

2006 5cent No P

By Henry Nienhuis

Starting in July of this year there were reports of finding 5 cent pieces in circulation without the familiar P mark used by the RCM to denote planchets made from their new **high tech** plating process. The new planchets were introduced in a special "test coin" set in 1999 and put into production in late 2000 and early 2001.

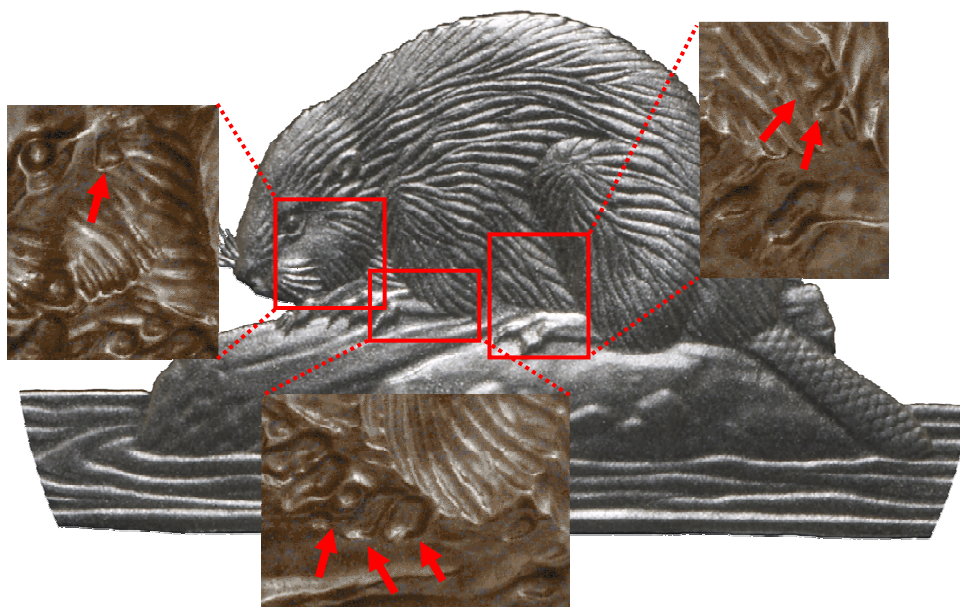
The reports of the 2006 "No P" 5 cent coins came in slowly, with a few being spotted in Ontario and Quebec. Soon complete rolls started appearing in quantity on a popular online auction website from sellers as far west as BC. The immediate question is how rare are they?

During the CNA convention a mint representative was asked to clarify the sightings but was not aware of their existence.

With the help of many members on the "Canadian Coin Reference Site" discussion group we were able to piece together information. This unofficial information indicates a relatively large mintage of approximately 40,000,000 pieces that were produced and distributed to fill an unexpected need for 5 cent coins by a large financial institution. Distribution seems to be across Canada.

The physical characteristics of the coins seem similar (if not identical) to those produce between 1990 and 2001 on non-magnetic, cupro-nickel (0.75 Cu, 0.25 Ni) planchets weighing 4.6 grams.

The samples so far seem to continue the slightly modified beaver on the reverse



As shown above with insets from 2006 over a previous years full image.

The modified reverse shows raised lumps:

- 1) directly behind the eye of the beaver
- 2) two along the log near front left paw (two additional toes?)
- 3) left hind quarter above the paw.

I believe these are present in the master hub for 2006.

Varieties

In addition to the minor changes on the reverse there have been a number of minor varieties that have been identified.

Variety 1:

Obv. Die crack in A of Regina, running through the left serif from N to right serif.
Dot above the right serif of the N



Rev. Die chip in upper curve of 6 in date



Variety 2:

Obv. Die cracks 1. running up from left tip of R in Regina,
2. running down from lower serif of E in Regina.



Rev. Die chip in upper curve of first 0 in date.



Variety 3: (obverse similar to Variety 2)

Obv. Die cracks

1. running up from left tip of R in Regina,
2. running down from lower serif of E in Regina.
3. from the apex of the A towards rim, from left serif down



Rev. none

I am sure many other minor varieties will be reported on the coin in the near future as more samples are reviewed.

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