

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 3, No. 18 – March 25, 2007

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INTRODUCTION

If the words run together, it's because I can't use my thumbs. And it is all because I wanted to make a contribution to the MPCFest and in the process ruined my thumbs pressing coins into holes in folders.

But my thumbs are getting better now, thank you, so the rest of this bulletin will be normal, with just the regular typos and other errors. Let me explain what happened:

I was planning on attending the MPCFest in Ohio which was held over the past 4 days. As my contribution to the success of the show, I donated a quantity of Royal Canadian Mint holders for some commemorative circulating coins.

I obtained rolls of coins for any holders I had with a "military" theme. I then inserted hundreds of coins in the four different holders designed for the Canadian "V" nickel, the Veteran quarter, the Poppy quarter and the new Medal of Bravery quarter.

Anyone that has used their thumbs to insert coins in the blue Whitman holders will know what I am talking about when I say that I cannot use my thumbs from pushing, actually forcing, coins into the holders. But better that than having them fall out all the time, as happened with some Whitman holders.

Incidentally, in the previous C.N.A. E-Bulletin, I stated that we would not be issuing another one until this coming Tuesday. Well, I lied! I arrived back home and immediately sat down to finalize this issue. This will allow me to send out another special issue on Tuesday evening, dealing with alternate (non-money) forms of payment, such as credit cards, debit cards, loyalty reward program cards, smart cards, gift cards, contactless payment cards, EasyPass/SpeedPass payments, transit smart cards and the hottest new form of payment: mobile phone payments (of which I knew nothing until I did some research).

WE HAVE MAIL

From Stephen Woodland, P.Eng., PMP: "I didn't need to hear the bus driver's response to answer the lady's question of whether or not they take loonies on the bus....you had already indicated you were on board!" – I sure set you up on that one, didn't I, without even realizing it.

From Terry Johnson: "While comparing cents & sense together and then mentioning politicians....you have to use another scents into the wording because of the application of these people."

From Nick Cowan: "Here is an interesting question for the e-bulletin: As you know, there are 30,000 sets of Olympic coins available to the public in the undecagon holder. Some of these coins are dated, 2008, 9 & 10. Now, my question is: In the event of the death of Queen Elizabeth, prior to January 1st. of these years, what will happen to these coins? Will they become collectors items with a possible immediate and substantial increase in value, or would there be an attempted recall by the RCM (good luck on that one)? Do we have any historical experts out there who would care to comment on this? Also, your comments would be appreciated." – I will entertain any humorous comments you wish to make, but I will only publish a serious response from our "friend of the hobby" at the Royal Canadian Mint, Alex Reeves,

Manager of Communications. My own comment is let's wish her good health for a long time to come. Also, what if she abdicates her throne and let's Camila Bowes Parker become Canada's First Lady?

From Ken Grahame: "No two-headed coins ever made? Bunk. Now that I curl with the old geezers and some super old geezers, I have won coin tosses by calling 'heads' and then pointing out, if the queen's image doesn't appear, that the quarter, loonie or toonie tossed has an animal with a head showing. It doesn't work every time though." – Congratulations if you can fool people with that line. I need some new friends, because the "animal is the head side" doesn't work for me. Also, they keep calling "heads" on me, so I will have to buy some two-tailed coins...see following e-mail.

From TwoHeadedQuarter: "I think your coin website is amazing. It had a lot of great information and I will be sure to be back to visit soon. I was wondering if you might be interested in trading links to my Two Headed Quarter website? I have thousands of coin collectors that visit my site, and I think they would absolutely love to see your site. Just let me know, and I would be more than happy to link back to your site in return. Thanks, and keep up the fantastic work." – Although we do not link to commercial sites (other than Mints and major sponsors such as Charlton Press and Trajan Publishing), we are pleased to tell our 2,400 recipients that your Website is www.TwoHeadedQuarter.net so they might consider getting some two-tailed coins from you if they are having the same problem with their friends calling "heads" all the time. As for your comment on the C.N.A. Website, other than the fact that you are trying to schmaltz us up so that we would link you, its production is a team effort. Michael Walsh set up the site originally, and Dan Gosling has maintained it, adding many new write-ups and features. Credit must also be given to the various committees that created the write-ups in the first place. The address is www.canadian-numismatic.org, including for joining the C.N.A.

From Ted Lightfoot: "The Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal has a 'Thumbs Up-Thumbs Down' column on the Op-ed Page. On March 17th, the following appeared: 'Thumbs Down to the young red-haired and overly officious security woman at the Thunder Bay Airport who felt it necessary to open my wallet and remove the change so she could actually scan the pennies to make sure they were safe! A few months ago my wife came across this same woman and was flabbergasted at the foolishness she displayed as part of her obvious power trip. I realize security is important but holding a lineup to empty a wallet and then to actually scan each individual piece of pocket change....give me (and the others behind me) a break.'" – She obviously read about Canada's famous, although, apparently, non-existent Spy Coins. Imagine the movie and book offers if she did indeed find such a coin.

From Nick Cowan: "The following is a direct quotation from the 1960 C.N.A.'s 7th Annual Convention Sale Catalogue. This convention was held at the New Sherbrooke Hotel, Sherbrooke, Quebec. Aug. 18-20, 1960. It might make interesting reading for some of the newcomers to the Hobby: 'Complete set of 26 Silver Dollars, 1935 - 1958 with var as listed in the Standard Cat. The 1947 Pt 7, 47 ML and 48 are Unc. latter with sl obv scr. Others VF-Unc. Av. EF. Price \$300.00.' This is about today's melt price. If it was not sold, can I still buy it? Or even just the 48? OK Scotty. Beam me back to the old days." – I often wanted to take an old catalogue and write away for an item to see how they handle it. Unfortunately, dealers are a smart lot and very seldom can we fool them.

From Lawrence Scott: "Seems the 1911 Canadian silver dollar is getting a reputation. Currently on eBay 'proof copy' 150097820139 (Beverly Hills, California - advertising 40 in stock) and re-strike 170087968236 (Ottawa). Both appear to be the 'spit'n image' of the original from what I

can see on the offer pages. 1911-2001 Canadian silver dollar - Royal Canadian Mint is not the ones listed above. Also Royal Mint is also minting a 1912 Canada \$5 gold coin (their Chronicle 102 spring 2007)." – I had the opportunity to view three recent reproductions and you cannot see the word "COPY" ever so gently engraved over one of the maple leaves so that it is almost invisible unless you tilt it just the right way. But let's face it, it is the only way we are going to have some of these coins in our collection, and it won't fool anybody that is going to pay a million dollars or so for one.

EDITOR IS CAUGHT WITH HIS PANTS DOWN

In the March 16 C.N.A. E-Bulletin, we published the following headline: "PHYSIC MAKES MONEY DISAPPEAR." The rest of the column read: "A man turned over \$32,000 to a physic and asked her to bless it. When he returned the following day, both the money and physic were gone. Jay Leno says he is surprised at the stupidity of the guy. No, not that he would entrust the money to a physic, but how the man ever got \$32,000 in the first place." This produced two e-mails:

From T.C. Broderick: "Regards your item "Physic Makes Money Disappear." I only know of one way that could happen and it would not be a pretty sight! I suspect you probably meant "Psychic." That would make a lot more sense but of course it wouldn't be nearly as funny. Please keep up the good work on the E-bulletins. They're not only informative but funny as well." – It was obviously a typo, and I wouldn't have known what you meant if it wasn't for the next e-mail I received at the same time as yours.

From Dr. Marvin Kay: "The latest issue of the CNA Bulletin has an item entitled, "Physic Makes Money Disappear." In medical school they taught me that PHYSIC was a 'cathartic,' in other words, an ENEMA! Did you mean to write PSYCHIC, which is a person who can predict the future?" – Okay, you caught me with my pants down. At least if I am going to make typos, it should be funny ones, eh?

ONE CENT NOW CAMPAIGN ON ROLL

In our special Tuesday issue on the discontinuation of the Canadian one cent coin, we jokingly stated that Toronto Mayor David Miller wanted a cent from the federal government's GST, the name of the federal tax charged on most non-black market purchases you make. Sometimes my vision astounds me. Although we were, naturally, only joking at the time, guess what? The following appeared in the Toronto Star last week:

"Toronto's campaign to win a slice of the federal GST is being taken literally by Councilor Adrian Heaps. Taped to a campaign poster outside his office is a plastic cup soliciting contributions. At last count, the kitty was up to 7 cents."

We suggested previously that maybe the Mint could simply ship the 800 million cents they manufacture each year to the City of Toronto. Seven down; 799,999,993 to go!

CASHING IN ON CASINO CHIP COLLECTING

Sheldon Smith, Publicity Director for Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club (CCGTCC), sent us an e-mail recently: "This is a small article on casino chip collecting for possible inclusion in your publication. We have permission from the author, Erin Frostad, and the Mohegan Sun Casino to have this article published. We hope that you will find space about this fast growing collecting hobby. We are having our annual convention in August in Las Vegas at the Riviera Hotel." Since we have published virtually nothing in these bulletins about this popular segment of numismatics, here it is:

With over 1,000 casinos throughout the country and new ones popping up all the time, a classic hobby is gaining popularity by the second. Welcome to the exuberant world of casino chip collecting. Gambling was first legalized in Nevada in 1931, and faster than a roulette wheel can spin, the collecting of casino chips was born. With the recent "rebirth" of poker in the United States, this hobby is more popular than ever before.

Meet Chris Sevick: Table Games Supervisor, ten-year employee and chip-collecting enthusiast. Chris began collecting chips in 1998 from casinos in Connecticut and Atlantic City. He soon expanded his collection to casinos across the nation and the world. Chris has been to 70 casinos throughout the U.S. and Canada, and has amassed a collection of over 1,500 chips, including ones from casinos in Puerto Rico, Argentina and Ecuador.

Chip collecting is an appealing hobby because of the value it brings. Depending on its condition or year of production, a casino chip can fetch many times what its face value is worth. Other factors affecting its value include whether it is currently in circulation, if there are misprints or if it is a limited edition chip. "In other words, the harder they are to come by, the more people want them," says Chris.

Some of Chris' most unusual chips are known as "personal chips." Many collectors create their own personal chips, choosing the design, colors and pictures to show off their individuality in the chip-collecting world. Anyone can have their own chip made, and many enthusiasts are now utilizing personal chips in place of business cards!

The most enjoyable aspect of Chris' hobby is the people he's met and friends he's made along the way. He and his fellow collectors have become a close family, even with things that are non-chip related. "When someone's family member passes away, we group together and donate money to the Cancer Society or another organization in their honor," Chris says. A member of CC/GTCC for three years, Chris is looking forward to the Annual Convention in Las Vegas this summer, where members trade, sell, and get the latest chip information. "I look forward to placing a face to all the names of the members I've been trading and selling with over the years," he adds.

Chris' collection of Mohegan Sun chips consists of nine, including the \$1 chip from Mohegan Sun, which was named \$1 Chip of the Year in 1996. Chris will soon add another piece to his collection once he obtains his commemorative 10th Anniversary chip. "I'm glad to see Mohegan Sun is putting this chip out for the employees," Chris said. "As a 10-year employee, this one means a lot to me and is a special souvenir."

For more information on casino chip collecting, please visit www.ccgctcc.com or www.thechipboard.com,

RCM HAS STRONG SALES IN 2006

The Royal Canadian Mint has just advised us that they posted strong sales of its numismatic coins in 2006, including the sell-out of 12 collector coins within a 12-month sales period. Once again, the RCM produced an exceptional collection showcasing meaningful, appealing themes and innovative technologies which resonated with avid and casual collectors alike.

"The Royal Canadian Mint issues collector coins designed to appeal to a broad range of collectors and gift-givers, and the 2006 sales results for these products demonstrate that not only did the Mint succeed in expanding its customer base, it also strengthened its reputation for

excellence," said Ian E. Bennett, President and C.E.O. of the Royal Canadian Mint. "I am very encouraged by the depth of collector interest in our 2006 collection."

By applying low mintages to select numismatic coins, it is also enhancing the value of RCM products in the secondary market.

Products which resounded well with collectors include the \$50 Palladium Big & Little Bear Constellatiocoins which sold out in one week; the \$3 Square Silver Dollar Beaver Coin which sold out in two weeks; and the Limited-Edition Proof Silver Dollar Enamel-Effect Medal of Bravery coin and Queen Elizabeth's 80th Birthday Commemorative 25-cent coin. Other products which proved very popular include the exquisite \$300 Gold Snowflake coin, embedded with Swarovski® crystals; the \$50 Silver Four Seasons, the RCM's first ever 5 oz. Silver coin; and the spectacular \$20 Silver CN Tower, bearing a unique photographic hologram feature.

For more information on Royal Canadian Mint products, visit your local coin dealer or go to www.mint.ca.

MONETARY HEADLINES

On Jay Leno's "Headlines" segment the other day, he showed a headline of a local newspaper that read "Vending Machines have problem with \$20 Bills." The sign on the front of vending machine illustrated in the article reads: "Accepts \$1, \$5 and \$10 Bills."

BURLARS STEAL 220-POUND GOLD BAR

Associated Press reports that a group of burglars stole a massive block of gold worth over \$2 million from a Japanese museum in a heist that police said could have been prevented - if only the curators hadn't left the showcases wide open.

The Ohashi Collection Kan Museum in Takayama, in central Japan, kept the 220-pound gold bullion unguarded by sensors or even by a case because it wanted visitors to be able to touch it, local police officer Shinji Kurake said Monday.

On Sunday, three masked men made off with the gold block in broad daylight. A female employee who was alerted by the sound of their footsteps tried to intervene, but was roughly pushed aside.

"We were very shocked...but of course this was a big block of gold, and there was no security," Kurake said. "I suppose they could have been a little more careful."

Police are still searching for the group, who were thought to be driven away by a fourth accomplice. The Ohashi museum purchased the gold bar in 1994 for 200 million yen, according to its Web site. In today's gold prices, the block would be worth about \$2.1 million. The museum closed for an "emergency holiday" last Monday.

If the police can't track it down, the museum might wish to replace it for about that value with one of those \$1 million Canadian gold coins. They might even get a spy chip installed at no extra charge. If that doesn't make any sense to you, go to www.canadian-numismatic.org and review our previous C.N.A. E-Bulletins.

NUMISMATIC WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Egypt has complained about having to depend on voters whether the Pyramids of Giza should remain as one of the revised list of Seven Wonders of the World. The Pyramids of Giza is the

only surviving structure from the original list of architectural marvels. People around the world are asked to vote for their top sites from a list of 21 finalists – chosen by a panel of architectural experts – that include the pyramids, the Statue of Liberty, Taj Mahal, the Eiffel Tower, Peru's Machu Picchu and the Great Wall of China. The seven winners will be announced July 7 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Well, if they can hold a vote, why not us? Send your Top Numismatic Wonders of the World to cnanews@look.ca. And please let's not everybody include Canadian Spy Coins, Canadian \$1 gold coins welling for \$2.5 million, or putting that Canadian darling Pam Anderson on a Canadian \$5 coin, okay?

My vote for the Seven Wonders of Numismatics, in no particular order, are:

- Payment via Credit and Debit Cards
- The high fees we are willing to pay ATM machines
- The popularity of non-circulating Collector Coins
- The popularity of circulating commemorative Coins
- Slabbed Coins
- All those bankers and widows from Nigeria with millions to send us
- The top prize in the Euro Lottery being won by thousands of people
- Stupid Bank Robberies

Hey, aren't these the items that keep the C.N.A. E-Bulletin in business?

If we had to pick some top Canadian Wonders, we would include Canadian Spy Coins, Canadian \$1 million coins that will sell for around \$2.5 million and Canadian Pamela Anderson on the \$5 coin. And just like all except one of the original Seven Wonders of the World, none of the Canadian ones exist at this time either.

MONETARY AMBITIOUS PROGRESSION

Ambition usually progresses through the following stages as you go through life:

- to be a millionaire
- to get a larger allowance
- to make enough to pay the bills
- to win the lottery
- to hang on long enough to draw a pension

So what are your financial ambitions? The only one I managed to achieve so far is the last one.

GEORGE MANZ HOLDS FIRST AUCTION

Congratulations to George Manz and George Manz Coin Auctions, who held his first auction on February 3, 2007 in Regina, Saskatchewan. Thanks to active bidding, 94 percent of the lots of ancient and modern coins, medals, tokens and paper money were sold. George has already planned his next auction, scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at the Regina Coin Club's Spring Show. The auction will include Part I of the collection of the late Roy Miller. In 1953, Miller became one of the founding members of the Regina Coin Club and was a widely respected coin dealer for more than 50 years. George's Website is www.georgemanzcoins.com.

CONCLUSION

The past 4 days have reminded me why I am involved with the hobby. Although I no longer actively collect even though I still have much of the material I have accumulated over the years, my involvement in the hobby is for fun and fellowship. And I have never seen so much fun and fellowship at any show than I have at the MPCFest. I will certainly want to describe in the next issue the great time my wife and I had and why the 10-hour roundtrip was so worthwhile. Congratulations to the dozens of new subscribers that have been added to this bulletin as a result of my trip.

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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