

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 13 – May 1, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

We barely had the C.N.A. Website at www.canadian-numismatic.org set up to accept PayPal payment for new memberships when a whole new series of spam arrived. All of a sudden we get e-mails telling us that eBay is sending us messages about our delinquent account that will be closed down if we don't supply information. Other e-mails arrived "on behalf of an eBay member via My Messages." Click the Respond Now button to send your response via My Messages, it tells me. Skeptical as always, I wonder why three different people would send the message "I'm really interested in your item please let me know as soon as possible how to purchase it," errors and all, to someone that is set up only for accepting memberships at this point and not "product."

And I thought I was already receiving all the junk e-mails that are out there!

WE HAVE MAIL

From Joseph Swinko: "US/Canadian Postal Services ha ha! Last November I purchased a coin through Ebay from a Canadian dealer. After waiting until the end of December for the piece, I contacted Ebay. After a rather acrimonious number of exchanges, I "ate" the loss. Lo and behold the coin arrived on April 8, 2006. Any guesses where the piece has been since the envelope was post marked Nov. 18, 2005? Do you think Canadian dealers should warn US buyers of this kind of insane delay in receiving items, or was this just a one time screw-up in handling or customs." - Didn't you know that the reason both Canada Post and the U.S. Postal Service increase their rates is to take care of the storage charges? Or maybe it was in a postal employee's attic along with thousands of other undelivered letters that we keep reading about from time to time - on both sides of the border.

From Joseph Swinko: "I do enjoy reading the bulletin. My favorite has been the comments heard at shows and in shops. Wouldn't mind seeing them all together in a future issue." - You can go to your past bulletins and strip them into a file yourself. If you are missing some issues, go to www.canadian-numismatic.org, click on "Education" and "E-Bulletin" and lift them off back issues.

RESPONSES TO PINK RIBBON COIN COLUMN

In the last C.N.A. E-Bulletin (Vol. 2, No. 12, April 10, 2006), we mentioned that my wife made a purchase at Shoppers Drug Mart and was actually asked how many of the new pink-ribbon coins she wanted. We received a few responses:

From Patti Anderson: "I went to Shoppers Drug Mart on March 31 and purchased some items in cash, in return they gave me a Pink Ribbon Coin. Well, I was astounded because I thought they came out of April 1st. So I asked if I could purchase more and they sold me 4 quarters for \$1.00 and said that's all I could have. Very interesting to say the least. I'm happy with my coins and have been back several times. Sometimes they give me one, sometimes two.

From Glenn Douglas: "Re Pink ribbon coins, I made a special trip to Shoppers on April 1 just so I could add a new piece to my collection. I filled the shopping list that was given to me by the boss and it came to \$29.86. Knowing I would not receive at least 25 cents in change, I handed the cashier a quarter and asked for the new coin. She said in a rude tone "Absolutely NOT" and

slammed her cash drawer shut. 'We can only give it as change.' I wondered about the 'coin exchange' program so I ran home and looked up 'exchange' in Webster's. I'm still confused."

From Monina Regitko: "I went to our local Shoppers Drug Mart with my husband and paid for a small purchase. We asked if they had any Pink Ribbon quarters and the cashier asked: 'How many would you like?' My husband asked for a roll. The cashier said: 'I'm sorry, I'm only allowed to give out twenty' and promptly counted them out for us."

From John Regitko: "WARNING: While at Shoppers, I was told that they have been advised to 'clear out' of all remaining stock of the Pink Ribbon quarters. If you haven't picked up yours, you might want to do it soon rather than waiting to obtain circulated ones out of change!"

NOW HERE IS A GENTLEMAN WHO APPRECIATES A BARGAIN!

From George A. Heaven: "It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge receipt of, and thank you for the 4 'Junior Membership' kits I received on behalf of the 4 grandchildren enrolled as Junior members of the Association. Naturally I opened the parcel and each kit, and was more than surprised, I was stunned, when the contents were revealed. I will certainly see that the youngsters receive these as soon as possible and I will advise each of them this evening that I have their bundle. 'Grandpa's Coin Club' had its 3rd meeting this past Saturday and I am pleased to say that so far it has been nothing but enthusiasm, so much so, that now all 10 grandchildren have become members. Even the over 20s have shown enthusiasm and several of the parents have also become interested and are helping their youngsters collect. One family even attended the recent 'Nuphilex' Show, was surprised by the attendance, and even purchased some coins for their son's collection. It is also amazing how other in-laws discover some old hidden coins they have tucked away over the years and now suddenly remember they have them. These are ending up in the respective grandchildren's collections. Some of these finds I envy as they are not in my collection. I encourage any of our members to take advantage of this offer of 'Junior Membership' in the C.N.A. to entice their offspring(s) who will enjoy the experience. They just need a little inspiration to bring out the "collector instinct" most of us inwardly have. Keep up the good work. A busy organization is a successful one." - Well, that is certainly one of the nicest unsolicited letter I can ever recall receiving. At \$16.50, junior membership is a loss-leader, just one of the ways the C.N.A. attempts to entice juniors to take a closer look at this wonderful hobby. The kits include supplies, books and catalogues that, with the coins they have, move them up the collector ladder from a hoarder/accumulator with coins in a drawer, to a genuine collector and, eventually we hope, a numismatist.

WHO HASN'T WANTED TO WRITE THE FOLLOWING LETTER?

A 98-year-old woman wrote this to her bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three 'nanoseconds' must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire salary, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

- 1-- To make an appointment to see me.
- 2-- To query a missing payment.
- 3-- To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4-- To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5-- To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6-- To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7-- To leave a message on my computer. (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorized Contact.)
- 8-- To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
- 9-- To make a general complaint or inquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client

(Remember: This was written by a 98 year old woman. You just gotta love seniors.)

BANK ROBBERY SUSPECTS FLED IN LIMOUSINE

San Francisco police arrested a man and woman suspected of robbing a bank and fleeing in style by using a limousine as their getaway car, officials said last week, according to Reuters Press.

Roy Westry and Cynthia Johnson, both recent parolees in their 40s, were pulled over on Tuesday afternoon by police officers alerted to a nearby bank robbery involving a 2006 Cadillac limousine. The vehicle belongs to Westry's employer.

San Francisco Police Department inspector Dan Gardner was not surprised by the choice of getaway car. "This is the second time in a couple of years that a limousine has been used as a getaway car in a bank robbery," Gardner said. "I've been doing this job a long time and nothing surprises me any more."

THIEF FLEES TO...POLICE HEADQUARTERS

According to Reuters, a shoplifter took a very wrong turn -- toward Rome's police headquarters - while fleeing a supermarket with two stolen bottles of alcohol.

Hearing screams of "Stop thief!" heavily armed police just outside the building grabbed the 19-year-old, a police spokeswoman said Thursday.

Stunned, the crook immediately confessed and handed over the liquor. "Yes, I stole the bottles. But not this chocolate," he said, pointing to a candy bar he had purchased earlier, according to Il Messaggero newspaper. Three of his friends, spectators to the event, were arrested as accomplices.

WHAT SPECIAL THINGS HAPPEN AT YOUR MEETINGS?

Art Stephenson serves as President of the South Wellington Numismatic Society of Rockwood, Ontario. We found out the other day that his wife has attended meetings during which she translates the proceedings with sign language to deaf mutes.

OLD HABITS DIE HARD

Remember the time I stated in one of these bulletins something to the effect that "while collectors are at club meetings, their wives are doing something else that they enjoy" and I got racked over the coals for it?

I overheard at a recent meeting where an invitation was issued to attend a coin club's meetings: "We meet in the meeting room at a local shopping mall. Your wife can do some shopping while you are at the meeting."

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR PHONE BILL WAS HIGH!

You will never complain about the amount of your phone bill after you read this:

A Malaysian man was speechless when he received a \$252 trillion phone bill and was ordered to pay up within 10 days or face prosecution.

Yahaya Wahab said he disconnected his late father's phone line in January after he died and settled the \$26 bill, according to the New Straits Times. But Telekom Malaysia later sent him a bill for 806,400,000,000,000.01 ringgit - \$252 trillion - for recent phone calls.

CAN WE SEE CHANGE IN WORDING ON CANADIAN PAPER MONEY?

A recent poll suggests Canadians would support a change on the wording on our money as proposed by Opposition leader Bill Graham.

The hundred-year-old motto "From sea to sea" - "A mari usque ad mare" - referring to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, not the Arctic, may be one sea short of perfection. The motto was coined in 1906 to celebrate the completion of the Atlantic-to-Pacific railroad.

Graham, urging a debate on the issue, is supported strongly by the National Democratic Party. Although your C.N.A. E-Bulletin editor was not polled, I would vote for it also because it will give us new numismatic items to add to your collection at face value.

TIM HORTON'S AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

I have a suggestion for the Royal Canadian Mint for the next round of "Turn up the rim to win" cups at Tim Hortons. Rather than just offering free coffees, donuts, bagels and RAV4 vehicles, how about getting them to include a quantity of gold coins? I know that the thought of winning one of the 250 gold coins currently being offered as a prize by the Ontario Lottery Corporation's "Quest for Gold" scratch tickets made me spend \$40 on two ticket.

Although I am not in favor of striking very small quantities of any numismatic item for a promotion, I know I would probably buy more than my daily two extra-large hot Cappuccinos if I knew I could win one of those beautiful products from the Royal Canadian Mint.

NON-NUMISMATIC HUMOR FROM NUMISMATIC FRIENDS

From Ralph Trimble:

"Court Case"

A seven year old boy was at the center of a Toronto courtroom drama yesterday when he challenged a court ruling over who should have custody of him. The boy has a history of being beaten by his parents and the judge initially awarded custody to his aunt, in keeping with the child custody law and regulations requiring that family unity be maintained to the degree possible. The boy surprised the court when he proclaimed that his aunt beat him more than his parents and he adamantly refused to live with her. When the judge suggested that he live with his grandparents, the boy cried out that they also beat him.

After considering the remainder of the immediate family and learning that domestic violence was apparently a way of life among them, the judge took the unprecedented step of allowing the boy to propose who should have custody of him. After two recesses to check legal references and confer with child welfare officials, the judge granted temporary custody to the Toronto Maple Leafs, whom the boy firmly believes are not capable of beating anyone.

Please, no nasty letters from you Maple Leafs fans...if there are any left. Send them to Ralph Trimble, who jumped ship from collecting coins to stamps, yuck!

NUMISMATIC EMBARRASMENTS

I read a short column in "Metro" about workers having had moments on the job they would like to forget. This gave me the thought that perhaps you want to share some of your bad numismatic moments with the rest of us. Or you want to share what happened to one of your fellow collectors.

To start you off, here are some that have happened to me:

1. I made a presentation with my zipper open.

2. I attended a coin club meeting with two different shoes on.
3. Attending a coin club meeting, I was suddenly awakened by a laughing audience when I interrupted the speaker with my snoring.
4. I showed up at a meeting of the South Wellington Coin Club one evening and wondered why the meeting room door was closed. I went to the librarian where the meetings are held and was advised that it does not take place for another week. Assuming I got my club meeting dates mixed up, I traveled towards Highway 401 intending to turn west to the meeting of the Waterloo Coin Society. When I approached the 401, I thought I might be a little late in showing up at the meeting, so decided to head back home instead. Good think, too, because when I checked my calendar I realized that I was wrong on both counts. (This incident is true and can be verified by the people that attended the following meeting - on the actual meeting nights - of both clubs when I admitted to my stupidity.)

Okay, your turn! Send responses to cnanews@look.ca.

WE WONDER WHAT NUMISMATIC ITEMS THEY FOUND

When a well-known coin collector owned a company that installed and maintained washers and dryers in apartment buildings, he found all kinds of coins - early Canadian, foreign and, yes, washers and other slugs.

Reading a column in The Toronto Star recently about two men facing 518 charges involving pay-phone robberies across Greater Toronto, we wonder if they simply spend the change at face value, or if they were astute enough to sift through them for their numismatic value before getting caught.

The thieves are accused of netting \$21,500 since September 2005 when they began targeting a day and a time and hitting a whole pile of pay-phones. "Doing a volume of phones, it adds up after a while," The Toronto Star quoted Det. Shawn Mahoney saying, "In this day and age, a lot of people are putting loonies and toonies into these machines."

Bell Canada originally alerted investigators to the pay-phone ring in September, but the sheer scope of the operation proved challenging because the thieves hit pay-phones in Burlington, Brampton, Durham and York Regions, as well as Toronto. Apparently, the thieves attached the weakness in the phone itself, but neither investigators nor Bell will divulge specifics on how the built-in alarm systems on phones were bypassed, but the Internet is rife with tutorials on getting money out of public phones, ranging from forceful entry to more subtle means. Often, it involves cutting wires to disengage the coin return, then revisiting the pay phone later to reattach the wires. After hanging up the phone, according to one tutorial, all the money that was put in that phone that day comes shooting out the coin return.

The two thieves are charged with theft, mischief, possession of burglar's stools, possession of coin-operating break-in devices, possession of property obtained by crime, and obstructing police.

Would a display of washers and electrical slugs qualify as a competitive exhibit at the C.N.A. Convention, if they were used as actual medium of exchange in Laundromats and payphones? Or, because they were used fraudulently, would the exhibit judges disqualify them as they would all counterfeit and stolen money?

CONCLUSION

We are really excited about the upcoming C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario on July 20 to 23. Next issue, we would like to share that enthusiasm with you by telling you about some of the exciting things that are in store for you if you decide to attend.

In the meantime, keep those cards and letters coming!

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

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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