

The Official Journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

September-October 2020



Coins of Peace



courtesy NGC





courtesy of Ebay

courtesy Antique Auctions



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RNA

One of America's Oldest Local Coin Clubs

Memberships

American Numismatic Association
Branch #2, Life Club #8
Established January 1912
American Numismatic Society
Royal Canadian Numismatic
Association
Token and Medal Society

Meetings
Rochester Museum &

Science Center

- Eisenhart Auditorium -

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RNA News

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RNA Committees

RNA Bylaws designate several committees appointed by the President and Board of Directors.

Below are the current active committees:

Membership

John Bailey Bill Coe, Chair Dennis DeYoung John Stephens

Endowment

Gerald Vaccarella [2017-2020]
Earl Gurell [2018-2021]
John Lighthouse [2018-2021]
Jason Childers [2019-2022]
Steve Eisinger [2019-2022]
Ted Vaccarella, Treasurer [Ex-Officio]
John Zabel, Chair [RNA Curator]

Auditing

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John Lighthouse
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John Vicaretti

Contact RNA

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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 main auditorium door. The meeting room is up the ramp directly across from the entrance. See president's letter for updates).

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 President

It's pushing toward the end of summer dear members. You might wonder why I am still here in the president's seat. Well the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused a huge safety burden, is the reason. I am honored to serve all of you and will do everything that I can to get us as safely through this very difficult time.

Speaking of positions, we are still in need of someone to fill the position of treasurer. Ted Vaccarella has very graciously agreed to remain in this position this year, also due to the pandemic issue. But if you are interested, please let one of us know sooner, rather than later. If you have any questions about the position, feel free to reach out to Ted to discuss them. I encourage someone with an interest to

please come forward and take on this role, as Ted has covered this position for a long time. Ted will be happy to assist the new person with learning this role. But do understand that the new treasurer will be using the Quicken software and Ted will ensure that you learn how to utilize it properly.

I hope that everyone has remained safe, healthy, and active during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have continuously held Zoom

meetings online hosted by John Zabel. Those who have attended have noted how much they enjoy them. These meetings have been very beneficial for members to socialize, as well as to keep up with one another, including members who do not attend via Good & Welfare. John has continued to post a link to the Zoom meetings on the club's website schedule.

We also held our annual picnic again this year, despite the pandemic. The picnic was held at the same location as the past several years, with proper safety precautions used. Masks were mandatory and everyone brought their own food and supplies. Steve Eisinger not only led his annual hike after the picnic, but also was awarded the Numismatist of the Year award. As noted in his nomination Steve has "embodied what we all enjoy in the hobby of numismatics and helps to enrich all of our experiences in this great hobby". We also mentioned the fact that Kerri Klajbor-Annechino's medal had not yet been completed. However, the following week she was able to go to the North American Mint and personally strike her first test

pieces in copper. She was very pleased not only with the medal itself, but also with the experience as a whole. I'd like to thank Bill Coe for his many years of service in helping with this process. He has made the medal procedure flow seamlessly.

So, I do have an answer to what is probably the biggest question that most members have: when will we be able to start having in-person meetings again? Well I have been in regular communications with the RMSC and went in to meet with their representative this week. We will be able to start having in-person meetings again starting October 14, 2020. This is a big step and starting sooner than we anticipated. However, there are some significant changes that had to take place. Unfortunately, we will no

longer be able to hold our meetings in the basement of the Eisenhart Auditorium. The meetings have been moved to the "Ballroom" area off the auditorium (where we hold our coin shows). One benefit is that this area has a ramp for easy access. The Junior Club could meet in the foyer adjacent to the ballroom. We will also have proper audio-visual equipment, as well as access to the RMSC's internet. This will be useful, as many have determined that it would be

beneficial for all members who use technology to join our meetings via live Zoom access, and the museum is happy to accommodate. This could allow many members, as well as other guests to give presentations to our group from anywhere in the world. We will be receiving a credit for the meetings that we missed out on as a result of the pandemic, which will be credited to this coming year's rent. Masks will be mandatory. Bring your own snacks as well. As far as auctions are concerned, we are working to determine how and if these will take place. My thought is that each person who wants to auction material could handle their own material and auction, using latex gloves and any other safety measure possible. Anything sold for the good of the club could also be handled by that person and money sent to the treasurer, with a method to be worked out between the treasurer and seller. I don't anticipate a lot of people coming in-person for a while. These in-person meetings will continue unless any serious problems arise.

(Continued on page 7)

RNA Online Resources



www.rochesternumismaticassociation.org www.facebook.com/groups/21533643632 @RocCoinClub

Social Media Chair: David Gottfried Webmaster: John Zabel

PEACE COINS HAVE SHORT HISTORY

Coins have commemorated wars and the successful completion of hostilities. Victory and independence are popular themes. Even the United States "Peace" dollar first issued in 1921 really commemorated the U.S. signing separate treaties of peace with Germany and Austria after World War I. In 1919 the Senate refused to ratify the earlier Versailles treaty and thus, for us WWI technically ended in 1921.

Coinage has been seen as an expression of the noblest of aspirations; patriotism, liberty, diversity, brotherhood, but seldom peace. Coins too have been used as propaganda tools. In ancient Rome, for example, emperors had themselves portrayed in heroic imagery as with Constantine's gaze uplifted to heaven. Emperors have equated themselves with gods. They actually appeared with pagan gods or the Christian deity on the reverse of their coins. Early coins also commemorated battles victoriously concluded, even at times when no such battles occurred, but, are there coins specifically dedicated to the hope for peace more than merely the absence of war?

Within the last one hundred years some seventeen countries have attempted to commemorate peace through the numismatic medium. A well designed coin conditions the population using it in day-to-day commerce. What better idea to thus portray in metal than peace? Furthermore, these coins were usually not a mere reaction to an on-going conflict. They stood by themselves as a bold statement of the nation proclaiming peace as a goal of its people.

Peace has always been harder to portray on coins or medals than war. War has a certain dynamic where peace is static. War is dramatic action. It often is equated with masculine emotion. It makes for unequaled "photo op's".

To take just one country as an example think of Panama. On most of its coins we see Vasco Nunez de Balboa dressed in armor. When shown full body he is clutching a sword and holding the national flag. A commemorative 20-Balboa piece from 1980 Panama shows Simon Bolivar mounted on horseback raising a sword to lead his troops to victory and independence. These are bold images easy to understand and to 1nterpret.

Even the United States has often chosen war and victory as a theme for its coins. The 1917-1930 Standing Liberty quarter depicts Miss Liberty in chainmail and carrying a shield. The 1976 bicentennial quarter dollars show a revolutionary war drummer. Numerous other commemorative half dollars memorialize battles; 1937 Antietam, 1936 Gettysburg, 1925 stone Mountain, and the 1925 Lexington-Concord coins. World War II, Korea, and Vietnam also are represented on US. coins.

Victory is commemorated, but nowhere do we have a coin dedicated in itself to the concept of peace.

The first country in the last 100 years to issue a peace coin was the Vatican in 1942. In that year, and continuing for

the better years of World War II, Vatican 5 and 10 centesimi featured a dove of peace carrying an olive branch in its beak. The hope for peace was clearly expressed. In 1950, 1970-74, 1984, and 1993 the Vatican coins again expressed that hope.

In 1965 during the height of the Cold War Czechoslovakia

issued a silver 25 Korun coin ostensibly to mark the 20th anniversary of Czech liberation from Nazi rule. Thematically the coin appears more a plea for peace in the 1960's. It shows a rather melancholy female portrait with a large dove of peace holding an olive branch. No nationalistic coin expressing the glories of the social-



ist state, it was the state feminized and looking with apprehension to the uncertain future.

In 1973 San Marino had struck a 500 Lire coin showing a

young girl releasing a dove of peace. Again the symbolism of peace personified as a young girl was very strong.

In 1986 the United Nations declared an international year of peace. Countries were urged to have their people and institutions focus on finding and preserving peace. China, Russia., Thailand, and Turkey all issued



peace coins, the sale of which was to help finance seminars dealing with world peace. China's copper-nickel Yuan piece was by far numismatically the most interesting. It showed a seated woman in diaphanous dress releasing doves or peace.

With the repudiation of communist socialism in the Soviet Union in the 1990's many countries reiterated the hope for lasting world peace by issuing coins with peace themes of various denominations and of varying quality. Bhutan issued a 300 Ngultrum piece with a portrait or Dag Hammarskjold commemorating his work for peace; especially 1n Africa. This issue coincided with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations organization.

After getting its independence in 1992 Bosnia asserted its sovereignty by issuing its own coinage. As the center of numerous U.N. peace-keeping missions, Bosnia expressed a hope for peace in its 1994 through 1998 14 Ecu series of coins. Each coin has a different reverse design emblematic of peace. The 1994 design features a teddy bear, a design that urges peace for all children.

In 1986 Canada issued a non-circulating 100 dollar gold piece with a spray of maple leaves emblazoned with the words peace in both English and in French. In 1995 that nation issued an aureate, 26 mm circulating commemorative dollar showing the Peacekeep1ng Monument in Ottawa. Canada is very proud of its role in international peace keeping. It was Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson who proposed a U.N. peacekeeping force, and sent Canadian troops to participate in that force. For his untiring role in

the cause of peace Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize 1n 1957.

In 1995 two more nations issued coins with a peace motiff. Finland' a entry was an .830 fine silver 100 Markkaa coin with a stylized peace dove. Sometimes less is more, as with this coin. One side has the dove and date, while the other side portrays oak leaves, denomination, and the country's name. Perhaps the United States Commemorative Coin Committee should consider simplifying the amount of words on our coins and let the viewer see the message on the coin more clearly.

The African nation of Malawi's 5 Kwacha coin was also given a peace design in 1995. It shows a child reading a book, and carries the legend, "Nations United for Peace". The message is that literacy can bring peace and help pull nations from that poverty which so often leads to strife. Finally, there is a South African entry for peace coins. This two Rand piece was issued in 1993 less than one full year before the April, 1994 democratic election ending the blight of apartheid in that country. It shows a light dove and a darker peace dove flying side by side over a rising sun. Struck in proof sterling silver, it made a bold statement with hope for a peaceful future.

It is well to see countries choosing peace themes for their numismatic iconography. Coins can have an effect on everyone who handles them. A problem is, however, that fewer than twenty nations in the last 100 years made a commitment to peace through emblematic coin designs. Furthermore, of these coins with a peace theme only a small minority were designed for general circulation. Most were non -circulating commemoratives designed to be sold to collectors, often beyond the border of the issuing country.

For a coin to have maximum impact at conditioning a peo-

ple it should be seen in commerce everyday. We have examples of that effect in our own country with anti-slavery tokens, temperance tokens, and hard times political tokens that circulated with a message in the early 19th Century. We also have our current 10 cent piece, issued as a commemorative to President Franklin D. Roosevelt; it also became a poignant reminder to a generation of the March of Dimes Campaign to collect dimes (and dollars) to help eliminate crippling diseases.

What an impact a circulating peace coin would have on the nation issuing it. It could only be positive.

In this era of uncertainty, it would be great comfort to citizens everywhere to see peace take a front seat and appear as a symbol on the coins of every nation. What will happen only time can tell.

The End

Gerard Muhl

Czech coin courtesy NGC San Marino coin courtesy Numista

Flat Can Be Beautiful.





Jason Childers and I are teaming up to write a series of articles about the RNA "Minor Medals" and in preparation for this task I started to review the numbering system for the medals that I proposed quite a few years ago and was worked into Tim Corio's RNA Presidential Medals handbook. Since that time and after multiple conversations, it was thought to break apart some of the medals I considered "RNA Minor" into classes of their own. One of these classes is RNA connected elongated coins. Hence the subject of this article.

I have done some hunting and digging to find what I

have presented here, but I am not so naive as to think I have a complete list of such items. This is where YOUR help comes in. IF you have or know of any other RNA related elongated items please let me know. I can then get them in to the database I am building.

I have found elongated coins made for RJNA, made for RNA events, and made as "thank you" gifts from Past Presidents at our Annual Banquets. Some of the most frequently found RNA Elongated coins are for our Coin Shows.

In 1972 the RJNA had its 25th Anniversary and a set of elongated coins were made to commemorate that. It was a set of 4 elongated coins and contained 2 cents, an Indian Head, and a Lincoln, and 2 dimes, a Mercury, and a Roosevelt, both denominations depicting old and





There was an era from about 1982 to 1993 where multiple sets were made. We can see some of the Artist's Proofs of this series in a book that was made by the RNA for our 100th Anniversary Coins That Tell A Story. Shown here is one of those proofs. Through this avenue I have found Artist's Proofs for 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989. These Proofs are of great detail and the dies made from them show excellent workmanship as shown by the product they produced. There must be other Artist's Proofs, but where? I have found some examples of the elongated coins from this era as well. Two are shown at the beginning of this article and account for two years in the series. The list of The Coin Show elongated coins I have found are 1982, 1983, (no 1984 only the Artist's Proof), 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, (no 1990 anything), 1991 (no 1992 anything) and a special raffle prize in 1993.

These sets, except the Raffel Set were made up of six coins, cent, nickel, dime, quarter, half and dollar

The raffle prize was a set of 5 coins all dated 1912 and they are: a Lincoln cent, Liberty nickel, a Barber dime, a Barber quarter and a Barber half. It was

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billed as 21th Annual Coin Show and spoke about the show "COMING OF AGE."

Another event that elongated coins were rolled for was the 1700th Meeting held on 6-8-93. This was a 6 coin set the same as the Coin Show sets are.

This leaves us with the last type of RNA elongated coins. Thank Yous for attending the Annual Banquet from Past Presidents being honored. I have found three Past Presidents' elongated Coins and they are, in chronologic order, Edith Coe, John Vicaretti and Eric Miller. Edie's was a Jefferson Nickel rolled out to proclaim "As Good As Gold". John had a mix of US and Italian coins that reminded us "To Keep Smiling." And Eric's hand outs showed a sax to honor his daughter and a veterinarian's caeducius to honor his wife.

Please remember if you know of more please, please, PLEASE, help me out and give me the information to



add to my growing database of RNA related items. These items are broad in scope and some of the others will be subjects of future articles by me or others. They include items such as HORSESHOE PITCHING WINNERS MEDALS, Various

Pins, Various ANA Convention Ribbons from Rochester,

Event Covers with Event Cancellation, 3D Printed Medallions and of course the infamous WOODEN NICKEL as well as other denominations of Wooden Currency.

I hope this whetted your appetite for learning more about other RNA Exonumia and you are looking forward to future articles on these subjects.







Chip Scoppa

Pictures in this article are credited to Chip Scoppa







(Continued from page 3)

RMSC staff have told me that they hosted their summer school over the summer with no cases of COVID-19 occurring. However please take your own health, as well as your family into consideration when determining if you want to come in person or not.

One piece of bad news; we had to cancel this year's annual coin show due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pan-

Sigmund Hadler, MD

Eight President of the RNA

Dr. Sigmund Handler, was Superintendent of Jewish Orphan Asylum for 22 years. Dr. Chandler's wife was the Matron of the Asylum. It was located on North St. Paul Street. Before his arrival in Rochester Dr. Handler, practiced medicine in Cleveland and New York City. He was Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1853. He earned his medical degree at the University of Vienna. He was survived by daughters, Constance and Sylvia, and one son Eugene. In addition to being the eighth President of the RNA, he was also President of the Philatelic Association and member of the Lalla Rookh Grotto, Rochester Consistory Damascus Temple and the Masonic club.

On February 12, 1912, Mr. Fred .E. Merritt, proposed him for membership to the RNA with Dr Handler attending his first meeting on March 5, 1912. At the June 18, 1912 meeting, Dr. handler was appointed floor the reception committee for RNA's ANA Convention Committee.

Nominated by Mr. Bauer for Secretary of RNA and elected on December 5, 1916 and installed on the 19th of December, for club year 1917. The following December 3, Mr Woodbury nominated Dr. Handler for Vice President of RNA, and he was elected the 18th of December.

The meeting of December 3, 1918 Mr. Woodbury, nominated Dr. Handler for president of the RNA with election being held the 17 of December, 1918.

On March 15, 2019 Dr Handler exhibited five pieces of Rastatt Money. from 1 Phoning to 1 Mark. Restatt was one many Prisoner of War camps Germany established during World War I. Under the Hauge Convention of 1907 prisoners of war could be asked to work, and be paid. So if the captors ask enlisted POW's to work they had to. Also know as Lagergeld (camp money) prisoner money was paper, often specially printed for individual camps which could only be used to purchase goods at the camp store or credited to a

demic. There is no way to safely hold this event this year. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who continues to dedicate their time and energy to this fine and historic club. With everyone's help the club has been able to remain active during this pandemic, showing that our club can flourish despite any challenge that comes our way.

prison bank account. One of Dr. Handler's students gave him the money upon his return from a trip to Germany.

With assistance of the City of Rochester, and members of the RNA, on June 3, 1919 Dr. Handler oversaw the move of the RNA meeting space to the Municipal Museum's library room which was next to Numismatic Room provided by Mayor Edgerton, located at Edgerton Park. This was greeted with great pleasure by the members, in hopes the room would become a lasting meeting space for the RNA. Letters of appreciation were written to both the mayor and the Rochester Hotel for all past support and courtesies to the Association.

At the 182 meeting of the RNA three presidential medals were presented to the Association for review. Issues about a required color were brought up. After discussion the president Merrit medal of golden color would be acceptable. The usual number was dered and delivered.

As per custom in the beginning of the club history, the designer and engraver of the RNA Presidential, Mr. Koeb gave few words at the annual dinner, on January 20, 1920. Mr Koeb stated his intension in the future he would the faces look as young as possible and try to eliminate wrinkles.

Dr. Handler passed away on March 4th, 1924. He lived at 53 Vasser Street in Rochester for nearly 30 years. He was also Member of the German American Alliance as 4th vice President, (Rochester Area) campaigning against blue laws, all restrictions on personal freedoms, and took actions in politics as the organization saw fit.

Tim Flavin

RNA Events Calendar

RNA and RJNA meetings at the Eisenhart Auditorium have been suspended until October 14th. But that is still tentative (see President's letter). Zoom meetings scheduled for September 9th and 23rd at 7:30 p.m.

* * * * RNA Newsletter Deadlines

November-December Newsletter. Submit articles by October 25th.

RNA Dues Notice

RNA dues for 2020-2021 were due as of July 1, 2020
The yearly dues are \$30 per person or family
Dues may be paid on-line by going to the Shop tab of the club website:
http://rochesternumismaticassociation.org/store.php
Checks or money orders may be sent to the club at:
Rochester Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 10056
Rochester, NY 14610-0056

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