

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 6 – February 10, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

Are you fed up with all the unsolicited e-mails you are receiving? The ones that suggest that you must be really sick because they are trying to sell you every pill imaginable and that you are...well, let's just say you have other medical problems if you are a male. The same message sent to you from dozens of different e-mail addresses so that your spam blocker doesn't block. Or the poor widows in Nigeria and bankers in various places around the world who need help from an honest and god-fearing individual in getting millions out of the country. Always in U.S. funds you notice. Well, hang on, it's only going to get worse!

Over the past week, I have received a number of junk e-mails that, when I clicked the "delete" button, I was advised that the sender has requested an acknowledgement of receipt of the e-mail. One extra click isn't very time consuming. But what about a dozen or more? Or hundreds when this catches on with all spammers?

If anyone starts a class action law suit over our wasted time, count me in. Or a Delete List for e-mails.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Brent W.J. Mackie: "I just wanted to mention that of all the fake notes that I have seen, the majority (over 50%) were Canadian Journey Series 2001 \$10 notes (the ones with the gold leaves on them). Each and every one would have passed your tests below for checking the gold leaves or the UV ink. The most foolproof way of checking a note is to FEEL it. Run a fingernail against the lines of the raised ink in the shoulder of the portrait. This is one of the spots where the raised ink is thickest and most easily detected. If you feel a washboard texture, it is almost certainly real. If it feels flat, you likely have a fake. Another way to test a note is to let a drop of water soak into the paper. Most fakes are printed with inkjet printers. This ink will run horribly when wet. Authentic banknotes will not suffer any adverse effects. I once left a \$2 bill in my pocket and when it came out of the washing machine, it was better than ever! Bottom line is DO NOT RELY ON the UV ink or the gold leaves. This is the easiest way you can fool yourself into getting stuck with a fake." (Brent is the "curator" of The Online Paper Money Museum at <http://moneymuseum.bwjm.ca>) - Thank you for the lesson. We published the write-up in MoneySense Magazine to see what our knowledgeable readers would say, knowing that simple tests do not do the job properly. The thousands of readers of MoneySense Magazine are obviously under the impression that the test works since they read it in a (usually) respected magazine.

From Brad P. Marsh: "Renewing my membership with the Association is the best thing I have done lately. I just wanted to let you know it is a great pleasure to be receiving your writings! This e-mail bulletin was fun and informative. The little joke about the Queen was fabulous. I laughed out loud so my wife had to come see what the fuss was all about. Keep up the great work! With an organization as good as the CNA you don't have to worry about the extinction of Numismatics. I have been recently swept up by the hobby. I'm 40, have really only begun to get more involved in the last 5 - 10 years and your Association's ties to it, which makes me the new and next generation of numismatic, no? I look forward to more of your great works and wish for continued growth and success to our Association." Thank you for your kind words. It does make our volunteer work even more enjoyable.

From Brent W.J. Mackie: "Thank you for your mention of rotator notes in Volume 2, Number 4 of the E-Bulletin! It is great to hear of this information being disseminated throughout the numismatic community. I feel very strongly about counterfeit banknotes and the myths and rumours that are going around about how to check banknote authenticity. It is a big problem in Canada that almost all Canadians have no clue how to tell if their money is real. The article in Volume 2, Number 2 about counterfeit banknotes contained much unreliable information to pass on. The tests provided are rarely accurate enough because the majority of the fakes in circulation would easily pass these tests. I know this because I have seen many of them first-hand. The easiest way to combat the problem is to educate the public on the correct ways to verify banknote authenticity. Spreading unreliable "quick tests" only compounds the problem. If people rely on these tests, we run into situations such as an arrogant bank teller who insists a note is real because it has the gold leaves and some blue UV ink, yet it is clearly a fake because there is no raised ink, the font of the serial number is different, the note has two front position numbers and the prefix of the serial number contains a Q! (Yes, this is an actual situation reported by a friend of mine and a fellow collector.) I would appreciate a follow-up article in the upcoming E-Bulletin that addresses this matter. Thank you very much for your ongoing contributions and dedication to the numismatic community." - We appreciate your two e-mails on the subject, Brent. Because this bulletin is going to something like 500 Canadian and 1,500 Americans...I actually don't quite remember the actual count...there are many people that would like to know the best ways of telling counterfeits in a simple way. Since it is obvious from your e-mails and from your Website that you know what information should be passed on and you write very well, we look forward to your input.

From Roy Richard: "Received E-bulletin #28. Great reading. Thank you very much. Will #26 and #27 follow?" - Oh, boy, have we received e-mails complaining about non-receipt of some C.N.A. E-Bulletins! We have sent a lengthy e-mail to our ISP and expect to have this issue resolved shortly. In the meantime, Dan Gosling is updating our Website at www.canadian-numismatic.org regularly with the latest C.N.A. E-Bulletin, so if you are missing any, please obtain them from there.

From Roy Richard: "Has any reader been successful at separating the poppy coin from the book mark plastic, issued by the mint? Maybe I am the only one to try. I finally gave up as I didn't want to damage the coin, and put the coin in a 2x2 and put it in my book, thick magnifying coating and all." - Has anyone else tried, either because they had too much time on their hands or they wanted to add an "error" coin to their collection?

From Bob Hartje: "I recently purchased an 1859 Canada Cent that has a re-punched 9 that does not match the #1 or #2 listed in Charlton. The cent is doubled to the Northwest and the secondary 9 is very evident and well separated from the primary 9. If someone has any info on this variety, please let me know. I can provide a scan if desired. The coin has VF or better details, but has been cleaned. Please e-mail me with any info at Coinbob@aol.com. Make sure that you mention "1859 Cent" in the subject area on your e-mail so that I know the response is not spam." - We love it when people want to find out more background. Anyone that shows that kind of an interest is a Numismatist, not a coin collector. Does anyone have another of this coin?

From Tim Pare: "Just wanted to know if any of our readers have ever seen or heard of the RCM test token marked "BALL" under the leaves on both sides of the test token? The word "BALL" is raised on both sides. I have one and would like to know if anyone else has one or could share more info." - Anyone has another one? With the revelation a short time ago that there were

undiscovered test tokens residing in the hands of a secretary of a former Mint Master, you never know what might turn up.

From Candy: "Thank you so much for getting back to me. I have to tell you I have e-mailed 5 other people from different web sites and you were the only one that actually gave me some information. So thank you again." - There is no doubt that more and more people are finding the C.N.A. Website and enquiring about numismatic material they have found or inherited. We have included her brief e-mail as a reminder, especially to dealers, that responding in a timely manner might pay dividends in the long run. Because of past detailed responses to queries, the C.N.A. has obtained a few new members.

From Jina: "Can anyone give me any information on a Canadian banknote from the Niagara Suspension Bridge Bank. We have just found a one dollar bill from 1841 and I understand that was the year the bank failed." - We routinely receive e-mails and letters from non-collectors asking questions, which we either answer ourselves or turn over to people we know are "experts" on the subject. We turned over the above request to Charles Moore who, when he is not busy running Charles Moore Auctions, also happens to be the current President of the C.N.A. and the Immediate Past-President of the Canadian Paper Money Society. Since we found his response interesting and informative, we thought we would reprint it below.

THE NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE BANK

The Niagara Suspension Bridge Bank went into business on December 20, 1836, as an unincorporated joint-stock bank, at Queenston, Upper Canada. It continued to operate until December 1841. It began with a capital of 7,700 Pounds, subscribed by a small number of shareholders, most of whom were Americans. It had agencies in Chippewa, Upper Canada and Lockport, New York, and did most of its business on the American side of the border. The bank was recognized by the Canadian government, issued a charter to operate and its note issues were taxed. A major recession began in 1841 and the bank failed in December of that year. At the time of the failure, there were \$62,384 of its notes in circulation.

The bank issued notes in denominations of \$1.00, \$3.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 & \$20.00. All of the notes, with the exception of the \$20.00 note feature a vignette of the Niagara suspension bridge, which at the time of its construction was one of the longest (if not the longest) suspension bridges in the world.

The value of your note in Very Good (VG) to Fine (F) condition is between \$70 & \$100.

The bank building no longer exists. As a past resident of Niagara-On-The-Lake, I spent a considerable amount of time trying to locate the former location of the Queenston branch, without success. The local historical societies know of the bank, but any other information on the Queenston location has been lost.

NON-NUMISMATIC HUMOR RECEIVED FROM NUMISMATISTS

Here is another bit of non-numismatic humor received from one of our numismatic friends, under the main subject of "Canadian Provinces."

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. Vancouver: 1.5 million people and two bridges.
2. Your \$400,000 Vancouver home is just 5 hours from downtown.
3. You can throw a rock and hit three Starbucks locations.
4. There's always some sort of deforestation protest going on.

5. Weed

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN ALBERTA

1. Big rock between you and B.C.
2. Ottawa who?
3. Tax is 7% instead of approximately 200% as it is for the rest of the country.
4. You can exploit almost any natural resource you can think of.
5. You live in the only province that could actually afford to be its own country.
6. The Americans below you are all in anti-government militia groups.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN SASKATCHEWAN

1. You never run out of wheat.
2. Your province is really easy to draw.
3. You can watch the dog run away from home for hours.
4. People will assume you live on a farm.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN MANITOBA

1. You wake up one morning to find that you suddenly have beachfront property.
2. Hundreds of huge, horribly frigid lakes.
3. Nothing compares to a wicked Winnipeg winter.
4. You can be an Easterner or a Westerner depending on your mood.
5. You can pass the time watching trucks and barns float by.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN ONTARIO

1. You live in the centre of the universe.
2. Your \$400,000 Toronto home is actually a dump.
3. You and you alone decide who will win the federal election.
4. The only province with hard-core American-style crime.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN QUEBEC

1. Racism is socially acceptable
2. You can take bets with your friends on which English neighbor will move out next.
3. Other provinces basically bribe you to stay in Canada.
4. You can blame all your problems on the "Anglo *#!%!"

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

1. One way or another, the government gets 98% of your income.
2. You're poor, but not as poor as the Newfies.
3. No one ever blames anything on New Brunswick
4. Everybody has a grandfather who runs a lighthouse.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN NOVA SCOTIA

1. Everyone can play the fiddle. The ones who can't, think they can.
2. You can pretend to have Scottish heritage as an excuse to get drunk and wear a kilt.
3. You are the only reason Anne Murray makes money.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1. Even though more people live on Vancouver Island, you still got the big, new bridge.
2. You can walk across the province in half an hour.
3. You can drive across the province in two minutes.
4. Everyone has been an extra on "Road to Avonlea."

5. This is where all those tiny, red potatoes come from.
6. You can confuse ships by turning your porch lights on and off at night.

TOP REASONS TO LIVE IN NEWFOUNDLAND

1. If Quebec separates, you will float off to sea.
2. If you do something stupid, you have a built-in excuse.
3. The workday is about two hours long.
4. It is socially acceptable to wear your hip waders to your wedding

TIM HORTONS, MOVE OVER!

We keep hearing the ad from the Royal Bank of Canada that promotes the Lucky Looney coin. You know, the one modeled after the Looney that was buried in ice that received so much publicity that the Royal Canadian Mint saw an opportunity to promote an inexpensive circulating collectible. The ad, running on a number of TV channels, states: "Only available at RBC Branches. Or look in your change."

The Poppy Quarter was only initially only available from Tim Hortons. The Lucky Looney, as I understand the ad, is available everywhere where money is handled, but RBC is taking advantage of a good thing and...almost...claiming it as their own.

Makes you wonder if RBC thinks that we won't notice.

SO HOW MUCH MONEY DID YOU RECEIVE FROM NIGERIA?

One of the cases on Judge Judy last week involved a woman who borrowed money from one of those payday loan companies. You know, one of those companies that only charges 60% interest and then adds a processing charge, administration fee, handling charge, one-time fee charge and whatever else they call it. The same companies that are now being charged in Canada for usury, because the actual cost to the borrower is up to 2,000% per annum or about 1,997% too much.

She had been dealing with the loan company on many previous occasions and always paid it back on payday, so the company had no problem loaning her some more. The only problem was that she did not tell them that she was borrowing the money until she received the funds promised her in an e-mail from Australia that stated that they were holding a large sum for her and wondered why she had not claimed it.

The payday loan company took her to court when she could not repay the loan because she had not received the funds from Australia yet. Apparently, the Australian company was finding difficulties in sending her the money since they had to clear certain hurdles and wanted her to send money to them so that they could clear up the paperwork and the accompanying fees.

The woman told Judge Judy she believed the contents of the e-mail, even after Judge Judy pointed out the many spelling mistakes and bad grammar, the fact that the woman had never heard of the people involved, had not entered any contests or promotions nor had relatives in that part of the world. The woman admitted that she did not tell the loan company that the e-mail was the strength on which she borrowed the money.

Needless to say, the payday loanshark company...excuse me...the payday loan company... won their case. We just wonder if the woman is still waiting for her money and if she actually sent some funds to Australia to clear the red tape so that she could soon receive her windfall.

Barnum was right!

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Gordon Dickie, on his recent passing. Gordon, a former long-time member of the C.N.A., served as its Area Director for British Columbia. He wrote numerous articles for the CN Journal and was extensively published in the bulletin of the Vancouver Numismatic Society. His diverse collecting specialties included ancient, Renaissance and Great Britain.

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT 2005 SELLOUTS

We are pleased to reprint portions of a press release from Anthony Kissmate, Manager of Communications, RCM. As a C.N.A. liaison to the Mint (the C.N.A. President is the other at a higher level of contact) I have observed first-hand the dedication and professionalism shown by numerous members of the sales, marketing, manufacturing and support staff.

The Royal Canadian Mint recorded 19 sellouts of products with mintages in 2005, reasserting its commitment to dealers and customers to drive the value of coins in the secondary market. The Mint is offering relevant and emotionally appealing themes that strike a chord with collectors, which in turn generate sellouts, ultimately driving greater value in the after-market.

"In 2005, the Mint succeeded in balancing dual objectives", said Marguerite F. Nadeau, Q.C., Acting President and C.E.O. of the Royal Canadian Mint. "We were able to support the secondary market through continued sellouts while increasing our product selection spanning different consumer segments in an effort to maintain our course of continued growth."

Moving forward in its growth mode, the Mint introduced more products in 2005 than in 2004, and succeeded in maintaining sellouts within a positive band compared to last year. With 19 sellouts in 2005, just shy of the 21 sellouts in 2004, and well above the 6 and 3 recorded in 2003 and 2002 respectively, the RCM renewed its commitment to dealers and customers through its lower mintage initiative and its coin destruction policy, where unsold coins are melted down after a 12-month selling period. These initiatives have served to strengthen the value of Mint products in the secondary market.

Regarding the increase in its 2005 product selection, the Royal Canadian Mint is a fully commercial Crown Corporation, and as such, it has a responsibility to seek out new growth opportunities and build new markets. With a wide variety of products in the marketplace, the Mint is appealing to a wider range of customers. And, the Mint remains committed to sustaining strong sellout numbers in its efforts to drive value in the secondary market.

HALTON COUNTY RADIAL RAILWAY ISSUES 50 YEAR WOODEN NICKEL

A recent issue of Timber Talk, official publication of the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors, mentioned that the Halton County Radial Railway has issued a wooden token to commemorate their 50 years of existence. This is the 3rd wooden token issued by the organization.

The HCRR, located just south of Rockwood, is Ontario's only full-size operating electric railway, featuring classic electric railcars operating on two kilometers of scenic track. The oldest railcar in the collection, was built over 100 years ago. The museum restores vehicles to their original operating condition for the education and enjoyment of the public. The museum relies on volunteer labor from its members to restore and operate.

Other than the wooden tokens, there is another numismatic connection. C.N.A. member Roger Fox has volunteered to create the signage that you see at the museum. His son is also an active volunteer.

If you are into transportation collectibles, go to www.hcry.org for complete information, including its history, museum hours and upcoming events.

MEET THE C.N.A. EXECUTIVE

Just a reminder that C.N.A. Information Tables will be manned at the following coin shows:

FEB. 25 - 26 - Toronto, ON - TOREX, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queen's Quay West For more information, contact Brian Smith at (416) 861-9523 or go to www.torex.net. As well, the C.N.A. has scheduled an educational seminar on Canadian Error Coins for Saturday starting at 1:00 p.m.

April 21-23, 2006 – London, ON – 44th Ontario Numismatic Association Convention, hosted by the St. Thomas Numismatic Association. Best Western Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Road South. For information, contact Tom Rogers, ONA President, at (519) 451-2316

CONCLUSION

We expect to publish something new virtually every issue from now on about the 2006 C.N.A. Convention coming up July 20 - 23 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Plans are virtually 100% in place and we promise everyone a great time, whether you are a collector or dealer, spouse or young collector, registrant or daily admission type!

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.

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