

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 3 – January 15, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

It has been exactly one year since the first C.N.A. E-Bulletin was sent out last January 15. We have received both positive comments as well as suggestions, with dozens and dozens telling us you appreciate receiving something different. It would make pretty boring reading if we were to publish them, but they are really appreciated. After all, this is a volunteer labor of love and positive e-mails are what keep us going. Thanks everyone!

We have also heard from a number of you that you are missing some issues. We expect to overcome the problem shortly, whether it will be as a result of trying one more time to have our ISP address the issue to our satisfaction or changing to another ISP. We don't hear that the Bibliomania Society has the problem with Binhost!

We are doing some catching up in this issue on some articles that we have been putting off for some time. Here it goes!

NUMISMATICS AND THE BLANTING'S TURTLE

The Blanting's turtle, 225 million years old and surviving whatever killed the dinosaurs as well as several ice ages, is having great difficulty surviving. They're disappeared from Nova Scotia, and in Ontario an application has been made to put them on Canada's species-at-risk list. Barely one percent of turtles survive beyond the hatching stage. Skunks and raccoons feast on the eggs, and hatchlings are vulnerable to a number of predators. A female Blanting's will lay six to 21 eggs (with an average of 11), so if 200 eggs are laid and half of them produce females, only one female will survive the hatchling stage. And it will have to live 14 to 20 years before it reaches sexual maturity and can lay eggs. But then road kill will take a tremendous toll.

Turtles like to bury their eggs in the gravel on the shoulders of roads. Of those killed on roads, most are females looking for a spot to lay eggs. The death of a young female can mean the elimination of more than 40 years of egg laying.

In a stable population, adult turtles can withstand a mortality rate of only 2 percent a year. With Blanting's, the mortality rate is estimated at 50 percent in the highly traveled strip between Kingston and Brockville in Ontario. Despite the slaughter, researchers say turtles are resilient. To prevent extinction, they say, all that's needed is for people to care.

When we read the above in a recent issue of The Toronto Star, we couldn't help but see a similarity between the Blanting's turtle and numismatics.

We also have problems in the hobby, with reasonably high drop-out rates of new recruits, competition from so many other hobbies and activities, the lost interest due to collectors moving to nursing homes and other medical centers, and the passing of former active collectors due to the aging population (all one has to do is look around the audience of a coin club meeting or the bourse at a coin show to realize that the average age is such that most members qualify for the "senior" membership rate).

But just like the Blanting's turtle, this hobby has been around for a long, long time. It has survived the ups and downs of the economy and discretionary disposable income.

With that kind of a history of survival, maybe we should make the Blanting's turtle the Patron Saint of Numismatics!

IN NEWFOUNDLAND, IT'S NOW TWO CREAMS, TWO SUGARS

(This is another column about the Tim Hortons Poppy Quarter that we have had in our file for months. You should know by now that we love to pick on Tim Hortons and the Poppy quarter. Everywhere I go, whether it's visiting relatives or going to be served by our favorite waitress or passing by neighbors who all know that we collect coins, they still expect me to magically exchange their "Moose" quarters for our Poppy Quarters for their friends. I keep asking them if that isn't that what Tim Hortons was for? Except with us, they didn't have to make a purchase!)

The Premier of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has had a bit of a problem with the Federal Government in getting them to agree to give him 100% of the offshore oil revenues from the oil found in the ocean off the coast of Newfoundland. Something about a promise that the federal politician made during the previous election campaign that the East coast politician expected him to keep (imagine one politician believing what another politician says). One of the things that the Premier did was to have all federal flags removed from Provincial buildings in Newfoundland and Labrador. He also wanted people to stop watching the federal government-owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, but nobody watches it anyway.

Linwood Barclay of The Toronto Star reported that the Provincial Premier stepped up his campaign to bring the federal government to its knees, by banning provincial employees from using typically Canadian words, including "moose," "hoser," "beaver" and the ever-popular "eh" that is an immediate give-away around the world as soon as a Canadian opens his/her mouth.

"I have compiled a list of typically Canadian things and phrases," the Premier supposedly stated. One employee, who was overheard saying "It seems kind of dumb, eh?" was fired on the spot for uttering the forbidden. He also sent out an e-mail to all provincial employees, ordering them to remove any Canadian paper currency from their wallets and set fire to it, but this was also met with some resistance. Even the Premier couldn't burn his \$20 because his wife told him to bring some groceries home.

And what does all that have to do with Tim Hortons and the Poppy Quarter?

The Premier also decreed that henceforth the term "double-double" would also be outlawed from the Provincial employees' vocabulary. Such is the power of Tim Hortons in Canada that when one hears "double double" most people immediately think of Tim Hortons coffee. (In the U.S., it would be Starbucks, but they never distributed any quarters.)

Does that also imply if an employee of the Newfoundland provincial government is caught going to Tim Hortons, they will be fired? The Premier will know for sure where they got their coffee if they have some Poppy Quarters in their pockets!

YOUR EDITOR IS GETTING SCAMMED

(Here is something else that I had put together months ago.)

I have this feeling that I am getting ripped off by Nigerians, Belgians and other people who are bank managers or business managers who have all this money they wish to get out of the country and are appealing to me to help them by pretending to be a relative of deceased people who died in plane crashes or were killed by uncles while they were traveling out of the country.

It started off as offers by lonely, rich widows that wanted to get millions out of the country, This changed later to bank managers looking for honest, reliable, trustworthy individuals who have all this money in bank accounts belonging to dead customers with either no known relatives or relatives that were in the dark about the bank account. But I feel that these people are trying to scam me lately. Let me explain.

It used to be that e-mails came in on a daily basis with amounts of \$200 million, \$300 million and more, of which they offered me 20% just for providing my banking information. However, lately the amounts have been getting smaller and smaller. For example, Dr. Fredric Noah, the operational manager of a bank in South Africa, discovered a dormant account with a Balance of \$168,559,000. Not bad. The deceased account holder was believed to be in charge of former Iraq President Saddam Hussein's secret crude oil transactions in Africa before his death. He just wanted to give me 5% of the total, with another 5% set aside for any expenses might incur. It was not explained why over \$8 million was required for expenses for a simple transfer to my account. But to think that Hussein managed to only hide \$168 million is unthinkable. It is probably closer to a billion. Can you blame me for feeling he is trying to cheat me?

Mr. Williams Smith, director of operations with Volks Bank in London, has 15.3 million pound sterling (you would think that someone so well placed would know that it is pounds sterling, not pound sterling) from a late customer who was killed in unknown circumstances and had some unclaimed treasury bills with Volks Bank. And a gentleman from Benin Republic wishes to "relocate" \$10 million as a result of war that erupted in Freetown after her late husband was able to move it out of Sierra Leon through a diplomatic channel.

Mr John Kuma, Chief Auditor of the Foreign Operation Department in the Benin Republic wants my urgent assistance in transferring \$8,261,210 since everyone died in a plane crash. Or the widow in Burundi whose late husband had deposited US \$3.5M that she is willing to send me. Then there is Mr. Demba Gaye, an accountant in Dakar, Senegal. A lousy \$2.5 million! And he wants to discuss terms yet! And the private financial consultant with only \$1.5 million, although I have to admit his 50% offer is much better than the others.

Although I have not responded to any of these e-mails, I am getting more and more tempting e-mails from lottery corporations lately. For example, Lucky Euro Lotto International of The Netherlands told me I won €700,000. All participants were selected through a computer ballot system drawn from over 100,000 companies and 50,000,000 individual e-mail addresses and names from all over the world. I couldn't believe it when not only a second of my e-mail addresses was selected, but also a third. Imagine the odds. Surely there could not be many more than three winners, and 3 of my e-mails were drawn out of over 50 million entries! The only problem is that I was informed that "NON RESIDENCE of THE NETHERLANDS are required to make a NON DEDUCTABLE advance payment of processment and legal documentation charges of Eight Hundred And Fifty Euro Ten Cent, to enable our legal department acquire Notorisation papers from the Court prior to award payment policy as required by the Paying Securiry (sic) Company." If any suckers...excuse me, recipients...of this e-mail want to send me 3,400 Euro and 40 cents, I promise to split it with you if...sorry, when...I receive my winnings. I might have forfeited the money by disclosing my lucky fortune, because another part of the message states that I must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print or copy any part of this message." That will teach me to brag to you about my good fortune.

Or how about the e-mail from the Prima Int'l Lotto Esp of Madrid, Spain: "Congratulations! We announce with pleasure that you have emerged as one of the two winners of the Int'l Lotto ESP ballot draws held in the month of JULY 2005. Be informed that your name is among 15,000 individuals/private companies names selected by our computer ballot system and have scaled through all three draws of the Lotto In Line with all Spanish Lottery Regulations, Int'l Lotto has just concluded its annual draws for the year 2005 of Euro770, 000.00. There must be something wrong with their computer, because not only was I one of the winners, not only was I lucky enough to have one of my other e-mails selected as the second winner, but a third e-mail also declared me a winner. Now I have a dilemma. Should I tell them about my three wins right away and face the possibility that they might declare the whole draw null and void? Or should I just claim the first two? Not meaning to be greedy, I do feel that if you are told that you won three times even if there should only be two winners, they should be held accountable and you should be paid three times. E-mail me at cnanews@look.ca and tell me how you would handle it.

Another lottery from Madrid, Spain informed me that I as well as the other winner are to receive a cash prize of \$2,800,809.00, but that 10% belongs to Ibero Promotion Company because "they are the company that bought your ticket and played the lottery on your name," I must make myself a note to thank Ibero for buying the ticket for me, but I think I will wait until I receive my winnings.

After these high amounts, can you blame me if I ignore the measly \$250,000 from the Thunder Ball Email Lottery that, again, I didn't even have to enter. I mean, why would I settle for a measly \$250,000 when I can make over \$100 million just for providing my confidential banking information or sending them a few thousand dollars?

But finally someone understands my frustrations, as is evident in this sincere e-mail (all typos as received): "I am compelled to write you in respect of your contract fund remittance, which transfer has remained unsuccessful. I am very sure that you must have lost hope of ever getting your fund transfer released especially after all the frustrations, endless disappointment and broken promises in the hands of some officials. However, I am writing you because i am familiar with the history of this fund release. My privileged knowledge and acquaintance with this payment issue is due to my closeness and association with the immediate past Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr Joseph Sanusi, who I worked with from 1999 until his voluntary retirement in may last year and in addition to the current position which i still maintain within the Bank. Briefly, I am quite sure that you must be wondering the reason behind the non-release of your contract fund after our Government officially granted approval for its remittance. I may also believe that you would have received countless, unconfirmed and spurious payment Advices and remittance instuctions from some officials indicating that they have granted approval for the transfer of your fund. You may have also been directed to visit different cities and countries with the instuction that your fund would be releaseed at such payment post or that your fund could be delivered to you at your residence.All these are cooked up stories from impostors who wish to extort money from you while they do not have any knowledge of the true position of your fund transfer." Well, unfortunately, the writer is right that I do not have any knowledge of the true position of the fund that everybody wants to send me. All these lost opportunity to become a millionaire, darn it, just because I did not respond!

The One Million Euros offered by the Internet lottery Under International and Swiss Lotto is sponsored by one Bill Gate, whoever that is. Another lottery, the European Union International Lottery, is sponsored by Bill Gates (him I know). There must be a connection between the two, other than the similarity in names, since they both use identical wording about the importance of confidentiality, how my e-mail address was selected, its frequency, the method of payment, the

amount offered in next year's draw, instructions of how to claim it and the options for releasing my funds. Even money intended for United Nations humanitarian services can be mine if I cooperate by registering for a seminar, at whose conclusion I will be paid US\$20,000, followed by further payments to me and fellow attendees eventually totaling over a billion dollars. Now you're talking! Now where is my passport that they want a copy of? And my checkbook?

The Zimbabwean aid to the minister of finance of Robert Mugabe's former government managed to abscond with US\$15.5 million to the Netherlands and now wants to pay me 25% commission. He wanted me to know that he kept this money not because he is self-centered or greedy, but "for the common interest of my people." Nice gentleman!

And this column would not be complete unless we tell you that Microsoft has selected me to receive \$1 million! I don't hold out much hope to receive it anytime soon, though, because I am still waiting for \$315 each for those e-mails I passed on when I was told they were tracking the e-mails, as well as the hundreds of thousands I was promised as my share of the tracked e-mails those people in turn passed on to others. Almost makes you wonder if Bill Gates really sent them!

STUDY TO ASSESS BEHAVIOUR OF SPOUSES

(We had the following in our computer since last summer and decided not to use it...until now.)

The Canadian federal defense department wants to know how people will respond to a biological or radiological attack so that we can better plan how to manage such situations.

Well, so far I have not been affected by biological or radiological attacks. But what I have been subjected to are attacks of other kinds when my spouse found out how much I paid for a couple of coins.

While we're on the subject of studies, maybe we can get Microsoft to conduct a study of their spell check program to enable me to activate a Canadian spell checker. The words "behaviour" and "defence" above, spelled the Canadian way (as opposed to "behavior" and "defense") did not pass the spell checker.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS SCHEME?

(And another oldie that has been sitting around for a while.)

Chris Boyer unintentionally gave us a great idea of how we can supplement our annual income by \$2,000. He stated in the Waterloo Coin Society bulletin a while ago that an insurance policy exists with a "\$2,500 Counterfeit Money Indemnity." If the insured accepts currency and discovers that it is counterfeit, the insurance company will redeem it. The limit for claims is \$2,500 in any policy year.

We figure we can buy \$2,500 worth of counterfeit bills for no more than \$500, leaving us with a nice \$2,000 just for making a phone call to the insurance company.

We only hope that the \$2,000 profit is enough to post bail so I can visit Boyer and tell him what went wrong with the scheme!

CONFIDENTIALITY AND YOUR SECURITY

(One of my favorite topics has been credit cards, because I have accumulated a quantity of them over the years.)

Both the U.S. and Canada have passed legislation protecting the privacy of people in various ways. However, a new report by the Ontario Privacy Commission reported on 18 recent examples of high-profile security and privacy breaches. "Why steal one identity when you can steal thousands of them, remotely, and without detection?" The Commissioner states that only essential data and having high data-protection standards are a solution. As of May 2005, there were 39 bills pending in 19 states to regulate the use of personal information. Since 2000, cases have been brought against 234 U.S. businesses, which have paid out more than \$160 million in fines and penalties.

A partial listing of personal information that has involved credit cards and banks from this year are: CardSystems Solutions Inc., which processes credit card transactions, reported hackers stole 40 million credit card numbers; Citigroup reported that unencrypted information on 3.9 million customers was lost while in transit to a credit bureau; DSW Shoe Warehouse reported hackers accessed data on 1.4 million credit card transactions; Bank of America confirmed it lost personal data of 1.2 million federal employees; CIBC repeatedly sent confidential customer files by fax to a U.S. junkyard. Ah, the security of credit card transactions!

That is why when anyone asks for sample copies of the CN Journal, we do not enter any information into any database, and destroy our note as soon as your envelope is addressed. Our e-mail addresses for this bulletin are stand-alone and are not attached to any other information, not even your name. Our membership mailing list is treated as highly confidential. Membership information is never given out to other members. Simply put, we respect your privacy to the highest degree!

C.N.A. ANNOUNCES \$5 COIN

Okay, we will do what the federal government will not. We will issue a \$5 "coin" later this year! But we need your help.

We will include a \$5 coin in the 2006 C.N.A. Convention scheduled for Niagara Falls, Ontario, this coming July...if we receive proposed designs from you loyal readers. Here is the deal:

Send us a sketch of what you think the design should look like, either one side or both. We will also accept color entries such as the colorized Poppy quarter. We will judge submissions and include the winning design in every registration kit. As well, we will send you a quantity to hand out at your local coin club meetings, to your friends and to your relatives. It's called bragging rights!

In keeping with our theme of fun and humor, it would be very, very unlikely...nay, impossible...that a serious entry will win the contest. Since we can't afford to create dies and strike it in metal, we reserve the right to either print it on paper or as a wooden nickel (including the colorization you propose). Either e-mail us your entry at cnanews@look.ca, or mail it to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin, 4936 Yonge Street, Suite 601, North York, ON M2N 6S3, Canada. If the winner attends the Convention, we will even throw in a \$25 Bourse Coupon, good with any dealer at the show.

ONE FOR OUR STAMP COLLECTING FRIENDS

Dora de Pedery Hunt, designer of a number of Canadian coins and hundreds of medals, gave a speech to the members of the North York Coin Club. During her speech, she mentioned that she met Queen Elizabeth II after her design was used for the obverse of Canada's coinage. I was asked to thank her.

At the conclusion of her presentation, I walked up to the front of the room and told her that I also met the Queen once. "Not having met her before, I wasn't sure how to greet her," I said. "My only contact with her was on postage stamps. So I walked up to her and licked the back of her head."

CONCLUSION

Pretty dumb stuff, eh? Now you know why we didn't publish it before! Although I did like my write-up on the Blanting's Turtle.

Only five days till the next regular bulletin!

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

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