

RNA News

The Official Journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

May-June 2019

Coins & Medals Associated with Queen Victoria



Queen Mary II
1730s Jean
Dassier Medal



Queen Anne
1713 Utrecht
Peace Medal



King George I
1720 One Shilling



King George III
1775 Half Penny



King James II
1688 Gold 5
Guineas



Devoted
Service Medal



Faithful
Servant Medal



Victoria Empress
of India
1880 One Rupee



Victoria & Albert
1851 World's Fair
Medal



King Edward VII
1904 One Florin

Medals awarded to John Brown by Queen Victoria



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- Eisenhart Auditorium -

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RNA Committees

RNA Bylaws designate several committees appointed by the President and Board of Directors.
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Regular **RNA** meetings are held from September to June at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month (see Calendar for possible schedule exceptions at Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays) at **Eisenhart Auditorium** of the **Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607**. The auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. **Enter and exit through the door on the right side of the building.** The meeting room is down the stairs on the lower level. For elevator service to the lower level call 585-271-4552 Ext. 601 to speak with the Eisenhart security desk attendant. Entry for the elevator is through the Genesee Community Charter School door.

Rochester Junior Numismatic Association (RJNA) meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Eisenhart Auditorium on the lower level; for more information, contact RJNA advisor Joe Lanzafame at 585-314-1240.

FROM YOUR ACTING PRESIDENT

As you read this, the RNA's annual banquet will be soon. We will be honoring Eric Miller as the immediate past president of the club. This is an honor for his time of service to the club. His portrait medal will be distributed at the banquet. We will be at a new venue, Shadow Lake Golf & Racquet Club, and it is expected to be a great time for all.

On another topic, I have been reviewing coin catalogs over my collecting career. Back in the 1950s and 1960s we had the *Red Book* and *Blue Book* for U.S. coins and the Friedberg catalog, *Paper Money of the United States*, for government-printed paper money. For obsolete U.S. paper money, we had Grover Criswell's *North American Currency*. For world coins, there were two books: R.S. Yeoman's *Current Coins of the World* and W.D. Craig's *Coins of the World 1760-1850*. There was no book for world paper money written in English.

Today, we still have the *Red Book* and *Blue Book* and the Friedberg catalog. The *Red Book* has a larger younger sibling the *Mega Red Book*. The *Mega Red Book* contains significantly more information about U.S. coins than the *Red Book* and is one of the current resources to be used for research on U.S. coins by date and mint mark. Over the years there have been books written on the history of U.S. coins, notably books by Q. David Bowers and Walter Breen's book on the history of U.S. coinage. Books are being published on varieties of the various series of U.S. coins. This allows the collector of U.S. coins to find more and better information than years ago.

For U.S. paper money, there are more catalogs than just the original Friedberg. These catalogs are written and edited by very knowledgeable collectors. In some cases, the books are for specific series such as national banknotes. When it comes to obsolete notes, several series of catalogs have been written over the years. The Criswell book was an early example. Since

its publishing there has been the Wizmer and Haxby series of catalogs by state. Now there is a new series by Q. David Bowers; although not completed yet, will be approximately ten volumes on U.S. obsolete currency. It will be the most complete to date.

Now we get to world coins and currency today. Krause Publications has released five volumes of world coins ranging from 1600 to today for all the countries of the world. This set of catalogs is approximately ten times larger than the original Yeoman and Craig catalogs mentioned above. These catalogs do not cover ancient coins or early "dark ages" coins. There are decent catalogs for ancient coins. However, since ancient coins can vary even for a specific issue due to hand-minting and no universal dies for these coins, cataloging is a challenge. It is best to study the ancient series and become familiar with the variations in order to intelligently collect ancient coins.

For world paper money, there was no English catalog until Krause Publications released the Albert Pick catalog in the early 1970s. This was the English version of the Albert Pick German language catalog. Prior to this book, there was no reference for world paper money. In fact, dealing in world paper money in the U.S. was just getting started in the mid-to-late 1960s, without a reference catalog in English. Today the Krause Catalog is a large three volume set covering 1368-1960, 1961-date and specialized issues. Are the Krause catalogs all there is? No, there is an online world banknote catalog set called *The Banknote Book* by Otto Litzmeyer. He catalogs by country, so you can purchase and download a single country and you can subscribe to his catalog service. The difference is that Krause books are in black and white and not all notes are pictured while the *The Banknote Book* has color pictures of each note.

In today's collecting world, finding information on your collection is easier than ever.

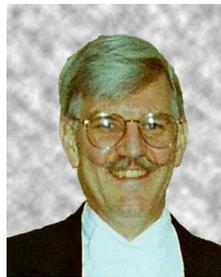


Photo by Robert Zabel

John Zabel

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QUEEN VICTORIA: MORE THAN TWO SIDES TO A COIN (PART II)

by Gerald Vaccarella, 104th RNA President

The death of prince Albert in 1861 was a catastrophe in the life of Queen Victoria. She was in a state of depression for years. Her grandfather, George III who reigned from 1760 to 1820, had depression and mental problems as well.

Imagine two of the most influential reigns of the British monarchy of the last three hundred years (Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II) came from an inauspicious, almost accidental ascendance. To look at Victoria's monarchy we need to examine the roots of where she came from. The Royal Hanover House, British/United Kingdom formulation all came through a time when Britain was trying to find its identity. Beginning with the Cromwell disruption (Oliver and son, Richard) of the monarchy in the mid-1600s England was turned upside down. The British were highly skeptical of royalty during the non-royal, Cromwell father and sons reign from 1653-1658. At the same time Roman Catholicism and the influence of the Papacy on royalty and the country was downright unpopular. It had been that way for years.

During this period of upheaval the king of England, King James II, was of the Royal Stuart House and stuck like glue to his Roman Catholicism. His stock with the British people rose and fell like an out of control stock exchange. Two of his daughters (Anne and Mary) were baptized as Anglicans for no known reason except it was deemed correct by other royal influences of the day. King James II and his Catholicism fled to France. When the dust cleared Queen Mary II first, and subsequently Queen Anne became queens of England. Queen Mary II and Queen Anne were, of course, protestant (Anglicans). These daughters of a beleaguered Catholic King James II were key to the ascension and the takeover of the royal House of Hanover/House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. These German protestant roots continue to the present-day monarchy in Great Britain.

Queen Mary II became queen in 1689. She and her husband William (Mary II's first cousin) reigned over Britain together until her death in 1694 at age thirty-two. Queen Mary's animated and personable nature made her a popular queen. The King and Queen's foresight of the potential of the American colonies motivated them



Queen Victoria

to issue the patent papers to establish The College of William and Mary in Virginia. It became the alma mater of Presidents Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and John Tyler. It's our second-oldest institution (Harvard is the oldest) of higher learning and home of America's first law school. The College of William and Mary also was George Washington's school where he obtained his surveying license. King William II continued to reign for another eight years after Queen Mary's death until his own demise in 1702.

At five feet eleven inches Queen Anne was an imposing, jovial, somewhat corpulent woman who was pregnant seventeen times but, sadly, did not produce an heir to the throne. She was a popular queen but later written about negatively by a few "important" people of the times. A later assessment, in the twentieth century, found her to be a decisive queen with a list of important accomplishments. Queen Anne turned out to be a better administrator than many of the kings and queens of England. Her detractors probably wrote about the queen in fits of jealousy. Queen Anne style furniture developed during the 1700s and is still seen today with simple curves and minimal ornamentation. A Queen Mary II furniture style also developed, with less success.



Queen Anne's Lace

An avid lace maker, Queen Anne is said to have pricked her finger once and the drop of blood fell on the lace; this legend turned into the "Queen Anne's Lace" we know, with a small purple flower in the middle of the large, white, lacy flower. We see it today with its glory, during season, in fields everywhere. "Queen Anne's Lace" is a common flower with royalty chops and a royal legend behind its "reigning" to this day. Queen Anne was the last of the Stuart family to reign. She expired suddenly at age 49. Queen Anne's health hadn't been robust, especially in the last years. Second cousin Sophia, of Germany, was next in line. Before Sophia could become queen, she died just two months before Queen Anne. Sophia's non-English speaking son, George I, became king of England.

The number of presumptive heirs to the British throne after Queen Anne's death and George I were about fifty-two, mostly Stuart relatives. Unfortunately, they were all Catholic and therefore disqualified for the royal crown. The Act of Settlement (1701) was British law that said all future kings and queens of England had to be protestants. In 1714 this made protestant second cousin Sophia's (Royal House of Hanover) son

the new king, fifty times biologically removed from the Queen Anne lineage! King George I was the first in the royal blood line of Hanover House.

King George I and King George II were German and spoke German. King George III was the first of the Hanover Royals of England to be taught the English language from birth. King George I and King George II were both born in Hanover, Germany.

Starting in 1760 King George III reigned during the American Revolution but you could call his reign a slow decline of political power during his 59 years as king. As the monarchy lost political influence over the British people the monarchy grew as the embodiment of national morality. King George III had a small impact on political events as his monarchy continued. He thought the new “America” would be like a plant without water. Eventually, without the support of merry old England and its tremendous resources, he predicted America would wither away. King George III felt the United States would come begging for support from Great Britain and capitulate to the mighty British Empire.

King George III’s reign was characterized by a high moral code although only Prince Edward, Victoria’s father, followed the high road. His monarchy was also punctuated by illness, specifically the mental illness of the day. George III most likely had a bipolar disorder inflamed by the medical sorcery of the eighteenth century. His body was later to have been discovered to contain a considerable amount of arsenic in it due to the royal “medicine” of the day. In the last ten years of his life he was afflicted with a babbling dementia.

Looking at King George III’s coinage, what seems to stick out is his prominent nose, but when looking at paintings and sculpture of him there isn’t a noticeably prominent nose at all. His coinage seems to tell a different story.

Three years before Prince Albert’s death he welcomed a loyal and attentive servant, named John Brown, into his royal service. Brown was a Scottish personal attendant under the employment of Prince Albert but under the gaze of Queen Victoria as well. When the Prince passed on in 1861, he was promoted to Queen Victoria’s group of personal servants. With the death of Prince Albert and the depression Queen Victoria experienced Brown became a needed companion and close to the queen. They had adjoining rooms “against



John Brown

all etiquette and decency” wrote the Earl of Derby. This went on for several years and her family began to hate Mr. Brown. Servants began calling Queen Victoria “Mrs. Brown”. There is no proof the two were lovers but the queen needed someone to be there for her. An emotional bond was established but of what magnitude no one can be sure. Mr. Brown was plainspoken and grew up near Balmoral Castle. Rented in 1848 by Queen Victoria, she decided to purchase the castle in 1851. Mr. Brown and three of his siblings were in service to the royal family at the castle. In 1883 Mr. Brown died and his gravestone was filled with heaps of praise and affection by the queen for his service to her. It reflected the queen’s constant praise that took place during his living years. Queen Victoria had special instructions for her own burial. There was a list of keepsakes, trinkets and mementos with photographs as well. The items included Prince Albert’s dressing gown, a plaster cast of his hand, a lock of Mr. Brown’s hair, his photograph, Brown’s mother’s wedding ring (given to Victoria by Brown) along with several of his letters. Sir James Reid MD, the queen’s physician, was instructed by the queen to place Mr. Brown’s photograph with white tissue around it in her left hand (in her repose). A flower was placed in her left hand to hide the tissue paper.

Statues and private memorials that Victoria created for Mr. Brown were destroyed by her son, King Edward VII. A life-sized statue of John Brown was moved at Balmoral to a less conspicuous place upon Queen Victoria’s death. Two medals were given to John Brown by the queen during his lifetime: the Faithful Servant Medal and the Devoted Service Medal.

Queen Victoria was a remarkable woman whose influence touched the four corners of the earth. The nineteenth century reign of Victoria certainly fits the Christopher North quote “the sun never sets on the British Empire” (actual quote slightly differs). Victoria’s nine children settled in places all over Europe and Victoria’s influence was so widespread we call it the “Victorian Age” today. The Victorian Age was certainly captured in the 122 volumes of diary she kept from age thirteen until ten days before her death in 1901. Extracts from the diary were published over the sixty-nine years of her reign with much publication success. She wrote over two thousand words a day amounting to sixty million words in her lifetime. Victoria instructed that, after the queen died, her daughter was to edit all the volumes. This cleansing took quite a bit of the flavor away from the volumes but has since been restored to a certain degree. Some of the collection was destroyed

outright during the cleansing process.

It seemed when one door closed another one opened for Queen Victoria. When Prince Albert died (1861) Mr. Brown stepped into the picture from his staff creating an emotional bond of some kind. After Mr. Brown died in 1883 Mohammad Abdul Karim stepped into Queen Victoria's life in 1887. Her Golden Jubilee year (1887) was celebrated in many ways and one way was to give her two servants from India.

Queen Victoria immediately developed a relationship with one of the two servants, Muhmmmed Abdul.



1879 Gold Mohur

At the first meeting of Abdul and Queen Victoria, Abdul placed a gold mohur in her hand when he was introduced. Charmed by Abdul from the beginning he was affectionately called "Munshi" (translates as teacher or clerk) by the queen. Queen Victoria

had a high interest in the life and culture of India from childhood. She wanted to learn the Hindi language. Queen Victoria became Empress of India in 1876. Abdul provided the teaching of the language and knowledge of the culture. His presence in Victoria's life caused upheaval in her final fourteen years. The regular palace servants were horrified that a "chocolate colored" servant was given quarters and a presence, that was above theirs, in the queen's life. There was a servant pecking order and suddenly Munshi was on top getting promotions,

plush living quarters, land; etc. Unlike Mr. Brown it was said Abdul used his position to gain financially. Every time her court or family objected to Abdul, Queen Victoria would say they were just being racist. The continual arguments among family, household servants and her doctor (Sir James Reid) were, perhaps, a way of getting some excitement in her life. Upon the queen's death in 1901 her son, Edward VII, banished Munshi back to India. He commanded that Abdul return all correspondence and pictures of the queen. There was nothing injurious in these items but everything in the palaces was destroyed if it related to Abdul's presence. Her Munshi went back to India and lived there until he died in 1909. His descendants lived on his property until the Indian independence in 1948.



Queen Victoria and Munshi

In looking at Victoria's life we see a reign during Great Britain's growth culturally, politically, industrially and scientifically. Britain became a world power in the Victorian Age. This grandmother of Europe and the world was an icon of morality and influence. Queen Victoria's power and influence are still felt today more than a hundred years after her death.

Editor's Notes

Part I was published in the May-June 2018 RNA News. All photos by Gerald Vaccarella.

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VERIFYING 1838 SMALL STAR DIMES

by John R. Stephens, 97th RNA President

You would think it should be easy to verify a small star 1838 dime. However, it has been my experience that a lot of people, even professional coin dealers, have a hard time distinguishing between small and large stars dimes. Even the people at PCGS and CAC have problems identifying small star 1838 dimes. (See PCGS number 9009263. Hint: not a small star dime.)

By just looking at the stars I have a hard time identifying 1838 small star dimes unless I have both large and small star examples side by side for comparison. This is not a very satisfactory set-up when searching the bourse at a coin show. To resolve this problem I started researching 1838 dime varieties to come up with a better system.

Small-starred 1838 dimes were first discovered by Howard Newcomb before 1914, about 75 years after they were minted. All Philadelphia dimes from 1838 through September 1840 and all New Orleans dimes from 1839 through December 1840 came from working dies sunk for the no star hubs of 1837. Each working die had all thirteen of their stars individually hand punched, often with irregular spacing.

The first die had unusually small stars because the Mint used the small star punch intended for half-dimes. This is the only die and thus the sole variety with small stars. All subsequent 13 star dies are of the large star variety. When minting started, the obverse of the small star die promptly cracked from star one through star five on the left side. Almost all, if not all, of the small star 1838 dimes have this distinctive crack. The small stars probably contributed to the cracking. These small-starred dimes are part of the first 30,000 pieces delivered on March 31, 1838. Out of a total of 2.225 million 1838 starred dimes minted only 1.348 percent are of the small-starred variety. Early dimes tend to be well circulated and, as a result, few survived in collectible condition. So, given the low mintage and low survival rate, why does it seem like every coin dealer has an 1838 small-starred dime for sale?

Gerry Fortin identified all the 1838 dime varieties on his website WWW.SEATEDDIMEVARIETIES.COM/PICTORIAL/1838.HTM. I took time to study his work and what follows is my summary.



Star 1-5 Die Crack
Photo by J. Stephens

Fortin identified Variety F101 as the only small-starred 1838 dime. Besides the crack mentioned above, other diagnostics for this variety appear on the reverse. The “O” in ONE and the “D” in DIME are both recut near the bottom of the letters.



Recut “O” and “D”
Photo by John R. Stephens

However, if you have a recut “D” in DIME but the “O” in ONE is not recut, you do not have a small-starred dime, but a Fortin 102 variety, especially if you do not have the crack on the reverse. If you do have the crack, you should examine the “O” in ONE more closely.

The following information can be used to quickly eliminate large stars dimes on the bourse floor or on eBay.

If there is a bisecting reverse die crack from the second “S” in STATES through the left bow loop you do not have a small star dime but an F103.

If there is a short die crack on the obverse from the rim at seven o'clock to the left side of the rock base, you do not have a small star dime but an F104. Remember the erroneous PCGS/CAC slab I mentioned before? That is how I knew it was wrongly attributed.

If there is a short die crack on the reverse from the rim to the “I” in UNITED you do not have a small star dime but an F105. This happened to me and the experience prompted me to study all 1838 dimes. Fortunately for me this F105 variety may be rarer than the small star variety I was hoping for.

If the obverse has a bisecting die crack from the left of Star 7 to the right of the “1” in 1838 you do not have a small star but a fairly common F106.

If there is a “worm” between the ONE and DIME on the reverse it could be an F105 or F113 but not the small star variety.

If you have a line from the “E” in DIME to the wreath beside the “E” in ONE you may have an F108 or F110 but not the small star variety. The line is due to a clash mark.

If you have a reverse die crack from the rim at 11 o'clock to the wreath through “T” and “A” in STATES you do not have the small star dime. This is the F111a variety.

Using these markers you can quickly eliminate the large star dimes while searching for the scarcer small-starred dime for your type collection.

In review, your 1838 small-starred dime should have a crack between stars one and five on the obverse plus the first letters of ONE and DIME should be recut at the bottom.

RNA Events Calendar

- Meeting:** *The Wrights, Who Could Not be Right. Tales of the First U.S. Mint Engraver by G. Vaccarella* **May 8**
- Annual Banquet** (Shadow Lake Golf & Racquet Club) **May 17**
- Meeting:** *Meinhart Speaking Contest* (No Speaker) **May 22**
- Meeting:** Annual Meeting; *Ultraviolet Tagged Notes* by John Zabel **June 12**
- Meeting:** Year-End Auction (No Speaker) **June 26**
- Board Meeting** (White Brook Nature Area) **August 11**
- Annual Picnic** (White Brook Nature Area) **August 11**
- Forty-Seventh Annual Coin Show and Sale** (at RMSC) **November 1-2**

RNA & RJNA Meetings at the RMSC are held on Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

* Members are welcome to attend RNA Board meetings.

☛ ☛ ☛ *See the RNA Website for Additional Event Details* ☛ ☛ ☛

Ontario County Coin Club

First Sunday, Monthly Meeting at 2:00 p.m. (Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)	Canandaigua Elks Club 19 Niagara Street Canandaigua, NY 14424
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RNA News Deadlines

July-August 2019 Submissions..... June 24	September-October 2019 Submissions August 25
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