

FBI APPREHENDS BURGLARY SUSPECTS; SEEKS HELP FROM COLLECTORS

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are seeking numismatic and philatelic collectors in the Midwest who were burglary victims within the past three years.

The request was made following the federal indictment and arrest of two men alleged to be leaders of an organized burglary ring that has been hitting prominent coin and stamp collectors for almost 25 years. John Michael Kennedy and his brother, James, along with two other individuals, are suspected of burglarizing homes in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota and other states in the Midwest. Most of the victims were members of the American Numismatic Association (ANA) or the American Philatelic Society (APS).

FBI Special Agent John E. Shea says the Kennedy brothers, reportedly working from old membership lists, obtained home telephone numbers, then placed dozens of calls to selected collectors during holiday weekends. If they determined no one was home, they targeted the residence.

ANA members who have been the victim of a substantial coin burglary within the past three years (especially following a series of telephone "hang ups") should contact Pittsburgh FBI Agent Casimer J. Solana at 412/456-9389.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. The ANA helps its 28,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of education and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or go to www.money.org.