

A Cautionary Tale of traps for inexperienced advertisers

A word of caution about Internet e-mail and possible scam attacks. While I do not subscribe to the alarmist comments made by some that the Internet is a dangerous place, none the less when it comes to money it does pay to be cautious in dealing with "anonymous" people by e-mail for the first time. (Just as it is when dealing with someone face to face for the first time)

Over the years a couple of our advertisers have been the recipients of "scam" emails from potential overseas buyers of the car. The way it goes, the potential overseas buyer has a business partner (or a third party) who will to send a Cheque for more than the agreed price. The seller is asked to forward the balance via Western Union (for example) to the shipper, usually early to get the ball rolling in terms of the shipping because "it is a long process while the cheque was clearing". Eventually, the cheque will bounce and the seller loses any "advanced" money, and the goods if already forwarded.

A fairly transparent scam, but one that could fool the unwary. So, be careful and look for obvious signs of attempted fraud. Like the now well known Nigerian Scam (and its derivatives) and the various Bank ones (purporting to come from your bank), care needs to be taken when selling over the Net.

The moral is, just like selling anything face to face, wait for any funds to clear from the bank before surrendering title to the goods. However, my recommendation would be to ignore any email from prospective overseas buyers unless they are able to prove their veracity.

If you have any questions contact the Webmaster.

Cheers,

Peter H – RCCA Webmaster.

An example of emails received by one of our members can be seen below, the wording is actual except for the details of the email address. It is fairly obvious, full of typographical errors, but none the less please be aware of the lengths that some people go to to rid you of your money.

----- Original Message -----

From: michael dave

To:

Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2005 10:23 PM

Subject: 1965 2000 P6, Series one

Sir/Madam.

I am mark smith,87-90 Loom Madrick Camian Street , Florish Amstandam Netherland .We specialise in purchase of Autos(car,bike and equipment) for customers here in Europe,and we get paid in commission,after payment has been confirmed by the seller to the buyer.I write you on behalf of our client to contact you and arrange for the buying and shippment of your vehicle which our client saw on the internet,we would like to know the conditions of the said vehicle and probably arrange for payment to get to you and shippment. My customer interested in purchasing your car mentioned (ASKING FOR THE LAST PRICE AND THE PICTURE IF AVAILABLE)and we will arrange for the pick up of the car once payment is confirmed cleared by you. Please acknowledge the offer and we will inform the

buyer of your confirmation of acceptance to sell and have the funds remitted to you as soon as possible ,and i'll like this transaction to be kept in utmost trust.I hope you can understand.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Smith

From: michael dave

To:

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 12:22 AM

Subject: PAYMENT...

Hello ,

My Client asked me to bring to your notice that payment will be made to you by means of a cashier check in the amount of (\$10,000)This amount he asked me to let you know would come in this form due to an earlier order he made with a Company in the States but did not go through due to delay in Shippment of goods he ordered. To conclude the transaction,Send your Name, Phone # and Address to enable my Client forward it to the Company to make out the check in your Name. When the check gets to you,you are to refund the excess amount of (\$8,000) to his Shipper via western union money Or money gram transfer immediately to enable him arrange for the Shipping of the vehicle on time.So confirm this and provide the information for payment to be sent to you via priority mail.

Regards,

Micheal..