

## **Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin – Vol. 2, No. 19 – June 10, 2006**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Over the last while, we have issued three additional issues dealing with the upcoming 2006 C.N.A. Convention. We are now back to our normal schedule of publishing the C.N.A. E-Bulletin on the 1st, 10th and 20th of each month.

### **WE HAVE MAIL**

From Kevin Thornburn: "In regard to the Pink Ribbon coins, I went into a Shoppers in early May and was given one in my change. I asked if I was able to purchase a roll (fully expecting to hear, "No") and the cashier called the supervisor to bring a roll from out back for me. It only took a couple moments, but there was even a line-up. I was surprised. I haven't tried for any others.

From Terry Johnson: "I think that the answer to the pink ribbon quarters is to get to know your pharmacist. When my wife and I went to our pharmacy (where we do all of our shopping needs), we chatted with the boss....we received 2 rolls of the pink delights....but there are so many made that everyone should be able to pick some up. The outside wrapper was a regular cover with the caribou. But inside was the booty that we wanted. (The special mint wrappers have the picture of the pink ribbon on them, and cost more.)"

From Terry Johnson: " Maritime Greetings! Your newsletters are great. Keep up the Fantastic Job!" - We haven't asked our recipients to comment on the general contents of the C.N.A. E-Bulletin lately, but judging from the comments received, you seem to want weird news and the odd serious articles about money.

From Ken Grahame: Re numismatic humor, a year and a half ago I had the great pleasure of golfing at Pebble Beach. As we walked up one of the magnificent fairways with the ocean on one side and fabulous homes on the other, one of the other golfers turned to me and said "would you like to make a million dollars?" Since I was on a course that charged \$395 for a round, I naturally figured I was getting the real scoop from someone that should know money. "Well, he said, see that large mansion there? It is listed for \$26 million and I happen to know they will take \$25 million." I did not come home \$1 million richer, although the experience did make me feel like a million dollars!" - I can do better: I received another e-mail from Nigeria telling me that I could receive \$40 million dollars just for sending them a few thousand. However, the experience did not make me feel like I can come home \$40 million richer.

### **BIZARRE COIN TRIVIA**

From JFK: Re Bizarre Coin Trivia: recently, I came across a couple of bizarre coin trivia items. I'm having some trouble determining the veracity of the statements. What do you think?

1) "Churchill, Manitoba...is a Canuck Serengeti where...you can see every ungulate ever minted to a coin". [Ref: Western Living, Summer 2006]

2) Pangrams are sentences containing all the letters of the alphabet, such as the familiar: "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dogs". Usually some letters need to be used more than once in the sentence, however the limits can be pushed if an unabridged dictionary is used. In the 1980s Michael Jones submitted two 26-character pangrams to Guinness: "Veldt jynx grimps waqf zho buck" and "Qursh gowf veldt jynx zimb pack." Guinness chose the first one. Michael

writes that the second pangram "describes a scene where some Arabian coins are striking a group of flies gathered on that woodpecker".

[Ref: Jeff Miller <http://members.aol.com/gulfhhigh2/words9.html>]

### **ANOTHER COUP FOR THE C.N.A. E-BULLETIN**

In the last E-Bulletin we revealed, for the first time anywhere, the appointment of a new President of the Royal Canadian Mint. We also were the first to publish information about the presentation of new collector coins to Col. Chris Hadfield, the unveiling of the new mint mark at the upcoming C.N.A. Convention and details about the new silver refinery at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. Well, here is another first announcement:

When I visited the Bank of Canada's National Currency Museum in Ottawa a couple of weeks ago, I stumbled across what might be the first sighting by a member of the public of the soon-to-be-released \$5.00 note that will have the same security features as other denominations. It was tucked away in the room that holds panel after panel of Canadian currency.

I am told that the \$5 note with the vertical silver strip and the watermark will be launched in October. You read it here first!

### **DEAL OR NO DEAL**

At the beginning of the TV program "Deal or no Deal," Howie Mandel states that "you can win \$1 million dollars or one Penny."

Since there are no current U.S. pennies, I wonder what people would receive? I think we all know the answer, since in the minds of the public, common use takes precedence over numismatic terminology. That also explains the common use of a Fin, C-note, dime, quarter and our very own Canadian Loonie and Toonie.

Can you come up with some slang terminology? Send it to [cnanews@look.ca](mailto:cnanews@look.ca).

### **IS CANADA DEMONETIZING ITS BANKNOTES?**

How granted we take things sometimes!

I went to my local variety store the other day to purchase a newspaper. I tendered a \$5.00 bill and waited for \$4.25 change. The young lady behind the counter looked at it, turned it over to examine the other side, looked up at me and asked: "Is this good?"

Assuming she thought it might be counterfeit, I took the note back and realized that, just like thousands of other new immigrants, she had never seen a Canadian note before the current designs. What I had handed her was a \$5 1979 issue with the Coat of Arms of Canada and Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the face and a Salmon boat on the back.

I assumed that not only had she never seen one of the earlier notes, but also where she came from all former notes were probably demonetized soon after a new issue appeared. Although I told her it was perfectly good, I exchanged it for a current note....and promptly visited Tim Hortons for my daily dose of caffeine where I had no problem using it. It might even have brought me luck, seeing how I won a free coffee from the "Turn up the rim to win" cup...but no RAV4.

## **PAYING FOR YOUR HOUSE PURCHASE IN \$20 BILLS**

Bob Aaron, the former coin and stamp columnist who now writes a real estate column in The Toronto Star, wrote about the top 10 things to beware of when buying a resale house. One of the points he mentions has to do with the financial side of purchasing a home:

“Many offers are still prepared with wording that allows the final purchase price to be paid ‘by cash or certified cheque’ on closing. If the buyer pays in cash, the seller will have a serious problem trying to deposit several hundred thousand dollars in 20s and 50s into a bank account. Do the words ‘money laundering’ ring a bell?”

## **NOT WEARING SEATBELT CAN BE VERY COSTLY**

According to Reuters Wire Service, a 67-year-old German man collected his dead brother's pension for 26 years after taking on his identity, which, police said, had likely netted him at least 100,000 euros (\$119,400). How did he get caught?

He was unmasked after police stopped him for driving without a seatbelt. During checks it emerged that just after his death the man assumed the identity of his older brother, who has been resting in a Regensburg cemetery since he passed away in 1979.

Thanks to the physical similarity between the siblings, the impostor pulled off the switch by renewing his dead brother's passport. But he continued to use his real name on occasion. Police uncovered the ruse because of records showing the younger man was wanted for repeatedly failing to settle a minor bill. Although the car ownership, his driving license and other particulars were made out to his brother, the man's surname aroused police suspicions and he eventually confessed to the scam.

So stop complaining because you were stopped for failing to wear a seat belt and it cost you three demerit points and maybe a lousy hundred bucks.

## **CANADIAN TIRE TO ISSUE NEW CREDIT CARDS**

Canadian Tire Corporation, issuer of Canada's second currency that is as well known as that issued by the Bank of Canada, will give collectors something else to collect shortly. They will be introducing at least two new credit cards, including a cash-back credit card now available in Ontario on a test-market basis.

“There's an endless opportunity for adding new credit cards,” said new chief executive Tom Gauld, “including issuing gold and platinum editions.”

“There are endless opportunities to add new credit cards to my collection of Mediums of Exchange,” said John Regitko. (Hey, if we can quote some big shot, why can't we quote the little guy?)

Did you know Canadian Tire Corp. is currently the second-largest issuer of MasterCard cards in Canada, behind Bank of Montreal? Did you know that in the first quarter of this year, after Canadian Tire Corp. announced that net profit soared 34.9%, the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club was \$1.16 richer than in the previous quarter? Because not only do members of the CTCCC collect Canadian Tire Corporation's coupons, but did you know they own shares in the company?

### **...AS DOES BMW**

BMW, the German luxury carmaker, is to move into mainstream financial services in the United Kingdom for the first time. One of the things they will be offering are credit cards. They are launching, together with American Express, co-branded BMW and Mini credit cards in the U.K.

BMW launched its first credit card in Germany in 1997. It currently offers credit cards in the U.S., Spain, Austria, Germany, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, but not in Canada.

### **JAPANESE IDENTIFY VIRTUALLY UNDETECTABLE COUNTERFEITS**

Workers in Tokyo have a new tool to identify counterfeit U.S. \$100 notes. They compare blown-up sections of counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills with a sample legitimate bill expanded 400 times larger than the real size. A counterfeit bill, named "Super Z" which is said to have been made in North Korea, can only be detected this way, according to the president of Matsumura Technology Col, a Japanese small business.

### **NIGERIANS GETTING GREEDY**

A Nigerian entered the U.S. illegally, was convicted, served his time and was deported back to Nigeria. His crime? Identify Theft.

A Nigerian was recently stopped trying to enter the U.S. carrying 40 stolen credit cards and 12 cell phones. On checking his identify, it was discovered that he was the same person.

You would think that the Nigerians that are sending you those irresistible offers are receiving enough money from North Americans and others that they would be laughing all the way to the bank, feeling secure in the knowledge that the long arm of the law will not catch up with them. Well, isn't that what all criminals think?

### **CANADIANS CHARGED IN MONEY SCAMS**

Just as I thought that I would stop receiving those delectable offers from Nigerian widows, bank managers and former finance ministers that has reaped billions...not for us, but for them...I read that us Canadians are trying to keep up with...what...the world's worst?

A 15-month operation has recently wound up after making 565 arrests in five countries. in the world's largest mass-marketing fraud probe. Those arrested used telemarketing, the Internet and mass mailings to prey on the elderly, newly arrived Latin American immigrants in the United States and American businesses that were browbeaten into buying useless business directories. They victimized some 2.8 million people, conning them out of approximately \$1 billion (U.S.) in America alone.

In Canada, 96 people have been arrested and face 372 charges, the RCMP said. Nineteen people have already been convicted.

The criminals operating by telephone, on the Internet or through other media often deliberately targeted specific groups such as the elderly. The Canadians or their representatives would call U.S. companies and say they were with the "records department" of one of a series of business directories they purported to be selling, checking information on the company being targeted. After they received the information, another caller from the company's "shipping department" would phone to verify information for shipping. They would record that phone call and later use it as proof that the sale of the \$399 directory had been authorized.

In another Canadian case, a federal grand jury in California indicted an individual on mail and wire fraud charges in relation to a Vancouver-based fraud scheme that netted the defendant \$2.7 million who bought non-existent bonds.

### **THERE ARE A LOT OF GULLIBLE PEOPLE IN NORTH AMERICA**

Among other scams revealed in the past few weeks were bogus medical discount card offers and a \$13.9 million fraud in which temporary operations in Venezuela and Guatemala asked for upfront payments of \$149 to \$299 for non-existent credit cards to newly arrived Spanish-speaking immigrants in the U.S. who could not obtain bank credit.

Fraud artists in Costa Rica also operated a sweepstakes fraud in which callers promised prospective victims that they would be sent a large amount of money after winning a major prize in a sweepstakes, but first the victims had to send in certain fees or taxes on the winnings.

See, the Nigerians don't have the market cornered.

### **CAPTAIN'S HUSBAND TO RECEIVE WIDOWS' MEDAL**

Probably more than other numismatists, those that collect military medals study the background on items in their collections in greater detail. Finding out about the heroism of those that received military awards is usually extremely interesting. Here is another one to add to the list of unusual and interesting:

The husband of a captain killed in mid-May in an Afghanistan battle will be awarded the memorial Cross, an award previously reserved for widows and mothers. Capt. Nichola Goddard, 26, was the first Canadian female killed in a combat role and it's believed this would mark the first time the award has gone to a man. The Memorial Cross is more commonly referred to as the Silver Cross, and is most often associated with the Silver Cross mother who lays a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa every Remembrance Day. The medal is a sterling silver cross suspended by a purple ribbon embossed with a crown, maple leaf and laurel wreath along with the number, rank and name of the "officer or man commemorated."

The existing order says that in cases where wives and mothers of soldiers who have been killed are both dead, the medal should go to the "eldest surviving next-of-kin." In a reflection of the growing profile of women in the armed forces, the government is reviewing whether to permanently change the terms of the award, so it could be given to fathers and husbands in the future. There have been 91,500 of the medals given out since the award was instituted in 1919.

### **MOVIE FEATURES ELECTRONIC BANK TRANSFER**

I recently read that that the movie "Firewall," starring Harrison Ford, contained the following plot: A gang broke into the home of a security expert at a Seattle bank, tied up his wife and two kids and threaten to kill them if he didn't help electronically transfer bank funds into an offshore account.

Did any of our readers see the movie? Does it feature a lot of things involving banking and how money is transferred? More important, does it tell me how to do it? Without getting caught?

### **UNICEF ENDS COIN BOX**

How many of us have had a UNICEF orange coin box hanging from our necks while trick-or-treating, or accompanying kids that had? Well, no more!

After 50 years, UNICEF has decided to cancel its door-to-door Halloween campaign. The United Nations Children's Fund will continue to work with schools to raise funds around Halloween but the familiar coin donations will be dropped, according to a UNICEF communiqué. "For years we've had the issue of dealing with coins," UNICEF communications director Barbara Strang said, "Coins are heavy and they take a lot of work."

After celebrating the 50th anniversary of the program last year, it was decided to listen to the schools that had been telling them about the challenges of processing coins. More than \$90 million has been raised by Canadian trick-or-treaters alone. In place of the little orange boxes, UNICEF will introduce pledge forms to schools to raise funds to build schools in Malawi.

Having had the opportunity to go through fund-raising boxes over the years, I know that some boxes wound up with older coins in excellent conditions that had, obviously, been removed from a piggy bank or drawer. Have any of you that have had the chance to go through fundraising coin boxes found anything interesting or unusual or valuable? E-mail [cnanews@look.ca](mailto:cnanews@look.ca).

### **TOP 10 QUIZ TESTS YOUR HOME SECURITY**

Every numismatist, whether collector or dealer, is concerned about security. A recent column in the North York Post published a "Crime Concern" column in which they asked how safe your home is. We thought we would pass it on to you.

They ask you to answer 10 essential quiz questions to determine whether you're well on your way to securing your own Fort Knox or if you should start dialing 911.

1. Are your outdoor lights in good working order and on at night?
2. Are trees or hedges trimmed back to provide a clear view of your home from the street?
3. Do you keep your garage doors closed at all times?
4. Do you keep your car doors locked and put valuables in the trunk or take them into your home with you?
5. Do you have someone check your home when you are away on business or vacation?
6. Do you have locks other than those provided by the manufacturer on windows and sliding glass doors?
7. Do you have good, solid dead bolts on your exterior doors?
8. Does someone pick up your papers and mail when you are away for an extended period of time?
9. Are your valuables inside your home out of plain sight?
10. Do you have your inside lights on timers?

If you have answered no to some of these questions, your home is not as secure as it can be. Keeping criminals off your property is the first priority. If they do not find your home inviting from the street, they are significantly less likely to step foot on your property.

Purchase a good deadbolt for your door, add extra security to your windows and sliding glass doors - these measures can make a big difference in preventing break-ins.

### **CONCLUSION**

Thank you for your positive comments about this bulletin. Life is good!

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

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