

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

CANADIAN COINAGE

Ocean Artistry

A new Haida Gwaii issue depicts a titan of the sea.

PHOTO: ROYAL CANADIAN MINT (COIN) & ISTOCKPHOTO/HANHANPEGGY



➤ LOCATED at the westernmost point of Vancouver, British Columbia, the remote archipelago of Haida Gwaii (“Islands of the Haida People”) inspired the Royal Canadian Mint’s recent silver release, “The Orca.” The .999-fine silver coin is the first of three in the “Mythical Realms of the Haida Series” that depicts formidable creatures from the earth (bear), wa-

ter (orca) and sky (eagle).

Designed by Haida artist April White, the obverse depicts a breaching orca. Haida legend states that the creature is the most powerful supernatural being of the undersea realm. An image of *S’ Gaana Jaad* (“Killer Whale Woman”), a noble matriarch in Haida lore, is interwoven with the whale. Her face can be seen just above the animal’s nose, and her black hair flows along its back, doubling as its ribs. The circular outline in the center represents the full moon. The piece is enhanced with red and black enamel to recreate the distinctive style employed by Haida artists. The obverse features Susanna Blunt’s effigy of Queen Elizabeth II.

The 65.25mm coin is presented in a maroon clamshell box, has a limited mintage of 1,500 and sells for US\$414.61. Interested buyers can subscribe to the three-coin set and receive each issue as it becomes available, along with a free wooden collection case. To order the coin or subscribe to the set, visit www.mint.ca.

