

## **Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 20 – August 5, 2006**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

It's been a while since you saw a C.N.A. E-Bulletin. The last one was mailed out on June 10, Volume 21, Number 19. My 49th in total if you're counting. It's been hectic, what with looking after the C.N.A. Convention and other duties. I wanted to finally get another bulletin out, so I will use some material on hand and leave the write-ups on the 2006 C.N.A. Convention for a future issue, except to tell you about the most common complaint we received.

People complained how crowded the President's Welcome Reception, the Hospitality Suite and the Royal Canadian Mint Reception were! All free events if you registered or were a bourse dealer, in case it didn't hit you. And you know why they complained? "It's way too crowded," they said. "Get bigger rooms next year," they demanded. You know why? Because it was a very successful Convention.

With many more registrants and with people arriving earlier than normal for both sightseeing and the Grading/Counterfeit Detection seminar, the President's Welcome Reception spilled out into the hallway. The RCM Reception and the Hospitality Suite were also victims of the Convention's success. What a wonderful reason to hear complaints!

We look forward to hearing similar complaints next year, although we will be moving to larger rooms.

And what did I miss while I was at the C.N.A. Convention? I am told via e-mail that a 24-year old girl will be in town and is dying to meet me. That wives of various husbands that were killed in plane crashes had money to send to a trustworthy, honest, God fearing person and they picked me. That I could get a genuine University degree in 4-6 weeks. Reduced pricing on "genuine replica watches." The Nigerians are continuing to discover millions in unclaimed funds in various bank accounts.

I received confirmations from people I spoke to last week on the telephone that I don't recall speaking to about the low mortgage rates they are offering. That I have been pre-approved on a mortgage that equals over ten times the value of my home (maybe I should take them up on that one). I can purchase a "fix" so that I can obtain all the satellite channels without bothering to notify the satellite company and paying a monthly fee. That neither the Nigerians, South Africans, Namibians, Dutch, Liberians and British can spell even though they have access to hundreds of millions of dollars (can't they use a few dollars and go to night school?). Or "exact copies of Swiss watches," which leads me to the question that if they are "exact" copies, how can I tell them from the original? Reminders from various banks that my account information needs to be updated even though I never had an account with them. Warnings not to buy certain pills because they don't work and then offering me pills that do. All kinds of prize notifications on winning tickets that I didn't have to buy in the first place.

People from Sierre Leone offering me 45% of the money they wish to transfer, rather than the piddle 15 or 20% the Nigerians do. That reminds me. I will have to get back to the Cardiff Lottery Organization to find out exactly how much I won on that ticket I didn't buy. The e-mail stated "You have won a promotional cash prize of US \$.500, 000:00 Ponds." And I must e-mail Dayzers Loterij International to express my great surprise that the four e-mail addresses I have

were all selected out of hundreds of millions of e-mail addresses from around the world to win four of the five available prizes. Imagine the odds! And better still, I won three prizes out of the two available from another lottery corporation I didn't have to enter. I wonder what they will do after they send me the two and find out that I was also a third winner? Or is that simply new math that they teach in school now?

Amazing how so many things are available now over the Internet that were not available to me before. And all those opportunities missed because I failed to respond to any of them! No wonder they have to e-mail us again if no one is claiming the money!

### **WE HAVE MAIL**

From Francois Rufiange: "I refer to the article about Christine Guyatt-Woodland from the June 5 edition of the C.N.A. E-bulletin. I just like to make a small correction. Not only is Christine a member of the CNA, ONA and COCC, she is also a member of the Apprenp'tits Numismates ([www.apprenptits.org](http://www.apprenptits.org)), a numismatic organization that promotes numismatics amongst French speaking Canadians. We are also very proud that Christine won!" (Francois is a Directeur of the Apprenp'tits Numismates and President of the City of Ottawa Coin Club) - Thank you for the additional information on Christine. And congratulations to everyone involved with Apprenp'tits Numismates. We know the good work you are doing promoting the hobby to French-Canadians.

From A. Loyal Reader: "Your request for slang reminded me of a piece I read (perhaps in Reader's Digest) in a "Dog Ate My Homework" space about a teacher who received an explanation that the Grade 2 math homework could not be completed because the IBM keyboard did not have Roman Numerals. Can kids today read a clock? Have they ever seen a clock that isn't digital? We are the last generation to type with our fingers (our kids are PDA literate and type with their thumbs). We rely on them to figure out the VCR and sometimes their insights frighten us. The sister of one of our C.N.A. Junior members told her parents that this Shakespeare guy stole the Hamlet story from The Lion King."

From Marvin Kay: "My E-Bulletin still contains strange, foreign letters. You once wrote on how to get rid of them, but I don't remember. Can you remind me, please?" - Hotmail can be a problem. One way of getting rid of them is to simply press the "Delete" button, but we don't recommend that. You can go to the C.N.A. website at [www.canadian-numismatic.org/ebulletin.php](http://www.canadian-numismatic.org/ebulletin.php) and go to any back issue of the C.N.A. E-Bulletin where you will not encounter this problem.

From Kevin Thorburn: "I recently got married in Niagara Falls (yeah, I should have planned it around the convention!) and everything involved with that." - Congratulations. And shame on you for not waiting until the Convention. Look at the great time you two could have had taking in all the Convention activities instead of just lying around doing nothing.

From Henry Nienhuis: "I wanted to say just how much I enjoyed the convention this year and to thank you for all the support and help you gave arranging the Error and Varieties meeting." - Henry was the driving force behind scheduling a meeting to see what interest there is for a Canadian error and variety group. We will wait for Henry to come up with a publicity release shortly to see where we head from here.

Following is a recent e-mail I sent to Henry, which shows that humor can sneak even into simply e-mails: "...as for the booklet on Hans Zoell, I took it to the printers a couple of days ago and will pick it up on Tuesday when I get my Honda back with a new transmission. My wife proofread it (the booklet, that is, not the transmission) and found a couple of typos that I didn't catch. I will

turn them over to you (the booklet, that is, not the typos) when I see you in Niagara Falls." I wonder what it is like living with me, a bag of laughs? Ask my wife!

### **MY VISIT TO OTTAWA**

Before I left for Niagara Falls to attend the 2006 C.N.A. Convention, I visited Ottawa for a few days. As Liaison to the RCM, I have been to Ottawa twice in the past month, including the special presentation of the new Canadarm2 collector coins to Col. Chris Hatfield, the press conference involving the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, observing the first Winter Games medal being struck, and discussions with key Mint personnel involving their plans at the 2006 C.N.A. Convention. I was introduced to Mr. Ian Bennett, the new President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint.

One of the wonderful things that came out of my discussions with the Mint was the great news that not only would they unveil at the Convention the new mintmark that will appear on all coins struck by them, but that they would also unveil a new generation of coins. Although the Royal Canadian Mint has made major announcements at previous C.N.A. Conventions, this is the first time in the history of the C.N.A. that they have selected the Convention to unveil one of their coins. We hope that this is the beginning of a trend!

Representatives of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) announced a seven-year agreement that provides the Royal Canadian Mint with Official Supporter rights for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, including rights for the Canadian Olympic Team for the Beijing 2008, Vancouver 2010 and London 2012 Games. Under the terms of the new partnership, the Mint will produce the athlete medals for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. What did not escape me were the comments that we will be able to share the excitement and passion of the Games, thanks to the Mint's variety of circulation and collector coins that will be issued over the next several years. That means that not only will collectors be able to add commemorative pieces to their collection if they wish, but the general public will have reasons to continue to look at their change and save it for the time they turn from an accumulator into a collector.

My previous visit to Ottawa coincided with a meeting of the City of Ottawa Coin Club where I had the pleasure of announcing that one of the young collectors present at the meeting, 11-year old Christine Woodland, was selected by the judges to receive the Grand Prize of an all expense paid trip to the 2006 C.N.A. Convention on the basis of the five questions they would ask the President of the Royal Canadian Mint. In my capacity of C.N.A. Convention Liaison, I also attended the 2008 Convention Committee's negotiations with various potential convention sites. The Convention committee's professionalism and negotiating skills produced excellent results. I will leave it up to them to make the appropriate announcements at a later date.

### **THE MINT MAKES ITS MARK ON CANADIAN CURRENCY**

Canadians will soon notice something a little different about their change, as will collectors of circulating and collector products produced at the Royal Canadian Mint.

At the Canadian Numismatic Association's annual convention in Niagara Falls, Ont., the Royal Canadian Mint unveiled a subtle yet important new Mint Mark to be struck on all Canadian coins. Making its debut on the new circulating 10th anniversary two-dollar coin being launched this August, the Mint Mark is expected to begin appearing on the obverse of all standard denominations of circulation coins that the Mint produces for Canada by the end of 2006. The Mint Mark encompasses the three elements of the Mint's corporate name: M for Mint; a Maple

leaf for Canadian; and a crown for Royal and Crown Corporation. The registered Mint Mark design is intended to standardize the Mint's visual identity.

Production for 2006 circulation coins began in late summer 2005. These coins represent the last Canadian circulation coins to be struck without a Mint Mark. The first Mint Mark circulation trial coins were struck in the spring of 2006 at the Winnipeg facility. The Mint is offering a unique collectible that features two First Day Coins for each Canadian circulation denomination: the First Day Mint Mark Coin for 2006 and the Final non-Mint Mark Coin for 2005. Each First Day Coin denomination has a limited mintage of 5,000 and are sold for \$29.95 each.

### **EXACTLY HOW BIG IS THE NIGERIAN SCAM?**

We received an e-mail from the Chief Operation Officer of Burst Securities Inc. in which he advised us that his company was in the business of helping victims of the monetary transfer scam or crime popularly known as the Nigerian Advanced 419 scam transaction.

The perpetrators usually fraud their victims by sending e-mails proposing to the victims to help them transfer some millions of US Dollars either to the victims' bank account for joint investment or for some percentages to be given to the victims for assisting in transferring the money out for safekeeping. The scam proposal will look so good and convincing to the gullible that the victim will believe such a proposal to the extent that the victim will lose all his or her hard earned money, leaving them disappointed and duped of their money.

The company states that they will assist you by gathering litigation intelligence, tracing the criminals' money, work with legal enforcement authorities and represent you when the criminals are brought to trial and your stolen money recovered and given back to you. They also state that they will obtain their assets, which might be bought with the money duped from you, and their legal services fees will be paid to them from your stolen money recovered from the criminals after prosecuting the criminals in the court of law.

The question we have is: If someone is willing to get paid only if and when they recover your funds, exactly how many suckers are sending money to the Nigerians and others to make it worth their while?

### **EVEN BLONDIE IS GETTING IN ON THE NIGERIAN SCAM**

The Saturday, July 29 Blondie comic strip included a reference to the Nigerian scam.

Dagwood is sitting in his pajamas in front of the computer. He is muttering "Wow" and "Oh Brother" and generally expressing delight in what he reads. Blondie asks: "Aren't you coming to bed, dear?" to which he replies: "Look at this! I got an e-mail from China telling me I won a global lottery! The prize is millions of dollars and all I have to do is verify my social security number. Can you imagine anyone getting suckered into believing a phony scam like that?" to which she replies: "No, I can't."

They go to bed. When she awakes during the night, she notices her husband is not there. She goes to his office and shouts: "Dagwood! Get back to bed!!" To which he replies: Well, what could it hurt to enter the first six digits?"

It can be summed up in one word why people fall for it: Greed!

## **WE ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES PICKING ON THE NIGERIANS**

Bob Thaves, the cartoonist of Frank & Ernest that appears in hundreds of newspapers, recently featured a cartoon that showed the following written on a brick wall: "Hello, I am a Nigerian General's Widow. I have a large amount of securities that I need to transfer." Frank says to Ernest: Graffiti was bad enough, but now we have Graffiti Spam."

Maybe we shouldn't have mentioned the above, because it will only give the Nigerians ideas to come over here to ply their trade on our brick walls.

## **APPEAL FOR BACKGROUND ON HERBERT EICKHOFF**

The CNA can do a lot to reconstruct some of the history of a current or former member. For example, our Executive Secretary can review the old card file that tells us when someone joined, how many years they were a member, what donations they made over the years, etc. The Index of articles published in the Journals over the years will also help track down any articles they wrote.

We recently had a request from a relative of the late Herbert Eickhoff, a long-time member of the C.N.A. We have the presentation he made at the 1989 C.N.A. Convention in Quebec City on video tape of which we will make a copy for her. We are wondering if any of the recipients of this E-Bulletin can give Tanya some of their personal experiences with Mr. Eickhoff? She can be reached at [co-prosperityzone@sympatico.ca](mailto:co-prosperityzone@sympatico.ca).

Okay, enough of the serious stuff. Back to our usual content.

## **CAN I USE MY MONOPOLY GAME CREDIT CARD AT SEARS?**

Parker Brothers has announced that its latest British version of the classic board game Monopoly will no longer come with the coloured cash that some people collect. In its place will be a mini ATM machine and debit cards sponsored by VISA. This leads me to a few questions:

1. Does this mean that the Monopoly money I have will become worth something in the future, notwithstanding that there are hundreds of trillions of these notes out there?
2. Will I be able to also use the debit card at the department store?
3. Will I have to remember another PIN number?
4. If I forget my PIN number while playing Monopoly, does that mean I am out of the game? Or can I simply enter my mother's maiden name into the mini ATM machine to continue?
5. Will all the other games that use money of one sort or another, including Roulette, follow suit?
6. Will I be able to use my Monopoly debit card to obtain cash for another game?

## **THIS GIVES A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO DRUG MONEY**

A member of the C.N.A. Executive tells me that one of his dogs keeps sniffing around his travel bags that he keeps on the ready in case he is called away on business on short notice. In the bag he keeps a small quantity of Canadian \$1 and \$2 notes as well as low denominations of U.S. paper money. He uses the Canadian notes mainly for tipping waitresses and others. The dog has a habit of only grabbing the Canadian notes between his teeth after sniffing the contents of the travel bag and chewing on them.

A number of issues ago, we mentioned that according to law enforcement statistics, a high quantity of paper notes have traces of Marijuana or cocaine on them, due to the high volume of money handled by drug dealers and drug users. We wonder if there is any connection between that column and the money in the bag?

We also wonder if there is a very happy dog, whose name is not being published to protect the owner's identity!

### **THOSE DANGEROUS MAILBOXES JUST HAVE TO GO!**

Here is one for our philatelic friends.

An 81-year-old man says Canada Post's decision to suspend deliveries to his home because his mailbox has been deemed dangerous don't make sense. "There's no barking dog, no moat with crocodiles – just the same mailbox for 46 years," Roy Paterson said. "Now it's too high for health and safety reasons."

Paterson said he hasn't received any mail for two months because Canada Post said the mailbox is too high and therefore dangerous for carriers. But Paterson said if Canada Post won't deliver his mail anymore, then good riddance. "I just say keep your damn mail," he said. "We've got e-mail, we've got telephone, we pay our bills through the Internet. I don't need Canada Post anymore."

Paterson said the government agency told him he'll receive mail again if he changes his mailbox. Canada Post spokesman Tom Creech said almost everyone in Paterson's neighborhood was told to get a new mailbox because most were too low.

### **GUNMAN LYING IN WAIT AT ATM**

Ottawa police are looking for a man believed to be preying on single women at night, by hiding and waiting near drive-thru bank machines, then approaching cars and demanding money at gunpoint. Police are investigating four robberies in as many days at drive-thru bank machines. The man is between 25 and 40 years old, 5-foot-10 to six feet tall and was last seen wearing a dark baseball cap, a blue plaid shirt and possibly wearing glasses.

From that description we know it's not a coin collector. That's way too young! (Oh, please, no letters. We know the average age of your coin club is at least 70!)

### **ANOTHER SURVIVOR MILLIONAIRE IN TROUBLE**

Remember us telling you that Richard Hatch was charged and convicted of not paying income tax on his \$1 million win on the popular TV program Survivor? He was sentenced to 51 months in prison for failing to pay income taxes not only on his reality TV prize but other earnings as well. The harsher than expected sentence was due to the fact that Hatch lied repeatedly during his trial.

Another \$1 million Survivor winner has been suspended from his job with the Ohio Department of Transportation for taking unauthorized leave of absence. Chris Daugherty, 35, who won \$1 million in 2004 on Survivor: Vanuatu - Islands of Fire, but returned to his \$34,000-a-year job, was suspended for 20 days without pay for using a bogus medical excuse to leave work for a month.

I guess he figured the bosses at CBS headquarters would never find out what he was up to: attending a promotional tour for the CBS reality TV show in Europe.

Is this reality, everyone being stupid?

## **COUNTERFEIT RING BUSTED BY POLICE**

At least 30 people have been arrested in the dismantling of a major counterfeit money-making ring that laundered millions of dollars of cash through popular consumer retail chains throughout Ontario and in Montreal.

More than \$4.5 million in counterfeit currency - about half the phony money that has been turned over to the RCMP at the Bureau of Counterfeits in Ottawa from across Canada in the past 10 to 12 months - has been directly linked to the organization. Their members are also alleged to be responsible for a series of violent bank robberies as well as the illegal manufacturing of credit cards and the theft of credit card data.

"Had this group not been stopped they would have had a significant effect on the Canadian economy," said Sgt. Moshe Gordon, a counterfeit coordinator for the RCMP. Project "More Money" is continuing and more than \$2.4 million in counterfeit currency of the total recovered so far has been directly linked to a single counterfeit money manufacturing plant in an industrial unit in Mississauga where police found a Heidelberg printing press that had been adapted to produce nearly perfect foil strips found on all Canadian bills.

As well, more than 10,000 debit and credit card numbers were discovered inside the hard drives of seized computers - data that had been allegedly stolen from unsuspecting consumers since early 2005. One of the accused was also charged with attempted murder in an unrelated case involving a stabbing in 2004 at the Bramalea City Centre, police said.

The operation was discovered after a special task force headed by Peel Det.-Sgt. Steve Patterson was created to probe two violent armed bank robberies last year in Brampton where customers and tellers were threatened and ordered to the floor. The initial bank robbery investigations led police to identify as many as six bandits, who are now alleged to have been involved in robbing several banks in Peel and Toronto. "As a result of investigating individuals in connection with the bank robberies we uncovered others who were allegedly passing large amounts of counterfeit currency," Patterson said at a news conference.

Altogether, 469 charges have been laid so far in the investigation conducted by Peel's robbery task force and fraud bureau organized crime team. At least 50 people were identified as being connected to the ring although not all of them have been charged, police said. Main players charged in connecting with the bank robberies include Gregory Bernard, 23, who was charged with 115 offenses, including attempted murder, and numerous robbery and firearms offenses; Andre Reid, 23, who was charged with 112 offenses; Philip Reid, 20, who was charged with 26 offenses and Hydrick Fray-Griffith, 10, who was charged with 34 offenses. Among the other 26 charged with numerous offenses were seven young offenders whose identities are protected by the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

## **IDENTIFY THEFT A HUGE PROBLEM**

An interesting meeting at a recent meeting of the North York Coin Club had a member of the Toronto Police Department speak on bank machines, stand-alone ATM machines like you find in malls and identity theft. Here are some of things he said:

Identity theft is the number one crime in the US and Canada. It is not if it will happen to us but when, it is so big.

Most of the identity thefts are internal: postal workers, workers at credit bureaus and banks. And the people doing it do not usually work alone, but rather as a team. Each person has a function.

In Canada the latest number for identity theft is 13,359 for Canada, with 5,777 in Ontario. And everyone feels these numbers are way too low because people are not reporting these thefts to police.

## **CONCLUSION**

Since we have some catching up to do, expect another C.N.A. E-Bulletin on August 10.

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

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