

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 16 – July 1, 2005:

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INTRODUCTION

I am having a very difficult time getting into my pants lately. Also, when I sit down, I jump right up thinking I sat down on my cat...except we don't have a cat. But I realized, when I tipped over while sitting down, that it was all those plastic cards I have in my wallet. And that's just the current ones waiting for the expiry date to come along so I can add them to all the outdated ones in my collection.

Driver's license, health card, hospital admission cards, Costco card, CIBC Visa card, Royal Bank card, MasterCard, Bell Calling Card, Citizenship card, Rogers Video rental card, CAA card, American Express card, Shopper's Optimum card, social insurance card, Aeroplan card, Shell gasoline card, Chapters book discount card, Toronto Dining Preferred Customer card, Mr. Sub buy-50-or-whatever-and-get-one-free card. And that Dunkin Donuts buy-ten-coffees-and-get-one-free that I have had in my wallet for years because I am a Tim Hortons fan.

And a Coffee Time card with only about \$8 more to spend before I get another one. But don't tell Tim Hortons in case they cut me off receiving a Poppy Quarter the next time they see me. Or Krispy Kreeme and Country Style in case they want to give me their buy-10-get-one-free cards. I just don't have any more room in my wallet.

I can't wait for the expiry dates. Look at all the new collectibles I will have in my numismatic collection. And all the new cards everyone will give me that I can add to my collection down the road.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Tom DeLorey: "Re the S.O.B. medal, Ingrid Smith also has one of the silver medals. When she and I were working for ANACS, I borrowed hers and wore it to an S.O.B. Bash. I told Jack Veffer that I had had a copy of Ingrid's made in silver, and did he like it? He was furious, and eventually we told him we were pulling his leg. He laughed, and next year I received the S.O.B. of the Year Award myself, in bronze of course. I still wear it at ANA conventions." - When I was manning the C.N.A. Information Table at Torex last week-end, Ingrid came up to me and showed me her S.O.B. of the Year Award medal that she was wearing. The e-mails we have received and comments at Torex tells me there are a lot of old-timers around that miss Jack and the S.O.B.s. We will publish excerpts from his bulletins from time-to-time.

From Eugene S.: "I just wanted to let everyone know that the new website of the North Shore Numismatic Society of Vancouver, BC at www.nshnumismaticssociety.org is up and running and we would like everyone to take a minute to check it out. Just remember it's still under construction with a lot of work left to do. We are hoping that with this new tool to work with, we will be able to save on postage as well as being able to keep our members better informed and faster with what's going on in our club and the hobby in general." - Eugene is Assistant Webmaster and Editor of the club Newsletter, The Shoreline. The club will be able to promote their next show scheduled for September 24-25.

From Carl Schwenker: "I run Houston's Money Show of the Southwest and have been involved in making this the show everyone is talking about in the USA. We have grown from 45 tables and 300 attendees in 2001 to 242 booths and 6,500 attendees in 2005, with an associated

auction and all sorts of workshops, clinics, and youth programs. The growth indicates that the dealers that attend come back and they tell their friends about the hot show in Houston. The reason that they do is because they make money and are treated like professionals, with a heavy dose of Texas hospitality. Last year our first international dealer attended the show. We had expected that the first dealer from outside of the United States would come from Canada or Mexico, but Spain has the honor! We cordially invite Canadian numismatic dealers to join us on the last weekend in January in Houston. I think they will find the experience delightful, besides the fact that they might come away with a sun tan (or burn!). If there are any questions, please ask your readers to call me at the office 281-586-9727, cell 281-788-1036 or e-mail at texascoins@houston.rr.com." - You expect us to leave the frozen North in January? Shouldn't take much to persuade us! I hope you have Tim Hortons in Houston!

SINISTREL AND NUMISMATICS – PART TWO

From Philip J. Carrigan: "I'm left handed but have nothing to gripe about. I find most left handers are rather adaptable individuals. This quality ties into the intelligence, warmth, humor and high quality of lefties." - These are not traits of lefties. They are all traits of numismatists!

POPPY QUARTER ERRORS – PART THREE

Three bulletins ago, we wondered what errors have been found on the Poppy Quarter and we offered \$10 worth of Tim Horton gift certificates and a couple of poppy quarters to the first person who proves that they have a poppy quarter with the red die on the Queen side.

Two issues ago, we published the fact that Mark Argentino sent us an e-mail with a beautiful scan of a poppy quarter that has the red die over the Queen's face. So he won the prize. Or did he? What we didn't tell you puts a whole new slant on the story. We knew of the following before we went to press with that issue but decided to publish it anyway because, as the author says, it is in keeping in line with our policy of befuddling and confusing everybody. Well, actually, he says it a bit different. Read on.

From Mark Argentino: "Hi John! In keeping with your theme for the CNA bulletin and keeping things light and having fun with numismatics, not to mention the fact that you kept me in suspense for a few weeks about your true identity, I thought I would return the favor. You offered to give the first person \$10 who sent in a scan of the poppy coin with the poppy on the queen side of the coin. The next day I received a copy of the article that appeared in the Star regarding the coin with your honorable mention. Lo and behold, in the Star article there was a nice scan of the poppy coin. After about an hour of copying and pasting the poppy, smoothing and using some Gaussian blurs available in Paint Shop Pro, rotating the scan about 8 degrees so nobody would notice it was the exact rotation of the RCM scan, plus a few other tricks, I e-mailed you my scan of the coin. I even changed the background slightly so nobody would notice, especially you.

I chose my words in my e-mail to you very carefully. I tried to make you think that it was authentic, but I never stated that I had the coin in hand. All I said in my e-mail was "Am I the first to send you a scan with the poppy imprinted on the queen?" I don't believe that I said that I had the coin or scanned an actual coin, just that I sent you scan with the poppy imprinted on the queen. I do not expect the prize for the poppy on the queen. Just an honorable mention in the E-Bulletin. I thought of letting you publish my scan in the next bulletin, but that would have been similar to the roofing guys who found (stole?) the buried treasure of old currency and appeared on CNN before the gig was up!" - Well, readers, we admit that we were fooled and wanted company, so we published it without revealing that we have some very creative people amongst us. We will give Mark the \$10 worth of Tim Horton certificates and a couple of Poppy Quarters,

but we will also continue with the offer of similar payment to anyone that proves they have a real Poppy quarter with the color on the obverse. You will forgive us if we say that proof will have to consist of a lot more than a computer scan.

NEW VICTORY NICKEL ERROR

From Mike Gale: "I am e-mailing concerning an error I have found in a new 2005 coin. It may not be significant, nevertheless I found three in a roll. On the reverse(?), anyways Queen side, where the D.G. is at and before, two beads are near missing. It is quite obvious to the naked eye. It would be cool to get credit for and mention for discovery." - Thank you for sharing it with our readers. Maybe others will be motivated to tell us about their recent discoveries. You raise an interesting point about which side is the obverse and which side is the reverse.

CAN A COIN WIDOW SUE GOVERNMENT FOR MILLIONS – PART 2

In the last C.N.A. E-Bulletin, we mentioned that someone is suing the Ontario government for \$1.4 million dollars because of his gambling addiction. We also wondered if we could get coin widows millions by getting numismatics recognized as a disease.

It is said that if Constantin Digalakis did not have to sell his \$750,000 house to pay off his gambling debts and get busted by his wife, there would be no lawsuit. Neither would there have been one if he had won. Or lost a lot less.

The question we have: if you could lose that kind of money purchasing coins, could we be suing coin dealers and Mints for our actions?

Or would we actually be expected to take responsibility for our own actions? Just wondering!

CANADIANS CELEBRATE TAX FREEDOM DAY

According to the Fraser Institute, on June 26 Canadians celebrated the fact that for the rest of the year, the money we earn is all ours.

Every year about this time, the Fraser Institute announces with great fanfare that taxpayers have finally reached the point in the year when they can start working for themselves, liberated from the yoke of government servitude.

Let me try to understand how this works. Does this mean employers stop deducting income tax payments from people's pay cheques? Store clerks stop collecting the GST? Gasoline prices drop? License fees go down? Furniture companies no longer need advertise "We pay the tax"? Coin dealers don't have to ask you for the tax?

We look forward to having all that extra money to spend on our hobby.

What do you mean, it doesn't work that way? Can we sue the Fraser Institute for \$1.4 million?

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. My sister overheard a lady in the Walmart parking lot say, "I got a new state quarter, I think it is Ireland."

2. A guy comes in to buy a Canadian Maple Leaf gold coin. We tell him it is \$468 plus 6% sales tax. He says: "Oh come on, I am a regular customer, I come in at least once a year."
3. A dealer friend of mine in Arizona said he was at a coin show and offered a customer a coin for \$100 that was marked \$110. The guy bought the same coin down the aisle for \$120. My friend asked him why. He said: "The other dealer's coin was marked \$150, so he gave me a bigger discount."
4. A man calls and says that he has twenty-one 1928 \$2 bills uncirculated. Ray says bring them in and we will pay \$20-22 each. The man comes in with 3 AU 1928s, and an assortment of 1953, 1963, and 1976 \$2 bills in XF condition. I told him that none of the bills were uncirculated and we would pay \$60 for the lot. He says: "Well, you can see better than I can" and he leaves.
5. A lady calls and asks what we are paying for silver quarters. She said she has 2 rolls. I said \$45 per roll. She says \$45 a coin. I said no, \$45 for a \$10 roll. She finally comes in with 2 shrink wrapped rolls of modern clad quarters. I said: "These are not silver. Silver coins stopped in 1964." She says: "I didn't know that" and she left.
6. A young lady comes in with five Wisconsin quarters and says: "These are the error coins. You know, the ones with the cow on them." I said: "That's not the error, spend them." Then she asks: "Do you buy out-of-state money? (meaning foreign)." I said NO.

\$10 MILLION STOLEN ON CSI

A recent episode of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, featured the theft of stacks of currency from a vault, totaling \$10 million. The only thing left were the money bands, those wrappings around each pile that denotes the denomination and amount. The video camera outside the vault showed normal movement only, including the security guard.

We want you to guess the rest of the plot. If you saw the episode, you're disqualified.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We read recently that 97% of the U.S. \$100 notes had traces of cocaine on them. Wow!

We were going to ask for volunteers to conduct our own test, however we thought we might get way too many volunteers. So we decided to do it ourselves. Except we don't have any U.S. \$100 notes.

We wonder if a similar statistic is available for Canadian \$100 bills? We can take a guess what we will find: residue from Tim Hortons donuts.

Just like on all the Poppy Quarters!

MORE DIRTY CASH FOUND IN CANADA OVER LAST YEAR

The amount of dirty money that global terrorists and other criminals tried to launder in Canada during the last year is dramatically higher than reported in previous years, a federal agency said.

Almost 200 cases involving \$700 million in suspect financial transactions were turned over to police in the last fiscal year - a jump over the \$460 million tracked the year before, according to Fintrac, the federal agency responsible for reporting on money laundering.

If it's from Canada, eh, we wonder how much of it had donut residue on it?

A PRIMER ON AUCTION ETIQUETTE

There are a number of clubs that accept auction material in advance of meetings so that they can publish a list in advance of a meeting.

The Stratford Coin Club included a list of dos and don'ts by the club's Auction Chairman, Bob Dowsett, in one of their recent bulletins, which we are pleased to pass along so that you can follow generally accepted procedure when submitting material for your own club's auctions.

- At the discretion of the Auction Chairman, we will accept a maximum of 5 items at any one time from any club member for upcoming auctions.
- Material for the auction must be handed in to the Auction Chairman at least one month before the upcoming auction to be included in the next auction.
- Coins must be mounted in a clean 2 x 2 or coin flip and correctly identified as to the contents.
- Flatten all staples used on the 2 x 2s.
- Currency should be in an appropriate currency holder and identified.
- Overgraded or incorrectly identified material may be rejected, corrected, or returned.
- Low grade silver coins may be marked as BV (Bullion Value).
- Several coins may be grouped together as one lot and priced accordingly, to provide a better chance of selling.
- You may put a reserve price on any of your lots if you wish. But please be realistic if you want the piece(s) to sell.
- If no reserves are given, in order to be fair to everyone, we will start the auction at approximately 50% of the trend value of the coin, depending on rarity and collector desirability, e.g.; if a coin has a trend value of \$10 in a given grade, then the reserve will be \$5.00.
- Any unsold or unused lots will be returned to the owner as soon as possible.
- All auction lots are submitted at the owner's risk and we will take all precautions to safeguard all lots submitted. (This is reinforced in the club's auction agreement that states: "The members of the Executive of the Stratford Coin Club, who are looking after the auction, are not responsible for loss or damage to any material that is given to them while it is in their possession.")
- The auction chairman reserves the right to reject any lot(s) submitted, collect your money and any unsold lots at the end of the auction if possible, or at the following club meeting.
- We will not hold auction material over the summer months or for extended periods of time.
- Please make 2 lists of your auction material and include a reserve price, especially if you submit foreign coins or U.S. coins. Keep one list for your reference and submit the other with your material.

OTTAWA COIN CLUB ISSUES CHALLENGE TO CNA

The October 2004 bulletin of the City of Ottawa Coin Club issues a challenge to the C.N.A. that we just cannot resist passing on. Following is the article, written by Frank Fesco, in full:

Warning:

Anyone who, in the past, has stored their coins in thin, flat, hinged, hard plastic, square or rectangular cases – those with thin, flat compressible inserts – should re-examine them. I have found that the assumed inert insert material is NOT inert. It decomposes and adheres to the coins, ruining their quality.

Attention C.N.A., O.N.A. etc.!!

This raises questions that have often come to mind in the past: How can the collector, without special knowledge of chemistry or without elaborate apparatus, be expected to properly protect his collection from storage devices that are destructive?

Without assistance this is almost impossible! It is particularly difficult when manufacturers of such items are unregulated, and their products are sold indiscriminately by retailers.

Is it not an acceptable role and function of numismatic organizations to ensure the preservation of both the hobby and its objects? Are not the combined efforts of our fraternity helping to improve knowledge of our past and preserve artifacts for future generations? Are the occasional general advice articles in their journals adequate to ensure this, or is more than that required? Is government regulation warranted, possible or practical in protection of national treasures, even though in private hands?

At least, could not a group of chemists within the fraternity be called upon to test and produce a standing report on all products available in the marketplace – a “Numismatic Consumers’ Report” - It could be built up into a standing tabled report of manufacturers’ products quality. This could be reviewed periodically as products improved because of sales loss pressures.

Would not the editors of numismatic papers be pleased to publish such information that would enhance the value and readership of their papers?

Questions? Questions! Questions! What and where are the answers???”

If you wish to respond to Frank’s article, please e-mail us at cnanews@look.ca.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

by Mike Hollingshead, a past President of the Ontario Numismatic Association, as published in Canadian Coin News of St. Catharines, Ontario.

“A good club offers a number of services to the collector. The most important of these is an education. This usually takes the form of a guest speaker or a slide presentation or video, often borrowed from the CNA or ONA (or another audio visual lending library). A good presentation will last 20 to 30 minutes, short enough to maintain your avid interest, yet long enough to cover the topic. With our climate in mind, most clubs use audiovisuals in the months when bad weather might prevent a speaker from attending.”

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF MILITARY MEDALS

The following summary, by reporter Stuart Laidlaw, was recently published in The Toronto Star:

Military medals are a fairly recent phenomenon. From Roman times to the mid-1800s, only officers – men of nobility – awarded them to each other after winning a battle. They took to hanging these specially struck coins from ribbons so they could pin them to their uniforms for all to see.

In the 1840s, Britain’s Queen Victoria decreed that ordinary veterans of the Napoleonic Wars would get medals, too, but with some restrictions.

Thus the era of medals for enlisted men began.

Ross McKenzie, curator of the museum at Kingston's Royal Military College, says Canada's first medals were handed out to those who fought off the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870.

WHY BOTHER WITH ELECTIONS?

The C.N.A. is in the process of holding an actual election. Yes, I know it is hard to believe, but there are actually two people running for one of the positions. Ignoring this one unusual incident, the following thought-provoking "message" from your Editor is intended to solicit feedback. All interesting responses will be published. We are especially interested in hearing from long-time members of the executive of local coin clubs, as well as regular members who choose, time and again, not to let their name stand for an executive position.

Most coin clubs held elections at their December or January meeting. I ask you: Why bother!

The majority of your current Executive would undoubtedly win length-of-service awards. They feel they are indispensable and the club cannot survive without them (and they may be right in a lot of instances!).

By far, the greatest majority of your members did not run for an Executive position. They do not wish to go up against the existing Executive member.

The only woman on your Executive will be asked to remain as Secretary...again.

There was only one nomination for most of the positions. None for the rest. And they will be the same people...again! And why not? Programs were interesting under the same executive in the past. Fun and fellowship was evident. Dealers did a reasonable amount of business. Their bulletin got out on time. In other words, they had all the right formula and ingredients for a successful operation. Why change things?

The Executive had run a very successful club for many years. The President has done a good job. Even though he and most other members of the executive let it be known that they would like to let others take over, no one came forward...again. So the Executive agreed to remain another year. And another. And another.

So what will happen one of these years? A number of the existing executive will force the issue by not running again. It was definitely time to move on! A few will spend 6 months out of the year in Florida or Arizona and see that they can no longer serve the club year-round. Others will become too frail or ill to guarantee attending Executive meetings and regular monthly meetings. Someone might even pass away.

I realize that without the dedicated old-timers, half the clubs would have died long time ago. But the inevitable will happen when not enough new blood agrees to become involved and numerous members of the executive step down at the same time.

I am certainly not proposing the wholesale resignation of the existing members of the Executive. What I am proposing is that each year, at least one newer member be invited to join the Executive, even if more directors serve than the club's constitution calls for (they should only be so lucky!). Old blood may be an absolute necessity in assuring the success of a club, but the infusion of new blood will assure that it will continue as a successful club!

The C.N.A. is no different. They have not had a run-off for their bi-annual election for a long time. Most positions were filled by the incumbent, unopposed. Some positions were left vacant

and appointments had to be made by the President following the close of nominations, quite often with some arm-twisting involved.

The C.N.A. is finally seeing an election, albeit only in South-Western Ontario, where Bret Evans is opposing Tom Clarke, who is seeking re-election.

C.N.A. CONVENTION NEWS

We have been “talking up” the C.N.A. Convention scheduled for the Westin Hotel Downtown in Calgary, Alberta on July 20-24. The C.N.A. Website at www.canadian-numismatic.org has mentioned details all year. The Convention committee has gone all-out in promoting the show through clubs and the numismatic press.

No wonder Stan Clute, the bourse chairman, told us quite some time ago that the bourse was sold out. No wonder Bernie Walker, the hotel liaison, tells us that all rooms at the Westin Hotel are booked. That’s absolutely ALL rooms, not just the ones that were made available to us at a special convention rate. If you contact Al Munro, General Chairman, at wood5cents@shaw.ca or phone 403-273-6133, he can give you contact information for other hotels in the vicinity.

No wonder Al Munro and the rest of his committee are all excited. Should be a great convention!

The only question I have: Has your club appointed a delegate to the convention!

CONCLUSION

We will be publishing the next C.N.A. E-Bulletin on July 15, with the following one on August 1. If you can’t wait that long for your usual dose of our attempt at humor, go and re-read some of the previous 15 C.N.A. E-Bulletins.

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

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