

RNA News

The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

November - December 2011

*** *Highlighting the 39th Annual Coin Show & Sale* ***

The **39th Annual Coin Show and Sale** takes place on **November 5 & 6**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue. Parking and admission are free.

In preparation for the coin show and this issue of *RNA News*, we interviewed show chairman **Bill Coe**. Bill noted that all RNA members can participate and assist by signing up for one of the show committees (the last regular meeting to sign up before the show is **November 3rd**).

We asked how many dealers there will be; do some of them travel from out of state? Bill said, "There will be about 30 dealers in attendance; some will have more than one table. They come from the Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo areas as well as the regions in between. One dealer comes from Pittsburgh PA."

When we asked what advantages this show provides to participants, he responded, "The RNA Coin Show provides a large selection of numismatic material to all collectors in the Rochester and surrounding regions. They are afforded the following benefits: (a) They can visit several coin dealers in one location; (b) It is a very efficient way to find just that right item you are looking for; (c) They can actually hold and see each item to evaluate it without the need to send it back and forth; (d) If they have items to dispose of, the transaction can take place right there without complications." Bill continued, "Also, RNA members will find it a very rewarding experience to participate in the presentation of the show by volunteering for a committee. You will have the opportunity to rub elbows with the dealers and expand your knowledge in many numismatic areas. It will give you the chance to work with and get to know the other club members better. Finally, because of the Exhibit Contest for the prestigious **Alphonse Kolb** "Best of Show" award, you will have the opportunity to learn how to prepare a coin exhibit to showcase your collection specialty."

We wondered whether there is "something for everyone" in terms of variety of materials and range of materials, such as different countries, etc. Bill said, "Yes, the dealers carry a wide variety of numismatic items including U.S. denominations, U.S. mint products, foreign coins, currency, gold and silver bullion releases, and assorted exonomia. They are willing to buy as well as sell."

Lastly, we posed the following: "Looking ahead to the 2012 show, is the Show Committee considering doing anything special in coordination with the 100th anniversary celebration of RNA?" Bill advised that "At the moment, a 40th Annual Coin Show medal is being planned; perhaps in conjunction with the 65th anniversary of the RJNA. A 100th RNA anniversary theme program is still in the planning stages."

.... Editors

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Our Association's "Best of the RNA Collection" book will soon be available. Tim Corio, along with many members of the RNA, will issue an extensively illustrated book highlighting interesting materials from the RNA Collection. Stay tuned for ordering information; Q. David Bowers is writing the introduction for our book.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

We now have a few meetings under our belts for RNA 2011-12 and it has been a lot of fun. We have told each other about our summer finds and have had some nicely-presented programs, too. Our focus for the next few months will be getting ready for the "SPECIAL 2012 YEAR". Education is a big part of our mission and I am going to ask for some help for the West Irondequoit Latin Teacher's 5th annual "Coin Museum" which will be held in March. As most of you know, that Latin Teacher is my wife Susie Scoppa and a part of our Family Membership in RNA. Each and every outreach will in some way help someone get interested in our passion for numismatics. I hope that I can add at least one of our members to the list of others who have given of their time and effort to promote the FUN of coin collecting. Displays do not have to be expensive or scarce coinage, but they need to be interesting and most of all FUN. There are all types of exhibits from ancient Roman to modern day State and Presidential coins. In the past I have enjoyed displaying my favorite coins and describing why they are so special to me. One year I had a display of "codes" and how to read them. World War II era coinage was a BIG display another year.... So you see it can be just about anything. Susie is fortunate to have a lot of other teachers, aides, cafeteria workers and even some students who want to share what they treasure with the viewers. There have been well over 300 students each year viewing the exhibits; telling them about the displays and answering their questions is so much fun.

Please consider helping to pass along to others the knowledge you have gained researching and studying your collection, if not in the "Coin Museum" at West Irondequoit, then at the RNA Coin Show or some other venue. Help make EDUCATION an even bigger part of our Special 2012 Year.

- *Chip Scoppa*

A Note of Caution

By **Ralph Dintruff**, RNA President - 1993

I recently looked at my Monroe County Sesquicentennial Medal set. It had been several years since I last gave the set more than a passing glance. The foam-like material meant to protect the medals had deteriorated markedly and when the case was opened it was apparent that there was material adhering to the bronze medal and, to a lesser extent, the silver and pewter medals. Under the crumbling foam material was a greenish slime-like coating and bits of foam adhering to the surface of the medals.

I don't know if what I did to remove this unwanted material was the way to go, but I used a mild solution of Palmolive liquid dish detergent and let the medals soak. The pewter and silver medals soaked for about a half hour; the bronze soaked for a good two hours.

Because of this problem I went further and looked at our presidential medals. Most appeared to be not showing the above problem but not all of them seemed in good shape. The following is a list of medals I found with rather serious foam deterioration and material adhering itself to the medals: The 86th presidential, both bronze and silver; the 89th; 96th and 97th bronze. The various foam materials used to cushion our presidential...

(Continued on page 6)

SCAVENGER HUNT PLANNED FOR MARCH 2012

Here is a scavenger hunt offered by past RNA president **John Stephens**. Bring your "hunt collection" to our March 1, 2012 regular meeting to show and discuss. Be creative in your choices.

John is offering a tremendous prize for the winner. Runner-up prizes are also offered (this will be included in the show-and-tell part of the meeting). Good luck with your search!

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Coin with balance scales | 6. A crabby coin | TIE BREAKERS:
11. A fishy coin
12. Triangular coin
13. Coin with a cork tree
14. Coin from REUNION |
| 2. FAO coin | 7. A Coin with an elephant | |
| 3. Foreign coin with corn | 8. A Coin from TRANSNISTRIA | |
| 4. WWII occupation coin | 9. A coin with Aloe plant on it | |
| 5. A KM#1 coin of any country | 10. A Coin with a coin on it | |
| | | |

What I Like About Coins, Currency and the RJNA

By Will Riedlinger, RJNA Member, June 12, 2011

I joined the Rochester Junior Numismatic Association, which we call the RJNA, two years ago. I learned about the RJNA from a family friend who gave me a meeting notice that she had picked up from a coin store.

Coins and currency are interesting to me because of the history that is behind the symbols on them. I'm learning more about how you can look at coins and see how the world has changed and how past events have changed currency.

As an example, past events in the freedom of slaves gave them the "pilleus," which is a Latin word for a pointed kind of hat, and the pilleus is found on lots of coins in history, as well as now, to indicate freedom. I gave a talk about this at the Rochester Numismatic Association for the Meinhart competition.

I'm very glad that Mr. Meinhart started the RJNA in 1947 and I'm also thankful for the contributions of time and teaching that Rochester Numismatic Association members have given to us. I've made several new friends through RJNA that I would not otherwise have met.

I like going to the RJNA meetings to look at other people's coins and to read and discuss articles about how coins are reflecting life. I also like learning about new coins coming out like the "America the Beautiful" quarters. I got my first "Hot Springs" quarter right at the Philadelphia mint the week they were released. I've been getting each pair of new quarters as soon after they are released as possible. I also enjoy learning about the places and symbols used on each of the quarters.

I also really like pennies (yes, I know they are "cents" but I've always called them "pennies") and I hope to find a 1922 "no-D" penny some day. I learned about these at the Boston American Numismatic Association (ANA) show where I joined as a junior ANA member and did a question/scavenger hunt to answer coin fact questions at the show.

In 1922 pennies were made only at the Denver mint. One of the dies for stamping the pennies got worn down at the mint mark and the pennies were made before anyone at the mint noticed; it looks like they came from the Philadelphia mint. Pennies from the Philadelphia mint did not have a mint mark, which is just the way they always made them. 1922 no-D pennies are very rare.

I'm always learning more about coins, currency, and how they both show history and affect our life. I think that I will be spending many more years learning, sharing what I've learned with others, and hearing stories from other coin collectors because of the RNA and RJNA.

RNA News

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One of America's oldest local
coin clubs
American Numismatic
Association,
Branch #2,
Life Club #8

Member: American Numismatic Society, Empire State Numismatic Association, Canadian Numismatic Association, Token and Medal Society, Rochester Museum & Science Center

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Visit the RNA Web site:

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SPECIAL NOTE: THANK YOU to all of our members who have donated to the 2012 Fund! And we offer a very special thanks to member, coin dealer and loyal friend of RNA, Richard Nachbar!

The RNA *One Hundred Years of Friendship* Anniversary Medal Arrives

Our 1912-2012 medals are solid bronze, two and a half inches in diameter, with an antique finish. The plaster models for making the dies were created by former US Mint designer/engraver Tom Rogers (see separate article on page 7). The cost for the medal is \$28 at a regular RNA meeting or via mail by sending \$31 to RNA c/o 50 Rogers Parkway, Rochester, NY 14617.



Forgotten Gems from the Home Town

By Mark Benvenuto, RNA member, Royal Oak, Michigan

One of the strange side effects of long term collecting, numismatic or otherwise, is that there are certain items that end up in your collection that go forgotten, sometimes for years. You may look at these neglected pieces briefly, then go on to find some piece that you are looking for, in which you have a current interest, as you leaf through pages of two-by-two volumes or some other container. Such was the case when I again ran across three medals that my father bought for me decades ago, honoring the sesquicentennial of Monroe County.

Minted in silver, pewter, and bronze, I remember these medals originally came in a plastic case with a foam backing, now long gone. What surprised me most, however, was that the small piece of paper describing the common design was still tucked into one of the two by two flips that housed one of the medals. It describes the design as a map of Monroe County, “emphasizing its important water resources; the Genesee River, the Erie Canal, Irondequoit Bay, and Lake Ontario.” The paper also goes into detail about the five designs that share the other side. It mentions Mercury – one of the five images on that side – as “Rochester’s God of Commerce” (the capital “G” is indeed on the paper and not my own insertion). I remember as a boy often wondering why Mercury was some sort of patron god of Rochester, since he had traditionally been the god of thieves, as well as the god of commerce. I also remember, in a day long before the advent of the internet and Wikipedia, asking my parents, teachers, and local librarians this question – which often got me none but blank stares or quizzical looks as a reply.

But I also remember being awed by the canal aqueduct, which seemed simply amazing to me as a boy. I found it fitting that a representation of the aqueduct be the top panel of the five that made up this side of the medals.

This worn slip of paper also mentions that this trio of medals was “designed and minted by Metal Arts Manufacturing Division of American Mint Associates of Rochester, New York.”

Over the course of decades, these three medals have held up rather well, with the only real change being the development of a green patina on the county map side of the silver version. I suppose I should be happy nothing more has happened to them, as they have survived moves with me through four states, as well as the settlement of my parents' estate twenty five years ago. I hardly think I have items of great value here, but it would be interesting to know if other RNA members also retain a set of these medals, and if they are common pieces, or if they have faded into local history, as it were. Whatever the case, they remind this RNA member – one who has been away from the city and the bay for quite a while – of time growing up, and of some good memories of his parents encouraging what has become a life-long love of numismatics.

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Club News and Notes

The photos on pages 3 and 7 in the Summer-October 2011 *RNA News* were provided by Tim Corio. Thanks, Tim! The Steve Eisinger medal photo on page one was taken outdoors on July 4 at mid-day by Ted Vaccarella.

Since the **Summer-October issue** of *RNA News*, the following people have joined RNA: We welcome Matt Ellsworth, Geneva, NY, and Rita and Gary Villa of Lima, NY.

Past President Edith Coe (2005) is home recovering from a broken knee. Bill reports that she is doing well.

Member number two Doug Borden turned ninety years old on October 27. Doug is doing well but has trouble walking. He says, however, that he will attend the RNA banquet on January 4th.

There will be a small **silent auction** at the January 4 **100th Anniversary Banquet**. Look for donations of RNA exonomia and perhaps a few other choice pieces. Assorted made-for-the-occasion memorabilia will be available, including a classic designed 2 ½-inch medal to mark the occasion. The auction will include a unique Collection Panel containing all of the Exonomia produced to celebrate the occasion including variations, such as, a U.S. coin denomination set of the elongated design, wooden nickels, and lapel pins, all to benefit RNA.

The **December 15** meeting will be devoted to a large auction of **better** numismatic items. Just the good stuff tonight; bring along your checkbook.

The John Jay Pittman Memorial Library is available at every regular meeting. There are over one thousand titles to pick from. See the RNA Librarian to sign out materials you wish to borrow.

There will be a special stamp cancel by the US Post Office for our January 4 banquet. Member Rick Kase is arranging for this RNA 100th anniversary commemorative. Be sure to get one; they are free of charge.

RNA Trivia: What mother of an RNA President held twelve patents in her own name? Hint: she was from Ireland. Answer on page 7.

A Note of Caution, by Ralph Dintruff (*Continued from page 3*): ...medals do not appear to be the same, with only the above dates showing a potential problem. To protect my medals I removed all of the foam from all sets at least for the time being until it's determined which way to proceed for the protection of my medals.

A word to the wise - perhaps you should take a good look at your numismatic material to be certain your holdings don't exhibit the problems that I found.

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The 100th Anniversary Banquet has been set for January 4, 2012, exactly one hundred years after the club was founded. The location is Mario's Italian Steakhouse; make your reservations by signing up at a meeting (by December 15th) or by calling Gerry Muhl at 336-9459. The cost is \$20, paid in advance. We are making room for 100 members and guests at Mario's: 2740 Monroe Avenue near Pittsford Plaza. Speaker for the evening is Scott Fybush, talking about the 100 year history of RNA. Other activities are planned; it will be fun for all.



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RNA 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES are payable as of July 1st each year. Dues are \$25 for either a family or individual membership. Remit an additional \$3 if you want us to mail your presidential medal. RNA is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are always welcome, for example, for the 2012 fund, for the *John Jay Pittman Memorial Library* or for the RNA Collection. See the dues notice published in the June-Summer issue of *RNA News*. **Final notice**-per RNA By Laws your membership lapses if dues remain unpaid as of December 31, 2011.

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The Rochester Numismatic Association's 100th Anniversary Medal Reported by Gerard Muhl, RNA Historian

In 2011 former US Mint designer/ engraver **Thomas D. Rogers Sr.** was commissioned to create the one hundredth anniversary medal for the RNA. The concept for the piece came from club member Gerard Muhl. It was to show a modern representation of the Roman god Mercury heralding the next 100 years of the club. Mercury, besides being the god of commerce and money, is the unofficial symbol of the City of Rochester, NY.

The reverse of the 2.5" antique bronze medal shows a wreath with the legend, "100 Years of Friendship Through Collecting Coins." The medal was struck at the North American Mint in Rochester.

Medalist Thomas Rogers has had an interesting career. He graduated from Dutchess Community College (Poughkeepsie, NY) in 1972 and went to work for the Medallic Art Company where he learned to master his craft as a medalist. Between 1974 and 1990 he was a freelance sculptor and designer. In 1990 and 1991 he was employed by Medalcraft in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Rogers left Wisconsin in October 1991 to take a job with the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia. Over the next ten years he designed twenty-four US coins and ten Mint medals. Among his designs are the Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina and Rhode Island state quarters. He also is known for the eagle reverse on the Sacagawea golden dollar.

Some other coins by Rogers are: the 1993 WWII dollar; 1995 Civil War five dollar gold; 1996 National Community Service dollar; and the 2000 Library of Congress dollar.


Rogers is known for ten U. S. Mint medals. Among them are: Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentson; William Clinton 1st term; Gerald and Betty Ford's 1999 medal; and the 2000 Father Theodore Hesburgh medal.

Tom Rogers now lives in Beatty, Oregon, where he continues to work at his craft.

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RNA Trivia answer: Bridget French-mother of first RNA President George French (not related to R.T. French).

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Regular RNA meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month, except July and August, at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue. The auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. Enter through the Eisenhart or Gannett School doors and follow the signs downstairs to the lower-level meeting room. All are welcome! If you have difficulty with stairs ask the receptionist in the auditorium for elevator directions.

Rochester Junior Numismatic Association (RJNA) meetings are also held in the lower level meeting room at Eisenhart Auditorium; for more information, call RJNA advisor Joe Lanzafame at 585-314-1240 for more information.

The Calendar **November - December 2011**

- **Thursday, November 3:** 8 PM - RNA Meeting: **Scott Fybush** - Rutherford B. Hayes; **board meeting** immediately following the 2012 Committee meeting at 7:00 pm.
- **Saturday-Sunday, November 5, 6:** 39th RNA **Annual Coin Show & Sale**, Saturday 10-5; Sunday 10-4
- **Thursday, November 17:** 8PM - RNA Meeting (to be held in the *lower level cafeteria* in the Museum's main building; signs will be posted): **George Fekete** - Where the Buffalo Roam: Hobo Nickels
- **Friday, November 18:** RJNA Meeting
- **Thursday, December 1:** 8PM - RNA Meeting: **Grant Hobika** - topic to be determined
- **Thursday, December 15:** 8PM - RNA Meeting: All members - big holiday auction, no speaker
- **Friday, December 16:** RJNA Meeting
- **Wednesday, January 4:** 6PM - **100th Anniversary Banquet** at Mario's (see page 6 for details); **Scott Fybush** will speak on highlights of RNA history.
- **Thursday, January 5:** 8PM - RNA Meeting: **Lisa Fybush** - Numismatics through the Eyes of a Child
- **Thursday, January 19:** 8PM - RNA Meeting: **Ted Vaccarella** - Canadian Large Cent Varieties

The Calendar welcomes meeting notices from other area clubs. Send to Gerry Muhl or email Ted at tedvacc@yahoo.com.

Rochester Numismatic Association
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