

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 33 – November 17, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

This could happen to you at a coin show you attend. We thought we would warn you before you fall for it like I did!

I was barely sitting down when I heard a voice from the other stall saying: "Hi, how are you?" I'm not the type to start a conversation in the restroom but I don't know what got into me, so I answered, somewhat embarrassed, "Doin' just fine!"

And the other person says: "So what are you up to?" What kind of question is that? At that point, I'm thinking this is too bizarre so I say: "Uhhh, I'm like you, just traveling!"

At this point I am just trying to get out as fast as I can when I hear another question. "Can I come over?" Ok, this question is just too weird for me but I figured I would just be polite and end the conversation. I tell him "No.....I'm a little busy right now!!!"

Then I hear the person say nervously..."Listen, I'll have to call you back. There's an idiot in the other stall who keeps answering all my questions

WE HAVE MAIL

From Donn Pearlman: "I thought your newsletter readers might be interested in my confession of being guilty of not taking a closer look at a Euro coin. While recently shopping with friends and family at a cosmetics store in Rome, my wife's cousin asked if I had a one Euro denomination coin handy because she did not want to get change for her 10 Euro note. I had a one Euro coin, but also had what I thought were two 50-cent pieces. I gave her those to eliminate two coins from my pocket on our last full day in Europe. However, to my embarrassment, the coins I gave her were only 5 Euro cents each, not 50. These coins had a large "5" on them immediately next to a design of the Earth as seen from outer space. The circular globe appeared to me at first glance to be the number zero and the juxtaposition of the "5" next to the Earth appeared to be "50." So, I was "The Ignorant American. On a happier note, I am pleased to inform everyone who will listen that I was a winner at the big casino in Monte Carlo. I won 2 Euros on a slot machine, and immediately left with my windfall." – Your E-Bulletin Editor had a similar problem with the 5 vs. 50 Euro cents during my visit to Germany last month, when I had to go to the washroom in a hurry and the machine rejected by 5 Euro coin which I thought was a 50, the price of admission to use the washroom. On a personal note, I am happy to hear from you, because I thought the hobby had lost you forever, now that we can no longer enjoy you in the ANA Numismatist! Yours was the first page I turned to.

From Donn Pearlman: "When my monthly copy of Numismatist magazine arrived I would immediately first turn to the Obituary section. I knew that if I saw my name listed, then I would not have to write the following month's back-page column." – I don't recall seeing your name in the obit, so how come you stopped writing it? Your humor was always appreciated in an otherwise very informative and educational world-renowned publication! Can we persuade you to change your mind if we start a "Draft Pearlman" movement? Or should we just settle for your witty e-mails appearing in the C.N.A. E-Bulletin?

From Anonymous: "I thought that you might enjoy this little bit of info for the E-Bulletin. I read a 1/2 page ad in a newspaper advertising that this company would be in a shopping mall buying coins as per attached list. The list stated prices paid for silver and gold coins. I decided to find out about this expert so I gathered some coins together, put them in an old tobacco tin and stopped in and spoke with this "very knowledgeable person". As he looked at the few coins I had, I asked him about the letter "P" on some of the newer coins. I was told that the mint in Ottawa could not produce enough of the coins for circulation, so they had to hire the "P"hiladelphia mint to make most of our coins. Wow, was I impressed with this "Expert." I said nothing but just left. Maybe I should have said something but it probably would not have made a difference anyway. I wonder how many people get sucked in and sell their coins, not for their numismatic value but for the silver content only. Sad but true story." – We share your frustration of being unable to stop the practice of taking advantage of the gullible, but it happens in every business. Sure there are the people who take advantage, but we also know of a number of honest people doing the mall circuit. From your experience, I would not describe the participants as coin dealers and my guess is that they were "opportunists" who would attract members of the public that did not adhere to the principle of "seller beware." We should also point out that the mall just rents out space and is not a party to any rip-offs.

From G.R. Trembley: "(I have heard that...) should you ever be forced to withdraw monies from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your PIN number in reverse. The machine will still give you the monies you requested, but unbeknownst to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to help you. The broadcast stated that this method of calling the police is very seldom used because people don't know it exists, and it might mean the difference between life and death. Hopefully, none of you will have to use this, but I wanted to pass it along just in case you hadn't heard of it. True or False? – I just hope that the broadcast was not from a reputable TV or radio network, since it is absolutely false! Unless you enter your PIN number correctly, the ATMs will not dispense any cash. And how unlucky am I with my PIN number being 12321 and entering it backwards?

From Lise Jacobs: "Wipe Out AllOfYourDebt AtThisTime. These forces, operating in all directions, absolute and immutable, are at the disposal of mankind. They will carry you through the atmosphere wherever and whenever you choose. That is, if you know how to control them." – Sounds good, and as soon as I can figure out what you are talking about, I might e-mail you back..oops, sorry, I deleted your contact information. But no problem, I have already received it at least a dozen times and I'm sure I will receive it again.

WILL THIS GIVE THE BANK OF CANADA IDEAS? – PART TWO

In the last E-Bulletin, we mentioned that Poland's central bank recently issued 2 million collectors' banknotes bearing the image of the late Pope John Paul II with a face value of 50 zlotys that they were selling for 90 zlotys. We asked what Canadian or U.S. theme(s) you would select to sell collectors' banknotes at nearly double face?

Terry Johnson writes: "A 3 dollar note with Belinda Stronach on it with all of the different political signs: PC LIB NDP GREEN with a big question mark on it?"

We e-mailed Terry: "Talk about someone sitting on all four sides of the fence. The newspapers certainly have not been too kind to her. Maybe if she had stayed more active with her dad's company, he would not have lost millions! I wonder how many of our U.S. friends will know what we are talking about?"

To offer a short explanation: Belinda Stronach was President and Chief Executive Officer of Magna International in which her father, Frank Stronach, was the controlling shareholder, when she was elected as a Conservative. She crossed the floor to the Liberal party when she was not selected to lead the party (www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2005/05/17/stronach-liberals050517 or belindastronach.org). Prior to this, she had supported Preston Manning for the Canadian Alliance leadership election. Belinda and her former boyfriend, Peter MacKay, who also sits in Parliament as a Conservative, have been carrying on a public campaign to make the other look bad. No wonder Terry is proposing a \$3 note (like in “as phony as a three dollar bill”).

A second suggestion comes from Terry Johnson: “How about a \$1,000,000.00 note that is black with two white eyes looking out? We can call it the Kyoto note?” - Well, I have a bit of a problem with that suggestion. As of 2003, the Liberal federal government had spent \$3.7 billion on Kyoto programs, apparently resulting in CO2 emissions 35 per cent above 1990 levels. The new Conservative government announced that Canada would have no chance of meeting its targets under Kyoto. Environmental funding designed to meet the Kyoto standards has been cut, while the Harper government develops a new plan to take its place. So let’s change the denomination to \$3 until the government makes up its mind to support clean air initiatives.

Another e-mail comes from Ken Grahame: “I guess the theme might be “counterfeit” or “forgery.” Imagine the Bank of Canada issuing a note that is a “forgery?” – Technically, the Bank of Canada cannot issue a “counterfeit” or “forgery” because the people who approve the notes will decree them as Government issue, subject to forced acceptance by the populace to carry on business.

WE HOPE IT WASN'T COIN COLLECTORS LOOKING FOR LOOSE CHANGE

In a column a couple of issues ago, I suggested that the fund-raising boxes that collect change, such as those from the Royal Canadian Legion’s poppy fund raising, could probably double their take if they only let the right people go over their change to identify coins worth more than face value. Golly, I hope I was not responsible for what you are about to read!

Fifteen poppy boxes were stolen in the first two weeks after they were put out on October 27 from locations in Ajax, Ontario, just east of Toronto.

A man at an Ajax, Ontario Pizza Pizza who took 15 minutes to steal a charity poppy box last Wednesday only got away with about \$5, the owner said. The suspect waited until no one was looking when he swiped the charity box and walked out the door. A camera recorded a big guy stealing the money. The owner thought some children who frequent his store were joking around and stole the donation box until he watched the security camera and found a grown man had taken the money.

Two adults were arrested after two donation poppy boxes were stolen in downtown Kitchener. Police later arrested the two people and the money was recovered.

An 18-year-old man was arrested on Remembrance Day after a poppy donation box was stolen from a coffee shop in Oakville. The poppy box, in a Tim Horton’s, was swiped on Oct. 29 around 1 a.m. after a group of young men entered the shop, Sgt. Peter Payne of Halton regional police said. The box contained less than \$200. Surveillance cameras captured the thieves in the act, said police, who expect more arrests. Juan Pablo Serra, 18, of Oakville, has been charged with theft under \$5,000.

A man that had just been released from custody stole a poppy box from the front desk of a Scarborough, Ontario, police station. He was later searched and the money was found in his gym bag.

MORE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR LOOSE CHANGE

And speaking of loose change, Oakville Transit's manager of operations apparently also wanted to find some rare coins. He was arrested Friday and charged with eight counts of theft under \$5,000 and criminal breach of trust, according to a city official. The manager, Troy Morneau, 43, was reportedly fired the same day.

Dave Bloomer, Oakville's commissioner of infrastructure and transportation service, said the theft charges stem from eight alleged incidents of cash being stolen from "the area of Oakville Transit where the revenue for the buses as well as from the parking meters are loaded and stored and counted." Bloomer said it's not yet clear how much money is missing. A forensic audit has been ordered by the Town of Oakville following a two-month investigation after a tipster alerted police. "We had our suspicions and we took those to the police," he said, adding that the transit service became aware of the missing money within the past month.

The manager of operations at Oakville Transit "looks after delivering the service on a day-to-day basis," Bloomer said. Morneau is next scheduled to appear in court on December 12, according to David Bruser, Transportation reporter for The Toronto Star.

NEW NUMISMATIC ORGANIZATION

In a recent episode of NCIS, a Petty Officer is found dead in a car while working on an undercover mission.

A Russian spy who is working for Homeland Security is apprehended and found with a recently fired gun after a man who's been tracking him is shot. When the policeman opened the door to the car, coins spilled out of a bag of stolen coins. The dead guy had scrawled "NCIS" in blood into the passenger's seat.

This aroused the curiosity of Dan Gosling, Associate Webmaster of the C.N.A.'s main website at www.canadian-numismatic.org). He asks: "Did he mean the police should contact the Naval Criminal Investigative Service or the Numismatic Criminal Investigative Service because of the bag of coins?"

DISINTEGRATING EURO BILLS

Tony Hine sent us a newspaper clipping containing the following story, which we also read in other newspapers:

Baffled German authorities are investigating why hundreds of Euro bills have mysteriously disintegrated in recent months. An interior ministry spokesman said state police have opened probes after about 1,000 bills self-destructed.

The case surfaced in June in Berlin when a 20 Euro bill crumbled on contact. Police first suspected a fluke but the number of notes continued to rise in August.

The daily Bild, which splashed the headline "Acid attack on our money!" on its front page, reported that chemists believed the bills may have been sprinkled with a sulphate salt that becomes sulphuric acid when it comes in contact with moisture, such as hand perspiration. The

bills then gradually disintegrate. A Berlin police spokesman confirmed that laboratory analysis of the bills had identified traces of sulphuric acid, which is often found in industrial cleaning fluid.

But authorities are stumped as to how it ended up on the banknotes. To date there is no indication that a crime has been committed. It is possible an accident led to the contamination of the bills.

When your C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor spent a couple of weeks in Germany last month, he had a similar problem. Except instead of the euros disintegrating, the money simply disappeared from his wallet every time his wife opened it.

PAYPAL TO OFFER USERS CASH REBATES

Since close to 100% of the recipients of this bulletin probably use PayPal, both buying and selling, we thought we would pass the following along:

PayPal has stated it will launch an incentive program, allowing customers to receive cash rebates of up to \$20 US on several thousand merchants' sites in North America.

PayPal said the cash rebate programs, valued at \$100 million, will be available to consumers from November 23 through May 15. Free shipping promotions will be available beginning November 23.

HERE IS ONE FOR THE MEMBERS OF CTCCC

Members of the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club (CTCCC), in addition to collecting CTC coupons and CTC debit cards, also collect Canadian Tire gas station coupons (now up to 10X gas coupons). While surfing the Net the other day, I stumbled upon a \$300 CTC coupon. Go to <http://media.fastclick.net/w/pc.cgi?mid=116463&sid=25839> and see for yourself.

C.N.A. PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT

At the recent C.N.A. Convention held in Niagara Falls, the membership passed a change to the C.N.A. constitution at the annual General Meeting that will see Ontario represented by three elected area directors. The areas will be Eastern Ontario (Postal Codes K & P); Western Ontario (Postal Code N) and the newly authorized Central Ontario (Postal Codes L & M). Since the Province of Ontario has more than one third of the overall C.N.A. membership spread over a large area, additional representation was desirable.

Charles "Chuck" Moore recently announced the appointment of Bret Evans as the interim Area Director for Central Ontario. "Bret is the Managing Editor and Associate Publisher of the Canadian Coin News," Moore stated in his President's Message published in *The CN Journal*, official publication of the Canadian Numismatic Association. "He is well-known throughout Ontario and will be a major asset to our Association."

CONCLUSION

Since I will be visiting Ohio for a while, the next C.N.A. E-Bulletin will be two days late and arrive in your In Box on the evening of Sunday, November 26.

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

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