

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 25 – November 10, 2005:

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INTRODUCTION

Did you see the new layout at the C.N.A. Website at www.canadian-numismatic.org recently? You know where they put the C.N.A. E-Bulletin under? "Educational!"

Can you imagine getting any knowledge out of our bulletins? Hasn't worked so far because, as we said all along, we don't want to raise our standards to that level. There was no other place to put it without creating another folder. Would a heading like "Nonsense Stuff" have gotten your attention?

WE HAVE MAIL

From Louis Chevrier: "Regarding this text published in the latest E-Bulletin, I would like to clarify the fact that Nuphilex has always offered free tables or conference rooms to all Canadian non-profit organizations who want to recruit, hold meetings or do presentations (not commerce). We even send letters inviting associations to use those free facilities. Maybe a word from you about it in your next bulletin will reach someone interested." (Louis is Co-Chairman of Nuphilex) - Bad wording on my part. Rather than stating that Torex is the only one that offers meeting space, I should have said that Torex is the only one that HAS meetings that I know of. I certainly knew better, Louis, since you invited me on a number of occasions to man a complimentary C.N.A. Information Table at your show. Since you are holding your 25th Anniversary Show next year, we will make sure that the C.N.A. is represented. Maybe we can get a few other groups to participate.

From Eric Jensen: "You mentioned in the C.N.A. E-Bulletin that you will promote self-published books. I have recently completed a 2004 Supplement to "Alberta Medallions" and would really appreciate it if you could include some information in one of your E-Bulletins." - We are pleased to include it below. Anyone else that wishes to promote self-published books, club medals or wooden nickels, etc., drop us a line at cnanews@look.ca.

ALBERTA MEDALLION BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM AUTHORS

Books dealing with Alberta Medallions, authored by Alf Wrigley and Eric Jensen, are available as follows:

"Alberta Medallions - 1989 Second Edition c/w 1992, 1998 & 2004 Supplement:" A photocopied Second Edition (1989), complete with the appropriate pages from the 1992, 1998 & 2004 Supplements, now comprises a total of 2058 illustrated Alberta medallions and "similar type stuff" with around 730 pages, including information, indices and the like. The pages are 8½"x 11," 3 hole punched for inserting in a binder (not included) with a cardstock cover. I am selling these for \$40.00 plus postage (\$11.50 to Eastern Canada and \$9.50 to Western Canada).

If you acquired the book and the 1998 supplement previously, you can purchase "Alberta Medallions - 2004 Supplement" only: The 2004 supplement has over 1100 additional illustrated Alberta medallions and "similar type stuff" and comprises around 430 pages including information, indices and the like. The pages are 8½"x 11", 3 hole punched for including in the previously issued Second Edition 1989 (with 1992 and 1998 Supplements). The cost is \$24.00 plus postage (\$10.50 to Eastern Canada and \$8.50 to Western Canada).

Contact C.N.A. member Eric Jensen at egjensen@telus.net for pricing on shipments to the U.S.

For C.N.A. members that would like to see the book but do not want to purchase it, or would like to review first before purchasing, a copy is available from the C.N.A. Library. E-mail the C.N.A. Librarian at dan@gosling.ca.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED C.N.A. WEBSITE

The C.N.A.'s website started up in 2001. Michael Walsh setup the initial site. He generously supplies the server space. (The hosting company he uses also supplies server space for his company's website. He runs an extensive site as part of his Canadian Coinnoisseur company at www.coinoisseur.com.)

Michael Walsh remains webmaster but in the spring of 2004, Dan Gosling was asked to be associate webmaster. After working on updates to the site for a year, he asked his daughter, Julaine, a professional webmaster, for suggestions. Working together, they created a new banner for the site, redesigned the layout, and updated the code. They incorporated a type of coding called PHP that allows greater flexibility when adding new elements to the site. As an example, the menu at the top of the page updates automatically based on the page the user is viewing.

The new layout includes dropdown menus and a site map for ease of browsing. Additional pages have been added that provide information on the various awards given out by the C.N.A. each year (past recipients are listed under each award). Details of the Coin Kids program and the new Canadian Coin 101 correspondence course are included on their own pages. The new Canadian Correspondence Course Part II is described on its own page along with an order form. The C.N.A. Library Catalogue has been updated and is available in Acrobat Portable Document format (pdf). The list of slides and video tapes are listed as well. Back issues of the E-Bulletin are available in pdf format. Five different pages provide information on the upcoming C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls ("our goal is give you a 'virtual attendance' experience that will encourage you to attend conventions in the years to come," states Gosling). Details on past conventions, including images taken during the events, are available for your viewing and reading pleasure. In other words, a lot of thought went into the new layout and a lot of time and effort.

Although much credit must be given to Dan for a lot of the content, both past and present, and a "thank you" for the expert advice involving layout from his daughter, Julaine, good results usually involve teamwork. For example, over a period of time, Barry Renwick has proofread much of what went onto the website, most of which was originally written by the C.N.A. Executive Secretary. Barry was also involved with an extensive review of the old site and made many suggestions. Chris Faulkner, Alain Roy, Eric Jensen and Darryl Atchison were also asked to review the draft of the new layout and content, which they did. Scott Cornwell (of ICCS, the grading service), Charles Moore and Michael Walsh provided photos for the website's new masthead.

"The Internet is a great tool for reaching a wide audience," states Dan Gosling. "The Canadian Numismatic Association is devoted to serving those who enjoy coin collecting/numismatics by promoting fellowship, communication, education and providing advocacy and leadership for the hobby. The website is one of the tools we can use to accomplish this goal."

Please go to www.canadian-numismatic.org and check it out. If you have any suggestions or corrections please contact the associate webmaster at dan@gosling.ca.

EURO COINAGE AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

In the last issue, we announced that the wording on Euro coinage was going to change. We continued in the article with something that just didn't pass our spell check (for the full article, go back in your computer to our previous bulletin e-mailed to you on November 1, or go to www.canadian-numismatic.org, under "Educational").

Just to show that English is a crazy language, here is a listing of something that has been passed around long before the Internet came into existence.

There is no egg in eggplant or egg roll, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, two geese. So one moose, two meese? One index, two indices? Isn't it crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what language do people recite a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim change and a fat change be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filing it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Finally, why doesn't Buick rhyme with quick?

With all this confusion, no wonder us editors have it so difficult. And get paid so much.

Since we never claimed that this bulletin has to be ALL about money, other submissions are welcome.

PIRATES ATTACK CRUISE LINER

Pirates in 2006? Just ask any of the 18 Canadians that were on a recent cruise.

Heavily armed intruders in rubber rafts attempted to board the vessel about 160 kilometres off the coast of Somalia early Saturday morning. The pirates fired machineguns and a rocket-propelled grenade. "There were the sounds of the bullets hitting off side of the ship, and there were boats trying to come alongside us," one of the Canadians said. "And one lady in the cabin across from us had a rocket fired right through her cabin window and narrowly missed her."

Five men in each of two fibreglass boats, seven to eight metres long, also shot at the navigation bridge of the ship. The pirates came within feet of the liner but didn't manage to board it, the owner of a travel agency who was on board the cruise ship said, according to a report from Canadian Press.

Just as I finished typing the above, Reuters News Service reported that pirates attacked two more merchant ships off Somalia this past week-end, one close to where the cruise ship was hit. A large bulk carrier and a roll-on, roll-off cargo ship were attacked. The latter was attacked with heavy machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Both ships managed to outrun the pirate gangs who gave chase in speedboats, reads the press release. I just have to ask: How fast are these merchant ships going if they can outrun speed boats? And anybody that has ever even looked at a cruise ship knows that most ride too high above water to make boarding easy.

The Indian Ocean waters off the Somali coast are classed as among the most dangerous in the world. Last week, the International Maritime Bureau said it knew of 27 pirate attacks off Somalia since March. Over the past six years, the number of reported attacks worldwide has ranged from a high of 471 in 2000 to a low of 309 the previous year. In 2004, there were 330 reported incidents worldwide. Most of these were attacks on small fishing boats or slow cargo ships with small crews. Since I have seen nothing in the press before, I can only assume that the other pirates were equally inept, with no persons hurt or ships boarded.

If the pirates of yesteryear were as inept as this modern bunch, we wouldn't be spending millions trying to find hoards of buried treasure, such as on Oak Island, off Nova Scotia, that we're still trying to find something like 300 years later, or those other hoards that cover whole sections of your local book store.

WHAT IS TOOTH OF THE PRESIDENT OF ANA OR CNA WORTH?

A short column in The Toronto Star on November 5 reveals that a tooth reputedly pulled from the mouth of Napoleon Bonaparte is going under the hammer at an English auction house. It is believed to have been extracted during the Little General's exile to St. Helena. His physician presented it to General Maceroni, aide-de-camp to the King of Naples. The current owner obtained it from the Maceroni family in 1956.

The tooth is expected to fetch over \$16,000, almost as much as we're forking out for a new crown from our dentist, or a 1948 Canadian silver dollar. And you thought only eBay gets the big bucks!

BY THE NUMBERS

\$268,000 – The fine for a millionaire when he was caught driving 80 km an hour in a 40km/h zone in Finland. The fine for traffic violations to the driver's income is correlating. In other words, the more a person earns, the more they pay in fines. Bill Gates or members of the Walton family better not get caught speeding there.

\$363 million – The largest amount ever won in a lottery jackpot in U.S. history.

\$340 million – Value of a Powerball ticket in U.S. funds if you are the lucky person in Jacksonville, Oregon, the second highest amount ever.

\$100,000 – Amount the seller of the above ticket gets.

\$853,492 – Amount won for second place in the above Powerball draw, for getting the five winning numbers right, but not the final sixth number.

49 – Number of people who guessed the same five numbers but missed out of the final number.

\$339,146,508 – Value of that last number that only one out of the 50 winners guessed correctly.

\$1.25 billion – The revenue of eBay in this past quarter. Wherever I go, I hear people talk about their eBay sales and purchases. I wonder how much of that total is the result of numismatic transactions? Does anybody know?

\$255 million – The net profit earned by eBay in the same quarter. I am sure they would want me to thank you profusely for our contribution to their success.

140 – Number of banks and armored cars that were allegedly robbed in the U.S. and Canada during the 1970s and 1980s by the Stopwatch Gang, including a \$750,000 gold heist from the Ottawa airport in 1974. They were dubbed the Stopwatch Gang because they used stopwatches to time their hits. Their exploits are detailed in several films and a book. The reason this is in the news again is that John Clarkson, who had ties to the gang, was arrested this past week in Florida. Clarkson was sentenced to 20 years in prison but fled before he could serve any time. He allegedly used the identity of a dead 4-year old boy to get an American passport. The gang he fell in with got away with about \$8 million in just over 10 years. Although Clarkson never took part in the robberies, he and an accomplice, Thomas Harrigan, faced trial in Canada in 1976 for their part in the gang's ill-judged excursion into cocaine smuggling in the Caribbean. If you Google "Stopwatch Gang" you can get the full story...on over 74,000 sites.

8.89 – The number of centimetres of an engineering student's nipple hair. The 20-year old student from the University of Western Ontario has made it into the 2006 Guinness Book of Records because of his feat, located on his right nipple. That's 3.5 inches for our American friends.

0 – Percent of numismatic content in the above item. We just want you to know that Canadians are good at something other than Rock Paper Scissors, hockey and drinking Tim Hortons coffee. At least we don't hold the record for the longest time that someone was stuck at a Home Depot after someone put Crazy Glue on the toilet seat as happened recently in the U.S.

\$100 billion – Google's market value last week, after just seven years in business. When Google went public 14 months ago, the initial public offering was \$85 a share. It now trades at around

\$340. We all use Google, don't we, contributing to its success. Did you receive a letter or e-mail of thank you from them?

\$241,000 – Amount American Express is suing the CEO of a communications company of disputed credit card charges at a New York topless club. After the CEO received the \$241,000 corporate credit card bill, he called American Express and complained that some of the charges were fraudulent, the lawsuit says. The lawsuit is at least the third in the past two years involving contested credit card charges at Scores, the topless club. The CEO had three other people with him. What I like to know is what could Scores possibly have that costs \$241,000 for four people

in one evening? He states the bill should have been about \$20,000, which begs the next question: what could Scores possibly have that costs \$20,000 for four people in one evening?

\$30 million – The amount in the 6/49 jackpot two Saturday's ago that nobody won.

\$54.3 million – The biggest lottery jackpot in Canadian history, which went up for grabs this past Wednesday after nobody won the above \$30 million. The odds were over 14 million to one. The jackpot was won by 17 jubilant employees of Viking Holdings, an oil and gas company, located near the town of Sedgewick, Alberta. Each of the 17 won \$3.17 million. At the winners' party they debated if they were going to keep on working or retire. Are you kidding? I bet the discussion didn't take long.

\$99.4 million - Estimated amount of tickets sold for above draw. Around half of the total take is paid out to all winners, the rest going to distributors, retailers and, the largest chunk of about 30%, to the provincial government.

\$37.84 million – The previous record Canadian jackpot for Lotto Super 7 on May 17, 2002.

\$30 million – The biggest individual winner ever was Raymond Sobeski, an Ontario resident, with his Lotto Super 7 prize in 2003. This is actually a lot more than our American friends might think. Not only do you get it all right away up front, but it is not taxable, unlike in the U.S. where you get the winning amount over 20 years and is taxable.

\$4.5 million – Amount of profit made by Daniel Duic in the stock market after being tipped off by Andrew Rankin, a former RBC Dominion Securities investment banker.

\$5.0 million – amount seized by the Ontario Security Commission from Duic's offshore accounts as well as penalties imposed on him. This does not include legal fees. More proof that crime does not pay.

\$138 – amount for which Immigration Minister Joe Volpe has come under fire for charging taxpayers for pizza for two at a Toronto restaurant and for claiming two dinners on the same night with two different groups of people.

\$1.29 – Amount that David Dingwall, former CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint, came under fire for NOT charging since it became part of his diem of \$20 per day while traveling on official business.

\$420 – cost of replacing the halogen bulbs 12 metres above the nave at St. Benet's Cathic Church in East Anglia, England. It took two hours for one man and a ladder.

\$2,768 – new cost for replacing the halogen bulbs after the Work at Height Regulations kicked in, which govern anyone working at a height where there is a risk of fall and injury. The job now requires two men and scaffolding.

\$84 million – Value of Bre-X shares sold between April an October 1996 by John Felderhof while having information that had not been disclosed to investors.

\$10,000 - Amount offered as a reward by the Canadian Bankers' Association for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man responsible for 26 bank robberies in the Toronto

area since August 16. We don't know why a reward is necessary at this point, since he obviously wants to be caught. The cameras show him perfectly clear from front angles.

COLLECTORS TRADE \$3 MILLION DOLLAR STAMPS

We always read about the high prices obtained in auctions for rare coins, paintings and other collectibles. Here is one from Reuters News Agency for philatelists:

In what is reported as the biggest philatelic deal in 100 years, two stamp collectors traded the two most valuable items in the philatelic world on November 2. It was a cashless exchange involving one \$3 million (US) item for another. What it did was complete Bill Gross' collection of every U.S. stamp from the 19th century, a feat no museum has accomplished. Gross is the managing director of asset management firm PIMCO and the subject of the book "The Bond King."

In the swap, Gross acquired a 1-cent "Z Grill" stamp, one of two known to exist, for a block of four "Inverted Jenny" stamps, now owned by Donald Sundman, president of the Mystic Stamp Company. The Z Grill, issued in 1868 with a profile of Benjamin Franklin, is valued for its rarity and the waffle-like grill on the back that better absorbed postmarks and prevented people from reusing them.

The Inverted Jenny - a 24-cent airmail stamp from 1918 - is treasured for the kind of error that drives up the value of collectibles. Its depiction of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, known as the Jenny, was inverted, making the plane look like it is flying upside down.

Gross tried to buy the Z Grill in 1998, but was outbid by Sundman, who paid a record-setting \$935,000. Gross then broke the record two weeks ago by buying the Inverted Jenny block for \$2.97 million. The swap now implicitly values the Z Grill at the same price - making it the most valuable single stamp known.

COLLECTING COLLECTION BOXES

Some people collect piggy banks. Others collect musical banks.

Unicef is celebrating 50 years of a partnership with trick-or-treaters to raise money to send African children to school and a newly-designed collection box was distributed to the little ghosts or goblins by Unicef Canada.

Does anybody collect these different types of Unicef collection boxes and how many different ones have been used in the past 50 years?

SHOW BUSINESS

November 12 - 13, Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Numismatic Society's Money Show, Terrace Inn, 4440 Gateway Blvd., Imperial Ballroom, Level P1. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Over 50 tables. Displays. Door draws including \$100 gold coin. Information from Michael Schneider at (780) 496-6602 or mike.schneider@edmonton.ca. Web site: <http://www.edmontoncoinclub.com>.

November 12, Toronto, ON - C.N.A. Canadian Coin Grading and Preservation Workshop, Humber College, Toronto, ON. Sold out. Now accepting reservations for the same course being held on Thursday, July 20 in conjunction with the C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls.

NOV. 13, Windsor, ON - Windsor Coin Club's 54th Annual Fall Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$1 admission includes draws for hourly door prizes and grand prize, juniors admitted free. Free parking. Information from Margaret Clarke at (519) 735-0727 or mclarke@wincom.net.

November 18-20 – Oakville, On – The 2005 International Collectors' fair, Ramada Inn & Convention Center, 360 Oakville Place (just off Trafalgar Road at Q.E.W.), Oakville, Ontario. Information from Ted Bailey at 1-866-747-2646 or (519) 442-3474, e-mail tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

November 25-27, 2005 – Dearborn, Michigan – Michigan State Numismatic Society Coin Show, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Southfield Road and Michigan Avenue. Information from Don Charters at (734) 4991. For hotel room reservations, call (313) 593-1234.

CONCLUSION

We do appreciate all the favorable comments that we have received! We hope you continue to enjoy the contents of these E-Bulletins.

Got to go now. Tim Hortons closes in 10 minutes.

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

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