

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 31 – November 3, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

For the past 30 issues, the content of this E-Bulletin has dealt with Internet money scams, items about stupid criminals that can't keep their hands off other people's money, dumb things that banks do, humor about money, your e-mails, non-numismatic humor that you sent us, people in the news that have problems with money (such as "forgetting" to pay their taxes on a \$1 million win or trying to rip off someone for a lotto ticket). The feedback that I have been getting is that it makes light reading that should be continued.

I have managed to include items for the credit card collector, transportation enthusiasts, people in the news and asking readers to respond to various items (usually to no avail). Again, the response from the people that either e-mail or telephone me (yes, there are quite a number of you that pick up the phone just to chat), or that I see face-to-face at club meetings, generally tell me to carry on - they enjoy the bulletin. They also tell me that they agree with the policy of not simply rehashing items in the news that they read in the numismatic press, except if we put our own slant (humor?) on it. The fact that we have had very, very few people asking to be removed from the mailing list also speaks volumes.

To make sure that you get the content you want in future, why not drop us a line at cnanews@look.ca and tell us what you like to see included or, **just** as important, what you don't want. While you're at it, why not send us a contribution or two. If you are an editor of a publication, take some of the items you have published and send it to us. Or put us on your complimentary mailing list at C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor, 4936 Yonge St., Suite 601, North York, ON M2N 6S3 Canada. Remember, we favor funny stuff. We tend to publish serious stuff only if it is unusual and highly interesting and entertaining. Send your serious numismatic articles to the C.N.A. Journal editor at cnajournal@aol.com.

In the meantime, I will continue to include humor involving money, unusual news stories involving money, a few serious articles that I think you might find interesting, even non-numismatic humor sent in by you and anything else that we might come across that ties in to my mandate, whatever that might be. I will be including, from time-to-time, additional background on the C.N.A. and its volunteers, as well as timely items about the C.N.A., such as benefits of memberships and Convention updates.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Ralph Trimble: "The real problem with Peter McDonald's fun response is that every single time he replies to one of these spoofs, he is confirming to the spammer that his is a real, working email address. This information is likely then sold to who knows how many other spammers." - Yes, but look at all the fun you can have reading those additional e-mails, which is why I don't want to activate my "junk" delete folder. Like the following one about "defaced money in a printing and minting company in Bermuda officially linked to the U.S. Treasury Department."

From Dr. Druce: "Gooday, Let this mail not appear unsolicited to you. This is no joke. It is for real. My name is Dr. Druce Gabbar, a private war detective & supervisor to American and British Soldiers in currently serving in Iraq. I am contacting you on behalf of two American soldiers who during the operation "capture Saddam" had a Golden opportunity to move \$28,000,000.00

(Twenty eight million US dollars) belonging to Saddam. This money has been moved from a container to a secured location. The funds has been kept safely defaced in a printing and minting company in Bermuda officially linked to US treasury department. Basically these two soldiers are working for the American Government and their banking activities are strictly monitored. Therefore, getting the total funds into United States in their names is virtually NOT possible. Hence the reason, I have been requested to contact any reliable person to help get the funds delivered safely for investment purposes. Your role to assist is having the funds delivered to you (in your residence) where it will be invested and managed on their behalf by you. Also it is imperative to let you know that this deal is hitch free. Please if you are interested get back to me ASAP for more details and the procedures of the transaction. If otherwise, please discard this email.” – Done, consider it discarded. I just want to know exactly what “safely defaced” means. Also, who is “a printing and minting company in Bermuda officially linked to US treasury department?”

From Ralph Trimble: “I see near the bottom of the last issue that you are going to be naming names at that coin show on the 28th. Well, it’s been nice knowing you, John. (How long can you hold your breath, once you are fitted for those concrete shoes?” - I did indeed “name names” in my presentation at Torex about “Backdoor Jobs from the Royal Canadian Mint.” I was on save grounds, though, since I knew the history of the questionable material in the slide show, and the dealer and an employee of the Mint were charged, convicted and served time in jail for their collusion to sneak things out that didn’t belong to them.

From “Shortenurl”: Dear Lottery Player, Are you interested in how you can increase your lottery chances by exactly 3,600% ? Of course. But make no mistake! Our e-LOTTERY ‘MULTI-WIN’ SYNDICATE SYSTEM is nothing like any syndicate you may have played in before. It’s unique!... Giving you a fun, hassle-free way to play online every week and a huge, proven, mathematical advantage over playing the lotteries on your own the normal way. In fact, so huge an advantage you have a massive 702% greater chance of scooping a UK National Lotto jackpon and an even better 3,600% greater chance of scooping a EuroMillions jackpot! And anybody can join our system, from anywhere in the world, as thousands have done already from 127 differenn countries. To get the the full ‘inside-track’ on the e-Lottery Advantage, go to our website right now!” - Hey, thanks for the offer. However, I don’t have to pay you to increase my chances. I have been a multiple winner in both the UK National Lotto and EuroMillions, as well as many, many others, without even having entered. You can’t beat that for a system! Why don’t you use some of the money, if you are going to send these letters to millions of people (I received three of them on different e-mails) for a typing or spelling course.

PHONY FIRM TARGETING SHOPPERS

The following was sent to us by Peter Becker, President of the Waterloo Coin Society, one of Canada’s largest clubs.

A company with a Kitchener, Ontario address has fleeced unsuspecting Americans of about \$40,000. A warning was issued by Kentucky attorney Greg Stumbo saying that Shopping Group Inc. is targeting consumers in that State. Victims receive a letter claiming that the firm helps other companies assess their customer service and offers a chance to earn \$1,000 for buying \$50 worth of merchandise. A Guelph, Ontario telephone number is given for the person to call if they agree. Then a cheque for \$5,000 is mailed out with instructions to cash it, keep \$1,000, spend \$50 and return the other \$3,950.00.

The initial cheque turns out to be counterfeit and the victim not only loses the original \$5,000 and in most cases has already paid out the \$3,950 by the time the Bank discovers the

fraudulent cheque and goes after the customer for the money. Only 10 victims have come forward so far.

The telephone number and money transfer accounts may have been set up in the Waterloo Region and Police have suspects but won't say whether any are from Kitchener-Waterloo. Unfortunately the scammers, in an effort to appear legitimate, are using the address for the Kitchener Chamber of Commerce, likely chosen at random which has them quite upset. The Chamber of Commerce is thankful that their name wasn't used. Seven complaints from the U.S. have been made this year about the Shopping Group to the Better Business Bureau of mid-western and central Ontario. Attempts to call or fax the company were unsuccessful and Police are continuing their investigation.

JUST WHAT I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR

Finally, we have received an e-mail that we were hoping someone would send us. Gee, do you think it is for real?

"Our attorneys have discovered a loop hole in the banking laws. Using this discovery we have been successful at totally eliminating peoples CreditCardDebt with out them paying another dime. We GuaranteeThat we can do this for you."

They make it very easy by providing a telephone number in the "314" area code. I didn't call them, thought, figuring that if someone makes a few typos in a simple e-mail, how smart can they really be in saving me money? Anyway, we paid off our credit card the other day. Where were they when I could have used their advice?

Did anybody else receive this and did they call? Tell us at cnanews@look.ca what you were told.

AT WHAT POINT IS A WAFER A BAR?

I was looking up our Roger Cable's TV guide the other day to see what programs I would not be watching because I would be busy putting this bulletin together. On the left side of the screen, you see what programs are coming up, while the right side features ads. The ad that caught my eye is the promo for Rogers Personal TV that stated that you could win a "gold bar." What they showed on the screen, I thought, was a one ounce gold wafer.

Now my question is: at what point, either in weight or size or shape, can a wafer be called a "bar" without being misleading?

NON-NUMISMATIC HUMOR FROM NUMISMATISTS

Here are a few mind boggling questions to think about that you probably have never thought about. I don't remember who sent it to me.

- - Can you cry under water?
- - How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- - Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?
- - Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
- - Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- - What disease did cured ham actually have?

- - How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- - Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
- - If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- - Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
- - Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- - Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.
- - Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?
- - Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- - If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?
- - Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
- - If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
- - Why do people point to their wrist when asking for the time, but don't point to their crotch when they ask where the bathroom is?
- - Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!
- - If Wyle E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?
- - If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
- - If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
- - Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?
- - Why did you just try singing the two songs above?
- - Why do they call it an asteroid when it's outside the hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it's in your butt?
- - Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride; he sticks his head out the window?
- - Do you ever wonder why you gave me your e-mail address in the first place?

HANDLING MONEY LIKE MOST PEOPLE

The Friday, October 13 cartoon "Pardon my Planet" published in thousands of newspapers throughout the English-speaking world, explains why I am so good in handling money:

"If bouncing checks, juggling credit cards and stringing out payments doesn't prove to you that I can handle money, nothing will."

CAMOUFLAGE BANDIT SENTENCED FOR 16 BANK ROBBERIES

In previous C.N.A. E-Bulletins, we told you about the bank robber dubbed the "Camouflage Bandit" because he often wore army fatigues, dark sunglasses and a toque during the spree. He had a full beard in some of the early bank robberies but was later clean-shaven.

Danny William Miller, 41, of Mississauga, was recently sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to 16 of 21 bank robberies stretching as far west as London, and including 9 heists in Greater Toronto with 2 in Mississauga, 1 in York and 6 in Halton. Nine different police forces had been hunting the elusive robber. The convicted serial bank robber also received two years concurrent for seven counts of wearing a disguise in commission of the indictable offences.

The heists began Dec. 21, 2005, in Guelph. Miller was nabbed by tactical officers at a Malton residence after police lifted a fingerprint from a door to a Mississauga CIBC branch in Erin Mills Parkway that was robbed a few days before his arrest. Miller was never under surveillance throughout the entire multi-force investigation. Police didn't know who they were looking for until they obtained the fingerprint. His identity went undetected for months, despite bank video cameras snapping his picture. He never seemed concerned about having his photo taken.

Miller, who was ordered to submit a DNA sample and given a lifetime weapons prohibition, was initially charged with 42 offences in connection with his robbery spree.

The Canadian Bankers Association had offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his arrest but his capture didn't occur as a result of a tip.

The Camouflage Bandit was one of two serial bank robbers hitting financial institutions last year. The other was dubbed the Recipe Card Bandit because he often gave tellers a note written on a recipe card. Kenneth Calver, 36, of Mississauga, was arrested in November 2005 and remains in custody in connection with 31 bank robberies. His case is still before the courts.

Although it was later revealed that the two men lived for a short period in the same Mississauga residence, police never obtained any information indicating the two men worked together. Miller moved out of the south Mississauga rooming house before Calver allegedly started committing bank robberies in August 2005.

JACKPOT INSTANT MILLIONAIRES

A few months ago, we mentioned that The Learning Channel was running a 1-hour program featuring a number of "instant millionaires," those that have won multi-millions in lotteries. Recently, amongst other "money" shows ("Deal or No Deal" with Howie Mandell on NBC and Global (where a contestant won \$286,000); "The Coin Show" on The Shopping Channel; "Mad Money" on CNBC; and "Look-Alike" which I thought might be about counterfeit money but wasn't, was the rerun of "Jackpot Instant Millionaires." One thing that impressed me, as it did when I saw it when it originally aired, was that they all quit their jobs.

The rest of us can only dream!

TIME IS MONEY

Canadians are the world leaders in using debit cards instead of carrying large amounts of cash. And the tools for a cashless society are expanding. Canadian and U.S. gas stations already offer key fobs that customers simply dangle in front of the pump to pay for a fill-up. Now Connecticut-based Timex has come up with its own take: a watch that will also pay for a burger and fries. Timex has released 4,000 Speed-pass timepieces. The watches, sold exclusively on-line, built on the Speedpass payment system is already widely used at Exxon and Esso stations. To buy gas there, or a meal at any of more than 400 McDonald's in metropolitan Chicago and northwest Indiana, Timex Speedpass owners just wave their watch near a Speedpass sensor at the pump or drive-thru. A chip within the watch identifies the client. The transaction is then billed to a prearranged credit or debit-card account.

So now, literally, time is money.

CONCLUSION

Based on your favorable reception of these bulletins and upon reviewing the material I already have on hand, I intend to issue the C.N.A. E-Bulletin every Friday from now on whenever possible.

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

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