

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

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INTRODUCTION

It has been a good year for the C.N.A. E-Bulletin. We managed to not only publish 2 bulletins each month, but even went to 3 for a lot of the months, missing only one or two deadlines by a day because of being unable to access our Web Hosting site. We published a total of 29 C.N.A. E-Bulletins, which equals more than 250 pages if they are printed out in MS Word files.

On the personal side, what were my top ten highlights for me numismatically this past year?

#10 - To the many thoughtful C.N.A. members. Unlike other years where many members renewed so late, this year a lot of the renewals have been coming in early. And a number included a donation.

#9 - The fantastic work I observed from Al Munro, Chairman of the 2005 C.N.A. Convention, and his committee. The Calgary convention was excellent, as a result of the amount of dedication I observed first-hand from every member of the committee. It was a pleasure working with a group of such hard working...and nice...people.

#8 - At the 2006 C.N.A. Convention in Calgary, C.N.A. President Chuck Moore presented me with one of only three Canadian 1967 \$20 gold coins that were over-struck with a die of an ancient coin design. He gave the other two to his children. I was tickled pink that he would think of me when it came to such a rare numismatic item from the President of the C.N.A.

#7 - To the Press - print, TV, radio - who provided fodder for these E-Bulletins. The unusual happenings about money of one sort or another keeps us going. The lottery scandals, counterfeiting, bank frauds, humor about money, etc.

#6- Sometimes the unexpected hits you the right way. Over the years, I have been made a "Fellow" of the C.N.A., received the Ferguson Gold Medal (Canada's highest numismatic award), Best Bulletin Editor award from the Ontario Numismatic Association, Best Local Coin Club Bulletin Editor three years in a row from both the ANA and the C.N.A., and more. However, when I received a letter from Chris Boyer, a teacher at the Franklin Public School and overseer of the Franklin Coin Club, I was taken aback. The notification stated that I had been made an Honorary Member of the Franklin Coin Club. I spoke to their group of close to 100 kids and was instrumental of getting them copies of coin catalogues to distribute to the group. What made the honorary membership so special is that it was completely unexpected.

#5- The number of people giving a gift membership to someone for Christmas. Where in other years they could be counted in single digits, this year it was in the dozens. On behalf of all the recipients, mainly juniors, we thank the grandmothers and grandfathers, Uncles and Aunts, and mothers and fathers for the gift that keeps on giving all year!

#4 - The generosity of Bill Cross and Charlton Press. He has donated thousands of dollars worth of catalogues, including non-numismatic subjects. They have been used in membership promotions at CAND, Torex, TICF, TNS and other shows. They have also appeared in C.N.A. Convention registration kits such as the 2004 Convention in Toronto. A number of catalogues will also be included in registration kits at the 2006 C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls.

#3 - The success of this bulletin that is sent to over 2,000 numismatists. Chuck Moore, C.N.A. President, bounced the idea of a C.N.A. E-Bulletin off me at one of our luncheon meetings. I foolishly asked "Who did you have in mind for the Editor?" He gave me that sheepish look and said: "I was hoping that you would volunteer!" The rest, as the saying goes, is history. I asked him for a couple of months to accumulate a mailing list of "involved" collectors such as members of the executive of local, regional and national coin clubs, as well as dealers whose e-mail addresses I had picked up from ads and the internet. Very few requests to remove anyone were received. Chuck asked Bret Evans, the Editor of Canadian Coin News, to project the total readership when you take into account that they were listed on the Canadian Numismatic Reference Website run by Brian Smith as well as being passed on by others in various ways. The figure he came up with is closer to 10,000 people. That, to me, is a run-away success!

#2 - The cooperation that the C.N.A., and me personally, are receiving from various members of the staff of the Royal Canadian Mint and the National Currency Museum. In all the years that I have been fortunate enough to represent the hobby to the Royal Canadian Mint, I have never met a group of such dedicated individuals! I received a warm welcome when I visited both institutions recently. The C.N.A. received a commitment from the Royal Canadian Mint to produce and distribute 60,000 brochures extolling the benefits of membership in the C.N.A. The result so far is over 200 new members for 2006, including a number of juniors, with close to that quantity again asking for sample Journals. Eight different RCM holders will be included in the Young Numismatist Kits at the 2006 C.N.A. Convention...including the commemorative coins themselves that were issued recently, such as the "V" nickel, Terry Fox dollar, Poppy quarter, Lucky Olympic Loonie, 400th anniversary quarter, Veteran quarter, Alberta and Saskatchewan quarters and a set of 2005 coins from 1 cent to \$2.00. The Bank of Canada also provided me with brochures and other give-aways during my recent visit, and were receptive to considering donations for this year's Convention registration kits. My host from the Bank, Barry McIntyre, picked me up at the hotel to take me to a meeting of the City of Ottawa Coin Club and invited me to his home for an interesting chat.

#1 - I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate the fantastic support I have received from my wife, Monina. She not only proof-reads these bulletins before they are sent out, but she has been a volunteer for the C.N.A. in a number of ways, performing numerous administrative duties. I know that a lot of you involved in the hobby as volunteers or as a business will know exactly what I am talking about when I say that a spouse can make your hobby so much more pleasurable!

CANADA'S LARGEST LOTTERY WINNER BEING SUED BY EX-WIFE - PART TWO

In Issue #28 of December 10, we wrote about the ex-wife of Canada's biggest lottery winner going to court to strike down her divorce and force Raymond Sobeski to pay her a \$500,000 lump sum and \$10,000 monthly support. She claims the "marriage" continued after the divorce, and the relationship ended only after Sobeski came forward in April 2004 to claim a \$30 million lottery prize he won a year earlier. According to The Toronto Star, the case finally went to court in London, Ontario. They got married in 1998, separated in December 2002, he bought the winning ticket on April 12, 2003 but made no move to collect it, began divorce proceedings in November 2003, was granted the divorce on February 10, 2004 and collected his winnings on April 1, 2004.

In his defense, Sobeski says he has been stalked, assaulted and embarrassed by a manipulative ex-wife, who will stop at nothing to get her hands on half the \$30 million jackpot he won in the Super 7 lottery. She, in turn, claims he is an abuser and a liar to boot, who delayed

picking up the biggest individual jackpot in Canadian history for a year so he could scheme to cut her out of her rightful share. She asked a judge to award her \$9,000 a month in interim spousal support and an immediate payment of \$262,000 to help cover her legal costs as she battles her ex for her share of the winnings he pocketed in April 2004.

But before the judge could rule on the motion, the two sides emerged from behind closed courtroom doors to announce they had reached a settlement of sorts, but the details would remain confidential. But whatever the settlement was, it is revealed in The Toronto Star article that it still allows her to continue to pursue Sobeski for her share of the pot, about \$17 million of which has been previously frozen by the courts pending the outcome of her lawsuit. Maybe now he will replace his old Chevy Cavalier.

The ex, who goes by her maiden name of Nynna Ianson, has been on welfare and lives in subsidized housing. Sobeski stated that she could have supported herself by going back to her old job as a stripper...excuse me...exotic dancer. She presented evidence that the marriage was not really over, producing photographs of their vacation together, having dinners, buying gifts, going to the Everything To Do With Sex Show at Toronto's Exhibition Place and an outing to a nudist resort's Halloween party, birthday and anniversary cards, poems and transcripts of telephone messages in which he pronounced his undying love for her ("You're my everything. Nothing else matters...If you need money, honey, all you do is ask").

Sobeski says the \$30 million has brought him misery, not happiness. Well, maybe if his judgment wasn't clouded, he wouldn't have had these problems! If you review the sequence of events above, why didn't he see the obvious? Maybe the words I used on a few previous occasions affected his judgment. Do you remember what the two words are? "Greed" and "Stupidity!"

STOLEN MEDAL FOUND AFTER TWENTY YEARS

According to a Reuters press release, a valuable British war medal discovered on an Australian beach has been traced to a London family who reported the treasured piece of history stolen nearly two decades ago.

The George Cross medal, valued at about 15,000 pounds (\$35,700), was found on a beach in Queensland state in February and police handed it to the British Consulate in Brisbane on Thursday so that it could be returned to its owners.

Australian Associated Press reported that the medal had been awarded to Flying Officer Anthony Tollemache in 1940 after his plane crashed during an exercise in England and he risked his life to save a passenger.

The medal was one of several stolen from the Tollemache family home in London in 1988. It remains a mystery as to how the medal ended up on the other side of the world.

"I was trying to find the person responsible for the offence but in the end I was just happy to find the heir," Queensland state police officer Brendan Laverty said in a statement.

POCKET SEARCHES AT CUSTOMS CHECKS

I have some bad news for all of you that have been in the habit of smuggling things through customs in your pockets, be it drugs, counterfeit money or whatever.

According to a front-page story in the December 22 Toronto Star, the Ontario Court of Appeals has confirmed that Canada Customs inspectors can ask people to empty their pockets at border crossings. The case was as a result of a lower court decision to acquit a man last year on charges of possessing counterfeit currency. The lower court had previously ruled that pocket searches were a form of unconstitutional search and seizure. However, the Court of Appeals ruled in a unanimous three-judge panel that they are nothing more than routine screening. The ruling described them as “within the legitimate purpose of border crossings,” which does not raise Charter of Rights issues. According to the Customs Act, “an officer may search any person who has arrived in Canada...”

The decision orders a new trial for Dwight Adrian Hudson, who was acquitted of charges of carrying counterfeit currency across the border in May 2003 after a trial judge ruled the search that found the bogus cash was not within the right of customs officers. He had been trying to cross the border into Canada at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie, when agents ordered him, his son and two other people out of the vehicle. During the following inspection, Hudson turned his pockets inside out and five crumpled \$50 bills appeared on the table. The customs officer believed the bills to be counterfeit and, upon further examination, Hudson was arrested for possession of counterfeit money and given his right to counsel.

The ruling states that “the search did not amount to more than the routine questioning that every traveler undergoes at a border crossing into Canada. In the circumstances, of the case, no charter rights were breached.”

If I may express an opinion, cases such as this are as a result of a very litigious society. How can anyone feel they can sneak contraband into the country in their pockets and get away with it? The only ones who would claim to feel that way are usually known as...guilty!

DO NOT FEED THE TIGER RULE IGNORED

Here is another brief article about stupid thieves where it just didn't pay trying to steal some money.

A suspected robber being chased by security guards met a grisly end after he fled into a zoo in the city of Bloemfontein and climbed into the tiger enclosure.

Police said the man and an accomplice had robbed a couple at knifepoint on December 18. Security guards gave chase and one of the suspects jumped over the perimeter fence. He then apparently ran to the tiger's den in the middle of the zoo.

FABULOUS QUOTES FROM THE ANA NUMISMATIST

We picked up the November issue of the Numismatist, official publication of the American Numismatic Association, and came across some great quotes. I am repeating them here because they identify why a lot of us are involved in this wonderful hobby. I hope the authors and the ANA don't mind me reprinting excerpts here.

“Buying and selling numismatic items on the Internet is convenient, efficient and relatively simple, but it lacks a component crucial to well-rounded hobbyists: actual human contact. If you never go to coin shows - even one of those 12-cardtable deals at the American Legion Hall on a Saturday afternoon - your numismatic soul will be partially empty. Nothing beats meeting other collectors and dealers face to face, making friends, sharing knowledge and tall tales, and actually seeing real coins and bank notes up close ‘n’ personal, not merely as digital images on a computer screen” - Donn Pearlman, author of Pearlman's Perspectives, ANA Numismatist.

“Have you ever seen a coin that made you stop dead in your tracks? You know, the kind that makes you mutter “Whoa!” under your breath and immediately wonder where it’s been and what it’s seen.” - Michael S. Fey, author of “Coin of the Klondike” article in ANA Numismatist.

“Many collectors can count scores of people they’ve met at local, regional and national shows, starting happy friendships and launching business relationships that span decades and great distances.” - Donn Pearlman, author of Pearlman’s Perspectives, ANA Numismatist.

“Approaching numismatics as both a collector and investor is great. Not only do you look for material you truly enjoy, but you also have an eye for quality, rarity and value, a tried-and-true formula for building a stellar collection over the long run.” Brian Silliman & Skip Fazzari, authors of “More ‘Pop’ for Your Penny” article, ANA Numismatist.

“My philosophy of collecting is that there is not much fun in having so much money that you can afford to buy anything at any price without effort. Much more rewarding is to have the patience to visit a large number of dealers when traveling in a lot of countries, and to participate in a number of auctions with a low range limit, looking for the item you like at a reasonable price. When you finally get that coin in an affordable condition, your pleasure is increased tenfold, because it represents the result of (sometimes) years of research and effort.” - Patrick Jamet, author of “A Passion for Collecting” article, ANA Numismatist

“Numismatics, like most investments, can be very risky, but the knowledgeable and careful investor can do quite well. The key to success is finding an area that interest you, buying pieces you really like and negotiating the best deal possible. In the end, whether or not it appreciates in value, your collection will give you pleasure and prove to be a real family treasurer.” Brian Silliman & Skip Fazzari, authors of “More ‘Pop’ for Your Penny” article, ANA Numismatist.

“Don’t expect to make significant amounts of money with coin collecting; instead, enjoy the pleasure of acquiring nice portraits, evocative landscapes and fine coats-of-arms. Transmit your passion to your children; it will give them a real sense of purpose for their free time.” - Patrick Jamet, author of “A Passion for Collecting” article, ANA Numismatist.

“Coin collectors always have had access to high-quality numismatic literature, but in recent years there’s been a prolific outpouring of publications. The numismatic advice ‘buy the book before the coin’ is easier to follow and more rewarding than ever.” - Mitch Sanders, author of “Numismatic Thanksgiving article, ANA Numismatist.

“Today’s coin show calendar is as full as it’s ever been. For seeing abundant material in a concentrated area, there’s nothing like a coin show. When I enter, I’m excited about the possibilities before me, and I always leave with new treasures and fond memories of my experiences acquiring them.” - Mitch Sanders, author of “Numismatic Thanksgiving article, ANA Numismatist.

Hey, isn’t that what numismatics and friendship is all about? That’s a lot of great advise, all in just one issue. And that’s what you can experience in every issue of the ANA Numismatist. If you are not a member of the ANA, go to www.money.org and sign up!

EXPERTS EXAMINE TONS OF MONEY PRINTER’S HISTORIC ARCHIVES

One of the e-mails we receive is the weekly synopsis of press releases that were posted online regarding the antiques and collectibles trade and related organization. Over 3,000 people

receive the e-mail, and an average of 27,000 readers visit www.news-antique.com each month (press releases can also be posted online at no charge). One release, submitted to them by Donn Pearlman, caught our eye last week, which we are reprinting.

In a Far Hills, New Jersey warehouse, researchers are carefully examining a 200-ton treasure trove of 19th and 20th century financial and cultural history. They are slowly cataloging an estimated 300,000 intricately engraved steel plates and rollers that were used for printing paper money, postage stamps, stock certificates, bonds and even admission tickets to political conventions more than a century ago.

The items dating back to the 1830s and perhaps earlier are from the archives of the American Bank Note Company. They could have been sold for scrap at \$800 a ton by the firm, except for the foresight of numismatist, John Albanese, of Archival Collectibles LLC of Far Hills, New Jersey. He bought the archives in August 2004 for an undisclosed price, and over the next eight months moved the 200 tons of engraved steel shipment-by-shipment from a warehouse near Nashville, Tennessee to New Jersey. That was the easy part.

"There are just so many printing plates, maybe as many as 300,000, that we've probably inventoried only 20 percent of the items so far," said Albanese. "Many of them are engraved with incredibly beautiful vignettes with scenes of daily life, famous people or allegorical representations. This is art in its original form by some of America's most skilled and famous engravers." Steve Blum, a New York area professional numismatist and President of Archival Collectibles, has been sifting through the archives and making inventory lists almost daily since September.

Most of the plates were created over a century ago in the New York City area when American Bank Note was the nation's foremost printer of paper money. About 5,000 banks and other entities issued their own paper in denominations from three-cents to \$1,000 until 1866.

The American Bank Note was formed in 1858 by a consolidation of eight leading bank note engravers and printers. Over the years, the firm acquired other companies and their archives, according to former ANA President Q. David Bowers, Numismatic Director of American Numismatic Rarities. "American Bank Note was the dominant force in creating designs and printing paper money from the second half of the 19th century to the early 20th century. The printing plates and rollers in these archives were used for creating Gold Rush-era bank notes, postage stamps and thousands of stock certificates, tickets and engraved invitations," said Bowers. "Many of these printing plates have wonderfully ornate engravings of presidents, goddesses and American scenes. The archives also include an antique, six-foot tall, hand-operated printing press. In addition to creating a reference book about the material, we plan to exhibit some of the printing plates at collectors' shows around the country, and we'll donate some to various museums. Eventually, most of the archives will be offered for sale to collectors."

COINS WOULD HAVE SOLVED PROBLEM WITH NAUGHTY KIDS

If you were shopping around eBay recently, you might have stumbled cross a few Nintendo's that were being auctioned off by a father who was punishing his children, ages 9, 11 and 15, for fighting with one another, used vulgar language and gestured obscenely. The last we heard was that the minimum bids were not received, possibly because people might have felt sorry for the children, although the father said he would return them to the store if they were not sold on eBay. Or it could also have been that at the time 540 others were selling Nintendo DFS items (this figure is fact, not an exaggeration).

We have always said that if you want your children to behave, give them numismatic items such as coins, supplies or catalogues. I know it worked for me.

So did you give your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, brothers or sisters some numismatic items for Christmas? Your local dealer was a good start to make suggestions. Or you can still get some gifts from the Royal Canadian Mint, U.S. Mint or BEP Websites, whose links can be obtained from www.canadian-numismatic.org.

A junior gift membership in the C.N.A. makes a terrific gift, since it includes a Canadian coin catalogue, Municipal trade token catalogue, 100 2x2 coin holders, some back-issues of the CN Journals, a quantity of wooden nickels, a supply of Canadian and foreign coins, tokens, medals, eight commemorative holders from the Royal Canadian Mint and more. This kit is mailed to all junior applicants, with 10 Journals mailed out as they are published during the course of the year. All for \$16.50 (Canadian funds to Canadian addresses; U.S. funds to U.S. addresses). And that's not all. Here is a deal you should find hard to resist:

We want you to think of a few juniors that you want to give a gift subscription to the Canadian Numismatic Association. If you are a dealer, you might want to send it to a few of your young customers. If you are a collector, surely you know a few kids that are developing an interest in the hobby. For the next month, we will include with each gift membership a) all 10 Journals published in 2005, b) due to a donation from Albert Kasman, a Toronto collector with a good heart, reduce the junior membership fee to you by \$5 each or, alternatively, upgrade to a 2006 Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins (normally, we include the catalogue that is a year or two old), and c) include a card advising the recipient who the gift membership is from if you tell us your relationship to the junior (or include your own card when you send us your cheque and we will include it).

When you consider that the price of the coin catalogue sells for \$14.95 plus tax, shipping cost of the kit is \$8 to \$12 depending where it is going, and the shipping carton itself costs \$1.25, you can see that the C.N.A. is trying to do its part in getting young collectors interested in the hobby.

Send your money order or cheque (payable to the C.N.A.) to C.N.A., 4836 Yonge St., Suite 601, North York, ON M2N 6S3 Canada, along with the junior's name and mailing address.

BRINKS TRUCKS

If we were to ask you what you think of when we say "Brinks Armored Cars," what would it be?

If you said "money" or "all that change to look through looking for scarce dates and errors," you might be right for your neighborhood. But in Toronto?

What I think of after reading a story in The Toronto Star is that if you carry bags full of money, have guns and drive the right car, you won't get a parking ticket on Yonge St., Toronto's main artery.

A Toronto Star staff reporter noticed that Brinks parked their cars on Yonge Street in a No Parking Zone beside the Eaton's Centre for hours and would never get a ticket from the police going by. And that includes the officers hired specifically to ticket illegally parked cars. They would simply ticket cars in front and behind the armored car and then move on, even ignoring the fact that the Brinks vehicle kept its motor running way, way over the 3-minute maximum idling bylaw.

When the reporter asked the officers why they don't ticket the Brinks Trucks, he was told that they just don't! Quite often, however, they would issue \$60 tickets in the no-standing zone to Fed Ex, Purolator or UPS trucks.

So our advise to you is go out and buy a used truck from Brinks or Wells Fargo. Maybe you'll find some bags left in the corner, if they didn't fall out of the truck like we reported earlier last year. Or better still, buy a used police vehicle and paint back on the insignia that they removed before selling it if it wasn't illegal.

NEW YEARS STUFF

Did you do something his past year that you regretted doing? Mistakes of one kind or another. Tell us if you could do something over again, what you would different.

For example, buying a way overprized coin because something fascinated you about it at the time. Depending on your grading skills...or rather lack thereof...on purchasing something in one condition that turned out to be something completely different. Or the coin listed in Fine and turned out to be at least a VF which you immediately resold for quadruple the price. That sort of stuff.

Tell us at cnanews@look.ca . Although we expect you to be honest, we do reward originality, so if you can get past our e-mail lie detector, we'll publish it.

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.

If you have a comment to make, or would like to submit an item for publication, email:
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