

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 26 – November 20, 2005

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INTRODUCTION

To all the people who are receiving this for the first time, welcome to the C.N.A. Bulletin that is issued 2 or 3 times a month. It is sent free-of-charge to e-mail addresses we had on file when we started it up at the beginning of the year, or those that have requested to be added since then, whether they are members of the C.N.A. or not.

Thanks to the mailing of membership information flyers by the Royal Canadian Mint and the subsequent return of applications showing their e-mail addresses, we are continually adding new recipients.

The current count of people receiving this bulletin is 2,166 after weeding out some e-mail addresses that were duplicates going to the same people. I expect that this is probably a bit higher than the President of the C.N.A., Chuck Moore, envisioned when he first approached me with the idea of a C.N.A. E-Bulletin.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Michael S. Fey: "As an avid collector of both U.S. and Canadian coins, I was fortunate to take advantage of a recent Canadian Numismatic Association's (CNA) offer of an education seminar on Canadian Coin Grading and Preservation Workshop. This 1 day workshop was given on Saturday, November 12th, 2005 at Humber College in Toronto, Ontario. Although the 500-mile drive was daunting, it proved to be well worth the trip. I was invited to stay overnight by CNA Executive Secretary, John Regitko. He and his wife Monina were not only exceptional hosts, but wonderful people dedicated to the hobby and the best interests of the CNA. We spent hours talking about the numismatics, both U.S. and Canadian, and reveled in the camaraderie of our mutual love for the hobby. I was overwhelmingly impressed by John's marketing creativity and willingness to donate endless hours toward educating the public about his passion. At the start of the seminar, I was greeted by Paul Johnson, CNA Education Chairman, and Paul Petch, former Editor of the CNA Journal. This was only the start of what would turn out to be a Who's Who of Canadian numismatics. The first half of the course was given by none other than Messrs. Brian and Scott Cornwell, the President and founders of the International Coin Certification Service (ICCS), the largest and most well-respected independent grading service in Canada. The second half of the course was given by Coin World's premier international coin and paper money preservation columnist, Ms. Susan Maltby. This course was a quick sell-out with a maximum 26 members in attendance. Like our own ANA educational courses, the cost was a real bargain at \$50, and that was in Canadian funds (only \$42 U.S.). It was a wonderful day of numismatic leaning, camaraderie, and just plain fun. I would urge you to attend. It will be given again as part of the CNA Annual Convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario. I'm sure it will be a quick sell-out and another big success. Kudos to the CNA and to all the fine people named above that I had the pleasure to meet." (Michael Fey is the owner/operator of Rare Coin Investments of Morris Plains, NJ) - When you have the support of people like Brian Cornwell and Susan Maltby, experts in their respective fields, and other support personnel whose love of the hobby is evident, then you have all the ingredients of being able to put together an outstanding program.

PIRATES ATTACK CRUISE LINER – PART TWO

In the November 10 E-Bulletin, we mentioned that pirates have been attempting to board a cruise ship and cargo ships from a rubber raft. Even though the pirates were heavily armed with

machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, their rubber rafts and speed boats were no match for the unarmed ships that managed to outrun the pirate gangs who gave chase in speedboats. For lack of a better word and not wanting to call them stupid, I blamed it on ineptness.

Well, we finally have some pirates who got it right. They were successful in hijacking a merchant ship, kidnapping its 26 crew members at gunpoint. The International Maritime Bureau said a Thai-flagged ship carrying a cargo of sugar from Brazil to Yemen was hijacked close to the coast of Somalia. The pirates have demanded a ransom for release of the crew.

With talent like that on the high seas, there is hope yet that there is an actual buried treasure on Oak Island.

WE KNEW THAT THIS WOULDN'T BE THE END OF IT

We stated previously that we held back reporting all the negative news about our former CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint, also known as the Master of the Mint, until the bottom line was written. It looks like it now has!

In the last issue, we wrote about Mr. David Dingwall's stint at the Mint and the chewing gum and other expenses the press picked on, apparently without doing their homework. The latest issue of the Numismatic News E-Bulletin carries the report that "two [independent audit firms have exonerated](#) former Royal Canadian Mint CEO David Dingwall of filing inappropriate expense accounts."

We are still waiting for the daily press to rescind some of the things that were written, unfairly as it turns out and without the usual due diligence required in investigate reporting.

'IN GOD WE TRUST' SLOGAN ON MONEY, COINS OFFENDS ATHEIST

A California atheist who has fought a series of legal battles seeking to bar religious references from American public life sued a couple of days ago to remove the phrase "In God We Trust" from U.S. money and coins.

In his filing to the U.S. Federal Court, Michael Newdow said he finds it "deeply offensive to have his government and its agents advocating for a religious view he specifically decries." The 162-page lawsuit named the United States of America, Congress and several U.S. officials as defendants.

Regardless of how you feel about the separation of state and church, wouldn't this give us a new series of notes and coins to collect? And what if I don't like the Queen on my money? Or Prime Ministers because I don't like his politics? Or because there are no dead female Prime Ministers to put on our bills? What if I am allergic to feathers and am reminded of it every time I receive or pull a note out of my wallet featuring birds? Will I be sued by Newdow as an accessory if I use the money?

Dare I use the phrase "Where will it end?" again as I did in some previous bulletins?

I JUST HAVE TO ASK

If Nickelback opens for 50 Cents, would they call it their Forty-Five Cent Tour?

If they use this name for an upcoming tour, will I be able to collect royalties?

If you do not know who or what Nickelback or 50 Cents is, does that mean you are over 45?

WHAT ARE THESE MEDALS WORTH NOW?

On October 30, just over 20,000 people crossed the starting line for the 30th Annual Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. Among them were about 225 members of JeansMarines – a group whose motto is “Yes, ma’am. You can do a marathon” because most of their members are women. There is no cash prize in this, but there’s a reward when you cross the finish line: a treasured “Finisher’s Medal” is placed around the neck of every successful participant.

However, a finding of “foul” by the marathon’s race director reports that someone assisted some members of this prominent Toronto runner’s group into deliberately skipping several miles of the 26.2-mile route – then accepted medals for “finishing” the event. Now the Marine Corps wants those medals back. “They may have received a medal, but they DID NOT earn it,” wrote a poster on the runnersworld.com website.

Computer chips tied in every runner’s laces must pass over sensors on “magic mats” placed along the course. With Big Bother watching, how did they think they could ever get away with it?

“One of the people taken on the shortcut was severely mentally retarded. And that person was taken across and finished and got his medal and is proud as punch,” said the person directly implicated in suggesting the shortcut to some people, obviously believing that somehow makes it right to encourage a number of others to do the same.

More proof that cheating doesn’t pay. Just like overgrading coins!

BANK ROBBER CAUGHT OUTSIDE CONVENIENCE STORE BEING WATCHED BY POLICE

In the last bulletin, in the column entitled “By the Numbers,” we mentioned that the Canadian Bankers’ Association has offered a reward of \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man responsible for 26 bank robberies in the Toronto area since August 16.

Dubbed the Recipe Bandit because he wrote his demands on a recipe cards on his first robberies, he allegedly robbed a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce branch in Toronto a week after the CBA put up the reward. All robberies took place at CIBC or Scotiabank branches, with one exception. The suspect never wore a mask, often donned sunglasses and usually strikes between 2 and 6 p.m. He was clearly visible in surveillance cameras.

He happened upon a convenience store that was under routine surveillance by the Police, who arrested him. He is charged with a total of 31 bank robberies.

HIGHWAY NAMED FOR C.N.A. EDUCATIONAL COURSE

One of the high-profile attendees at the C.N.A. Education Course at Humber College in Toronto was ANA Governor Michael Fey (when he is not governing, he runs Rare Coin Investments of Morris Plains, NJ). He was driving along Highway 427 when he called the C.N.A. Executive Secretary. It was explained to Michael that when he reaches Highway 401, he should not drive along the Express section but should stay in the Collector lanes.

“They named the highway for us?” was his response.

Incidentally, his license plate reads “FEY MS.” Your editor wonders if that stands for Michael S. Fey or “Mint State.”

C.N.A. E-BULLETIN EDITOR APPLYING FOR BARTENDER IN IRELAND

When I was invited to speak at the Second Mile Club in Toronto on a couple of occasions, I was surprised at the number of coins that were brought along by the seniors in attendance. Canadian and English gold coins. Queen Victoria and George V silver in uncirculated condition. Banknotes like the day they were printed that their parents held onto for many years. And piggy banks full of items that would send you into early retirement.

I now read that a nursing home in Dublin, Ireland, is opening a pub on its premises, where the average age of the residents is 85 (just like at your local coin club meeting).

Can you see the opportunity for the bartender, having all these customers coming in with their loose change. Hello John!!!!

FAMOUS QUOTES

The next time a dealer at a coin show tells you that the attendance is down and you have heard from others that business has been good, use the line that Mike Hollingshead of Waterloo Coin Society, Ontario Numismatic Association and Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club fame says:

“It’s not the people through the door. It’s the dollars through the door!”

SMUGGLING WITHOUT PENALTY

A Maple, Ontario woman was fined \$8,000 after she failed to declare a \$27,000 designer men’s watch at Pearson airport when she returned home from a trip to the Middle East this summer?

Customs officials found the watch in her luggage when she returned July 23. She had only declared goods worth \$500.

Asfaneh Nasser pleaded guilty October 28 to making a false declaration. She has six months to pay her fine. The fine is the equivalent of the unpaid duty and taxes on the watch, according to the report.

I have a question: On the basis of the above fine, which is nothing more than the amount of duty and taxes payable on the item, why should I ever declare anything? In other words, I either wind up paying nothing, or the amount due. If I declare it, I pay. If I don’t declare it, I have a pretty good chance of paying zero.

I thought that there is a system in place whereby they either seize the goods outright (and give the public a chance to obtain it at an auction), or pay double or treble the amount owing. They even have the right to seize a vehicle if goods are illegally transported by car.

So was this the right outcome for the woman who took her chance, got caught...and still didn’t lose?

If you have any personal experience on the subject of bringing numismatic objects or other collectibles across the border, drop us a line at cnanews@look.ca. Anonymity assured. But remember, Big Brother might be watching (or is it reading?). Or is the jury still out in both the U.S. and Canada about law enforcement agencies reading my e-mail? If anyone is snooping, could you please let me know what you think of the content of the C.N.A. E-Bulletins?

NEW NEWFOUNDLAND COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER BEING RECALLED

I forgot where I saw this, and I didn't even know if I should publish it because I just know we will get complaints, but here it goes anyway. If our American readers don't understand it, just substitute West Virginia wherever you see Newfoundland. Or Polish.

The Royal Canadian Mint has announced that it is recalling the Newfoundland edition of the provincial quarter that was issued sometime ago.

Apparently, the quarters keep jamming in the vending machines.

The Royal Canadian Mint conducted a thorough investigation of possible causes and arrived at the conclusion that the tape used to hold the 2 dimes and the nickel together kept fraying on the edges, jamming the coin mechanism.

CASINO RAMA ADDS PENNY SLOT MACHINES

We picked up an issue of Players Passport Newsletter, official publication of Casino Rama, a while ago (what we don't have to go through to bring you the latest on casino chip collecting!). Reading one of the articles, our immediate reaction was that Casino Rama is going to need a lot of pennies (that's 1-cent pieces to Canadians, lest I get a lot of mail correcting my error).

The article stated that Casino Rama, located in Rama, Ontario, just around the corner from Orillia, which is just over an hour's drive north of Toronto, has added about 40 penny machines to the slot floor.

But, apparently, no need for all that small change. The machines will not require pennies. Nor penny tokens, for that matter. The machines will accept \$5 or \$10 bills or whatever denomination, just like all the other slot machines. When you finish playing and you cash out (if you have anything left), instead of a pile of tokens spewing out, you receive a ticket. You then take the ticket over to the cashier who gives you real money. Or blow it in another machine.

We can see someone collecting tickets of various denominations from 1 cent up to a dollar. That's 100 new numismatic collectibles for a cost of \$50.00. Who will be the first to report they did exactly that? When I went to the Niagara Fallsview Casino the other day (to track down collectibles for the 2006 C.N.A. Convention registration kits, of course), I actually walked away with a 25-cent ticket to add to my collection.

And while we are on the subject of Casino Rama and tokens, we would also like to know what is going to happen to those quarter, half and dollar tokens that they had manufactured by the millions. They are using more and more of the same token-less ticket system as for the new penny machines. Will we see them dumped onto the collectors market at a fraction of face value when they are demonetized?

Let us know at cnanews@look.ca if casinos that you attend in your area are phasing out of tokens as well so that we can publicize the fact that paying face value or higher is not a good investment strategy.

MOST ACTIVE NUMISMATIST

Virtually every bulletin we receive from a local coin club located in Central and South-Western Ontario invariably mentions the same two people in attendance at their meetings: Tom and Lois Rogers.

Your C.N.A. E-Bulletin editor ran into Tom as far east as Ottawa when they both wound up at the same meeting of the City of Ottawa Coin Club, as well as at meetings in Waterloo, South Wellington, North York and a number of other locations. Tom also attends London, Ingersoll and Woodstock routinely. He has also recently shown up at a meeting in Sudbury, located about four hours' drive north of his home. And always by his side is Lois, an organizer and collector in her own right.

Whenever Tom attends, he is an avid contributor, advising the audience of upcoming coin shows, showing off a new acquisition or volunteering to provide a program (as President of the Ontario Numismatic Association, he has ready and fast access to audio visual slide presentations from the ONA Library).

My best educated guess is that he belongs to more local coin clubs than anyone else in Ontario.

For his heavy involvement and active participation in the Ontario club scene, we nominate Tom Rogers as "Most Active Numismatist." Hey, shouldn't someone suggest exactly such an annual award? Are you listening, C.N.A. and ANA?

If you wish to nominate anyone for any title or award not currently covered by the C.N.A., ANA or other numismatic organization, drop us a line at cnanews@look.ca.

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Harry Spice, on his recent passing. Harry was a well-known and respected coin dealer that attended many coin shows throughout Ontario.

SOLD-OUT C.N.A. COURSE RATED EXCELLENT

Twenty-six people who attended the recent C.N.A. Course at Humber College in Toronto heaped praise on the instructors and organizers of the Canadian Coin Grading and Preservation Workshop.

Brian and Scott Cornwell (of ICCS fame) and Susan Maltby (a Coin World columnist on paper money preservation) were instructors at the one-day course.

Paul Johnson (CNA Education Chairman), Paul Petch (CNA Liaison with Humber College) and John Regitko (CNA Executive Secretary) were instrumental in organizing the course.

Because attendance was limited, eight collectors that applied but did not make the cut-off will be given priority for the same course scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2006 in conjunction with the 2006 C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

SHOW BUSINESS

November 25-27, 2005 – Dearborn, Michigan – Michigan Sate 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.

November 26, 2005 – Niagara Falls, ON – Coin-a-Rama, Our Lady Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., free parking, \$2 admission includes free draw for a gold coin. Information from Barbara or Peter at (905) 356-5006.

January 5-8, 2006, Orlando, FL. – 51st Annual Florida United Numismatists Convention, Orange County Convention Centre, 9800 International Drive. Free admission. Information from Cindy at (407) 321-8747.

January 12-15, 2006, New York, NY – New York International Numismatic convention, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, 301 Park Avenue. Information from Kevin Foley at (414) 421-3484.

CONCLUSION

At a meeting this morning, I was told that a couple of people that I was with did not receive recent C.N.A. E-Bulletins directly, but had to obtain them from Brian Smith's website The Canadian Coin Reference Site at www.canadiancoin.com. They just happen to be no-one other than the President and First Vice-President of the C.N.A.

I want to take a survey: how many of you did not receive this or another recent bulletin directly? Please provide me with your e-mail address so we can determine which address folder is a problem. E-mail me at cnanews@look.ca.

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

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