

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 27 – December 1, 2005

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INTRODUCTION

Because we had heard that a number of people did not receive some previous C.N.A. E-Bulletins, the last one, on November 20, was sent out different. Half of the bulletins were sent out over an hour after the first half (the first half before midnight, the second half after midnight). We also reversed the order, sending the last grouping of the alphabet first and the CNA-A group last. It is obvious from the e-mails received that a number of people that had not received some of the previous ones received the latest. For this bulletin, we are sending the CNA-A grouping first and would like to hear from anyone that did not receive the Number 26 issue dated November 20 to see if we can further isolate the problem and speak to our ISP.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Jim Majoros: "Reference your question about tokens in casinos, many of the 13 casinos in Atlantic City, NJ have converted to the paper money payout. Tokens are going by the wayside. At least the chips are still out there at the roulette, card tables, etc. I assume there are Canadian chip collectors that are members of the Casino Chip & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club. They have over 3,000 members since it began in 1986."

From Mark Argentino: "I laughed out loud (and my wife will verify that after 20 years of marriage that I very infrequently laugh out loud at anything), but I loved the joke about the Newfie quarters.

I think that I will modify the joke that you and Michael Fey commented about the express or collector lanes and now have a joke for my family. I will ask: Where do numismatists drive? In the collector lanes, of course! Thanks for an awesome newsletter."

From Jim Majoros: "If there are any clubs in Canada that have a program for juniors or would like to begin one, I'll be glad to send them a 5-page pamphlet on 'Recommendations for Forming and Conducting Junior Programs,' along with other material that may be helpful. Send your request to Jim Majoros, 65 - 16th St, Toms River, NJ 08753 or e-mail:

major@ameri-com.com. - Now there is an invitation that you should take him up on whether you are involved with a school, or are on the Executive of a local coin club that should be doing more for juniors. When I request a copy, I will be including a couple of dollars for postage and photocopying and suggest you do the same.

From Jim Majoros: "Became a member of the C.N.A. last month and was nicely surprised when I received a great beginner package consisting of the previous four C.N.A. Journals, a Charlton Catalog and a few other goodies. Thought it was a great start. Thanks very much." - Well, we try to give you something right up front that we think you might appreciate. Other than a few back-issues of the CN Journal (of which you get 10 additional copies during your calendar year membership), we have been in the habit of sending out the hard-cover book covering the history of the first 50 years of the C.N.A. The book mentions details about Jim Charlton (who put Canadian numismatics on the world map by publishing the catalogues named after him), John J. Pittman (who was President of both the C.N.A. and ANA), Sheldon S. Carroll (who was responsible for setting up the National Currency Collection) and other well-known names. If a membership application arrives from the U.S., we will also include a copy of a year-old coin or paper money catalogue, a booklet detailing the reach history of early Canadian tokens, possibly a pamphlet published by the C.N.A. on the Pattern Coinage of Canada....whatever we have on hand. Now is a good time as any for other recipients to consider joining. Go to:

www.canadian-numismatic.org for details.

BANK ROBBER WAS ALREADY OUT ON BAIL

In the last bulletin, we mentioned that the Recipe Card Bandit, Kenneth Calver, 36, who never wore a mask and was clearly visible in surveillance camera, was arrested and charged with a total of 31 bank robberies.

We now find out that at the time of his arrest, he was already out on bail for drug and stolen property charges.

He appeared briefly in court on November 15 and was remanded in custody until his next hearing. Crown council told court an agreement had been reached to revoke bail, granted to Calver last year, when he was charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, having stolen property and break-in tools. Even his lawyer said it is unlikely that he would apply for a new bail release. "I don't think he has any hope of getting bail," his lawyer said outside court. With a lawyer like this, who needs friends!

The robber remained unidentified throughout his 3-month robbery spree despite clear digital photographs from bank surveillance cameras. But police began receiving tips after the Canadian Bankers Association offered a \$10,000 reward on November 3.

CELL PHONE BANDIT APPREHENDED

And another story about a stupid bandit:

The FBI says a 19-year old student, Candice Rose Martinez, confessed to being the so-called Cell Phone Bandit, a chatty thief who robbed four banks since mid-October in three northeast Virginia counties. In her first three heists, she showed the teller a note demanding cash, but on her last one on November 4, she flashed a handgun as well. All the while, she was chatting with someone on her cell phone!

At press time, the police had not revealed if she was speaking to an accomplice, or just using the phone as a prop.

A surveillance camera clearly captured the robber's face, and Martinez was arrested on November 15 at a home in Centreville, Va., hours after her accused accomplice, boyfriend Dave William.

To me, she must have been one of the prime prospects to appear on America's Most Stupid Criminals. Although she had a pair of sunglasses, she perched them atop her head, so her face could clearly be seen by the video cameras.

NORTHERN IRELAND BANK EMPLOYEES ARREST IN \$61M HEIST

An employee of Belfast bank whose family was kept hostage during a \$61-million heist last year has been arrested as a possible suspect. Chris Ward, 24, and a colleague from the Northern Bank, a 22-year-old woman who has not been identified, were detained in two separate raids on houses Tuesday morning. A police detective in Belfast confirmed to the Associated Press that Ward and a female friend from the bank were under arrest. The officer asked not to be identified publicly because police rules forbid them from identifying suspects before they're charged.

During the robbery, masked and armed men entered Ward's home and took his family hostage.

They then drove him to the home of another executive, Kevin McMullan, where two men dressed as police officers had already gained entry. The men threatened to kill McMullan's wife and Ward's family if they didn't comply with the abductors' demands. The executives were escorted to work and forced to remain behind after it closed in order to open a central vault containing cash destined for the financial institution's 95 branches. Police said one of the executives delivered bags of money several times to a waiting van.

The Dec. 20 heist had earlier been blamed on the Irish Republican Army by police commanders in Northern Ireland and the Irish and British governments. The IRA and other paramilitaries groups had repeatedly denied any involvement in the robbery, which was the largest ever seen in Britain.

Police earlier arrested several people and said they had accounted for the equivalent of about \$11.1 million Cdn. of the stolen money. The cash was in British pound sterling notes printed by Northern Irish banks, which look different from Bank of England notes.

PIRATES ATTACK CRUISE LINER – PART THREE

We previously told you about the inept pirates in speedboats with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades that attempted to board a cruise ship and cargo ships from rubber rafts but were outrun. We also told you about pirates who were successful in hijacking a merchant ship, kidnapping its 26 crew members at gunpoint, and demanded a ransom for release of the crew.

People Magazine also felt it was an interesting news story because they devoted two full pages to it, in which they revealed that the captain had received a distress call from another vessel saying it was under attack from pirates. He said he believed that it was actually the mother ship of the pirates trying to lure them in. They had seen the mother ship on radar, which was about 12 miles away and that was almost certainly where the motorboats came from.

By the way, the same issue of People Magazine covered 50 Cent. We asked if he toured with Nickelback, would they call it the 45 Cent Tour. If you thought I was reaching, the article in People Magazine included phrases like "The other side of the coin," "Banking on 50 Cents" and "Ambition + 50 Cent = \$60 Million."

GOLD RUSH

We have been telling you about some large lottery wins and some unusual things involving lottery tickets, such as the woman who tried to scam a ticket away from a winner, the Judge Judy case about a lost ticket that someone else cashed in, and the lawsuit to determine exactly who was eligible to split a major win when two people neglected to pay their share in advance. Two bulletins ago, under "By the Numbers," we provided statistics about sizable wins. It looks like we are not the only ones who like to read about major Bucks!

People Magazine gave two pages to the pirates mentioned above and four pages to the couple from Medford, Oregon and her parent who live close-by in Jacksonville that won \$340 million in a Powerball Lottery. It produced the largest single-ticket payoff in Powerball history. The four will split a single check for \$164 million.

You know what they went out and bought first after they found out what they won? The mother bought two jackets that were on sale at 15% off, while her husband bought a shirt. And he wants a yellow Hummer, even though chances are he might never be riding in it since he can't climb inside it because he is still recovering from a fall from his roof. The son went out and spent \$176 on dozens of giant candy bars. And, oh yes, he's not going to quit his job mowing lawns,

he says. Oh, sure. I'm sure that if my wife and I won a measly \$82 million, I wouldn't quit my job either. I love the C.N.A. so much. Well, maybe!

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TIM HORTONS VS. DUNCAN DONUTS

A news report a couple of days ago stated that a robber tried to hold up a gas station in Cheektowaga, NY. When the clerk didn't hand it over, he ran out of the station.

He next went to a Tim Hortons donut outlet and when he threatened two clerks, they just stared at him. He again ran out of the donut shop.

Next, he went to a Duncan Donuts where, upon threat with a Swiss Army Knife, they handed about \$100 over to the robber. The news report did not state if any of the money was the special Tim Hortons 25-cent pieces, also known to some as Poppy quarters, that Canada is so famous for.

WHAT DO NUMISMATICS AND BANANAS HAVE IN COMMON?

There is nothing unusual about a banana sticker with the Del Monte logo. It is commonly seen on nearly every bunch of Bananas. But stick it on a note during the printing process and you really have something.

Heritage Currency Auctions of America (HCAA) will offer the famed "Del Monte Note" in their upcoming Signature Auction, to be held January 6 & 7, 2006 in conjunction with the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Convention in Orlando, Florida.

"There are few items that create an indelible memory like this unique U.S. Currency error," said Dustin Johnston, Director of Auctions for HCAA states. "The 1996 \$20 Federal Reserve Note is as exotic as the Ecuadorian Banana sticker itself. The error is referred to as a 'retained obstruction,' or a note that was printed with a foreign object on the paper. Most obstructions fall off shortly after printing leaving a blank area of paper missing the design, but errors with objects that 'stick' to the note are very rare. Objects seen on other obstruction errors include a Band-Aid, paper fragments, scotch tape, and wood shavings."

"What makes this note truly special," Johnston continued, "is the stage of the printing process at which the sticker affixed itself to the note. United States Currency is essentially printed in three stages: the first printing is the back of the note, the second printing provides the face devices, and the third, final printing includes the Treasury Seal and the serial numbers. When this note was printed at the Fort Worth facility of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, it went through first and second printings before the sticker found its way onto the surface. The sticker's placement is ideal, as it covers part of the second printing details and is overlaid by part of the Treasury Seal and serial number from the third printing. This error is as fun today as it was the day it was discovered by an Ohio resident in his ATM withdrawal."

The "Del Monte Note" is estimated at \$20,000- \$25,000. For the full story, go to Heritage Auctions' website is www.HeritageCoins.com.

COIN MANUFACTURING FEATURED ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL

On Tuesday, November 22, the Discovery Channel featured the production of collector coins on its popular program "How It's Made." Following a segment on how shopping carts are made and a lesson on tooling of metal parts, this popular American program featured a short but detailed segment on how collectible coinage is manufactured at the Royal Canadian Mint.

They explained that Canada strikes three types of coins: circulating coins, bullion coins and collectible coins. Although they use copper, nickel and other inexpensive material for circulating coins, precious metal is used for bullion and most collectible coins. They zeroed in on the Queen Mother coin which was made from sterling silver. They showed and explained the casting furnace; the blanking machine that cuts out blanks; the rimming machine that presses a raised edge or rim on each blank; the cleaning and polishing of the blanks; the sifter that separates blanks from the cleaning material; the annealing furnace; the continuous bar machine that cuts bars to about 80 cm long; the roughing mill that squashes these bars at 6.8 metric tons of force up to a dozen passes until they are 12mm thick; and the finishing mill that reduces it to a final thickness of .7 to .4 mm depending on denomination.

The episode also showed the engraving process, from the plastic model, negative plaster mold, positive mold in rubber, negative from hard glass epoxy, the pantograph reducing machine 1-1/2 times smaller in brass (which takes 36 hours); the engraver fine-tuning the brass; another reduction to create matrix in fine steel the size of the coin; the making of a negative called a die; the striking of each blank twice (unlike circulating coin which are struck only once); and the use of computers in the design and layout process.

It shows Susan Taylor, chief engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint, wording at her craft. Also appearing is former Master of the Mint Danielle Weatherup, who held that position in 1992 when the film was shot.

TORONTO TRANSIT INTRODUCES SPECIAL TRANSFER

For those of you that collect not only streetcar tickets but also transfers, the Toronto Transit Commission recently introduced a special transfer that can only be used on the St. Clair Ave. streetcar route. While all other transfers in Toronto must be used immediately between transfer points, these special transfers are good for up to two hours. This gives you time to get off at any stop, do some shopping, get back on again, as many times as you want within the two hours.

For the full story, go to www.toronto.ca/ttc/coupler/0905/time_based.

LOST MAIL

It has happened to all of us. We sent out a letter and hear back from the recipient a month or two later telling us they did not receive it. You tell them that you definitely shipped it. They don't believe you, but most of the time they pretend to. I know, because some of you have had to contact this office with the same complaint. Well, we now all have proof it happens. Read on.

Canada Post has fired two letter carriers and suspended a third as part of an investigation with police. The first carrier was arrested and accused of stealing 75,000 letters and packages over five years. They were found at his Montreal apartment and at his cottage. The man has not yet been charged. Mail theft carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail.

The second carrier was fired after about 700 letters he was to have delivered were found among the 75,000 letters and packages. The third carrier suspected of selling parts of his route has been suspended and could face more disciplinary action as the investigation continues.

So the next time you didn't send somebody something, you can point to this article as proof that it is the fault of Canada Post. In the U.S., any delay in delivery is usually blamed on the fact that the package had to be held as evidence...to determine how the bullet holes got there.

BEWARE OF CREDIT CARD SCAM

Someone who passed this on to us claimed to have received a call one day from "VISA" and her husband was called the next day from "MasterCard."

A person calls you and says: "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge Number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No," the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes." The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number." The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of Your card". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers' that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card."

The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. The callers do not ask for your card number; THEY already have it. But if you were to call the REAL VISA Security Department, they would tell you it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Would you give it to them, or tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation?

The answer is that the real VISA doesn't have to ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make.

There are thousands of scams out there. This is just one of them. Beware.

CONCLUSION

In case anybody noticed that this bulletin is a day late, I was on my back for the past nine days after I heard a crunch in my lower back when getting up. Now that this bulletin is out of the way, I can get back to my real job of catching up on other things!

John Regitko

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

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