



# The Rochester Numismatic Association



America's Oldest, Continuously Operating Coin Club - meeting since 1912  
Meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - September to June, ANA Branch 2 - Life Club No. 8  
P.O. Box 10056, Rochester, NY 14610-0056  
<http://www.the-rna.com>

Member: American Numismatic Association LC-8    Token and Medal Society  
Canadian Numismatic Association    Empire States Numismatic Association  
American Numismatic Society    Rochester Museum and Science Center

## *RNA Newsletter for September, 2001*

The RNA meetings are held in the lower level of the Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, New York, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from September to June. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year for individual or family memberships. Meetings are called to order at 8:00 PM.

### **WELCOME BACK!**

The first meeting of the 2001-02 year is September 11, 2001. On behalf of the officers and Board, we hope to see everyone at this year's kick-off. Traditionally, this first meeting of the year is reserved for members who would like to talk about how they spent their summer, particularly, their experiences at this year's ANA Convention in Atlanta, GA.

### **OFFICERS REQUESTS:**

**Secretary:** If anyone would like to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail, please contact Melanie Bael either by mail or at [scully@mindex.com](mailto:scully@mindex.com). Also, if you have anything you would like to submit for publication in the newsletter, please send it to Melanie either by mail or e-mail by the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Additionally, we are always in the process of updating our membership list. If you would like us to have your phone number, e-mail address, or if you have a new mailing address, please contact Melanie.

**Treasurer:** Dues for the 2001-02 program year are now being accepted. Please mail dues to the club address at P.O. Box 10056, Rochester, NY 14610, or bring dues to any of the upcoming meetings. Membership cards will be presented at the time of dues payment at a meeting, or mailed to you upon receipt. Thanks!

### **RNA PICNIC - UPDATE:**

On August 19, 2001, the RNA hosted its annual picnic at Powdermill Park at the Wadham's Lodge. Catering was provided by Dinosaur bar-b-cue, and featured barbecued beef and chicken, baked beans, salt potatoes, and cornbread. While it did rain for much of the day, that didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended. About 50 people and two dogs attended the event. Prior to the picnic, the RNA Board of Directors held its first meeting of the year. An update on that meeting is included in the Board Update section of this newsletter.

### **WEB SITE UPDATE:**

Be sure to check out the RNA's web site at [www.the-rna.com](http://www.the-rna.com). The site is constantly being updated with new information, including a brief history of the club, current coin news - updated daily, pictures of several RNA medals and events, important contact information, links and more! Additionally, we are seeking to include images of each RNA Presidential Medal on the site. You can see what's already up on the "RNA Presidential Wall of Fame." If you have medals that you can scan, please e-mail images to [davidg@rnychamber.com](mailto:davidg@rnychamber.com). If you have any other suggestions for what you'd like to see on the web site, please e-mail David at that same address.

### **COIN SHOW - CORRECTION:**

Please note that the **2001 RNA Coin Show** will take place **Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4, 2001**. The date was erroneously stated in the last newsletter. If you, or any of your acquaintances are dealers interested in reserving tables for the show, please contact show chairman William Coe at .16 865-7992 or Ursula Loose at 716 244-0240.

The show features more than 40 dealers' tables from all over New York State, and beyond. Regular door-prize drawings feature giveaways of numismatic books and other items, and an exhibit area offers an opportunity to see some of the highlights of members' collections and the club's own holdings. If you are interested in presenting a display, please call Bill at the number above.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>11 September 2001</b> | <b>What I bought during my summer vacation....</b>  |
| <b>25 September 2001</b> | <b>Dan White: Coin collection/estate planning</b>   |
| <b>09 October 2001</b>   | <b>Gerry Muhl: Contemporary counterfeit half dollars</b>  |
| <b>23 October 2001</b>   | <b>Open (Contact Vice President Jason Childers at paploo@mindex.com about scheduling a talk for this week, or during another time during the RNA year.)</b> |

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – UPDATE:**

The RNA Board of Directors held it's first meeting prior to the picnic on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Issues discussed included the status of RNA finances, the possibility of issuing a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal, and the possibility of having the ANA Spring show for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Additionally, a motion was made that during the Annual Meeting on 11 June 2002, there will be a vote on a proposition to lower the dues to \$10.00.

### **U.S. MINT WARNS COLLECTORS OF FAKE BUFFALO COINS**

September 6th, 2001

The United States Mint has received numerous inquiries regarding replicas of the new American Buffalo Commemorative Silver Dollar now flooding the numismatic and collectors markets. The replicas are not authentic U.S. coins and are not sponsored or endorsed by the United States Government. You may be entitled to a refund or redress from the firm that sold the replica to you if you bought one of them, believing that you were purchasing a genuine U.S. Mint product.

The majority of current inquiries appears to stem from advertisements by the National Collector's Mint, Inc., a private mint hosting a mail drop in Washington, DC. Consumers should know that the National Collector's Mint, Inc. is a private mint not affiliated with the United States Mint. Its replica products are not authentic United States coins and are not sponsored or endorsed by the United States Mint.

Because the images on the American Buffalo Commemorative Silver Dollar design are not protected by copyright, these designs are susceptible to copying by private mints. Barring violations of U.S. counterfeiting and trademark laws, existing law does not prohibit reproduction of those U.S. coinage designs that fall in the public domain.

There is significant confusion stemming from the reproductions. In one instance, a U.S. Mint customer returned an authentic U.S. Mint Commemorative Silver Dollar for refund, claiming that the authentic U.S. Mint coin is grossly overpriced, mistakenly pointing out that the National Collector's Mint is selling the "same" item for \$9.95. Apparently, the advertisement for the replica was confusing

## **FAKE BUFFALOS CONTINUED...**

and led the customer to believe that the product was a genuine U.S. Mint legal tender coin, rather than a cheap imitation.

if you are unsure whether the product you have purchased from a private mint is an authentic U.S. Mint American Buffalo Commemorative Silver Dollar, you should note that the authentic coin features the year (2001) and artist's initial ("F" for "Fraser") on the obverse and the denomination (One Dollar) and mintmark ("P" for "Philadelphia") on the reverse.



Proof Silver Dollar

If you believe that you were unfairly treated, you are entitled to contact the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Hotline at 1-877-FTC-HELP or file a consumer complaint online at <http://www.ftc.gov/consumer>.

Source: *U.S. Mint*

## **U.S. MINT PRODUCING 50-CENT COINS BASED ON DEMAND BY BANKS**

Dear Call Box: Do you know if the U.S. Mint is putting out 50-cent pieces? I haven't seen one in several years and neither have my friends. -- L.L.

Dear L.L. The U.S. Mint produced 42 million of them last year and 20 million in 1999. So there are some coins in circulation. But production depends on demand. The Federal Reserve orders coins from the Mint based on demand from the banks.

But it does seem that the 50-cent piece is receiving less promotion than the new Golden Dollar or the new state quarters. Since January 2000, the U.S. Mint has minted over 1 billion Golden Dollars, with more than 800 million in circulation, more than 10 times the 60 million Susan B. Anthony dollar coins circulated in 1999. Dollar coins increasingly are being used in post offices, subways, buses and other coin-operated outlets.

Source: Florida Times Union

## **REMINDER!!!**

**The first meeting of the year is Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**