

# SURPRISE SERIES – CTC-S26 – FINAL 'BACHAND' ISSUE

by Roger Fox

Just when you think you know what CTC is doing, that's just the time they will throw you a curve! And that's just what happened when member Thayer Bouck of Font Hill, Ontario went to his local gas bar to check coupons and found a very unusual 5¢ combination! Thayer called me and described his find and at first it didn't even make sense to me! Let me explain...

For the last year or so CTC has been issuing the CTC-S20B 5¢ series and we knew by the current serial numbers in the high 23 million range that this series was nearly exhausted. According to my small article: "Quantities of the Modern Series" in the last issue of the COLLECTOR, the CTC S20-B series was to end at 24 million, and this quantity has indeed been reached and issued.

Due to the tremendous demand for coupons in the last two years mainly due to the very aggressive multiplier program by the Petroleum Division, CTC has run out of 10¢ coupons at least twice, maybe more. The Corporation then had to subsidize gas bars and stores with 5¢ notes, until more 10¢ coupons were printed and shipped. Thus the recent 'make-up' runs to satisfy demand.

Once the CTC S20-B 5¢ was finished, it would follow that the next series would be the 4 million CTC-S25B 5¢ coupons. Since CTC S25 10¢ and \$1.00 notes are currently in circulation, the 5¢ coupons would be the same. Wrong!

- True, there are many similarities, and these include:
- Printed by British American Bank Note Company.
- Same front and back plates as CTC-S20B.
- Signed by S. Pasternak and S. Bachand.
- Dated 1996.
- Same thicker paper with the yellow thermal planchets as the CTC-S25 10¢ & \$1.00.

- All serial numbers start with a '2' prefix.
- Numbering starts at 2000000001. The same as the CTC-S25 10¢ & \$1.00.

The big difference:

- Large black serial number, the same as the new 'Wayne Sales' 10¢, now CTC S27-C.

Conclusion:

Because these 5¢ coupons start with a "2" prefix, begin at 2000000001, and are signed by "Bachand", it is a good bet that this is the 4 million portion of the 55 million 'make-up' run we originally numbered CTC S25. However, because these 5¢ notes have the large black serial number similar to the new "Wayne Sales" 10¢, now CTC S27-C, it makes these 5¢ coupons a mix of S25 and S27! Therefore, since they are unique, and bear the "Bachand" signature, but printed before the "Sales" series, we have numbered this different coupon series CTC S26-B!

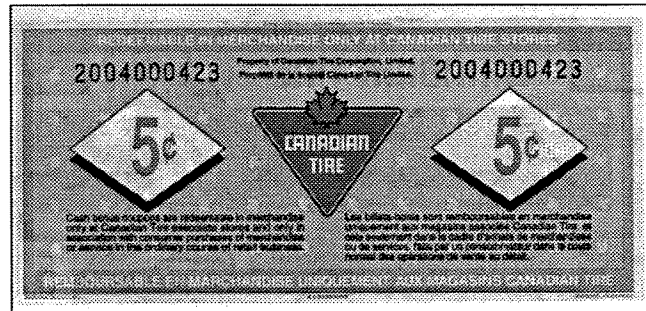
If this is correct, then the "make-up" run of 55 million coupons will actually be spread over 2 series: CTC S25 and CTC S26. Based on that theory, there should not be any small black "2" prefix 5¢ coupons issued.

Will this be the only coupon is the CTC S26 series? So far it is, however, there are still 25¢ and 50¢ coupons to be issued in this 55 million run. Will they have the small black "2" prefix serial number and be CTC S25? Or will they have the large black "2" prefix serial number and be CTC S26? Only time will tell!

As far as replacements for these CTC S26 5¢ coupons, they have a serial number higher than the ordered limit of 4 million, as shown below and have the large black serial number to match the regular coupons. Good luck and good hunting!



CTC S26-B Reverse



CTC S26-Ca Reverse