

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 5 - February 1, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

Hey, did you enjoy your hobby a bit more in 2005?

Was it because you made money? Or acquired a few of those hard-to-get items for your collection? Or was it that extra second that they tacked on at the tail end of 2005?

A whole second? Why, we hardly noticed.

WE HAVE MAIL

From David Bawcutt: "I just received the CN Journal and I noticed all the new members you got with the help of the Royal Canadian Mint. In the past you e-mailed me to thank the Scarborough Coin Club for promoting the C.N.A. I noticed that 4 of your new members live in Scarborough. I wonder if in your next E-Bulletin or CN Journal you could put a notice promoting the Scarborough Coin Club welcoming new members to join our club who live in the Scarborough area." (David is one of the hard workers of the Scarborough Coin Club, currently serving as their bulletin editor and promoter) - Always willing to oblige. The Scarborough Coin Club was founded in 1975. They meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 8 p.m. at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Scarborough. Dealers on hand to help you with your collecting interests. For more information e-mail cpms@idirect.com. Guests always welcome. If you join during 2006, you will receive their club's 30th anniversary wood. They still have a few previous issues of club woods available at their meetings for 50 cents each, going back all the way to their 5th anniversary. We can, from personal experience, recommend attending the Scarborough Coin Club.

THICK AS THIEVES

Here are a few news items that hit the headlines in 2005 about bungling thieves that wanted some money without working for it, courtesy of Reuters News Service.

A South African mugger that was trying to steal someone's wallet for some easy money was mauled to death by tigers after he fled the scene of his crime and took refuge in a Bloemfontein zoo.

Australian police responding to a break-in at a furniture store were surprised to discover the suspected culprit asleep at the scene and snoring loudly.

A Frenchman in his sixties lived for five years with the body of his dead mother so he could keep receiving her monthly pension check.

In Australia, city officials faced the ultimate embarrassment -- they apologized to the family of an elderly man given a fine via a parking ticket while he lay dead in his car in a suburban shopping center.

MORE ON CREDIT CARDS AND WHY WE LIKE CASH

Some 400 blank credit cards, pinhole cameras and swipe machines were among the items seized as Toronto Police intensified a hunt for two men wanted for terrorizing a couple for two days.

According to an article by Tom Godfrey in the Toronto Sun, police also allege Bebi Nicolae Moldovan, 30, and Stefan Fanel Gozav, 32, headed a Romanian fraud ring whose members stole personal information from unsuspecting Greater Toronto Area customers and used the knowledge for making credit cards or to empty people's accounts.

The stolen card and personal identification numbers were transferred to blanks, which were re-encoded and used to withdraw money.

"We believe the suspects were involved in a sophisticated North American fraud ring," Sgt. Steve Craddock of 31 Division said. He said officers also seized phone face-plates for ATM machines that contained hidden card scanners when they searched a Richmond Hill home.

The suspects are wanted for the alleged assault and abduction of a Toronto couple on December 23 outside a nightclub near Finch Ave. and Hwy. 400. The man and his wife were allegedly beaten and then forced into a van and driven to another location where they were beaten further, police alleged, adding the female was assaulted with a gun. They were released on Christmas Eve.

Police have issued a border alert for the men should they try to flee to their native Romania. The suspects entered Canada using stolen passports and made refugee claims., Officers suspect one of their scams involved buying valid Romanian passports, which are sold to others for use to enter Canada and make refugee claims.

Four others were arrested last week and were refused bail last Friday.

NON-NUMISMATIC HUMOR RECEIVED FROM NUMISMATISTS

So that you will better understand the kind of humor we have to endure from our numismatic friends, we will be sharing some of the non-numismatic humor we receive. To save any embarrassment, we will not reveal who sent them to us. Here is the first one.

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgery. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Cuddles has passed away."

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure?" Yes, I am sure. The duck is dead," he replied. "How can you be so sure," she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room, and returned a few moments later with a black Labrador Retriever.

As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog and took it out, and returned a few moments later with a beautiful cat.

The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed delicately at the bird. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." Then the vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and

produced a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead?"

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but what with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan..."

Hey, they will only get worse in the future!

SPECIAL RATES FOR ANA CONVENTION GUARANTEED THROUGH MARCH 6

One of the movers and shakers of the ANA, Gail Baker, Manager of Market and Brand Development, advises us that the Renaissance Waverly on Galleria Parkway, the headquarters hotel for the ANA National Money Show April 7-9 in Atlanta, and the Sheraton Suites Galleria on Cobb Parkway, the secondary hotel, both have special ANA group rates and are adjacent to the Cobb Galleria Convention Centre, location of the educational exhibits, seminars and a sold-out dealer bourse. Contact the Renaissance Waverly at 770-953-4500 and the Sheraton Suites Galleria at 770-955-3900 to make your reservations.

The ANA's National Money Show is open to both ANA members and non-members and admission is free. We know that the recipients of these E-Bulletins are very familiar with all that goes on at the show, including a large bourse, exhibit area, auction by Heritage Numismatic Auctions and so many entertaining and educational meetings and seminars.

ANA host clubs for the Atlanta show are The Georgia Numismatic Association and the Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta.

For more information about the National Money Show or to pre-register for the activities, visit the ANA website at www.money.org and click on "ANA Conventions" from the "Numismatic Events" drop-down menu.

MICHIGAN NUMISMATISTS RAISE FUNDS FOR SCHLAG MEMORIAL

Al Bobrofsky, former President of the Michigan State Numismatic Society (MSNS) and Steven Bieda, former MSNS Governor recently announced the creation of a special fund to erect a granite monument commemorating Felix Schlag, the designer of the 1938 Jefferson Nickel. The monument is to be set on the grave of Felix Schlag, located at Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, Michigan.

Felix Schlag won an open design competition for the design of the Jefferson five-cent coin while living and working in Chicago in 1937. Several years later he moved to Michigan where he lived and worked as a professional photographer and sculptor until he died on March 9, 1974.

Schlag was an honorary life member of the American Numismatic Association and the Michigan State Numismatic Society. He was immortalized on the U.S. five-cent coin with the addition of his initials "FS" below the truncation of the Jefferson bust in 1966. When the "Monticello" reverse is resumed on the five-cent coin in 2006, Schlag's "FS" initials will be added to the reverse design, while a new portrait of Jefferson by another artist will grace the obverse.

The Schlag memorial will incorporate his five-cent design as it was issued in 1938. In addition, the monument will state: "In Commemoration of Felix Schlag, designer of the United States Jefferson Five Cent Coin First Issued by the United States Treasury in 1938, the Result of a National Design Competition. Erected by your Michigan State Numismatic Friends." The stone is being designed by Steven Bieda and is scheduled to be erected by April or May of 2006.

The idea for the project was initially brought up at an MSNS Board meeting in 2004 by Steve Bieda, who had earlier visited the Schlag grave and learned that very little information other than the artist's name was included. Bieda would later discuss his idea to mark the grave with a special marker with Al Bobrofsky, a personal friend of the sculptor and his wife Ethel, and the two decided to spearhead a special effort to commemorate the Michigan artist's achievement. A suitable granite marker will be erected near the existing headstone, with an estimated project cost of about \$1,800US. Any funds remaining after the stone is completed will be used for a perpetual maintenance fund and for programs offered by MSNS designed for young numismatists. A photo of the existing headstone can be found at www.findagrave.com.

Interested parties can make checks payable to: "Al Bobrofsky/Schlag Memorial," and sent to Michigan State Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 87931, Canton, MI 48187. Contributions of \$25 or more will be recognized with a special certificate featuring the Jefferson five-cent coin of 1938.

COMING EVENTS

FEB. 4 - 5 - Niagara Falls, NY - Collectors' Expo 2006, Elks Lodge No. 346, 1805 Factory Outlet Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Host: Niagara Frontier Coin Club. For more information, contact Frank at chicmunzi@aol.com or (716) 754-8205.

FEB. 5 - Paris, ON - SWON Show, Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ticket for a draw for a gold coin with \$2 admission. For more information, contact Ted at (866) 747-COIN or e-mail tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

FEB. 18 - Oshawa, ON - Durham Coin-A-Rama, 5 Points Mall, 285 Taunton Road East. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Free draws. Host: Oshawa and District Coin Club. For more information, contact Sharon or Earl at (905) 728-1352 or papman@idirect.com.

FEB. 25 - 26 - Toronto, ON - TOREX, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queen's Quay West, Admiral's Ballroom. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Brian Smith at (416) 861-9523 or go to www.torex.net. We will be manning a C.N.A. Information Table to answer questions about the C.N.A. and its correspondence courses. As well, the C.N.A. has scheduled an educational seminar at Torex. Details follow below.

C.N.A. SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR SPRING TOREX

The Spring edition of Torex will feature a seminar hosted by the Canadian Numismatic Association. With the theme of "Royal Canadian Mint Errors," the presentations will feature two prominent speakers known for their involvement with the organized hobby of error collecting.

The seminar is scheduled for a 1:00 p.m. start on Saturday, February 25 in the Rain Dance Room, 3rd floor of the Radisson Admiral Hotel - Toronto Harbourfront, 249 Queen's Quay West, Toronto.

The moderator, Paul Johnson, Chairman of the C.N.A. Education Committee, will introduce the program and the speakers.

The first speaker, Bill English, is former President of the Coin Irregularity Association of Canada (CIAC) when it was an active organization in the 1960s and 1970s. His presentation will explain how major errors can occur during normal production at the Royal Canadian Mint. He has given similar presentations when he was actively involved with the numismatic error hobby.

The second speaker, John Regitko, will speak on "Back-Door Jobs from the Royal Canadian Mint" during which he will reveal some of the behind-the-scenes goings-on involving items that could only get out through the backdoor of a Mint.

John will name names of some of the dealers that were involved in obtaining material from employees at the Mint and reveal the history of how they came to be in his possession. He will name some of the pieces that collectors should be suspicious of.

John's presentation will also reveal his involvement when some double-struck flip-struck diving goose silver dollars were seized by the RCMP from an auction, why they were seized, who the main characters were and what the ultimate outcome was.

Part Two of John's presentation will take a few errors from his collection and tell the audience how slight differences can increase the value ten-fold and more. In this part, entitled "Knowledge is King," he will show a slide, ask his audience to tell him what the error is and then critique the piece to reveal that the error is actually something completely different that will, because of its rarity, increase its value many times. This knowledge will enable the astute collector to acquire pieces at a fraction of the cost of the error.

A discussion will take place at the conclusion of the presentations as to whether or not there is sufficient interest to form a committee to consider starting an association dealing with Canadian errors and die varieties.

The C.N.A. Seminar is free to everyone, whether they are members of the C.N.A. or not. No advance notice to attend is required.

For additional information, contact the C.N.A. Hotline at (416) 223-5980 or e-mail cnainfo@look.ca.

WHERE IS THE ORGANIZED HOBBY OF CANADIAN ERROR COLLECTING?

A recent issue of the Numismatist, official publication of the ANA, featured a very colorful and informative 4-page article on U.S. errors entitled "OOPS! A gallery of Errors" by James Wiles. A sub-heading reads "Make No Mistake: Error Collectors Are Here to Stay" and gives the history of the various error organizations in the U.S. which eventually merged to become the Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America, or CONECA for short. It states that the U.S. error hobby is alive and doing very well.

Which begs the question: What happened to the Canadian error hobby?

There is no doubt that there is considerable interest amongst Canadian collectors in error and variety finds. The pages of Canadian Coin news routinely lists new finds. Their Question and Answer columnist, Terry Campbell, frequently is asked to identify and/or value errors, both coins and paper money. Visit any coin club and you will hear people speak of the errors that they have found recently or own. Dealer ads include a good sprinkling of offers on errors and die varieties. Campbell even wrote a book on errors and is selling it through Unitrade Associates or direct.

So where is the organized Canadian error & variety hobby? The truth is: Nowhere!

At one time, the hobby had a number of error and die variety publications issued by the dean of Canadian errors, Hans Zoell. Under his guidance, the Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors

Association (CNVCA) was founded, with a monthly bulletin published by Zoell. Then the Coin Irregularity Association of Canada (CIAC) was formed. The C.N.A.'s current Executive Secretary, John Regitko, was its Editor. The volunteers that kept these associations going did excellent work for many, many years. When they wanted to retire, there was no-one willing to take their place (sound familiar?). As a consequence, CNVCA and CIAC seized its activities.

That was way back in the early 1970s. And nobody has tried to revive it since.

Are we ready to start up an error organization at this time? Any volunteers? Are we ready to pay dues to another organization? Come to the C.N.A. educational seminar at Torex and lets discuss it!

2006 C.N.A. CONVENTION NEWS

The Canadian Numismatic Association, in conjunction with corporate donors, is pleased to announce a contest for young collectors for an all-expense trip to the 2006 C.N.A. Convention in Niagara Falls scheduled from July 20 to 23, 2006. The winner will be flown to the Convention, stay at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel for three nights, meet with the Presidents of the C.N.A. and Royal Canadian Mint and receive a complimentary registration kit along with a silver convention souvenir medal and banquet ticket, among other surprises.

The terms of the contest are very simple. Any collector up to age 18 is eligible. All that is required is to submit five questions that you would like to ask the President of the Royal Canadian Mint when you meet him/her at the convention. Send your five questions, along with your name, date of birth and contact information (including telephone number and e-mail, if available) to "I Want To Go To The CNA Convention" Contest, 4936 Yonge St., Suite 601, North York, ON M2N 6S3.

If you are declared the winner, you will be contacted to discuss details. We will provide you with a return airline ticket and provide hotel accommodation for three nights. If the winner lives close to Niagara Falls, we reserve the right to provide an alternate mode of transportation. If the winner resides in the U.S., he/she will be responsible to provide Customs with the appropriate documentation for border crossing.

Upon arrival at either the Toronto or Hamilton airport, you will be met by a C.N.A. representative. You will be driven to the Convention site in Niagara Falls, Ontario where you will be greeted by the President of the C.N.A., Charles Moore.

You will pick up your complimentary registration kit, a silver Convention souvenir medal, a \$100 Bourse Certificate for use in the bourse room, a banquet ticket and a Convention ribbon that entitles you to unlimited visits to the Hospitality Suite, meal allowance for breakfasts and dinners in the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel's Dining Room, a complimentary 2006 membership in the C.N.A. if you are not already a member, and other surprises.

During your stay, you will be invited to attend the C.N.A.'s annual general membership meeting where you will be introduced to the membership and receive a uniface presentation medal from the C.N.A. President attesting to your achievement.

During the Banquet on Saturday evening, you will receive a quantity of 100 special wooden tokens issued to commemorate your win and attendance at the Convention, for passing along to your friends and relatives back home as further evidence of your achievement. These souvenir tokens will also be included in the Convention registration kits.

You will also be offered complimentary tickets to attend the Club Delegates Breakfast meeting on Saturday morning, the City of Niagara Falls bus tour and the tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Arrangements will be made to meet the President of the Royal Canadian Mint to ask your five questions in person.

You will be transported back to the airport on Sunday afternoon for your return flight. You will be provided with a cash allowance for transportation between your home and the airport. If you are accompanied by a chaperone, a flat fee of up to \$500 will be made available to help offset the chaperone's expenses, subject to a review of actual expenses incurred.

We wish to acknowledge the following sponsors:

- Al Hager of AH Collectibles of Lake Mary, Florida and Charles Moore of Charles Moore Auctions of Walnut Creek, CA, for sponsoring return airfare as well as ground transportation
- The Sheraton Fallsview Hotel for underwriting the cost of breakfasts and Dinners
- Michael Walsh of The Canadian Coinoisseur of Vancouver, BC and Stan Wright of Diversified Equities of Calgary, AB for sponsoring all other costs associated with the contest, including hotel accommodation and allowance for a chaperone.
- The Canadian Numismatic Association and the 2006 C.N.A. Convention for underwriting the cost of registration kit, souvenir convention medals, banquet tickets and special souvenir wooden tokens.

Deadline for submissions of the five questions is April 30, 2006. Winner must accept the trip and other awards – no cash value. Details as to date of departure and return to be mutually agreed to.

All recipients of this E-Bulletin are encouraged to make a copy of this column and pass it along to anyone under 18 years of age as at July 20, 2006. Dealers with storefronts may wish to place copies on the counter. Others might want to pass them on to juniors at their local coin club meeting or to their friends and relatives. Bulletin editors are encouraged to republish it in their next club bulletin.

CONCLUSION

I am really excited about the cooperation that the C.N.A. Convention Committee is receiving from everyone. The above donors have made the financial commitment to underwrite all expenses. The dealers have signed up for the convention that will make the 2006 Convention the largest bourse in the past 25 years and the second largest bourse in the history of the C.N.A. Some collectors have already registered. A number of dealers have made donations to the various draws at the Convention. The staff at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, the site of the Convention, is going out of their way to accommodate us in every way. Wherever we turn, we are met by very enthusiastic people that look forward to the Convention. We hope that we will be able to add your name to the list of attendees before too long!

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:
cnanews@look.ca

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