have a feeling that most local and regional clubs that are members of these associations will not be sending an official representative to the conventions to attend the club delegates meeting and other events and report back to the club. Why not?

Maybe before we nominate someone for an executive position, we should ask them if they would be willing to attend the CNA or ANA Convention as the club's official delegate, if asked.

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS?

When one looks around a club meeting, not many people will challenge the fact that the average age of members must be in the eighties (so okay, we are exaggerating a little bit, by a year or two). As well, more and more people we know are getting married (actually, remarried) at a ripe old age.

As a public service, we are pleased to publish the following, which we recently received from one of our sources. Treat it as a joke if you wish, but we have a feeling some of you will take it very serious and rush right down to your local drug store to make the appropriate arrangements.

Jacob, age 92, and Rebecca, age 89, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in.

Jacob addresses the man behind the counter:

"Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers "Yes."

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism, scoliosis? "

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about Viagra?"

Pharmacist: "Of course."

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, Jaundice?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jacob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob says to the pharmacist: "We'd like to register here for our wedding gifts, please."

CONGRATULATIONS

To C.N.A. member George Fraser, who turned 95 years young on May 24. So how did he spend his evening? He celebrated it with daughter Caron...attending the meeting of the North York Coin Club! George is an honorary Life Member of the club. He has received awards from

both the C.N.A. and the Ontario Numismatic Association for his involvement in the hobby and was appointed Honorary Chairman of the 2004 C.N.A. Convention

To C.N.A. member Norm Belsten, who became a Great Grandfather recently when Jocelyn Marie Clement was born on April 21 at 9 lb 1 oz. Norm is one of the driving forces behind the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors and is a well-known wooden nickel manufacturer.

To Henrietta Holsman Fore, director of the [U.S. Mint](#), who has been nominated by President George W. Bush for the position of Under Secretary of State for Management.

To Brad Marsh of Winnipeg, Manitoba, for being the 1,400th person to register for the CNA/NESA Correspondence Course. He receives not only a complimentary 2005 membership in the C.N.A., but also a number of numismatic catalogues. The letter of congratulation to Marsh stated: "When the course was first offered, non of the committee ever thought that it would be so successful. We felt that something of a symbolic nature should happen when a milestone is reached."

To C.N.A. member Paul Johnson, Chairman of the C.N.A. Education Committee, who was responsible for coordinating the creation of the CNA/NESA Correspondence Course ten years ago...and doing the same thing for Part Two that will be released in Calgary in July at the 2005 C.N.A. Convention. We can't wait for him to coordinate Part Three. Hopefully it won't take another 10 years.

To C.N.A. member Fred Freeman, who virtually single-handedly put together 101 pages of information and fun things for the new C.N.A. Coin Kids Correspondence Course 101 designed for the younger numismatist.

To David Marshall on his new business venture. He recently opened a full time coin shop in Calgary, Alberta, Heritage Coin Shop. Marshall states: "We hope to meet the collecting desires and needs of those who reside in the area as well as those who work nearby with an inventory that spans from coins to paper money to early documents and printed material, meteorites and fossils. It has been said that looking at Heritage Coin Shop's inventory is like a trip to a museum except that most museums do not have coins, antiquities or documents as old as those that can be seen at Heritage Coin Shop. I welcome the opportunity to share my knowledge of coins and collectibles." The shop is located at Suite 406 in the Grain Exchange Building, a historic building in downtown Calgary. David can be reached at 403-265-8654, website www.heritagecoinshop.com, e-mail david@heritagcoinshop.com or visit him at the C.N.A. Convention where he will have a bourse table. Although Heritage Coin Shop opened their doors to the public on May 21st, they will be having their grand opening on June 4th.

GET WELL

To Gordon Parker, following recent surgery. Gordon is a former editor and a driving force behind the South Wellington Coin Club that meets at the Library in Rockwod, Ontario on the first Wednesday of the month (no meetings in July and August).

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Alf Wrigley, on his recent passing. Alf owned and operated A&A Hobby Helpers in Calgary and issued over 25 wooden nickels to promote his business.

To the family of Victor Dittmar, a member of the Calgary Numismatic Society, on his recent passing. Wooden nickel collectors will recognize his name as an issuer of wooden tokens.

To the family of Ed Hinkey of Hamilton, Ontario, on his recent passing. Ed was a member of the Canadian Paper Money Society.

SHOW BUSINESS

June 12, 2005 – Brantford, Ontario – Brantford Numismatic Society 44th Annual Coin Show. Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street, Brantford, Ontario. Hours 9-4.

June 25 - 26, Toronto, ON - TOREX, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queen's Quay West, Admiral's Ballroom. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Brian Smith at (416) 861-9523. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

2005 C.N.A. CONVENTION NEWS

July 20-24, 2005 – Calgary, Alberta - 52nd Annual Convention of the Canadian Numismatic Association. Hosted by the Calgary Numismatic Society. Location: Westin Hotel, 320 - 4th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, Canada. For room reservations, call (403) 266-1611 or [click here to book a room online at the Westin Hotel](#). Bourse room open Thursday through Saturday, July 21 – 23.

CONTACT INFORMATION: General Convention information from General Chairman, Al Munro, at wood5cents@shaw.ca or phone 403-273-6133; Bourse Information from Stanley Clute at info@albern.com; Exhibit Information from Lawrence Duncan at lruncan@shaw.ca.

[For information on the 2005 C.N.A. Convention in Calgary, click here.](#)

BOURSE HOURS AT 2005 C.N.A. CONVENTION

For many years, C.N.A. Convention committees have been rather perturbed about the number of bourse dealers packing up early on Sunday. Dealers claimed they had planes to catch, there were no more customers in the bourse room, etc., etc. Committees realize that dealers were independent business people and some arm twisting might be necessary to keep dealers there longer, such as issuing a partial refund of bourse table fee if they stayed up to a certain hour. However, that has also proven ineffective since a dealer would not worry about a \$25 or \$50 rebate, which represents only a small percentage against his overall cost of attending the convention.

Ken Foley, Convention Chairman of the Central States Numismatic Society shows, included the following in The Centinel, official publication of the Central States Numismatic Society: "One policy matter of great concern to me is the future of Sunday bourse hours, an issue inextricably intertwined with the question of early departures prior to the end of the convention by a significant number of the booth holders. This is quite clearly a matter which can no longer be ignored, as I believe the largely vacant and disorderly appearing bourse area during what are nominally advertised as public event hours on Sunday, stands as a disservice to both our membership and outside event attendees. How we, or for that matter virtually every other major coin show, got to this point is no longer the issue in my mind. We clearly have a problem in this area that needs to be addressed."

The 2005 C.N.A. Convention won't have to deal with this problem. The local public in Calgary have made the decision for us. There is nothing happening on Sundays in Calgary, Alberta, site of this year's C.N.A. Convention, so the bourse will take place on Thursday, Friday and

Saturday. As the late Earl Salterio, the former Convention Co-Chair, put it: "You can shoot a bullet in downtown Calgary on Sunday and not be concerned about hitting anyone."

CONCLUSION

Not as much humor in this bulletin as usual. Sorry.

We usually try to limit the length of any one article, but we will make an exception in the next bulletin by publishing excerpts from the speech given by John at the Ohio State banquet, because it is of the type of humor that fits in well with our aims and objectives. It should take up the equivalent of about four MS Word pages

We plan on publishing the next bulletins on June 10 and June 20.

John Regitko
Your 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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