

RNA News

The Official Journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

September – October 2026



ATTENTION RNA MEMBERS!



IMPORTANT LOCATION CHANGE



**WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 23**

THE RNA CLUB MEETING
WILL BE HELD IN THE
PLANETARIUM
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM



*Please note the location and plan accordingly.
We look forward to seeing you there!*

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RNA

One of America's Oldest
Local Coin Clubs,
Established January 1912

Memberships

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

Meetings

Rochester Museum
& Science Center,
Eisenhart Auditorium

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Dennis DeYoung, Treasurer
Dennis DeYoung, Secretary

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David Gottfried [2024-2027]
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Sheryl Zabel [2025-2028]
Jason Childers [2026-2029]
Chip Scoppa [2026-2029]

Historian

Dennis DeYoung

RNA News

Sheryl Zabel, Editor
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Rochester, NY 14610-0056

RochesterNumismaticAssociation.org

RNA Committees

RNA Bylaws designate several committees appointed by the President and Board of Directors.
Below are the current active committees:

Membership

Jason Childers, Chair
Scott Annechino
Dennis DeYoung
David Gottfried

Endowment

John Zabel, Chair [RNA Curator]
Dennis DeYoung [Treasurer, Ex-Officio]
Jason Childers
Steve Eisinger

Auditing

Dennis DeYoung [Treasurer]
Andy Geoghan
John Lighthouse
Chip Scoppa

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editor@rochesternumismaticassociation.org

Regular **RNA Meetings** are held from September to June at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. (See the Calendar on the website for schedule exceptions at Thanksgiving and Christmas.)

Meetings take place in the **Eisenhart Auditorium** of the **Rochester Museum & Science Center** located at **657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY**. The Auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. Enter through the main entrance and turn left to go up the ramp to the ballroom.

Members and visitors who cannot attend in person are encouraged to join the live Zoom stream!



The John Jay Pittman Memorial Library

The club's numismatic library is available at every regular meeting.
Members can select from 600+ titles with new ones added regularly.
See the RNA Librarian to sign for and borrow material.
A complete, searchable library inventory is available on the RNA website.



From Our President

It seems to me as though the coin collecting trend today is embracing a "quality over quantity" mindset. Rather than assembling collections of average grade coins that contain each date and mint mark, many collectors are focusing their budgets on a smaller number of exceptional pieces with strong eye appeal, attractive toning, low population counts, or top-certified grades. Collectors now have easy access to population reports, auction records, and registry-set rankings, making it easier to identify truly scarce and desirable coins. After all, the best examples within a series often command significant premiums over more common pieces.

This trend is especially evident in the certified coin market, where high-quality, registry-worthy coins continue to attract strong demand while more common material remains readily available. Collectors and investors are increasingly seeking coins that stand out for their rarity, eye appeal, or historical significance. Collectors believe that these coins are more desirable and enjoy them for their beauty, originality, and history. Investors appreciate them believing these pieces will be easier to sell and more likely to retain value over time. The modern numismatic market rewards careful selection, reinforcing the long-standing advice to focus on exceptional quality and desirability rather than simply accumulating more coins.

~ Andrew Geoghan, President, RNA

NOTICE – Please join your fellow members –



ANNUAL RNA
Banquet

ROCHESTER
RNA
FOUNDED
1912
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

 **SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 4, 2025**

Proietti's
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

RSVP TO SECRETARY DEYOUNG BY EMAIL OR PHONE/TEXT

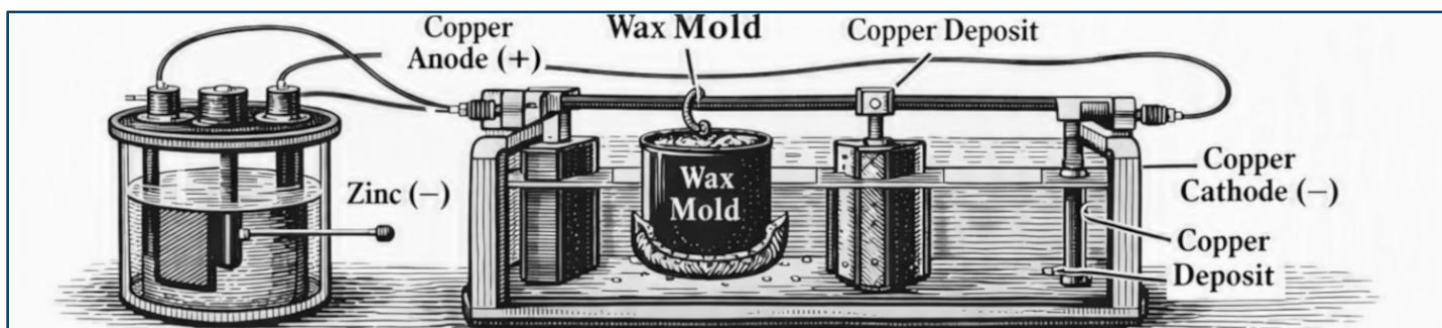
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 **585-770-0659**
(call or text)

From the RNA Collection... Electrotypes of 1793 Half Cent

by Dennis DeYoung

RNA Collection #90



Tucked quietly among the holdings of the RNA Collection is a piece that looks, at first glance, like a five-figure rarity: a 1793 Half Cent, the very first year of issue for the denomination. Designed by Henry Voigt and struck at the fledgling Philadelphia Mint, the coin features Liberty with flowing hair and a wreath reverse. Only 35,334 were minted, and perhaps 200–1,000 survive today in all grades combined. A genuine example would be worth between \$5,000 and \$100,000 — but the RNA's specimen is something different, and in its own way, just as interesting: it's a 19th-century *electrotype* reproduction.



Electrotype of a 1793 Half Cent from the RNA Collection, showing obverse & reverse copper shells backed with metal—a late-19th-century study replica of one of America's earliest copper coins.

[Photos from the RNA Website]

Electrotypes are highly accurate metallic replicas produced through an early electrochemical process widely used between about 1850 and 1900. Museums, mints, and advanced collectors relied on them to study rare coins, illustrate early numismatic books, and create display sets long before photography became practical. The process began by taking a mold—often wax or gutta-percha—from the original coin and coating it with graphite to make it conductive. The mold was then suspended in a copper-sulfate bath and connected to a battery. When current flowed, a thin copper shell formed on the mold, capturing every detail of the original coin. This shell was typically backed with lead or filled with metal to give the finished piece weight and rigidity.

Although the exact origin of the RNA's electrotype is unknown, its construction strongly suggests a late-19th-century date, when electrotyping was at its peak. Many electrotypes of early American copper were produced during this period for collectors, researchers, and museum study sets. They were not intended to deceive; rather, they served as precise teaching tools at a time when genuine examples of early U.S. coinage were already scarce and expensive. Electrotypes can even preserve rim nicks or surface marks from the original coin, offering a snapshot of the host coin's condition at the moment the mold was made. (*Hmm... Wouldn't it be fascinating to find the original coin to pair the RNA electrotype with!?!*)

Electrotypes are uncommon but not truly rare, and their value lies more in their historical and educational interest than in market demand. A typical 19th-century electrotype of a U.S. coin might sell for \$100–\$400. Major grading services do not certify electrotypes as genuine coins, but NGC will sometimes encapsulate them with labels such as “Electrotype – Replica” or “Electrotype – Not Genuine.”

The RNA's electrotype of the 1793 Half Cent is therefore more than a replica—it is a tangible link to the era when collectors and institutions were first documenting America's earliest copper coinage. It reminds us that numismatics is not only about rarity and market value, but also about preservation, curiosity, and the desire to understand our past.



CALL FOR EXHIBITS

Share Your Collection. Inspire Others.

AT THE RNA COIN SHOW



 **OCT. 31 – NOV. 1, 2025**

 **Eisenhart Auditorium
RMSC, Rochester, NY**



BEST IN SHOW



★ **BEST IN SHOW PRIZE** ★
Recognizing excellence in numismatic exhibits.



EXHIBIT • EDUCATE • INSPIRE
Be part of our tradition of knowledge and fellowship.



The American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money, held August 25-29 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, once again demonstrated why it is regarded as the premier numismatic event in the United States. Thousands of collectors, dealers, researchers, and exhibitors attended, and the show featured an impressive array of educational exhibits, rarities, presentations, and special displays.



Among the highlights was the Tyrant Collection exhibit entitled Tyrants of the Golden Horn. This remarkable display featured 223 coins issued in Constantinople, beginning with a gold aureus of Emperor Diocletian struck around 283 CE. The exhibit traced the coinage of rulers in Constantinople through the Byzantine era and beyond, continuing through the Ottoman conquest, the rise of the sultans, and ultimately the formation of modern Turkey and the renaming of the city to Istanbul. The breadth of the display and the concentration of historic gold coins made it one of the most memorable exhibits at the show.

[Photo by John Zabel]

Another major attraction was unveiled on Thursday when the United States Mint displayed eleven examples of the famous 1933 Saint-Gaudens double eagle. Two of the coins were on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, while the remaining pieces were among those seized by the Secret Service from the Philadelphia family that had discovered them in a safe deposit box belonging to a deceased relative who had been a coin dealer in 1933. Prior to the public unveiling, Mint officials explained the legal history of the coins and the lengthy court proceedings that ultimately determined ownership rested with the U.S. government because the coins had never been officially released before President Roosevelt's gold restrictions took effect. The opportunity to view so many examples of one of America's most famous numismatic rarities in a single display was a rare treat for attendees.

RNA members were also well represented and received several honors during the convention. Richard Jozefiak, our member in Georgia, was awarded first place in the 2025-2026 Top ANA District Representative Contest Contributors competition. John Zabel was recognized for fifty years of membership in the American Numismatic Association, a milestone achieved by only a small percentage of ANA members.



A particularly noteworthy achievement came from RNA member and past president Scott Annechino, whose massive competitive exhibit earned second place and drew considerable attention from convention attendees. In fact, Scott Annechino was featured on the Stack's Bowers Instagram story, where he gave viewers a tour of the exhibit and discussed the material on display. His exhibit examined the numismatic history of Central Africa, covering the Congo Free State, Belgian Congo, Rwanda-Urundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zaire, Katanga, and the modern Congo Democratic Republic, along with patterns and related numismatic material.

Reflecting years of study, research, and collecting, Scott Annechino's exhibit presented the complex monetary history of the region in a way that was both educational and visually engaging. The display included many rare and important pieces; among them numerous examples considered the finest known of their type. Combining scholarship, historical context, and exceptional rarity, the exhibit stood among the most impressive presentations at the convention and was widely admired by those who viewed it.

From Scott Annechino's fellow RNA members, congratulations on an outstanding award-winning exhibit, and thank you for serving as an excellent representative of the Rochester Numismatic Association!



RNA Online Resources

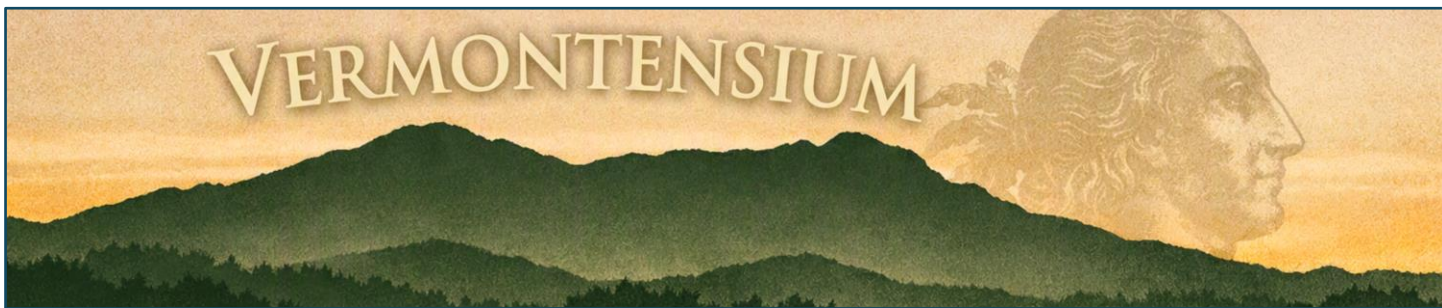
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Social Media Chair: David Gottfried
 Webmaster: John Zabel

From the RNA Collection... Vermont Republic Coppers

by Dennis DeYoung

RNA Collection #911 & #908



Before it became the fourteenth state in 1791, Vermont existed for fourteen years as an independent republic — and even struck its own copper coins to serve its citizens. It declared independence in 1777 while New York and New Hampshire still claimed its territory, and it governed itself with its own constitution and legislature until admission to the Union.

In June 1785 the Vermont legislature granted Reuben Harmon Jr. of Rupert the exclusive right to strike copper coins. Harmon established a small mint beside a stream in Rupert and engaged New York goldsmith William Coley to prepare the dies. The coins filled a genuine need: circulating copper was scarce on the frontier. Production continued until about 1788.

Two principal design types appeared. The earliest issues (1785–1786) show a rising sun over the Green Mountains with a plow in the foreground—the Landscape type. Their reverse carries an all-seeing eye surrounded by thirteen stars and the motto **STELLA QUARTA DECIMA** (“the fourteenth star”), a confident prediction that Vermont would one day join the United States. Later coins (1786–1788) adopt a classical bust with the legend **VERMON AUCTORI** (“by the authority of Vermont”) and a seated Liberty reverse inscribed **INDE ET LIB.**



The RNA's 1786 Vermontensium Landscape (“Quarta”)

[Photos from the RNA Website]

The earlier RNA example is the classic 1786 Landscape type bearing the full Latin legend **VERMONTENSIVM RES. PUBLICA**. The reverse motto containing the word **QUARTA** gives the variety its popular nickname.

The obverse (landscape) side retains most of the legend, the sun face and rays, several trees along the ridge, and a readable (though soft) plow and date. The eye side shows a clear central eye, rays, and most of the surrounding stars, with “QUARTA” especially strong. Both sides, however, exhibit notable corrosion and porosity—common on these early issues but more advanced on this specimen.

Grade: Fine – Details, environmental damage.

Approximate retail value of the RNA example: **\$450–\$850.**

No official mintage figures exist. Specialist estimates place the total number of surviving 1786 Vermontensium Landscape pieces (all varieties) in the low hundreds.



The RNA's 1788 Vermont AUCTORI Bust Right

[Photos from the RNA Website]

The second coin is a 1788 Bust Right copper. The obverse shows a classical male bust with flowing hair and laurel wreath, surrounded by **VERMON • AUCTORI**. The reverse depicts seated Liberty holding a staff and branch beside a shield, with the legend **INDE * ET * LIB** and the date 1788 below. The Vermont authorities switched from the Vermont Landscape design to this more familiar, “British-looking” design in late 1786–1787 so the coins would be more readily accepted in everyday commerce.

Both sides of the RNA example display full legends and clear devices, with moderate, even wear on the high points. Surfaces are the typical dark, slightly granular copper of the series but free of major defects.

Grade: VF-25.

Approximate retail value of the RNA example: **\$500–\$900.**

As with the Landscape issues, exact mintage is unknown, but the Bust Right type is considerably more available than the earlier Landscape coins.

Together, they illustrate Vermont's brief experiment in independent coinage — one looking forward to statehood, the other issued just three years before that prediction came true — and they enrich the RNA collection as tangible reminders of early American ingenuity.





DUES FOR THE

2026-2027

NUMISMATIC YEAR

ARE DUE!





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Rochester Numismatic Association
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Rochester, NY 14610-0056



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or at our
next meeting.



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