

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 3, No. 2 – January 12, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

With the kind of weather we are having this far into January throughout most of Canada and the U.S., I thought I should tell you about a conversation that took place recently at ANA Headquarters in Colorado Springs immediately following the snow storm they experienced in Colorado. Note the names have been changed to protect the participants.

Christopher decided to go skiing with his buddy, William. So they loaded up Christopher's car and headed into the mountains. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.

"I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained. "I'm afraid the neighbors will talk if I let you stay in my house."

"Don't worry," Christopher said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn. And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light." The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

But about nine months later, Christopher got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend.

He dropped in on William and asked, "Do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up north about 9 months ago?" "Yes, I do." said William.

"Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?" "Well, um, yes," William said, a little embarrassed about being found out, "I have to admit that I did."

"And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?" William's face turned beet red and he said, "Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy. I'm afraid I did." "Why do you ask?"

"She just died and left me everything!"

WE HAVE MAIL

From Colin R. Bruce II: "In our US Post Offices there is a sign stating it is illegal to use uncanceled stamps once again. Well, if you happen to put the wrong stamp or too many on an envelope and start over with another envelope saving the original one for soaking them off to reuse them how does one tell the difference? Being a stamp collector I find our self-sticky ones very difficult to remove from the clipped envelope at times. Soaking in very hot water helps. One printing of our flag stamps seems to be printed on very thin double paper and actually separates. The Canadian self-stickies soak off very nicely though. Great newsletter." – I don't think there would be a conviction since it cannot be proven that the stamp(s) were actually previously used.

From Mike Hackett: "In Vol. 2 No. 5 news letter there was an article on gift cards and the liability on the store's books. Canadian Tire gives its cash customers what we call Canadian Tire Money. This, like the new gift cards, can be redeemed for merchandise and has no expiration date. I believe CTC would have to consider this a liability on their books. How many millions of CTC money (store coupons) have been given to customers since the store started this practice in 1958? How much has been lost, destroyed or tucked away in a shoe box over the years? I'm glad I'm not an accountant." – Knowing a lot of the members of the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club and understanding the disease called "hoarding" personally, I would estimate it is in the millions of dollars.

HAPPY NEW YEAR DIET

In the last C.N.A. E-Bulletin, I mentioned in the "Conclusion" that I gained at least 10 pounds over the past couple of weeks. That, no doubt, caused Terry Johnson to send us the following poem containing some good advice:

T'was the month after Christmas, and all through the house,
nothing would fit me, not even a blouse;
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I had to taste,
at the holiday parties had gone to my waist;
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber),
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared,
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared;
The wine and the rum balls; the bread and the cheese,
and the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt,
and prepared once again to do baffle with dirt,
I said to myself, as only I can,
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
So, away with the last of the sour cream dip.
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished,
'til all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore,
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

FRANK FESCO (1919-2007)

François Rufiange, President of the City of Ottawa Coin Club, and other members of his executive, have notified me of the passing of Frank Fesco on Monday, January 8. As a result of complications from an operation to his right leg just before Christmas, Frank was re-admitted to the Civic Hospital last Thursday. On antibiotics and heavily sedated due to severe pain, his heart simply gave out.

He was a Past President of the City of Ottawa Coin Club and was Honorary President at the time of his passing. Although in his late 80s, he regularly attended monthly meetings of the club.

He received awards from both the Canadian Numismatic Association and the Ontario Numismatic Association.

SPIES EMBEDDING TINY TRANSMITTERS IN CANADIAN COINS – PART ONE

I have never had so many people send me a story than the article about three funny Canadian coins just because they contained tiny transmitters. I recall hearing from Tony Hine, Randy Nelson, Nick Cowan, Colin Bruce, one of my contacts at the Royal Canadian Mint, but since we delete all information as soon as it is used in the drafts, we cannot recall who else. The following article, authored by Jim Bronskill, originated from Canada Press:

They say money talks, and a new report suggests Canadian currency is indeed chatting, at least electronically, on behalf of shadowy spies.

Canadian coins containing tiny transmitters have mysteriously turned up in the pockets of at least three American contractors who visited Canada, says a branch of the U.S. Defense Department.

Security experts believe the miniature devices could be used to track the movements of defense industry personnel dealing in sensitive military technology. "You might want to know where the individual is going, what meetings the individual might be having and, above all, with whom." Said David Harris, a former CSIS officer who consults on security matters. The more covert or clandestine the activity in which somebody might be involved, the more significant this kind of information could be."

The counterintelligence office of the U.S. Defense Security Service cites the currency caper as an example of the methods international spies have recently tried to illicitly acquire military technology.

The service's report, Technology Collection Trends in the U.S. Defense Industry, says foreign-hosted conventions, seminars and exhibits are popular venues for pilfering secrets. The report is based on an analysis of 971 "suspicious contact reports" submitted in the fiscal year 2005 by security-cleared defense contractors and various official personnel. "On at least three separate occasions between October 2005 and January 2006, cleared defense contractors' employees traveling through Canada have discovered radio frequency transmitters embedded in Canadian coins placed on their persons," the report says.

The report did not indicate what kinds of coins were involved. A service spokeswoman said details of the incidents were classified. As a result, the type of transmitter in play, and its ultimate purpose, remain a mystery. However, tiny tracking tags, known as RFIDs, are commonly placed in everything from clothing to key chains to help retailers track inventory. Each tag contains a miniature antenna that beams a unique ID code to an electronic reader. The information can then be transferred by the reader into a computerized database.

The likely need for such a reading device means the doctored coins could be used to track people only in a controlled setting, not over long distances, said Chris Mathers, a security consultant and former undercover RCMP officer. "From a technology perspective, it makes no sense. To me it's very strange."

Then there's the obvious problem: what if the coin-holder plunks the device into a pop machine? "You give the guy something with a transmitter that he's going to spend. I mean, he might have it for an hour," Mathers said with a chuckle.

Harris speculates recent leaps in miniaturization could allow for a sophisticated transmitter capable of monitoring a target's extensive travels. "I think we can be pretty darn confident that the technology is there for the sorts of micro-units that would be required to embed these things in a coin," he said. "It's a brave new world, and greatly concerning on so many levels."

Passing the coin to an unwitting contractor, particularly in strife-torn countries, could mark the person for kidnapping or assassination, Harris said. You could almost, by handing a coin to somebody, achieve the equivalent of the Mafiosi's last kiss on the cheek."

The Defense Security Service report says employees of U.S. contractors reported suspicious contacts from individuals, firms or governments of more than 100 countries during the year. Technologies that generated the most interest were information systems, lasers and optics, aeronautics and sensors. A foreign approach often meant a simple request for information from the contractor.

But the report also underscores clandestine means of acquiring secrets from U.S. employees, particularly those traveling abroad. "It is important to recognize copiers and shredders can contain built-in scanners to copy the data." Other common methods include placing listening devices in rooms, searching hotel rooms, inspecting electronic equipment and eavesdropping on conversations.

The report, which first came to light in a U.S. newspaper, has since been posted on the website of the Federation of American Scientists, an organization that tracks the intelligence world and promotes government openness.

The above story appears at http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/spy_money.

SPIES EMBEDDING TINY TRANSMITTERS IN CANADIAN COINS – PART TWO

Because of the different slant taken by Associated Press, we are also publishing it:

Money talks, but can it also follow your movements?

In a U.S. government warning high on the creepiness scale, the Defense Department cautioned its American contractors over what it described as a new espionage threat: Canadian coins with tiny radio frequency transmitters hidden inside.

The government said the mysterious coins were found planted on U.S. contractors with classified security clearances on at least three separate occasions between October 2005 and January 2006 as the contractors traveled through Canada.

Intelligence and technology experts said such transmitters, if they exist, could be used to surreptitiously track the movements of people carrying the spy coins.

The U.S. report doesn't suggest who might be tracking American defense contractors or why. It also doesn't describe how the Pentagon discovered the ruse, how the transmitters might function or even which Canadian currency contained them.

Further details were secret, according to the U.S. Defense Security Service, which issued the warning to the Pentagon's classified contractors. The government insists the incidents happened, and the risk was genuine.

"What's in the report is true," said Martha Deutscher, a spokeswoman for the security service. "This is indeed a sanitized version, which leaves a lot of questions."

Top suspects, according to outside experts: China, Russia or even France -- all said to actively run espionage operations inside Canada with enough sophistication to produce such technology.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service said it knew nothing about the coins. "This issue has just come to our attention," CSIS spokeswoman Barbara Campion said. "At this point, we don't know of any basis for these claims." She said Canada's intelligence service works closely with its U.S. counterparts and will seek more information if necessary.

Experts were astonished about the disclosure and the novel tracking technique, but they rejected suggestions Canada's government might be spying on American contractors. The intelligence services of the two countries are extraordinarily close and routinely share sensitive secrets.

"It would seem unthinkable," said David Harris, former chief of strategic planning for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. "I wouldn't expect to see any offensive operation against the Americans."

Harris said likely candidates include foreign spies who targeted Americans abroad or businesses engaged in corporate espionage. "There are certainly a lot of mysterious aspects to this," Harris said.

Experts said such tiny transmitters would almost certainly have limited range to communicate with sensors no more than a few feet away, such as ones hidden inside a doorway. The metal in the coins also could interfere with any signals emitted. "I'm not aware of any (transmitter) that would fit inside a coin and broadcast for kilometers," said Katherine Albrecht, an activist who believes such technology carries serious privacy risks. "Whoever did this obviously has access to some pretty advanced technology."

Experts said hiding tracking technology inside coins is fraught with risks because the spy's target might inadvertently give away the coin or spend it buying coffee or a newspaper. They agreed, however, that a coin with a hidden tracking device might not arouse suspicion if it were discovered in a pocket or briefcase.

"It wouldn't seem to be the best place to put something like that; you'd want to put it in something that wouldn't be left behind or spent," said Jeff Richelson, a researcher and author of books about the CIA and its gadgets. "It doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense."

Canada's largest coins include its \$2 "Toonie," which is more than 1-inch across and thick enough to hide a tiny transmitter. The CIA has acknowledged its own spies have used hollow, U.S. silver-dollar coins to hide messages and film.

The government's 29-page report was filled with other espionage warnings. It described unrelated hacker attacks, eavesdropping with miniature pen recorders and the case of a female foreign spy who seduced her American boyfriend to steal his computer passwords. In another case, a film processing company called the FBI after it developed pictures for a contractor that

contained classified images of U.S. satellites and their blueprints. The photo was taken from an adjoining office window.

SPIES EMBEDDING TINY TRANSMITTERS IN CANADIAN COINS – PART THREE

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) also picked up the story. Although most of the details are very similar to the above, they do add some Canadian content:

A U.S. defense report claiming Canadian coins were used as surveillance devices has raised security concerns and a few eyebrows since it became public knowledge this week. The report, entitled Technology Collection Trends in the U.S. Defence Industry, listed the use of Canadian currency in an appendix on recent cases.

"On at least three separate occasions between October 2005 and January 2006, cleared defense contractors' employees traveling through Canada have discovered radio frequency transmitters embedded in Canadian coins placed on their persons," reads the brief explanation in the U.S. Defense Security Service report.

An unnamed U.S. official also told the Globe and Mail the incidents have been blown out of proportion, saying odd-looking Canadian coins triggered suspicions but that the fears were groundless.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service said it knew nothing of the incidents. "This issue has just come to our attention," CSIS spokeswoman Barbara Campion told CBC News Online. "At this point, we don't know of any basis for these claims. Canadian agencies, including CSIS, work closely with their U.S. counterparts to address potential threats. If further action is required on this issue, we will follow up with U.S. counterparts," she said.

The CBC's full story is at www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2007/01/11/coin-spy.html#skip300x250. You heard of the "diving goose" variety. Go to the website and see the "flying goose" variety.

OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

Nick Cowan forwarded the following e-mail to us. Unfortunately, neither he nor I can take advantage of this fantastic opportunity because we send all of our available funds to Nigeria as a security for the tens of millions that they have promised us. Imagine, for the measly sum of \$8,000, you can obtain coins valued at \$350-400k!

\$350,000 TO \$400,000 BOOK VALUE COIN ESTATE COLLECTION - \$8000

Amazing opportunity to have a very valuable collection yours for only \$8,000CDN. All professionally graded slabbed mint MS66 – MS70 items include Morgan silver dollars, Kennedy half dollars, steel wheat, error planchet, peace dollars. E-mail for complete list. \$8,000 firm. Some example of items include following: 1881 O graded slabbed MS66 Morgan silver dollars bks \$16,000US graded MS70 1960 P lg date Lincoln cent coin bks \$5350 graded MS70 1961 D Washington quarter coin bks \$10000 5 graded PR70 2004 D Statehood quarter coin set \$5350 1900 graded slabbed MS66 Morgan rotated dies error 1888 P graded slabbed MS66 Morgan silver dollar Morgan Dollar 1882 P graded slabbed MS66 Morgan silver dollar Morgan Dollar 1882 O MS66 \$7000.00 1889 Morgan Dollar Certified MS65 1924-- Peace Dollar Certified MS66 1888--Morgan Dollar Certified MS-66s. Selling whole collection \$8,000.00 firm Serious buyers.

Oh, darn it! I wiped out their e-mail address and telephone number by mistake. Oh, well, better luck next time!

ARMORED CAR HEIST FEATURED ON HISTORY CHANNEL

While the History Channel in the U.S. was showing "The World's Most Wanted: War on Drugs" recently, the Canadian History Channel showed a 1998 heist that comes under the Stupid Criminal category. Donovan Vincent reported the following in the Saturday, March 14, 1988 issue of The Toronto Star. Remember, these "Stupid Criminals" would not have had the benefit of watching one of the various CSI franchises, recent episodes of Law & Order or similar programs.

CELLULAR PHONE TRAIL, WIRETAPS HELP POLICE CATCH ROBBERS

A trail of cellular phone calls and telephone wiretaps helped lead police to the players behind one of Toronto's largest robberies. "Don't use a cell phone if you want to commit a robbery." Toronto police Detective Rod Redquest quipped earlier this week. His partner, Detective Doug Quan, testified in court that cell phone records and phone taps helped them assemble a giant piece of the Loomis robbery puzzle: who the players were, and where they were just before midnight Aug. 31, 1995, the night of the robbery. Investigators were able to design a map that showed calls from the players' phones and their proximity to key locations: the Bank of Nova Scotia in Etobicoke where the Loomis truck was hijacked, and telephone booths from which diversionary calls were made to police.

The trail began with Angelo Portante's cell phone bills, which were obtained after his arrest Sept. 21, 1995. In addition, the call display on his office phone listed several recent calls. In the end, only one of the callers' names would be significant: Piero Perciballi. At the time, however, the name meant nothing to investigators. It wasn't until sometime later when police were investigating another matter that Perciballi's name popped up on the "nominal role," the list of all police officers in Toronto. "It was just a lucky break," Redquest said.

Through search warrants, police obtained Perciballi's cell phone bills, which showed calls to friends Danny Zeoli, Marc Leggieri, and Sam DeFrancesca. The three would finger Perciballi in January, 1996, in exchange for immunity. Police found that Perciballi, Leggieri, DeFrancesca, Zeoli, Tony Portante, and another man who was not charged all made calls near the key locations in the robbery. Cellular phone records showed they were all in contact with one another the night of the robbery.

Meanwhile, that same night, Loomis employee Angelo Portante, Tony Portante's brother, was doing a run in another Loomis truck and was in the east end of Toronto and Durham Region and made a call on his cell phone from those areas. It was the bulk of the evidence police needed to bug the phones of the players.

Between Dec. 4, 1995, and Jan. 18, 1996, police tapped the phones of Zeoli, Leggieri, and DeFrancesca as well as Perciballi, the Portante brothers and the other man who wasn't charged.

The second person to be arrested was Zeoli, who was the closest to Perciballi. Leggieri and DeFrancesca later agreed to give videotaped statements to police. The three were not charged in exchange for their testimony. The trio told about the robbery, how Andre Pelliccione posed as a police officer, and how Perciballi recruited the three of them. "They filled in the blanks," Redquest said, referring to the questions left unanswered by the cell phone trail.

The wiretaps also showed how Perciballi was in control of the money after the heist. Using code words like "cups of coffee" and "cowboy boots" to refer to the loot, some of the players later called him, asking for cash.

EIGHT ARRESTED IN STORE ROBBERY

More than 100 officers, including swat team units, took part in simultaneous raids this past week, which began at 6 a.m. in several locations in Toronto, Mississauga and Ajax. This led to the arrests of eight people in connection with a daylight jewelry store heist in Brampton.

The loot included a large quantity of Canadian, U.S., European and British currency and 20 pounds of gold, as well as bracelets, rings, brooches and necklaces.

Among the people swooped up during Wednesday's raids was a Toronto man believed to have been on the run from Canadian immigration officials for the past seven years, police sources said. He has been charged with obstructing justice in connection with an immigration warrant, as well as several criminal offences relating to the Nov. 17 robbery of Zaibi Jewellers. Sources said he failed to show up for a deportation hearing after being convicted of an unrelated criminal charge in the mid-1990s. He had allegedly been using several fictitious names, and identified himself as somebody else when he was arrested, Peel Police said.

Investigators believe those arrested belong to a South Asian criminal group that is now being probed for other criminal activities, such as credit card fraud, break and enters, and other store robberies.

Heavily armed tactical officers guarded hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of South Asian yellow gold jewelry displayed during the recent news conference at Peel police headquarters in Brampton. An imitation firearm and several rounds of real bullets were also seized in the raids, police said, according to an article in The Toronto Star.

Chapman said investigators are trying to determine whether any of those arrested are also linked to two other robberies of South Asian jewelry stores, in September and October of 2005. Four people were arrested in connection with those two heists, police said.

A special task force was formed following the Zaibi jewellery store robbery. In that robbery, at least three masked bandits entered the store on November 17. The store owner was viciously assaulted and tied up by the bandits, who got away with a substantial amount of jewelry.

COURT CASE

A nine year old boy of a couple who were both coin collectors was at the center of a Toronto courtroom drama recently when they challenged a court ruling over who should have custody of him.

The boy has a history of being beaten by his parents and the judge initially awarded custody to his aunt, in keeping with the child custody law and regulations requiring that family unity be maintained to the degree possible. The boy surprised the court when he proclaimed that his aunt beat him more than his parents and he adamantly refused to live with her. When the judge suggested that he live with his grandparents, the boy cried out that they also beat him. After considering the remainder of the immediate family and learning that domestic violence was apparently a way of life among them, the judge took the unprecedented step of allowing the boy to propose who should have custody of him.

After two recesses to check legal references and confer with child welfare officials, the judge granted temporary custody to the Toronto Maple Leafs, whom the boy firmly believes are not capable of beating anyone.

C.N.A. TO MAN INFO TABLES AT CAND SHOW

The C.N.A. has accepted an offer from Rick Simpson to man complimentary tables at the upcoming CAND Annual Convention to promote the C.N.A.'s aims and objectives to the visitors attending this popular event.

The CAND Show is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, with admission also available on Friday, January 26. It is being held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King Street East, Hamilton, Ontario. Contact Rick Simpson at cand@cogeco.ca for show hours, etc. or look in the CAND issue of Canadian Coin News in the mail shortly. For auction information, contact Wendy Hoare, Jeffrey Hoare Auctions, at jhoare@jeffreyhoare.on.ca.

Other than giving juniors a complimentary bag containing coins, supplies and catalogues, coin supplies and catalogues will be available to juniors at drastically reduced prices well below wholesale. You will also be able to meet and greet members of the C.N.A. Executive that will be in attendance, including President Charles Moore, First V.P. Michael Walsh, your C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor and a number of other members of the C.N.A. Executive.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

We like to share some Christmas customs with you, whether you are celebrated the recent Holidays or not. The following are excerpts from "Mama's Treasurers" Website.

- The celebration of Christmas was banned in Boston from 1659 to 1681. Anyone showing Christmas Spirit was fined 5 schillings. This was due to the pilgrims belief that it was a decadent celebration.
- Stargazy Pie is a fish pie of Cornish Origin. It is made with the fish heads sticking out of the crust all around the rim and presumably takes its name from the appearance of gazing skywards. It is made in memory of fisherman who saved a town from hunger one stormy Christmas.
- Hiding an almond inside of rice pudding is a Christmas custom in Sweden. Whoever gets it has good luck for the year.
- In Oxaca, Mexico Christmas Eve is also the Night of the Radishes, when large radishes are cut into animal shapes.
- Tortellini is a specialty of the Bolognese Christmas dinner (filled with turkey, ham, & sausage forcemeat.)
- The Dutch eat chicken stuffed with sauerkraut at Christmas to mark the end of the year and celebrate the beginning of the New Year. The reason for chicken is because the animal scratches the ground. It symbolizes scratching the earth over the old year.
- Christmas season in the Canadian Prairies traditionally begins with a shipment of Japanese oranges.
- Revillon is a meal eaten after Midnight Mass in France and Canada.
- German settlers in Pennsylvania in the 1800s were the first to decorate their homes with fir trees at Christmas.
- Most of the Christmas carols sung today were composed in the 1700s and 1800s.
- Traditionally, German children are not allowed to see the Christmas tree until Christmas Eve.
- December 26th, also known as Boxing Day is the holy day of St. Stephen.
- St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, scholars, merchants, sailors and women without dowries.

CONCLUSION

As previously announced, we will be publishing a special Second Anniversary Issue on January 15. You have until Sunday morning to send us any comments you wish us to include. Send them to cnanews@look.ca.

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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