

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 12 – April 10, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

Beware of this Scam: Probably more than most, I just hate people who forward too many warnings, but this one is important! Send this warning to everyone on your e-mail list!

If someone comes to your front door saying they are conducting a survey on deer ticks and asks you to take your clothes off and dance around to shake off the ticks, do NOT do it! IT IS A SCAM; they only want to see you naked!

I wish I'd gotten this yesterday. I feel so stupid now.

WE HAVE MAIL

Mark Argentino writes: "This past Wednesday, at two minutes and three seconds after 1:00 A.M., the time and date was: 01:02:03 04/05/06. That won't ever happen again in our lifetime. Amazing what people spend their time doing these days. I thought this was very cool, kind of like Haley's comet back in '86. It'll be seen again in '61, for some of us at least!" - Thanks for your non-numismatic contribution, Mark. It has been going around the Internet, but The Toronto Star published the following letter:

From Joel G. Berson: "01:02:03 04/05/06 will only happen in the United States. Only Americans use the numerical Month/Day/Year format. Most of the rest of the world, including Canada, use the Day/Month/Year format. The U.S. format is becoming an illegitimate norm in Canada, mainly because our computers and software are American in origin and the date is defaulted to mm/dd/yyyy. It can be changed. The other major format is Year/Month/Day which eliminates any ambiguity, which is also referred to as NATO format. So our 'never again' will happen at 2 minutes and 3 seconds after 1 a.m. on Thursday, 4 May 2006 (01:02:03 04/05/06)."

From J.W. Courter: "Hi! I am a member of the CNA, collecting for many years. Decided to sell my dollars with many in the 1935-1949 era; several 47s and 48s. American Numismatic Rarities will include my coins in their auction on June, 2006. They publish a wonderful catalog! The sale will be held in Rosemont, Illinois at the Doubletree Hotel, 5460 N. River Rd., 847-292-9100. ANR is the official auctioneer of the MidAmerica Coin Expo. Sale to be held June 21-23 with a consignment deadline of April 26. For more information please contact ANR at PO Box 1804, Wolfeboro, NH 03894. 866-811-1804, 603-569-0823." - Well now, we just had to publish that because it is very unusual to actually have the consignor help do the promoting. It might just catch on!

From George A. Heaven: "Post Office employees are not doing their work. Please see the postage stamps I am enclosing that were on the parcel you sent. They did not even cancel them. I happened to go to the Post Office today for a supply of stamps and I mentioned it to the clerk serving me. He said: 'That happens often, save them and use them again.' This advice from a government servant!" - Thanks for the return of the non-canceled stamps. I didn't even realize that stamps were put on our package. We drop off a pile of parcels and letters at my friendly franchise Canada Post outlet at Centerpoint Mall and come back the next day to give them a cheque. I don't have to wait in line or for the weighing. I thought they used a computer generated printout with the amount printed on it. There is still a future for postage stamp collectors after all!

FIRST TIM HORTONS, NOW SHOPPERS DRUG MART AND PHARMAPRIX

Over the past year, we wrote quite a bit about the Royal Canadian Mint and the Poppy Quarter that was distributed originally through Tim Hortons (if you in the U.S. and around the world don't know who Tim Hortons is by now, you haven't been paying attention).

Now the RCM has partnered with Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix to distribute a new circulating colored quarter. A collaboration of the RCM and Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, the first of the up to 30 million went into circulation on April 1.

You remember the criticisms Tim Hortons received about the fact that you had to make a purchase before you received a Poppy quarter as change, even though the commercials said you did not? Or the fact that they would not give you more than one in change, even when you bought coffees for the whole office or coin club? Or were out of stock when they saw you coming in again to buy a coffee just to get another one, even though your friends went in 10 minutes later and received one from a bunch that mysteriously appeared from one of the compartments in the cash register?

My wife went to Shoppers Drug Mart on April 7, made a purchase and was asked how many of the new pink-ribbon coins she wanted.

We would be interested in finding out your own experience with the pink-ribbon coin. Let us know at cnanews@look.ca.

Incidentally, anyone that does not have a Shoppers Drug Mart or Pharmaprix in their neighborhood (as if there is such a place in Canada) can obtain them from the Royal Canadian Mint in special collector wrapping from www.mint.ca.

WHAT THOROUGH CHECKS BY CREDIT CARD COMPANIES - PART TWO

In the March 20 C.N.A. E-Bulletin, we told you about a radio phone-in caller that had filled in a credit card application with "Save A. Tree" as motivation to the company to consider the destruction of natural resources because of unsolicited mass mailing.

In picking up the Sunday Sun last week, the following headline caught my eye: "Sylvia Rose, a retired senior, started collecting credit cards." My first reaction was that I thought that a column about a numismatic collectible in a mass circulation newspaper was good the hobby. But, alas, the next line of the headline changed things: "Now the banks would like to collect \$100,000 from her."

Over the past decade, partly due to the bizarre offers of major credit card companies, Sylvia Rose has amassed, along with a fortune in debt, 17 major credit cards. This included Canadian Tire, Royal Bank, Capital One, MasterCard and an American Express Card with a \$25,000 limit against which she had run up \$32,000. But not a Diners Club because they declined her application.

A collection agency for American Express offered her a deal. If she came up with \$17,603.70, they would forget the difference of the \$32,000 she owed them. Their letter noted she could "pay by various methods, including either cheque or Visa."

I have a question: If the collection agency knew she was such a bad risk and offered to take her Visa information, wouldn't that, in the world that I grew up, be called trying to stiff the competition?

MORE PROOF THAT MONEY RUINS FRIENDSHIPS

Didn't we tell you so many times before that winning a lottery is a terrible thing?

The last example I gave through these pages was in the March 20 issue that mentioned that a winner was being sued by a life-long friend for half of the \$5 million lottery win. Another recent example was the winner that was being sued by his ex-wife when he tried to keep the winning from a ticket he purchased while they were still legally married.

The winner of Canada's biggest individual lottery jackpot of \$30 million has come forward and is claiming that he has been "vilified" by the media over the past two years that has left him close to leaving the country. Raymond Sobeski said although he expected his life would be somewhat disrupted by the massive windfall, he had no idea of the extent of the ugliness he would be exposed to.

"I've go to the point where I am vilified throughout the country," he told The Toronto Star. "It may be proportional to the amount of the win, but I've heard many horror stories of lottery winners having to change their name and leave the country."

I wonder if the fact that he has been embroiled in a lawsuit brought by his ex-wife, who is claiming half of his winnings, had anything to do with it? Or his libel suit against The Globe and Mail and one of its reporters, who he accused of libeling him in a story published last December 19? Or the furor over the resurfacing of two former wives and a woman claiming to be married to him? Or that he waited just before the year for claiming the prize was up?

Nah, let's blame the press!

GETTING PEOPLE TO LOOK AT COINS

The Royal Canadian Mint is to be congratulated on their innovations and contributions to the success of coin collecting.

Following the success of the recent Poppy quarter, to mark breast cancer awareness month in October, the Mint has released a quarter with a pink ribbon on the reverse.

Also this year, the Mint is going to release a circulating 10th anniversary Toonie with the dual dates 1996-2006 and a polar bear with a sun behind it.

And, according to an article in Canadian Coin News, the Mint may soon replace the P for plated mintmark with its own logo, which may be an M inside a circle.

Personally, I have given one of each coin to all my and my wife's relatives, as well as to some non-collecting friends. What are you doing to promote the hobby?

RESPONSE TO NIGERIAN WIDOWS AND BANKERS

A few issues ago, we wrote about all those millions that Nigerian widows who lost their husbands in airplane crashes or by murderous uncles, or bankers that knew of huge amounts of unclaimed cash sitting at their bank, just waiting for an honest and trustworthy individual like myself to help them get it out of the country. The cartoon "Dilbert" that ran in thousands of

newspapers on April 4 had me wondering what the Nigerians will think of us if they were to receive the response quoted in the cartoon.

First frame: One dog said to the other: "A Nigerian banker needs my help getting thirty million dollars out of his country!"

Second frame: "All I need to do is give him my bank information by e-mail and I'll get a ten percent commission!"

Third frame: Dog sitting in front of a computer screen typing the following: "Dear Gustava: My bank is a tube sock that fell behind the dryer."

Okay, it's not particularly funny unless you could see the cartoon yourself. But it gave me the idea to ask you for some funny and unusual replies if you were to reply to the offers that all of us have received from Nigeria and elsewhere. How about sending some to cnanews@look.ca so we can show everyone how funny and clever we can be?

WHAT PRICE SILVER AND GOLD COLLECTOR COINS?

Anyone care to guess what the price of those beautiful, historical collector coins from Mints around the world will sell for a year from now? In two years? Five?

A 55 per cent jump in the past 12 months has put silver on track for its best year since the billionaire Hunt brothers caused prices to skyrocket in 1979 by hoarding the metal. And some experts predict that silver, above \$10 (U.S.) an ounce for the first time in 22 years, may reach \$15 by year-end.

Gold is up 32% in the past year to \$560.50 an ounce as of March 24. On March 27 it hit \$567.00.

Where does that leave the Mints as far as their selling price goes? How much will they increase silver and gold coins? And what will happen to the existing precious medal coins in our collections? How high does the price have to go before it will be profitable to melt them as what happened during the previous Great Silver Melt?

NON-NUMISMATIC HUMOR FROM NUMISMATIC FRIENDS

"Lesson to be learned from typing wrong e-mail address" comes to us from Ralph Trimble:

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their Honeymoon 20 years before. Because of their hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Minneapolis and flew to Florida on Friday, and his wife was flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel, and unlike years ago, there was a computer in his room, and he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without noticing his error, sent the email to the wrong address.

Meanwhile...somewhere in Houston... a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a Minister who was called home to glory after suffering a heart attack.

The widow decided to check her email, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and then fainted. The widow's son rushed into the

room, found his mother on the floor, and then glanced up and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife
Subject: I have Arrived!

Dearest Love:

I know you are surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now, and you are allowed to send email to your loved ones. I have just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow, and look forward to seeing you then.

Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S.: Sure is darn hot down here.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO EDUCATE PEOPLE

Each Monday Jay Leno has a segment on the "Tonight Show" where he holds up and reads funny headlines or articles. On March 27, one of the brief articles from a small-town newspaper read as follows: "Man found million dollar bill. Wants confirmation if it's real."

The audience obviously knew from their laughter that there is no such thing, real bills only go as high as half a million.

Just kidding. We all know the largest genuine U.S. note is \$250,000, right?

LAWYERS WIN AGAIN

A story of the hoard of 1,800 large size pre-1929 U.S. bank notes grabbed national media attention in April and May of 2005 when roofers appeared on television describing how they found a buried treasure in a backyard. Shortly afterward, police arrested the men, discrediting the buried treasure story and saying the notes had been found in the roof of an old barn owned by Sylvia Littlefield in Newbury, Mass., by some hired men.

The men, who were charged with larceny over \$250, receiving stolen property and conspiracy and being an accessory after the fact, dismissed the charges against all four, citing insufficient evidence after the men's lawyers argued that evidence of the notes having been stolen from the barn was lacking.

The notes remain in the possession of the Essex district attorney's office, where they have been since the four men were arrested April 28, 2005.

Since the motion for dismissal by the men's lawyers did not request the return of the property, I predict that the lawyers stand to make more money on this than the roofers, even if they are successful in getting title to the money. Any lawyers out there disagree?

SHOW BUSINESS

There are hundreds of shows coming up over the next few months. Rather than take up most of the C.N.A. E-Bulletin in providing details on even the major shows across North America, we suggest you create shortcuts ("Favorites" in your Internet browser) to the websites that are known for their good show listings. For Canadian shows, we recommend

www.trajan.ca/showbbs/ccn.pl while for U.S. shows, we would point our browser to www.money.org or Websites of State organizations.

2006 C.N.A. CONVENTION NEWS

The Canadian Numismatic Association, in conjunction with corporate donors, is pleased to announce a contest for young collectors for an all-expense trip to the 2006 C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls. The winner will be flown to the Convention, stay at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel for three nights, meet with the Presidents of the C.N.A. and Royal Canadian Mint and receive a complimentary registration kit along with a silver convention souvenir medal and banquet ticket, among other surprises.

The terms of the contest are very simple. Any collector up to age 18 is eligible. All that is required is to submit five questions that you would like to ask the President of the Royal Canadian Mint when you meet him at the convention. Send your five questions, along with your name, contact information (including telephone number and e-mail, if available) to: I Want To Go To The CNA Convention Contest, 4936 Yonge St., Suite 601 North York, ON M2N 6S3 Canada.

We will provide the winner with a return airline ticket and provide hotel accommodation for three nights. If the winner lives close to Niagara Falls, we reserve the right to provide an alternate mode of transportation. If the winner resides in the U.S., he/she will be responsible to provide Customs with the appropriate documentation for border crossing. Upon arrival at either the Toronto or Hamilton airport, the winner will be met by a C.N.A. representative, driven to the Convention site in Niagara Falls, Ontario where you will be greeted by the President of the C.N.A., Charles Moore.

You will pick up your complimentary registration kit, a silver Convention souvenir medal, a \$100 Bourse Certificate for use in the bourse room, a banquet ticket, a Convention ribbon that entitles you to unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite, meal allowance for breakfasts and dinners in the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel's Dining Room, a complimentary 2006 membership in the C.N.A. and other surprises.

You will also receive complimentary tickets to attend the Club Delegates Breakfast meeting on Saturday morning. Tickets will also be provided for the City of Niagara Falls bus tour and the tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake if you wish to participate. You will receive a quantity of 100 special wooden tokens issued to commemorate your attendance at the Convention as evidence of your achievement. These souvenir tokens will also be included in the Convention registration kits. Arrangements will be made to meet the President of the Royal Canadian Mint to ask your five questions in person.

Transportation to the airport on Sunday afternoon for your return flight and a cash allowance for transportation between your home and the airport will also be provided. If accompanied by a chaperone, a flat fee of up to \$500 will be made available to help offset his/her expenses, subject to a review of actual expenses incurred.

The winner will also have the opportunity to thank the sponsors of the Coin Kids Contest:

- Charles Moore (of Charles Moore Auctions of Walnut Creek, CA), Al Hager (of AH Collectibles of Lake Mary, Florida) for sponsoring return airfare as well as ground transportation

- Michael Walsh (of The Canadian Coinoisseur of Vancouver, BC) and Stan Wright (of Diversified Equities of Calgary, AB) for sponsoring all other non-hotel costs associated with the contest, including the allowance for a chaperone.
- The Sheraton Fallsview Hotel for underwriting the cost of breakfasts and Dinners
- The 2006 C.N.A. Convention and the Canadian Numismatic Association for underwriting the cost of registration kit, souvenir convention medals, banquet, Club Delegates breakfast, hotel accommodation and the special souvenir wooden tokens.

Deadline for submissions of the five questions to recipients of this bulletin is April 30, 2006. Winner must accept the trip and other awards - no cash value. You do not have to be a member of the C.N.A. to participate. One entry per junior.

Details as to date of departure and return to be mutually agreed to. Decision of the judges as to the questions, judged on the basis of their intelligence vs. age of contestant, is final.

CONCLUSION

Go back and re-read the above C.N.A. Convention contest for juniors. Isn't that a great deal? Even a parent or guardian can reap the benefit of a junior's good fortune by not only attending a great convention, but also receiving up to \$500 travel allowance and sharing a free bedroom. We encourage you to pass the details of this contest along to any junior that might be interested in attending the C.N.A. Convention July 20-23, be it a relative, neighbor or member of your coin club.

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

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