

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 4 – February 20, 2005

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for all the e-mails. Keep them coming, because that way we know that you actually read them rather than simply clicking on the “delete” button. But don’t mind if we don’t respond to your individual e-mails. Just sit back and wait for them to be published in a subsequent issue.

We told you in issue #2 that our distribution was 2,016. Because of additional requests to be added, we are now up to 2,045. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share some fun and fellowship with you!

A few people asked us about the “To” address this is addressed to. We originally set up folders for groups of e-mail addresses because of limitations of how many addressees you can send a message to at one time. For example, the first folder “CNA-A” contains all the e-mail addresses beginning with the letter “A” (as well as those starting with a number). Some letters have been combined, such as “CNA-VWXYZ.” The folder “CNA-NO” also includes addresses beginning with “P” (don’t ask!).

WE GOT MAIL

From Gail Baker: “Greetings and thanks for the new and informative e-publication from our friends to the North! The first issues have been warmly received and circulated here at the American Numismatic Association. Keep them coming!” (Gail Baker is Director of Education for the ANA) – Thanks for the kind words. I will use your memo as a reference when I apply for a position with the ANA’s Editorial Department that puts out the fantastic ANA Numismatist.

From Stan Turrini: “Let me add to chorus for the outstanding bulletins. I even print them out, punch them and put them into a binder.” (Stan Turrini is a Regional Director of the ANA and the Area Director for Western U.S.A. for the C.N.A.) – No one has complained that the E-Bulletins are too long, so you might have to get yourself a thicker binder before too long.

From Peter Smith: “In your recent issue you said, ‘We don’t want to step on the toes of our friends at the Bibliography Society.’ Also avoid stepping on toes at the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, a group with a similar name.” – Oops! You caught us. As you know doubt figured out, we actually meant the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, although we will try not to step on too many toes, no matter who they belong to.

From Dorothy C. Baber: “I edited a SMALL monthly bulletin for our local San Diego (CA) society for nearly 40 years...and finally found a replacement....so can understand what you are doing. Keep up the good work.” – Congratulations on finding a replacement. I hope it won’t take me quite so long to find my replacement. Incidentally, see one of the columns below that deals with who we are impressed by.

From Art Matz: “I appreciate you sending the bulletin. After I have enjoyed reading them I’ll have them put in the LANSAs library. From Lansa’s experience I can attest that the Internet is the way to go for keeping going and growing. In the past few years easily 3/4ths of our new members have joined through the web site - learning about LANSAs from the web and getting their application there.” (Art Matz is the President of the Latin American Paper Money Society) – The

Internet is an inexpensive way to promote. So is sending out a bulletin via e-mail, but very few clubs are doing it!

From Peter Smith: "Perhaps you could include contact information at the bottom of each newsletter. I don't think hitting 'reply' is the best method." – Agreed, especially since we did not set it up to receive return e-mails that way and it will also avoid sending back ten pages of the bulletin with your response. We will remind people at the bottom of each bulletin, starting with this one.

From Donn Pearlman: "This is a tardy, overdue, delinquent (insert here the appropriate adjective of your choice) note to say, "Thank you," for the informative e-mailed CNA newsletters. Your first edition in January mentioned former American Numismatic Association President and CNA friend, Kenneth E. Bressett. I thought you might like to see a bit of fun with the hobby (and news media) Ken and I had recently. It involves a 'UFO coin' -- well, a 'UFO jeton,' anyway. You can see it all at this web address: www.emediawire.com/releases/2005/1/emw202359" (Donn Pearlman was a member of the ANA Board of Governors from 1989 – 1993 and is now President of Minkus & Pearlman Public Relations, Inc.) – We went to the Website and can't figure it out, either. We were going to invent something and call it a "quazzel" but then we would have to come up with a serious answer what it means, but we are forbidden to publish anything too serious here under threat of castration. You can understand that, Donn, because you publish a very humorous column in the ANA Numismatist yourself! The wire service article about the jeton reads, in part: "It was made in the 1680s in France and the design on one side certainly looks like it could be a flying saucer in the clouds over the countryside," said Kenneth E. Bressett of Colorado Springs, Colorado, a former President of the 32,000-member American Numismatic Association and owner of the curious coin. Is it supposed to be a UFO of some sort, or a symbolic representation of the Biblical Ezekiel's wheel? After 50 years of searching, I've heard of only one other example of it, and nothing to explain the unusual design. Some people think the Old Testament reference to Ezekiel's wheel may actually be a description of a long-ago UFO. The legend written in Latin around the rim is also mystifying. 'OPPORTUNUS ADEST' translates as 'It is here at an opportune time.' It is part of the lure of numismatics that makes coin collecting so intriguing." Okay, E-Bulletin readers, go to the Website and see if you can help identify the design? If you can't be serious, at least be funny. Serious answers get passed along to Donn. Funny answers get the prize of some collectible books as well as a flight on the first UFO to land on earth if we can arrange it.

From Tony Swicer: "I am president of the Palm Beach Coin Club. We currently have 255 members. I have been president for the last 21 years. I am also a board member of FUN and I am the club liaison for FUN, writing a monthly newsletter to all member clubs. I am also the ANA district delegate for SE Florida. I started collecting coins in 1959. I became a full time coin dealer in 1981. I work in a coin shop and we get customers coming in with off the wall stories that are funny. I tell these stories at the coin club every meeting. Here is an example; A lady says to me, "I have a buffalo nickel and it is in excellent condition, what is it worth?" I ask, "What is the date?" She says, "I don't know. It's worn off." I have 100 stories like this on my computer. - Tony sent us three contributions so far and some information about himself, at our request. One of the articles was so serious that we had to send it over to the editor of the C.N.A. Journal since we refuse to raise our standards to that level. One of the other two is reprinted in this bulletin, which certainly is good enough to qualify for a prize. We are sending him a selection of 6 different collectibles catalogues donated by Charlton Press.

From Gar Travis: "I thought you may like to have this to send to those who inquire about more information on Reverend O'Connor's appointment." (Gar Travis is ANA Assistant National Coordinator and Regional Coordinator Region 10/Worldwide) – Thanks for passing on the press release. Obviously, the Associated Press felt it was important enough to publish it around the world. And so did we. After all, one of the main reasons for this E-Bulletin is to honor people involved with numismatics that are doing "good deeds." Excerpts of the press release are reproduced next. Even if you don't know him, you have to be impressed.

VATICAN DRAFTS EMU PRIEST

As papal adviser, he'll work with Catholics on Middle East issues - Associated Press.

At precisely 8 o'clock every weekday morning for the past decade, Father Bernard J. O'Connor has bought himself a cup of coffee at McKenny Union on the Eastern Michigan University campus. He sits in the quiet early hours to chat with his faculty colleagues and to start on his self-imposed "20-a-day rule." He will introduce himself to at least 20 new people walking Eastern Michigan's campus each day. That routine is about to change — in a big way — for the most-recognized Roman Catholic priest, lawyer, professor, adviser and arbitrator on the Eastern Michigan campus. O'Connor's never-met-a-stranger philosophy, his breadth of education and his international training in peacekeeping and conflict resolution have landed him a papal appointment in Rome.

As a papal adviser in the area of Vatican diplomacy, he'll work with the Catholic population on issues in Iraq, Iran, Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries. O'Connor leaves for Rome later this month. The term of his Vatican appointment is open-ended.

Known on the Eastern Michigan campus as Father Bernie, Dr. Bernie or just Bernie, O'Connor is the only known Roman Catholic priest who has been a professor at the university. He's a popular teacher and he's won dozens of awards for his work, including Michigan Professor of the Year from the Carnegie Foundation/Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. But he's also known as someone who answers 2 a.m. phone calls from students, a mediator of sensitive subjects and a clergyman who stands in the pulpits of other denominations to talk about religious tolerance and conflict resolution.

O'Connor holds several degrees and certificates, including bachelor's, master's, doctorate and law degrees. While he was teaching at the University of Tennessee, O'Connor enrolled in law school, where he earned a degree in 1994. "I decided, oh, well, the law school is across the street, I have a canon law degree, why not pick up something in secular law? It would make me more broad. That was my motive," he said.

Attached primarily to the political science department at Eastern Michigan, O'Connor has taught a broad roster of graduate and undergraduate classes, from business law to the fundamentals of mediation to international relations and world religions and history. He has divided his time teaching and working as an assistant dean within the College of Arts and Sciences, where he advises students on academics. "What it amounts to is two full-time jobs," O'Connor said, without a hint of complaint.

O'Connor has lived in the same cinder block university-owned apartment on the edge of campus for a decade — he's sure he holds the record for the most years lived consecutively in student housing. It's kept him close to campus, students and his work. "It allows me to wander the campus and to live among students," he said. And it's reasonable. Like a priest to his parish, O'Connor sees himself as being on call to students 24 hours a day. He lets students know on

the first day of class that they can call him at home until midnight with a standard question or concern, and any time after that if it's pressing.

O'Connor doesn't wear clerical garb on campus and does not introduce himself as a priest. In fact, many students don't know. As someone who has taught philosophy of the Constitution, he understands well the separation between church and state. "Separation of church and state does not mean members of the clergy don't have civil rights. You can hire anybody, and I'm part of the anybody," he said. "You can be a witness of your conviction and belief without imposing it on other people. By doing as good a job as you are able, you are witnessing to your values."

Locally, he's a member of the board of directors of the Dispute Resolution Center and he's developed programs in this area and nationally in church-related conflict management. He's been called upon to resolve conflict on campus, said Professor Rhonda Kinney Longworth, chair of the political science department at Eastern. When Ypsilanti's gay rights ordinance was debated on campus and Right to Life protesters came to Eastern, O'Connor was there not to add his opinion, but to mediate, Longworth said. "He speaks to people's rights to hold opinions and he speaks to other people's rights to object. He works to get people to respect each other's rights to live in a university community and he demonstrates this with his own behavior."

O'Connor will take that successful approach to a much larger stage when working with Middle Eastern countries in his new Vatican appointment. Catholics in those countries have different rituals and practices than Catholics elsewhere, O'Connor said. "I will work to foster an understanding within the Catholic Church about the incredible diversity in these eastern countries. The vestments are different, the vocabulary is different. There's a different look. I will work to foster a better understanding."

TIPPING WITH CASINO CHIPS – PART 3

In the last C.N.A. E-Bulletin, we mentioned that the waitress that was going to Las Vegas got cheated out of a tip because the \$100 casino chip turned out to be obsolete and, therefore, worthless.

We no sooner had e-mailed out the issue than an episode of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation featured a character with \$10,000 worth of chips in his hand outside a Las Vegas casino. He asked a couple of tourists to cash them for him because he was not allowed into the casino. They agreed and as collateral, so they did not abscond with the \$10,000 in cash, let the man hold \$2,000 of their money. They went inside to cash the chips and were told they were worthless because they were obsolete. The couple ran outside to get their \$2,000 back. We don't have to tell you that the gentleman was nowhere to be found.

Although a close-up was shown in the CSI episode of the denomination side, no casino name was visible.

TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2005

by Mark Argentino

1. RCM announces withdrawal of 1 cent coins in Canada, citing the fact that it now costs 29.43 cents to mint a 1 cent coin
2. PCGS gives highest grade possible for a mint coin, a 2005 one cent proof coin graded MS70.000000001
3. US Grading service finalizes top grade for a bank note as: "The Finest Superior Ultra Perfect Absolutely the Best Ivy League Choice Superb Gem UNC67"

4. 2005 was a record year as two NCLT coin sets issued by mints around the world were worth more than issue price by year end
5. Canadian Coin News broke all records and in June of 2005 printed a 360-page issue. 320 pages had pictures of every current and past employee of the RCM and Bank of Canada
6. Cost cutting measures by the RCM to reduce metallic content of circulating coins has gone so far that by the end of 2005 all coins in Canada are now 99.99999999999999% steel and plated with 0.000000000000001 nickel
7. RCMP seize \$7.8 billion in counterfeit \$5 notes by April of 2005 and Canadian Federal Government gives final approval to conversion of Canadian Paper money from paper to polymer notes by end of 2005
8. 5 Nines no longer, the RCM officials have announced 27 Nines for their new gold coins of 2005, officials stated that "refining methods have improved to the point where they can produce gold coins that are 99.9999999999999999999999999999 % pure." Scientists around the world are now re-calibrating their equipment to measure the accuracy of this statement of purity.
9. America's Most Wanted features an episode on "Canadian 1921 50 Cent coin"
10. Young numismatist joins local coin club. In 2004 the average age of Canadian coin club members was 66.3 but thanks to a youngster joining in June of 2005 the average age dropped to 65.9 years of age.

MORE NUMISMATIC FORECASTS

Lyle Schroeder writes: "The RCM will do a remake of the production run of the 1859 Large Cent, including all varieties. Each coin will cost a mere \$49.00. There is expected to be over 400 varieties, the RCM reserves the right to introduce new varieties, if they feel the collecting public needs them." – Well, now, considering the trend has already started to reissue some designs and they sold out if memory serves us right, and if you add the fact that the National Currency Museum is selling numerous reproductions of ancient coins, you might find your prediction isn't that far off. Except for the number of varieties, of course.

A SHORT PRIMER ON THE CANADIAN BANKING SYSTEM – PART 4

We have been telling you about the \$40,000 that a single woman with six kids found, turned it into a bank it did not belong to who gave her \$2,000 for her honesty, only to be told that the money would have to be repaid out of her welfare payments.

It keeps getting better. Or is it weirder?

When the woman, who has been identified as Debbie Peliti, first turned the money in, tellers barely had time to take it all in when she was back, this time to turn in more bills she'd found blowing in the Scarborough (Ontario) wind.

The woman receives \$1,000 a month in social assistance, which she was told would be cut back until they had "clawed back" the \$2,000. To some members of the provincial New Democratic Party caucus, this seemed like a naughty thing for a government to do. If we want to encourage people to be honest, they suggested, why pick on them when their niceness is rewarded?

That's how she wound up at Queen's Park, location of the Ontario Provincial Parliament, for a standing ovation from the elected politicians, a quick word with a gushingly grateful Premier Dalton McGuinty and a commitment from Minister Sandra Pupatello, the Minister responsible for doling out welfare funds, that she would be allowed to keep her reward.

Meanwhile back at Securicor, the company that lost the money in the first place, a spokesman said the firm has launched an internal investigation into how the money went astray, in hopes of ensuring that in future no one will be required to undergo such a degree of temptation.

We wonder if the collective wisdom of the recipients of this C.N.A. E-Bulletin can suggest to the company how they can prevent losing money like that in future. As usual, the funniest answer(s) sent to cnanews@look.ca will receive a set of 6 different collectible books donated by Bill Cross of Charlton Press. No reward for serious stuff.

IAPN ANNOUNCES 2004 BOOK PRIZES

Ursula Kampmann, Secretary of the PR Committee of the International Association of Professional Numismatists, advises us that on October 7, 2004, Arthur Friedberg, president of IAPN, gave the IAPN Book Prize for 2004 to Christian Dekesel honoring his book "A Bibliography of 17th Century Numismatic Books." The ceremony was held on the occasion of the annual Coinex Party organized by the British Numismatic Trade Association. More than 150 people were present, when Dekesel accepted the certificate, silver medal and the cash award of 3,500 Swiss francs.

The second prize was given to the third volume of the Repertorium zur neuzeitlichen Münzprägung Europas featuring the coinage of the Imperial district of Franconia. This publication of the Vienna Institute for Numismatics and Money History "lost" by only one vote! The third prize was awarded to the new edition of Jean Duplessy's Monnaies Françaises Féodales, Volume I.

Christian Dekesel and his wife Yvette traveled at their own cost all over Europe in order to collect the information on early numismatic literature which formed the basis for his book. Therefore, it was only a small tribute to a great labor when Dekesel was honored for his monumental work that was published in 2003 by Spink of London and George Kolbe of California in three volumes.

For years Dekesel has been dedicating his energy to old numismatic books. His single-volume Bibliography of 16th Century Numismatic Books appeared in 1997 and is now out of print. Unabated, he is working already on his next work, a five-volume catalogue of all numismatic books from the 18th century. He is planning to publish this in 2009.

The IAPN Book Prize is awarded annually. The vote will take place this year at the IAPN General Assembly in San Diego, California from May 23-26. Books taking part in this competition can only be nominated by members of the IAPN. Authors who have published a book between January 2004 and March 2005 and who want it considered, should contact an IAPN member as soon as possible. A directory of IAPN members is available from lapnsecret@copmpuserve.com. All books must be sent to Allan Davisson, Cold Spring, MN 56320-1050.

WHO IMPRESSES YOU?

You know who impresses us? Editors!

Editors of local coin club newsletters. Editors of regional bulletins. Editors of national and international association publications. And, more recently, Editors of E-Bulletins.

That's why we are willing to give them a pat on the back...if you nominate them and give us a brief resume. Send the name of the editor, name of the organization and something about

his/her background (i.e. size of publication, frequency, how long the editor has been doing the gig, what percentage is their own creation as opposed to articles received from others, etc.), along with your thoughts why they are above average, to cnanews@look.ca.

Note that this is not meant to replace the Best Bulletin and Best Editor awards awarded by the C.N.A., ANA and regional numismatic associations, but to recognize the people that spend countless hours...with very little recognition.

Mind you, we are also impressed with anyone that has served as president of a coin club for 21 years, is a board member and club liaison of a regional association, writes a monthly club newsletter, serves as an ANA district delegate, and still finds time to be a full time coin dealer. (If this doesn't sound familiar, reread the "We have Mail" section near the beginning.)

TOP 15 REASONS YOU KNOW IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF COINS

by Tony Swicer

15. You are buying large silver bars with a 16X magnifying glass.
14. You are planning your retirement based on steel cents, Susan B. Anthony dollars, and Sacagawea dollars.
13. The coin club meeting interferes with the "earlybird special" at your restaurant.
12. All your coins come back from PCGS worth less than the certification costs.
11. The ANACS grader tells you "you need your eyes examined and a color blindness test too"
10. You are hoarding the golden Sacagawea dollar until the price of gold goes up.
9. You repeatedly show up at the coin club meeting on the wrong night.
8. You tend to over grade gold foil coin candy.
7. Saginaw dollar, Saskatchewan dollar, Dah...What's a Red book? Dah...What's a Red Book?
6. You take more pills than you have coins.
5. You collect tokens and medals, but when asked about Exonumia, you say, "My doctor cleared that up years ago".
4. The coin club meeting starts at 7PM, and that's past your bedtime.
3. You have an impressive collection of Red books, and you ask, "I heard that some Indian cents are worth more than others. How can you tell which ones those are?"
2. Too much Jeweluster is found in your blood stream.
1. Your sister dated the Indian on the buffalo nickel.

HELP WANTED FOR ONLINE CANADIAN PAPER MONEY FORUM

As a personal venture with support from many other collectors, Brent Mackie has created the Online Canadian Paper Money Museum, an online collection intended to make Canadian paper money interesting, especially to non-collectors. Major exhibit categories include sets, rare notes, errors, special numbers and stories. Since it is just starting out, it only has a small number of exhibits at this time.

He is currently looking for help and is asking anyone with some paper money that might be interesting to collectors and non-collectors alike, or something you just think might work well in the Museum, to contact him for more information.

As well, he is also looking for someone to assist him by writing up small 100-250 word descriptions about new exhibits in such a way that visitors to the Website will be excited and will understand the significance of the exhibit. Although an unpaid volunteer position, full credit will be given on the Website.

Brent Mackie can be contacted at bwjm@gto.net for full particulars.

IAPN ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

The International Association of Professional Numismatists has established a new Website, www.iapn-coins.org.

The Website contains the history of the dealers' association and contact information and specialties for all IAPN member dealers. Also listed is a schedule of all upcoming auction sales by IAPN members as well as press releases concerning activities of the organization.

CLEANED AND IRONED NOTES ON EBAY

It is reported in the London Numismatic Society (LNS) bulletin that a number of Scottish bank notes that were donated by the Royal Bank of Scotland have benefited the Scottish Society for Autism charity to the tune of around £40,000. The notes were listed "as received over the counter...the notes have not been 'improved' before being sold."

They further state that it is now reported that "a number of notes purchased have reappeared on eBay, but regretfully many have now been doctored by cleaning and/or ironing." The writer states; "It is a pity that such a unique opportunity for collectors to have access to so many unspoiled notes has now been lost."

The LNS bulletin asks members to comment on this. If any recipients of this E-Bulletin wish to comment to cnanews@look.ca, we will publish them here as well as passing them on to the LNS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY COINage MAGAZINE

A friend recently passed along a copy of COINage Magazine with the comment that they have been in existence for 40 years. Congrats!

The C.N.A. E-Bulletin is now 5 weeks old!

CIBC IN THE HOT SEAT AGAIN

Those of you that not only collect Canadian chartered bank notes but also like to keep up-to-date on the juicy behind-the-scenes stuff, here is a report on some recent unwanted headlines.

It was previously reported in the press that late last year the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) apologized for sending dozens of the bank's confidential faxes to a West Virginia junkyard. Then they apologized for sending faxes to a Montreal business. The next day, the bank had to apologize again when one of its cash machines in New Brunswick dispensed Canadian Tire money instead of \$20 bills.

Since we know that all good things come in threes, that should take care of things, right?

Wrong!

Up to 3,061 President's Choice Financial customers have received erroneous tax reassessments from the Canada Revenue Agency after the federal tax collector was mistakenly told they had cashed in part of their RRSPs. The reassessments marked another foul-up involving CIBC, which administers PC Financial's banking services venture with the Loblaw Cos. Ltd. grocery chain through CIBC's Amicus Bank unit.

Canada Revenue and the bank are trying to sort out the mess. The Toronto Star's business reporter says that Archie Kwan, a PC Financial customer, received a \$479.04 tax bill last week claiming he cashed in \$2,152.57 from his retirement savings plan at PC Financial. Quite impossible, because he only had \$11.09 in the account. He only kept this account as a way to make last-minute contributions if needed for tax reasons. In the Notice of Reassessment from Canada Revenue, the federal tax collector demands \$456.77 in back taxes, plus \$22.27 interest by February 6 or more interest will be charged. After meeting with CIBC last week, the federal department said all the cases will be reassessed and new notices sent to PC Financial customers. CIBC said the mistake occurred due to "an error in the data file."

PC Financial, a joint venture between CIBC's Amicus Bank and the Loblaw Cos. Ltd. grocery chain, told Canada Revenue that Kwan had made the withdrawal from his account sometime in 2003. It even told the agency that Kwan had paid \$212.22 (10 percent) in taxes at the time of the withdrawal. On that basis, Ottawa calculated that Kwan still owed the government \$479.04 in back taxes and interest from the 2003 tax year, and sent him a bill. This happened with no human involvement. And this incident is just one of 3,061 stories!

In case you forgot, this is the same bank that dismissed a rogue Vancouver employee at their CIBC Mellon Global Securities Co. division, who allegedly participated in a stock scam linked to the Hells Angels biker gang. As well, a former trading desk supervisor at CIBC World Markets Inc. in Toronto has been ordered by regulators to pay penalties of more than \$500,000 for his part in a scheme that used the bank's money to make illicit trades. He received a lifetime ban from the securities industry.

CIBC has also settled with regulators in the U.S. and Canada over its unhappy involvement with Enron Corp. and its entanglement in Eliot Spitzer's probe of widespread misconduct in the U.S. mutual fund industry. They agreed to pay \$5 million for failing to cooperate with regulators probing whether it accepted bribes from a now-defunct telecommunications company. They did not admit to the allegations by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission...but paid the \$5 million anyway. Hmmm!

As well, on Tuesday, February 15, it was announced that CIBC again apologized to customers after a computer glitch left clients unable to get account balances. A spokesman said an operating software problem in the bank's computers Monday night halted the bank's nightly clearing of transactions, creating a backlog that left it unable to update bank balances on Tuesday. Each night, after normal business hours, the bank catches up on the millions of transactions handled during the day.

Okay, enough. We think that this is more than you needed to know as a paper money collector! Except if you own shares in CIBC, you need no longer wonder why the stock went down in value!

PAWNSHOP OWNER PAYS \$600 FOR FAKE GOLD BAR

The Toronto Star reports that the police are looking for a man after a downtown Toronto pawnshop owner paid \$600 for a fake gold bar.

Police say the seller, described as 5-foot-7 with black hair, approached the pawnshop dealer on January 5, claiming the bar was worth \$2,300. The dealer discovered it was fake after the seller had left the store. Police said the man had tried to sell the bar at several other shops.

The "white gold" bar, 7.6 by 2.5 centimeters, had a gold circle plate with "S UBS G" on the face and "Union Bank of Switzerland, 100g, White Gold, 750, 737218," on the reverse.

GIFT EXCHANGE

What were some of the weirdest presents you saw being opened at your local coin club's Christmas....excuse us, Holiday....Dinner Meeting. You know, the mandatory December meeting that served the mandatory Swiss Chalet quarter chicken with the mandatory ignoring of all things business and with the mandatory gift exchange?

Tell us at cnanews@look.ca. The person with the weirdest items they saw will receive some collectibles books donated by Charlton Press.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH 20 TONS OF CHANGE

A few years ago, we read that thieves had stolen a tractor-trailer full of French copper francs. To our knowledge, they were never recovered. We always wondered what the thieves would do with them.

We now read that a truck with 3.6 million 5-cent pieces on its way to New Orleans went missing. The \$180,000 worth of nickels, weighing 45,000 pounds, were not in the truck when it was recovered 4 days later at a truck stop in Fort Pierce, Florida, but the majority have now been recovered.

Judging by the fact that the price of copper has hit a 16-year high, wouldn't the thieves have been better off to steal a truckload full of cents instead?

Although it is not our intention to give thieves ideas, we like to know what you would do with over 20 tons of U.S. 5-cent pieces. Other than melting them, you only need one in lieu of a screwdriver. And how many washers can you use? With circuit breakers, you don't even need them to stick in your fuse box when you run out of fuses (oh, sorry, you need 1-cent pieces for that).

Send your ideas to cnanews@look.ca. The serious suggestions will be acknowledged in the next E-Bulletin. The funniest will receive a section of collectibles books donated by Charlton Press.

NEW BOOK ON WAMPUM AVAILABLE

Frank Fesco advises that a new book about wampum, in French with a high percentage English from quoted sources, has just been published by Jonathan C. Lainey. It is titled: "La Monnaie des Sauvages" and resulted from his Master's thesis in History at Laval University in 2003. Although Lainey is not a numismatist, he is a Huron-Wendat, and enthusiastic about his fascinating subject. He is currently weaving a modern wampum belt. The book is available for \$30 at Chapters. In his e-mail, Frank highly recommends the book.

In searching the Indigo/Chapters Website, we were unable to locate it, possibly because it is rather new.

CMNS PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT MEETING AT TOREX

Dan Stepaniuk, the director of publicity for the Classical and Medieval Numismatic Society, has extended an invitation to everyone to attend their meeting on Saturday, February 26, in conjunction with Torex, a highly regarded Toronto coin show. The show will be held at the Radisson Admiral Hotel, Toronto Waterfront, 249 Queen's Quay West, in downtown Toronto.

The CMNS meeting will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the "Rain Dance Room." The keynote speaker will be Bruce R. Brace who will give a slide illustrated paper on "Portraiture on Roman Coins." Brace has been specializing in coins of the Roman world since 1954.

Brace is a life member of the CNA and a member of the ANA and ANS. He has served on the C.N.A. executive in various capacities. He is a fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society and of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society. Mr. Brace is the honorary curator of the Numismatic Collections at the McMaster University Museum of Art. He is a recipient the J. Douglas Ferguson Gold Medal, awarded to him at the C.N.A. Convention in 1984.

In addition to listening to a good speaker with a historical presentation, if you have any ancient or medieval coins you wish identified or authenticated, this is the meeting to which you should bring them. There will be numerous "experts" on hand to assist you at no cost.

Details about CMNS can be obtained from their Website at www.cmns.ca.

MASC SOLICITING MEDALLIC ART FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY

The Medalliac Art Society of Canada is soliciting material for a display at the Canadian Sculpture Centre to replace the exhibit that is currently on view. Linda Mazur-Jack of MASC tells us that submissions for the new exhibit are being accepted from MASC members between now and April 1, limited to two medals per member. The new exhibit in MASC's Permanent Display at the CSC commences at the end of April 2005.

This sounds like a wonderful way for an up-and-coming artist to get their name and work out there. One of the stipulations is that the medals must be for sale, with the artist getting the majority of the selling price (a portion will go to cover the overhead of the Canadian Sculpture Centre and 10% to support the efforts of MASC in their determination to promote the art of the medal).

For full information on how to submit your original medalliac work, e-mail newcar@sympatico.ca. They will also provide information on how to join MASC. Even if you are not exhibiting, you might want to contact them about membership information.

ANA OFFERS EDUCATIONAL NUMISMATIC COURSES

Gail Baker, Director of Education of the American Numismatic Association has asked us to let our readers know that the ANA offers educational numismatic courses both at their headquarters in Colorado Springs and around the country. If you are not a member of the ANA, contact her at baker@money.org for a complimentary copy of the January issue of the ANA Numismatist containing the complete course catalogue. You can also go to www.money.org.

Incidentally, if you are not currently a member of the ANA, why is that? They publish a fantastic Journal containing....well, get yourself a sample and you will agree with us that it is money well spent!

CONCLUSION

Another one done! Thank you for allowing us into your home again. See you March 1!

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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