

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 3 – February 10, 2005

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INTRODUCTION

We have heard of a few people clicking on the “Reply” button when they receive the C.N.A. E-Bulletin to respond. They got bounced back because we were not set up that way at the time, mainly due to the fact that we had not set up our new Website for that purpose.

WE GOT MAIL

Art Matz writes: “Please re-send Vol. 1 No. 1. I accidentally deleted it. I appreciate your sending me the bulletins. They are most enjoyable and interesting reading.” – Happens to everybody. We thought recipients would be happy to not have their computers cluttered up with “nonsense” stuff! In the near future, you will be able to access back-issues through the C.N.A. Website at www.canadian-numismatic.org . There is also more in the works. For example, we will be setting up links to illustrations and articles within our own Website that is being used to send out these bulletins. That way, we can control cookies, viruses and privacy issues since we are not sending you to a third party Website. As they say, “You ain’t seen nothing yet!”

Mark Argentino writes: “Once again you have outdone yourself and published an excellent bulletin that’s packed with timely information and helpful advice. I tried to add your e-mail to the MECSCC club newsletter but it kept bouncing back. Which e-mail do you want me to use to send the Mississauga Etobicoke Coin Stamp and Collectibles Club newsletter to? By the way, what is your name? – We did not have this outgoing e-mail address set up to receive your mail when you clicked on “Reply.” We have added this so you can now click “reply” and we will receive it. Or send it to cnanews@look.ca . As for my name, it is...Your C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor. Ah, the anonymity of the Internet!

From John Post: “Several years ago, one of my sons (like myself, a Texan) met a Canadian girl through an internet chat room. The romance has blossomed and they will be married as soon as the US and Canadian governments decide that they are A) serious, and B) not a threat to the other country. I have been a collector of US coins for many years. But this has stimulated an interest in Canadian coins, too. I want to own and know more about provincial coins and tokens, and am starting a set of silver 5c. When the young lady visits us, she brings me some small but interesting Canadian numismatic item. When my son visits their home (in the roaring burg of Chesterville, ON), he usually picks up something for his old dad, as well. The collection will grow!! silver 5c. I recently purchased part of a collection from someone who is on your e-mail list and who forwarded the newsletter to me. I enjoyed the first issue and look forward to more. Please add my name and address to your e-mail list. ” – What a wonderful way to add to your coin collection: for free. I hope they visit you often!

Victoria writes: “I just wanted to know if you would like to accompany me. My useless Husband is working all day and I need a man in these hard times of life.” – Oh, I’m sorry, I don’t believe this incoming e-mail is numismatically related.

Rebecca writes: “Would you like to keep me some company? My idiot Husband is on a business trip for the next 2 months, and I hate being lonely. – Sorry, don’t have the time, since I am committed to turn out a minimum of four of these E-Bulletins during that time. Don’t bother Wayne at the E-Sylum either, since he has to turn out double that quantity, although his are not quite as long!

ISN’T LOVE GRAND - LOTTERY STYLE

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, we just have to pass on the following:

We read recently that a Ray Sobeski waited to cash his \$30 million lottery ticket win until his divorce was finalized so he could have it all to himself. However, we know that the woman took it to court since the ticket was purchased with joint money before the legal divorce.

We now read about another person, Robert Swofford Jr. of Tallahassee, Florida, divorcing his wife before claiming his \$34.7 million (U.S.) lottery prize. In this case, however, it was his wife who filed for divorce and a share of the money right after the winning lottery number was announced.

Quick, hide your coin collection before your spouse's lawyer calls!

CONTESTS/RESPONSES

From Doug Robichaud: "Re numismatic item I would like to receive from my spouse, not wanting to be greedy, I asked my wife if we were going to exchange gifts for Valentine's this year. When she replied yes, I suggested that she takes a quick look around the coin world for an inexpensive addition to my coin collection. I explained to her that I didn't want anything too expensive, just a few coins to fill some holes in my collection. I reminded her that we are on a limited budget so feel free to get coins in less than perfect condition, MS-63 would suffice, preferably with heavy cameo. I then told her to head out to the coin shop and not return till she found the 2 coins I suggested in that condition, a 1921 Canadian 50 cent and 5 cent coin. I'm thinking I should have lots of time for golf this year!" - Good choice! I mean the part about the two coins you asked for, not the fact that she won't be back for a long, long time.

From Frank Fesco: "Re New Year's Resolutions: The only resolution that I can recall having complied quite faithfully since, was made at the 1990 New Year. It was to spend one full day a week learning about coins and related items. I usually spend that day at the numismatic library of the National Currency Collection, yet have not been through all of its books -15 years later. But I have enjoyed much interesting information and gained a wealth of knowledge over the years. Being retired, in Ottawa, this was possible. For those who are not, it is something to be considered for the future. – Our compliments to the National Currency Collection for allowing researchers to access the library...and for people like Frank to take advantage of it!

Kevin Thorsteinson writes: "What numismatic item I would like to receive from my spouse? It would be for her to purchase something, anything that would indicate that she is actually interested in my hobby and would like to join in with me, rather than complaining that my coins are worth nothing since I won't ever sell them" - Hope we don't get you into trouble for publishing your name. If we didn't, there would be 2,000 collectors being accused by their spouses of writing it.

A SHORT PRIMER ON THE CANADIAN BANKING SYSTEM – PART 3

We told you previously of the \$40,000 that a woman turned into a bank, and promptly gave her a reward of \$2,000 for turning in the money that didn't belong to them. We now find out it was a branch of the TD Canada Trust bank on Kingston Rd; in Scarborough, Ontario.

It turns out the \$40,000 that was just sitting there on the street moments before, belonged to a security company, Securicor. It's interesting that a company that loses a bag of money on the street doesn't call the cops.

We don't know about you, but we don't hang around people that would lose \$40,000 and not report it to someone. Surely it is not recoverable from an insurance company if you don't report it stolen in the first place!

When a single cent drops out of our pocket in a parking lot, we will get down on our knees and look under every car until we find it. If it falls into a crack at the checkout counter and we have

our arms full of grocery bags, we would put all the bags down and get behind the checkout clerk to retrieve it, even risking back injury at our age bending over to pick it up. Don't even ask the trouble we would go through if a Tim Hortons quarter falls down a sewer grate!

But not reporting losing \$40,000?

I guess the company has so much cash to throw around (pun intended) that it's just petty cash. Why waste valuable time looking for such a piddly amount!"

TIPPING WITH CASINO CHIPS – PART 2

In the last C.N.A. E-Bulletin, we ask you to comment on the tip of a \$100 casino chip. We mentioned that the waitress was going to Las Vegas the following week and would be able to use it.

Although nobody chose to respond, no doubt a number of you were thinking that it sounded too much of a tip for a few drinks and that the waitress was lucky that the customer happened to have a \$100 chip from Las Vegas in his pocket.

Well, the customer actually got off cheap. What we didn't tell you is that the \$100 chip from Aladdin Casino is not only obsolete but also had a small hole punched in it that the waitress wouldn't know what it meant. The dealer had purchased the \$100 casino chip for \$5.00.

Wait until the waitress finds out that her \$100 chip cannot be cashed in!

For a list of obsolete casino chips, we suggest www.oldvegaschips.com/obsoletechips. Especially if you are a waitress or hold some other position in the service industry.

NUMISMATIC FORECASTS

We have seen all kinds of predictions on who in the movie and music industries is going to get married or divorced this year. Who will have babies. Fate of politicians. Predications about more floods and devastation and war. But we can't recall reading about any major numismatic predictions, so here is the deal:

Send us your predictions. We will review them and award prizes to the funniest. Note that no prizes are offered for serious predictions where we have to wait a year to find out if you were right. The "best" prediction(s) will receive 6 collectible catalogues donated by Charlton Press (original retail value over \$100), with lesser quantities for runners-up.

To give you the idea: "A professional numismatic grading service, not content with the current grading system, will introduce fractional grading. Henceforth, coins will be graded to a quarter of a point, thereby creating an additional 176 grades. The company stated in their press release that they will try to work within the confines of these numbers, however, they reserve the right to add additional fractions if it becomes necessary to drive the price up again at some future date."

Okay, your turn to e-mail cnanews@look.ca.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC), on their 30th anniversary. According to their recent bulletin, Timber Talk, editor Ross Kingdon is looking for ideas of what they could do to commemorate the event. Let's help them out, as well as any other group that is looking for ideas to commemorate their anniversary, by coming up with some unusual suggestions (other than wooden commemorative tokens that they will, no doubt, issue). Let us know at cnanews@look.ca and we will publish, and award prizes of a pile of wooden nickels, for the most interesting.

GET WELL

To Peter Kostyk following eye surgery for detached retinas.

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Gloria Peters on her recent passing. She was a founding member of Women in Numismatics (WIN) and served as the editor of their quarterly publication for a decade.

As a follow-up to the announcement of Al Rosen's passing in the last bulletin, Frank Fesco writes: May my condolences to Phyllis be added to those of others, for the loss of her husband and teammate, Al Rosen. To me, he was one of the best "diamonds in the rough" that I have ever met. In my four-year tour in Toronto, I got to know Al very well. His life struggles were always upward, and driving him was a well-shielded tender heart. He would profess never to have dealings with a person without there being something in it for him. Then, refute it by buying you a meal. My collection would never have been the same without him. Toronto and the numismatic fraternity there will miss him, no doubt, as I do.

LONG-TIME C.N.A. MEMBER APPOINTED TO VATICAN

Congratulations to long-time C.N.A. member Rev. Dr. Bernard J. O'Connor, formerly with the Political Science Department of Eastern Michigan University, who has commenced service with the administration of Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. He writes: "Don't hesitate to share the following with the C.N.A. E-Bulletin folks. They will be very surprised to learn of my relocation."

He tells us that the technical term for the Vatican administration is the Roman Curia of the Holy See. "I am, in Canadian terminology, equivalent to diplomatic attache. My responsibility is for concerns relative to a large segment (several million people) of the population of India, referred to in Catholic circles as the Syro-Malabar Rite."

It is expected that he will probably be assigned to teach international relations and diplomacy at one of the universities associated with the Church.

If any of his numismatic friends wish to drop him a note, send it to the C.N.A. Executive Secretary at the C.N.A., 4936 Yonge St., Suite 601, North York, On M2N 6S3 Canada. He will make sure it is forwarded to Rev. Dr. O'Connor. Something to do with privacy laws and the C.N.A. membership mailing list

PROMOTING CLUB MEETINGS THROUGH BUSINESS CARDS

Most coin clubs publish their full year's meeting dates in their January bulletin. A number distribute a business-card size card showing these dates. People carry it in their wallet or pin it onto their memo board as a very convenient way of remembering meetings. The Windsor Coin Club of Windsor, Ontario, for one, goes one step further.

A lot of people cover their refrigerator with memos of all kinds and sizes. But what goes ON TOP of these memos? A magnet! Because of the small size of these cards, the magnet covers up most, if not all, of the card. The Windsor Coin Club has made up a quantity of their meeting dates in business card-size with a magnetic backing. That way, nothing covers up the information.

If your club has some simple ideas and innovations, please pass them on to us at cnanews@look.ca.

IN PRAISE OF COIN CLUBS

A recent issue of The Centinel, official publication of the Central States Numismatic Society, included an article by Steve Ivy, co-chairman of Heritage Galleries, which gives praise to local coin clubs. The article reads, in part:

“Coin clubs are the foundation of the hobby and membership in them offers the best way to educate consumers. As more and more people come into our hobby because of the state quarter program, the fluctuation of the precious metals, and the new designs on our paper money, people need a way to learn about collecting. Coin Clubs are one of the best places to learn.”

Have you made a New Year's Resolution to attend more local coin club meetings?

IN PRAISE OF COIN DEALERS

When a coin dealer works at his profession all day long and also attends a fair number of coin shows on week-ends, most of them don't want anything more to do with it evenings, naturally wishing to spend some time with their family. We have great respect for the dealers who take the time to attend local coin club meetings, knowing that most of the time they will be lucky to cover the cost of gas, certainly not make a profit. So what can we suggest to show our appreciation to these dealers?

Most clubs purchase their draw prizes from a local coin dealer. When we attended a meeting of the Niagara Falls (Ontario) Coin Club some time ago, we found out that the club supported the dealers that set up at the meetings by making purchases from them. They take half of the proceeds of the door draw and purchases draw prizes from the dealers set up at the meeting, to use at subsequent meetings. This way, dealers are assured of some additional business if they set up at a meeting.

Or try this twist: Rather than seeing what dealers have available in the approximate prize range and working a deal with one of them, ask each dealer to put together a package for the amount of money available, then pick the best deal. By having a bit of friendly rivalry between the dealers, members are bound to get some better prizes in the draw.

MONEY IN THE NEWS

A 71-year old man by the name of Walter Jefferson, owner of Global Benefit Plan Consultants, won \$20,500 in 2002 at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto. A few days later, he won \$12.5 million in a lottery.

Last month, he admitted in court that he fabricated expense claims and service invoices involving his business over the past couple of years. He evaded \$187,547 in income tax, when he had over \$12 million in the bank. It's never enough, is it?

We can't make up our minds if the operative word is Greed or Stupidity. Or both.

RICHARD HATCH IN THE NEWS AGAIN

We no sooner had the above typed up when we heard that Richard Hatch, the original Survivor, had pleaded guilty to income tax evasion. He apparently “forgot” to declare the \$1 million he won on Survivor (I have to confess I have the same problem every time I win a million, which is why I cannot remember that I ever did).

Two thoughts come to mind: his accountant does not watch Survivor and didn't know; and apparently the IRS does because they did.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECORD

We recall hearing a couple of years ago that 9 members of the Tillsonburg (Ontario) Coin Club had perfect attendance record for the year, not missing a single meeting. What makes this rather unusual is that the total membership was only 29. That's almost a third of the membership. Each of them received a proof-like set of coins manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint.

If your local coin club has a similar story to tell, send us details and we will give them recognition here.

WELL-KNOWN TRADE TOKEN AUTHOR RETURNS HOME

After an absence of 4 years, C.N.A. member Serge Pelletier is back in Canada. Major Serge Pelletier, a Logistics Officer in the Canadian Army, originally received a posting to Washington, D.C. as a Canadian liaison. Serge was no stranger to liaising with the U.S. armed forces, having been awarded the United States Meritorious Service Medal and the United States Joint Service Commendation Medal. He has also been awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration. He later relocated to The Hague in Amsterdam in a similar capacity, where he was involved with directing military forces in the Middle East.

Serge is a world-renowned numismatist who is credited for the popularity of Canadian municipal trade tokens with collectors. He has authored five reference catalogues on the subject, which have become "bibles" for collectors. He was the President of the Association des Numismates Francophones du Canada from 1993 to 1995 and served as the First Vice-President of the Canadian Numismatic Association from 1995 to 1997.

His business partner, Ray Desjardins retired a few years ago after spending 35 years with Tourism Canada. His marketing expertise is quasi legendary. As for his municipal trade token experience, it dates back to 1979 when he established a mail order business specializing in serving municipal trade token collectors. He has contributed to several reference books on the subject. He is currently serving as 2nd Vice-President of the Ontario Numismatic Association and has been on the Executive of the Canadian Numismatic Association for several years. He currently serves as a C.N.A. Area Director.

They have recently released the first of their e-XONUMIA in a year containing interesting tidbits of information, including mentioning that the popular Manitoulin token values are going wild, the introduction of new terminology (do you know what "marked tokens" or "lottery marks" are?), contests, announcements and more. Subscribers to the complimentary e-XONUMIA will receive e-mail giving them the latest news on Canadian municipal trade tokens, scrip and medallions and merchant tokens and scrip (including Canadian Tire coupons). Or you can go to their Website at www.eligi.ca/bonavita to read it. If you wish them to e-mail you a copy as they are published or a copy of their free price list dealing mainly with Municipal trade tokens, e-mail them at info@eligi.ca.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

So did you take us up on our suggestion that you should renew your membership in clubs now rather than receiving a few reminders first? Or are you still letting the club executive worry about how many people will not be renewing?

The Waterloo (Ontario) Coin Society provided a little incentive to get people to renew sooner rather than later. At the January meeting, they conducted a draw for all members that have renewed by December 31. The prize is a gold coin. Okay, so it's only a 1/20th ounce gold coin that won't break the club's bank account, but it is a genuine gold coin. Struck at the Royal Canadian Mint, no less, so you know you got the best!

Part of the solution to replace the members that don't renew is some sort of a membership drive. A number of clubs award a prize to the person who signs up the most members in the course of a calendar year. A few clubs offer a dollar discount against a person's membership for every person they sign up. What did your club do as an incentive? Tell us at cnanews@look.ca.

ANY GREAT PROJECT MUST START SMALL

Barely had the C.N.A. President announced the formation of a C.N.A. Building Fund Committee when an envelope arrived at the C.N.A. office containing a cheque for \$100 designated as being for the C.N.A. Building Fund. Congratulations to C.N.A. life member and well-known U.S. dealer John Queen of Birmingham, Michigan for being the first to make a contribution.

Golly, if everyone receiving this were to donate \$100, ground breaking would take place at first Spring thaw rather than in a few years.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL MEETING DATES

Every year we attend local club meetings that hold a program that ties into their meeting date. The most obvious example is the club whose meeting falls on or near February 14, Valentine's Day. Their program invariably deals with coins, paper money, medals, tokens, wooden nickels, etc., containing angels, hearts...you get the idea. Then there are the special items for the draw. How about a heart-shaped box of chocolates? Or a pot of flowers? Roses are too expensive that time of the year.

Does anyone have a list of other special occasions that we can pass on to clubs for special programs? Like Halloween, which was actually written up in a recent ANA Numismatist (how many Dracula coins could their be, you ask?) Then there are all the different religious holidays falling on virtually every month of the year.

CHARITY GAINS TWICE

C.N.A. member John Abbott, a Michigan coin dealer, recently paid \$440 US to the Salvation Army for a VF 1901 Liberty Head \$20 gold coin that someone had dropped into a fundraising kettle over the holidays.

According to Numismatic News, he will be auctioning off the gold coin and, in a further generous move, donate the proceeds to the Salvation Army.

If you have a "feel good" item to pass along to us about a dealer, contact cnanews@look.ca so we can recognize them publicly.

CSNS ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR CONVENTION MEDALS

Our friends at the Central States Numismatic Society tell us that a 3-medal set will be produced to celebrate both the 66th anniversary convention of CSNS, May 5-8 in St. Louis, Mo. and the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

The set is struck in .999 fine proof finish silver with obverse portraits of Thomas Jefferson, Meriweather Lewis and William Clark. The advance sale price of \$50 for the set of three applies only until March 15. Be warned that after that date, it will cost you \$75. You can order them from Ray Lockwood, P.O. Box 93, Marion, IN 46952 U.S.A. His e-mail is sunrayofmarion@aol.com. You can also buy them at their upcoming convention, along with another set of 3 medals not available for advance sale.

For more information on CSNS and their convention go to www.centralstates.info.

GOLD EXPECTED TO RISE

The many dealers that are holding gold bullion will appreciate the latest survey conducted by Bloomberg News. It states that gold may gain on expectations that the rising cost of oil will accelerate inflation, boosting the appeal of precious metals as an alternative to stocks and bonds.

That may be so, but your editor is puzzled how they arrived at that conclusion. According to the news release, 26 of 48 traders, investors and analysts surveyed from Melbourne to New York recommended buying gold, which reached a 16-year high of \$458.70 (US) an ounce in December. Isn't 26 out of 48 so close to 50% that it could go either way?

The other statistic that caught our eye is the statement: "The majority of gold investors and analysts have correctly forecast the direction of gold prices in 24 of the 39 weeks since the Bloomberg Survey began." Again, isn't 24 out of 39 a break-even proposition at best once you deduct buyer's and seller's commissions and other overhead?

Just wondering!

GOLD REFINER MAKES UNUSUAL GOLD BARS

If you come across 1,000 gram gold bars with the name "Yokohama Metal" and their logo stamped on them, you have more than just 999.9 fine gold. You have a conversation piece.

The bars are made from recycled cellphones!

GOOD READS

We have always felt that we should do everything we can to help promote numismatic books. Not many self-publishers and small publishers make a living at it. So we are pleased to promote new books as well as older books offered at discount prices, as well as book dealers. We don't want to step on the toes of our friends at the Bibliography Society and their E-Sylum, but our mailing list, we are willing to bet, is substantially different. So if you have a self-published book or two to promote, drop us a note. We emphasize the fact that you do not have to be a member of the C.N.A. to get listed, nor do you have to make a copy available to the C.N.A. Lending Library, although we would appreciate it if you can afford to donate a copy. If you do, who knows, you might get it reviewed in the scholarly CN Journal! Here are our first offerings.

Our friend Greg Ingram has announced the release of a new book "The Tiffin Tokens of Canada" by Greg Ingram. It is pre-selling for \$50.00 Cdn. or \$40.00 U.S., plus \$4 shipping. This 96-page book, in full color, offers a complete look at this fascinating series of Pennies and Half Pennies.

A companion book, "Bust and Harp Tokens of Canada" by Greg Ingram and Branko Marelic is still available for \$40.00 Cdn. or \$34 U.S., plus \$3 shipping.

Both books can be ordered directly from Greg Ingram, P.O. Box 1272, Station "M", Calgary, AB T2P 2L2. His e-mail address is ingramgs@shaw.ca.

UPCOMING SHOWS

NUPHILEX is scheduled for Montreal, QC, for March 4 – 6, at the Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke Street West. Hours are Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coin and stamp auctions by Lower Canada Auctions. For more information, contact C.N.A. members Louis Chevrier (450) 448-3662 or Gabriel Sebag (514) 842-6898, e-mail info@nuphilex.com or go to <http://www.nuphilex.com>.

SUSPECT IN CUSTODY IN KILLING OF UTAH COIN DEALER

In Vol. 1 No. 1 of this bulletin, we told you about the murder of Utah coin dealer Jordan Allgood being featured on America's Most Wanted. The story was reprinted in the January 23, 2005 E-Sylum.

We are pleased to report that, according to the latest E-Sylum from the Bibliomania Society, police have charged a Las Vegas man who, they say, confessed to the murder. They credit a tip from the TV show America's Most Wanted that led them to 52 year old Daniel Robert Campbell, a convicted felon from Las Vegas.

Court documents show that Campbell confessed last week to St. George police, telling detectives that he "accidentally" shot Allgood with a revolver he had with him and then handcuffed the victim to prevent him from interfering in the robbery. Campbell also admitted to pawning a gold coin days after the murder in Las Vegas, which detectives later tracked down. And detectives say Campbell gave them details from the robbery, that only someone involved in the crime, could have known. But police believe there are more suspects still out there and are pursuing other leads in the case.

Daniel Campbell has been in jail in Las Vegas since September, after being arrested for burglary and credit card fraud. Prosecutors hope to have him extradited to Utah to face the murder charges.

Between the E-Sylum and the C.N.A. E-Bulletin, we knew we could ferret out the whole story. More proof that two heads are better than one!

CONCLUSION

Another one done. Next one is February 20. Hope you look forward to it as much as I enjoy bringing it to you!

Your C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor

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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