

## **Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 3, No. 31 – May 18, 2007**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

I think we have milked the Spy coin and the \$1 million gold coin enough, at least for now, don't you think?

All right, just one comment: I found out that Tom Rogers, President of the Ontario Numismatic Association, will not be ordering a \$1 million gold coin. He says that the 220-pound coin won't fit into his safe. As for me, there are 2.6 million reasons why I won't order one...unless I win the lottery.

### **WE HAVE MAIL**

From Barry McIntyre: "What happen to number 30?" – Last Tuesday's bulletin was headed "Volume 3, Number 31 – May 15, 2007" in error. It should have been number 30. Today's issue is 31.

From Tom DeLorey: "When I used to live in Detroit when Canadian money circulated at par alongside U.S. money in the late 1950s and early 1960s, I was smart enough to know the difference. Not all Americans can say that. Last year I was waiting for my luggage at O'Hare Field in Chicago after returning from Denver, and overheard another passenger complaining to the friend who had come to pick him up. This passenger had connected to the plane from a flight from Vancouver. While in Vancouver, he had placed his ATM card in an ATM machine to withdraw \$100 for the trip home, and to his utter amazement had received Canadian funds from the machine! As he said to the friend: "Couldn't the machine tell that I had an American credit card, and give me American money?" – I guess the machine didn't know if he was staying in Canada for a while and needed Canadian funds. Anyway, all ATMs in Canada are programmed with the phrase "When in Canada, do as the Canadians do." Or maybe it's "What you get in Canada stays in Canada" to make sure you spend it here?

From Jim Foulkes: "Thanks for your news again. Just tell me why I get the little 3 letter symbols when I read the story, mostly at the apostrophe mark position." – That's one of the mysteries of life that I have not been able to resolve. All I know is that I do all I can to eliminate the problem from my end by converting it from the original MS Word and sending it in plain text. My Internet Service Provider tells me that I am doing the right things, and say that the problem must be at the recipient's end. It's enough to pull ones hair out...if I had any left!

### **MAN INJURED BY TOPPLED TOMBSTONE**

I reported a couple of issues ago that Dr Pepper cancelled a portion of their treasure hunt promotion for a \$1 million token when there was concern that the public will damage tomb stones in a Boston cemetery trying to find the token based on clues that it was hidden "by a patriot in a graveyard." I am not suggesting the following story had anything to do with the Dr. Pepper promotion, but some people might find the timing suspicious.

According to Associated Press, a man was found trapped unconscious beneath a 1,000-pound tombstone in a cemetery in Merrillville, Ind. Michael David Schreiber's legs were broken by the stone, and the family name on the gravestone left the letter "V" imprinted on his thigh. It took five officers to remove the headstone from Schreiber's body. It is estimated that he had been trapped under the headstone for more than three hours before police arrived.

Schreiber, 22, of Merrillville faces charges of criminal trespassing, criminal mischief and public intoxication, police said. He also might be ordered to pay for damage to 14 headstones, Police Chief Nicholas Bravos said. Estimated damage totaled about \$8,400. As I always say, don't drink and go treasure hunting.

Now Volvo is advertising the fact that they sunk a treasure chest with \$50,000 in gold. After the problems with hiding stuff in cemeteries and in places that people thought were bombs just about ready to go off, it might not be a bad idea to hide it somewhere where only scuba divers could locate it. But if people are having headstones fall on them, I wonder if we will read about any dead divers in the Volvo promotion?

### **BANK ROBBER FLEES AFTER DYE PACK EXPLODES**

Here is a lesson on how not to rob a bank:

- 1) Walk into Bank
- 2) Hand note to teller
- 3) Get bag of money
- 4) Leave
- 5) Have bag explode in your face

A man who held up a Bank of America branch in Santa Fe Springs, California escaped on foot as a dye pack that had been put in with the money he took exploded as he fled. The suspect, a man in his late 40s, handed a demand note to the teller asking for \$20 and \$50 bills.

Police could not immediately confirm an eyewitness report that the suspect wore a blue hat and blue jacket. Was that before or after the dye pack wore off?

### **YOUR DAILY CUP OF JOE**

The following column by Dan Gosling appeared in the March issue of the The CN Journal, official publication of the Canadian Numismatic Association:

Not long ago, Wendy's spun off Tim Hortons in what turned out to be an over-subscribed initial public offering. Canadians were unable to initially purchase the stock of their favourite coffee shop because the shares were only available to American purchasers.

For some Canadians, the desire to partake in the IPO was not so much a vote on the future success of the chain as a reflection of their love for Tim Hortons coffee. You only have to see the daily line-ups in the drive-thru to realize the popularity of the restaurant chain.

What does this daily indulgence cost? For the average worker who orders a regular size cup of coffee each workday, it comes to \$312.00 per year (based on \$1.30 per cup, 2 weeks vacation and ten statutory holidays).

For the same cost you could afford all of the following (for the purpose of this write-up, we have changed some of the groups to make it more relevant to everyone receiving this E-Bulletin).

- Membership in the Canadian Numismatic Association
- Membership in the Canadian Paper Money Society
- Membership in the American Numismatic Association
- Membership in three of your local coin club
- Membership in your regional numismatic association

- Annual subscription to Canadian Coin News
- Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins or U.S. equivalent
- Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Government Paper Money or U.S. equivalent
- ICCS Population Report
- ASHRAP report of eBay prices
- Attendance at a few local/regional coin shows

Which do you think is the better value?

And so ends Dan's column. He makes the point very well...except for one factor. Since I venture to guess that most of us are not ready to give up either our memberships or Timmy (or Starbucks) coffees, I suggest another alternative: do both!

### **RCM ENGRAVER TO ADDRESS ARTEAST**

Robert McAlpine made us aware that ArtEast, an association in Ottawa of Artists and Photographers (<http://www.arteastottawa.com/>), has scheduled a program at their next meeting that is bound to interest coin collectors. This coming Tuesday, May 22, starting at 7:30 pm, they will feature Christie Paquet, an engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint, speaking about the design of coins. The meeting will take place at the Visual Arts Center, Orleans (VACO), 1490 Youville Drive, Ottawa (Orleans), Ontario.

Christie will speak about the design of coins, sculpting the image in plaster and steel as well as 3D virtual sculpting. She will bring a few interesting items to illustrate the process more clearly.

If you're in the area, drop in. Everyone is welcome.

### **THE FOUR BONES OF COIN CLUBS**

Ross Kingdon, Editor of Timber Talk, official publication of the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC) included the following in the February 2007 bulletin:

Someone once said that the membership of an organization is made up of Four Bones. There are the Wishbones: people who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do all the work. There are the Jaw Bones: people who do all the talking but very little else. There are the Knuckle Bones: people who knock everything that others try to do. Finally, there are the Back Bones: people who get the load and do the work.

I hope your club is made up mostly of people with Back Bones!

### **NO RESPECT**

Mark Maskell Smith, a former LAPD police officer who was severely injured in his leg after a shoot-out, wrote the following in the Quarter 4 - 2006 Lexus Magazine:

"The Police Commission gave me a full pension and a medal for bravery under fire. I keep the medal in a drawer with my socks."

I wish he would think more highly of the people that awarded him such an honor, kept it in a more prominent place and took more pride in his accomplishment. Or simply not admit in print what he did with it!

## **ONE FOR THE DEALER DIVORCE MANUAL**

The "Coronary and Ulcer Club" recently listed rules for members. Since they might also apply to some coin dealers, we have taken the liberty of paraphrasing them:

1. Your job comes first. Forget everything else.
2. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are fine times to be working at the store or at a coin show without taking other days off. That way, nobody from home can bother you.
3. Always have your briefcase with you when not in your store. This provides an opportunity to review completely all the troubles and worries of the day.
4. Never say "no" to a request. Always say "yes." Accept all invitations to meetings, banquets, committees, etc., even though you spend most of your time at the store.
5. All forms or recreation are a waste of time.
6. Never delegate responsibility to others: carry the entire load yourself.
7. If your work calls for traveling – work all day and travel at night to keep that appointment you made for eight the next morning.
8. No matter how many jobs you already are doing, remember, you always can take on one more.

## **THREATENING CAT HALTS MAIL DELIVERY**

Although this column might interest my stamp collecting friends, I dedicate it to all dog lovers who like to hear negative stories about cats for a change.

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow will deter the postal carrier from his duty. But apparently a "threatening" cat does.

John Samborski got a letter recently from Canada Post stating carriers will no longer deliver mail to his Winnipeg home because of his cat Shadow's growling. "Apparently, this is as very threatening cat," said Canada Post's Kathi Neal.

What I like to know is, if the postal carriers wouldn't deliver mail, how did the letter from Canada Post get delivered to the cat's owner?

See the difference between Canadians and Americans, or more specifically, between Canadian postal employees and American postal employees? In Canada, we send a letter and refuse to deliver any more. In the U.S., postal carriers simply shoot the cat. Or the owner.

All right, I'm sorry. No letters from U.S. postal carriers please. Blame my sense of humor. I do want to ask: would I receive an actual letter from a postal carrier, or have they also switched to e-mail like the rest of us?

## **MINT COOPERATION WITH HOBBY**

In a recent C.N.A. E-Bulletin, I mentioned that in all the years that I have been the C.N.A.'s Liaison to the Royal Canadian Mint, I have never seen as much cooperation as I have with the recent Mint employees. Other than their ongoing support involving the annual C.N.A. Conventions, one of the specific things I mentioned was the coin show that was hosted at the Winnipeg Plant of the Royal Canadian Mint. Here is another example:

Members of the City of Ottawa Coin Club were treated this past Friday to a VIP 90-minute tour of the Mint's Ottawa production facility. Michel Lesage, the host assigned by the RCM, made everyone feel welcome. This was not just another tour like the one tourists take. Because coin collectors are interested in getting in-between the machinery and blanks and all, they were

asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to enter the high security area. In order to minimize security issues, each visitor was asked not to wear any jewelry, to leave all pocket change at home, and jeans were a no-no because of the high metal content, including the zipper.

François Rufiange, President of the club, arranged for a gathering over lunch prior to the tour.

### **ANA IDENTIFIES FRAUD SUSPECT**

The ANA has issued a press release concerning an investment fraud suspect:

The Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office has issued a felony extraditable warrant for the arrest of Duane C. Boechler, age 50. Boechler is also a person of interest in an ongoing investigation into the investment activities of "Affiliated Apartments LLC," "Affiliated Homestead LLC," and "Affiliated Natural Resources LLC." Boechler drives a blue 1992 Dodge Caravan Wisconsin Plate 927GHL.

Boechler is known to frequent coin dealerships. It is believed that he has converted stolen monies into large purchases, sometimes \$40,000 to \$80,000 in gold and silver coins and other precious metals over the years.

If you see Duane Boechler or his minivan, please contact your local law enforcement agency or call 9-1-1. Boechler is not known to be armed or dangerous.

If you have done business with Boechler or invested in any of these companies, please contact Detective Mike Voelker at the Eau Claire Police Department at (715) 839-6165; or their 24-hour tipster line (715) 839-4982.

For the full story and a photo of Boechler, go to

[http://www.money.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Consumer\\_Awareness&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10668](http://www.money.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Consumer_Awareness&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10668)

### **PIRATE ATTACKS NOT A THING OF THE PAST**

Other than a few incidences of tourist ships being boarded off the shores of Indonesia that we wrote about in a previous C.N.A. E-Bulletin, I thought that piracy was pretty well a thing of the past.

However, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), 41 commercial vessels were attacked by pirates worldwide in the first three months of 2007. Fortunately, this figure represents a significant drop from the same period last year when 61 attacks were reported. In 2003, 103 attacks were reported.

Indonesian waters remained the world's most dangerous, accounting for nine attacks. The IMB said Indonesia "should be applauded for the proactive efforts it has taken to tackle the problem," noting that there were 19 attacks in Indonesia in January-March 2006. Bangladesh also reported a substantial one-year decline, from nine to two attacks.

The IMB, however, voiced concerns about deteriorating security in Nigeria, where the number of attacks climbed from four to six in the three-month period from last year. Other nations that suffered rising attacks were India, which had three, Sri Lanka with two, and Tanzania with three. All three had reported no attacks in the first three months of 2006.

Although the report does not report any pirate incidences along North American shores, I do wish to report that I went to a movie the other night and it was a fascinating experience. The pirates were not only on the screen, but they were also behind the refreshment counter.

### **CON MAN DOES IT AGAIN, FROM PRISON**

Have you noticed that there is no such thing as a one-time criminal? Such is the power of the almighty buck. If you look at some back issues of these bulletins, you will read that people are charged with robbing 47 banks, or defrauding hundreds of people for millions of dollars.

It should, therefore, come as no surprise that Alan Scott, 53, already serving eight years for bank fraud and check forgery at the federal prison in Minersville, Pa., has pleaded guilty to orchestrating, from his cell, a scheme that cheated two Long Island businesses out of \$200,000. Scott's plea to conspiracy to commit mail fraud involved a complicated scheme in which he claimed to be a stockholder entitled to damages through settlement of a number of class actions. Scott filed claims for \$8 million but received only \$200,000 before the scheme was uncovered, according to court documents.

According to Newsday, Scott filed papers with a number of businesses around the country from his cell. The false documentation reported ownership of the stocks to the Internal Revenue Service, court papers said. An employee of one of the businesses told the FBI they were suspicious of Scott's claim because, while it was mailed from Minersville, Pa., and listed a post office box address there, the money was supposed to be sent to an address in Massachusetts.

FBI agents searching Scott's cell in Minersville found documents used in the fraud. Scott had accomplices outside prison who received the money. He likely will have about 41 months tacked on to the eight years he is already serving.

### **HOTEL SENDS HANDWRITTEN THANKS**

I wrote a couple issues ago about the fantastic fun I had at the MPCFest in Port Clinton, Ohio. I mentioned in the column what a fantastic job the hotel staff did, serving meals that were brought in from the outside and cleaning up after us (the cleanup was important to me personally because, as a first-time attendee, I was placed on KP duties so appreciated all the help I could get).

The other day, the postman dropped an envelope through the mail slot addressed to Mr. and Mrs. John Regitko. I opened it and removed the card. The card contained the hand-written note: "It was our pleasure having you with us for the MPCFest. Thank you for sharing and for making it such a success. Take care and hope to see you next year." The card was signed by Jim Bartish, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express, site of MPCFest. (Good thing I actually took my wife or would I be trouble, eh?)

I ask you, when is the last time you received a handwritten card from the general manager...or anyone else...of the hotel where you stayed? If you have something really nice to say about a hotel, send details to [cnanews@look.ca](mailto:cnanews@look.ca).

### **IOC TO TRADEMARK ADDITIONAL WORDS**

In a recent issue of Canadian Coin News, complaints from dealers were published about the policy of the Vancouver Olympic Committee restricting the sale of Olympic coinage over the Internet to just a few dealers. What is not generally known is that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) also wishes to trademark additional words.

In compliance with a standard demand by the International Olympic Committee, Canada has recently introduced legislation that would confer trademark rights for such words as “gold,” “medals,” “games,” “2010,” “Vancouver” and even “Winter” to the 2010 Winter Games organizing committee until December 31, 2010, in order to thwart anyone who hasn’t shelled out big sponsorship bucks to the IOC for rights to those words when used in any combination that could be construed as referring to the Games.

At least that is what a link to a webpage from Google’s home page said. That is the same page that states that Google is offering wireless Internet service through home plumbing systems, called “Toilet Internet Service Provider.”

I wonder if it had something to do with the fact that Google, in a weak moment, posted it on April 1? And you thought all their employees were geeks!

### **DO NOT PANIC**

We recently published the fact that the Royal Canadian Mint sold out a number of its collectors coins issues during 2006. With apologies to Hans Niedermair (for reasons that I will explain at the end of this column), we are pleased to publish brief excerpts from his column.

“Royal Canadian Mint product sell-outs shouldn’t be looked at as the end of the world. For one thing, they signify that the hobby is very healthy (we have yet to see that ominous headline proclaiming “coin collecting is dead” which has been prophesied for decades), because there is demand for the products. Also, sell-outs present that great challenge that many collectors live for – the hunt. You know, kind of like going into the forest with your hunting rifle and looking for that elusive buck – but with less bullets, blood and dead animals and stuff. A scouring of a bourse floor just might turn up that sold out item you need. For some, it’s just too easy to call and order everything as soon as the products are announced. The only concern would be the possibility of the Canada Post mailman losing your order.”

Makes sense, right? Well, the article appeared in a recent issue of Canadian Stamp News, the sister publication to Canadian Coin News by Trajan Publishing. Every time reference was made to stamps, we substituted “coins” above. Doesn’t that explain very well how related coin and stamp collecting is and the common problems and joys we share.

### **CONCLUSION**

This coming Tuesday’s issue will again deal with the 2007 C.N.A. Convention. We ask you to forgive us if you have no interest in attending the Convention and, therefore, knowing the details. As an official publication of the Canadian Numismatic Association, it is my duty to publish information about the C.N.A. here from time-to-time, something I have seldom done, much to the chagrin of some members of the C.N.A. Executive. I hope to include a bit of humor and the unusual though, so that there is still something in it for everyone.

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

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