

RNA News

The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association



**PLUS: St. Gaudens exhibit visits Rochester
Jason Childers on more state quarters**

October 2003

RNA News

The official journal of the
Rochester Numismatic Association
Established January, 1912

America's oldest continuously operating
local coin club

ANA Branch #2
Life Club #8

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

Newsletter Editor: Scott Fybush
manews@fybush.com

2003-2004 Officers:

President: David Gottfried
585-327-5904
davidg@rballiance.com

Vice President: Edith Coe
585-865-7992
billcoe@juno.com

Secretary: Steve Lanzafame
585-288-1932
unpub@aol.com

Treasurer: Tom Kraus
585-241-3807
tkraus1@rochester.rr.com

Curator: John Zabel
Librarian: John Tokoli
Historian: Robert Doty

Board of Directors:
Darlene Corio, Douglas Musinger
(2003-2006)

William D. Coe, Scott Fybush
(2002-2005)

Jim Sanders, Dan White
(2001-2004)

Visit the RNA Web site:
www.the-rna.com

P.O. Box 10056
Rochester NY 14610-0056

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Moving forward with Coin Week

As we move forward with the 2003-04 program year, there are several things that I'd like to see the club accomplish.

As you may recall, I truly believe that as an educational organization, we must pay more attention to this aspect of the club. As a result, one of the first things I'd like to see done this year is a reorganization of the club's library. This includes the purchase of new cabinets – to better honor the memory of John Jay Pittman. But the collection is also in need of better cataloging,

and we must determine what new books should be added to help foster the numismatic education of the membership.

Another significant undertaking that I would like to see this year is a closer relationship with the Rochester Museum and Science Center – particularly during next April's National Coin Week. The RNA, in conjunction with the RMSC, should be putting together several exhibits from both the club collection and from any member's collections focusing on this year's educational theme. Additionally, we can host a series of public talks on different collecting topics that may be of more general interest.

This is important because I do not believe we are doing the best job we can in reaching out to the

community. Out of the total Metro Rochester population of 1.1 million people, it would seem that there should be more than 130 people who collect coins! Therefore, I envision National Coin Week as being a time to celebrate coin collecting and promote membership in the RNA.

I think if more people were aware of the club, and the benefits of membership, our numbers could swell! There'll be more information about National Coin Week in the November

“I do not believe we are doing the best job we can in reaching out to the community.”

newsletter.

Also, please be sure to attend the rescheduled board meeting, which will take place before our October 16

meeting.

(The scheduled October 2 board meeting has been cancelled because of the closure of Empire Brewing Company.)

We'll meet at 6 PM for dinner at Hogan's Hideaway on Park Avenue. Please RSVP to me at 327-5904 by October 13 to let me know if you'll be able to attend.

Directions to get to Hogan's, just around the corner from the RMSC, are on page 4. You can see their varied menu at hoganshideaway.com.

I look forward to seeing you there!

David A. Gottfried

The RNA's 31st Annual Coin Show and Sale

Saturday, November 1 – 10AM to 5 PM

Sunday, November 2 – 10 AM to 4 PM

RMSC Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue

by William D. Coe

Coin Show Committee Chairman

You don't have to travel all the way to Baltimore or Portland or Pittsburgh to find out what a big coin show is like. In just a few weeks, you'll get to experience a bourse floor and exhibits right here in town, just one floor above our usual meeting room, as the RNA presents its 31st annual Coin Show and Sale, one of the largest annual shows in our region.

The Coin Show Committee hopes that every RNA member will take advantage of this opportunity to visit several coin and stamp dealers at one location.

It is a very efficient way to find just that right item you are looking for. You can actually hold and see each item to evaluate it without the need to send it back and forth in the mails. Likewise, if you have items to dispose of, the transaction can take place right there without complications.

Help Your Club

Since the show is a club project, it is expected that as many members as possible will participate in its presentation. Actually, you will find that it is a very rewarding experience. You will have the opportunity to rub elbows with the dealers and expand your knowledge in many numismatic areas. Also, it will give you a chance to work with and get to know the other members better.

At the October meetings, sheets will be sent around for the various activities for which we need help. Please sign up and be as generous with your time as you can. Several types of activity and many time frames are available. Over the years, the RNA has thrived because of this type of fellowship.

Present a Display

You are encouraged to develop a display to enter in the Exhibit Contest. At stake is the prestigious Alphonse Kolb "Best of Show" award. It is a beautiful plaque that you can be proud to display.

Please see Gerry Muhl or John Zabel to arrange for the cases you will need. Also, check with them if you want some pointers on how to present your exhibit.

And be sure to visit the exhibit area on the stage to see what John's displaying from the club's own collection!

RNA Goodies

And be sure to check at the front table for RNA items you might still need for your collection. The club will be selling the philatelic covers John Cali prepared for our 30th anniversary show last year, as well as the ubiquitous RNA coffee mugs and much more.

We'll also have extra copies of the *RNA News* and information about the club – as well as



Dealer (and member) Ron Winter assists a customer at the 2002 Coin Show

a table for our friends from the Rochester Philatelic Association – to help newcomers to numismatics learn how to become more involved with "the Hobby of Kings."

The Coin Show and Sale is a great way to get new collectors involved in the hobby, so be sure to invite anyone who might be interested in coins and stamps to come, meet our dealers and members, and see what numismatics (and philatelics) is all about!

(It's not too late to put up posters or hand out postcards, either – see Bill to get your supply!)

Directions to October 16 Board Meeting – Hogan's Hideaway, 197 Park Avenue

Hogan's Hideaway is on the south side of Park Avenue, just west of Goodman Street and east of Alexander. If you're headed to the RMSC for the meeting, turn south on Goodman Street (heading towards Monroe Avenue), then turn right on Park Avenue. The driveway to Hogan's rear parking lot is on the left just after the restaurant itself. And don't forget to RSVP to Dave to let him know you'll be there – 327-5904 or davidg@rballiance.com.

Another Five “State” Quarters?

Jason Childers reports on the latest proposals to extend the program

The State Quarter program has been very popular with collectors and until-recently non-collectors alike. And many keep looking forward to what will be coming next year. But about 5 million Americans will not be represented in the program. That's because the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands have not been included in the program, since they are not states.

The District of Columbia and the 5 territories use American Currency. Federal judicial law is created without their consent. All but the Northern Marianas have been part of the United States before Arizona and New Mexico. And the same territories send delegates to the House of Representatives, but have no representation in the Senate.

In September 2000 and October 2002, the House has passed bills to extend the state quarter program for another year to include DC and the territories (106th Congress, H.R. 5010; 107th Congress H.R. 4005), but neither of them reached the Senate floor. In fact, in 2002, the bill didn't even make it into committee. Currently, it has been referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, being introduced by Rep. Peter King of the 3rd district of New York on 3 September, as H.R. 2993.

The State Quarter program would be great for the territories in forms of acceptance (a quarter for each one would acknowledge their place in the United States family) and awareness (admit it...if you didn't read the first paragraph, would you be able to name all 5 territories in addition to the District?).

What can you do about it? You can write your Senator to push for this bill to get through the Banking Committee (and our New York-based members should be aware that our senior senator, Sen. Chuck Schumer, is a member of that committee), and have it passed by the Senate. And our Representatives should have the bill drawn up and passed in the House earlier than a couple months before an election so that there is time for the Senate to pass it.

You can find your elected members' addresses either in the Government pages of your phone book; or at their websites via <http://www.house.gov> or <http://www.senate.gov>. Contact them and let them know how much you have enjoyed the program, and that the 4,847,628 Americans in the District and the Territories are ready to stand up and be counted.

The preceding is solely the opinion of its author, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Rochester Numismatic Association or its board.

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Full page—\$220/year (or, \$20 per issue)
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(other options available)

For more information, contact RNA News editor
Scott Fybush at 442-5411 or at rnanews@fybush.com.

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St. Gaudens exhibition to visit Rochester

by Gerard Muhl

The first major traveling exhibit of works by American sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens will open at Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery February 12. The exhibit will run through April 11, 2004.

The exhibit features 75 of the sculptor's most famous works – including reductions of major outdoor commissions, full-sized works cast in bronze, marble and plaster, portrait reliefs, decorative objects and **coins**. It should be an outstanding retrospective of the master's work.

At the urging of President Theodore Roosevelt, Saint Gaudens created two of the most beautiful U.S. gold coins – the double eagle (\$20) and eagle (\$10). The Liberty design for the \$20 was adapted by the U.S. Mint in 1987 for its American Eagle gold bullion coin.

Since the Memorial Art Gallery is open until 9 PM on Thursdays, it might be well to plan a meeting at the gallery in conjunction with the exhibit. Let your RNA officers know if you think this would be a good idea!



(Editor's note: At our October 16 board meeting, we'll discuss the possibility of a special RNA visit to the St. Gaudens exhibition.)

RNA Presidential Trivia

(dredged from the archives by Gerard Muhl)

1. What RNA president held the bicycle speed record of 1 minute, 5 seconds for a one-mile track?
2. What president was with famed archaeologist Howard Carter when King Tut's tomb was discovered in Egypt?
3. What RNA member (not a president) started a Junior Coin Club which met at Washington Junior High School beginning in 1931?
4. What RNA president in 1936 had only 24 bronze and one silver presidential medal struck? (They sold for \$2.50 each, but due to the Depression not every one of the club's 41 members could afford one.)
5. In 1931, what former president donated the following coins in Unc. or Proof to the club collection: Small cents 1857-58-59-61-62-63-64-66-67-73-74-77-79-80-81-82-83-84-86-87-88-90-93-97-98 and 1922-D?

(Answers on The Odd Page, page 7)

An extra mind-teaser from Gerry...

From the June 27, 1937 RNA newsletter: "What coin becomes a quarter when a quarter of itself is added to it?"
Do you have one? Bring it to the next meeting to show!

And still more from the archives...

Here were some items from the club's auction for November 14, 1931. (The RNA invited the Buffalo club over that night.) : 1793 half cent; 1867 proof dollar; 1879, 1881 proof dimes; 1860, 1863 proof half dimes; 1847 through 1857 Unc. large cents; 1816, 1819, 1820 Unc. cents; 1856 small cent Unc.; 1884 proof dime; 378 AD gold aureus of Valens
(Gerry didn't send word on whether there was any record of what the items sold for! – Editor)

The Odd Page

News and notes from all over

Speakers List: Leave it to Vice President Edie Coe to have the entire roster of speakers lined up for the 2003-2004 year already!

In addition to the upcoming meetings listed on the back page, here's what you can look forward to: *Dec.* – Scott Fybush; Holiday Auction; *Jan.* – no meeting; Ira Stein; *Feb.* – John Tokoli, Doug Musinger; *Mar.* – Gerry Muhl, Clark King; *Apr.* – Steve Lanzafame, Darlene Corio; *May* – Wayne Scheible; Meinhart Speaking Contest; *June* – Art Cohen, Year-End Auction.

Thanks, Edie, for getting the lineup in order so early!



Still more archival gleanings: Gerry Muhl reports that in April 1932, RNA president “Billy” Sunday wrote to the U.S. Treasury to see if members could order coins directly from the mint. Among the coins available for face value, plus postage: 1907-D, 1909-D and 1929 half eagles; 1914-D and 1932 eagles, 1925-D, 1925-S, 1926-S, 1927-D, 1927-S, 1930-S, 1931, 1931-D, 1932 double eagles, 1921, 1921-D and 1921-S Morgan dollars, 1922, 1922-S, 1922-D, 1923-S, 1924, 1924-S, 1925, 1925-S, 1926, 1926-D, 1926-S, 1927, 1927-S, 1928, 1928-S, 1931 Peace dollars, and minor coinage ranging from 1928-D to 1932. (The new 1932 Washington quarters had yet to be released at that point; other minor coins were available by the piece or by the roll.)

Gerry wonders how many members ordered coins that year – your editor wonders how much all those coins would be worth now for anyone with the presence of mind to place an order!



From the Proud Daddy Dept.: For the two people who haven't heard so far, past president (and newsletter editor) Scott Fybush and wife Lisa became the



parents of Ariel Joy on Monday morning, Sept. 15.

Ariel weighed in at 7 lbs., 2 oz. (what's that in grains?) and graded a perfect MS-70, says her dad.

She came home from Highland Hospital on Wednesday the 17th, and the very next night,

escorted by her proud grandmother and her Aunt Julie, made a brief appearance before the RNA meeting, where she was fawned over by all and sundry, including Ursula Loose, below, who can't wait for her newest customer to come visit the store!



And now your editor's trivia question: has there ever been an RNA visitor younger than four days old? For that matter, who was the last active RNA member to have a child? (We know of plenty of proud grandparents and great-grandparents in the club, of course...)

Ari will begin attending RJNA meetings sometime in 2010, if all goes well; rumors that her father has already designed her 2036 presidential medal are almost certainly false...



Trivia Answers: 1. *George Bauer* held the bicycle speed record. 2. *George Bauer* was also with Howard Carter at King Tut's tomb. 3. *L.A. Becker* started the junior club at Washington Junior High. 4. *Joseph Harzinski*, president in 1936, had just 24 bronze and 1 silver medal struck. 5. Club founder *Dr. George P. French* donated all those coins to the collection in 1931.



Just when you thought **Bill Coe** had every possible bit of 1933-ana in his collection, he showed up at the Sept. 18 meeting with two 1933 license plates from his native Ohio! We believe the only missing items in his collection now are those pesky \$10 and \$20 gold pieces, which he'd still be glad to receive as donations...



The Odd Page is compiled by Scott Fybush, who promises to go easy on baby pictures after this issue...

The Calendar **October-November**

- **Thursday October 2 – 8 PM – Dan White** speaks on “The Panic of 1873.” We’re pretty sure this didn’t have anything to do with a nationwide shortage of sticky fruit labels, so prepare to hear plenty about silver, gold, and their relative values (and perhaps even the Bland-Allison Act and Trade Dollars...)
- **Thursday October 16 – 6 PM – Board Meeting and Dinner, Hogan’s Hideaway, 197 Park Ave.** See page 4 for directions, and RSVP by October 13 to Dave Gottfried at 327-5904 or daveg@rballiance.com
- **Thursday October 16 – 8 PM – John Nicastro** speaks on “Coin Market Update,” during which he’ll presumably update the club membership on the current state of the coin market. (At least, that’s our guess...)
- **Friday October 17 – 7:30 PM – Rochester Junior Numismatic Association:** Open to any collector 17 or younger. Contact Junior Club advisor Steve Lanzafame at 288-1932 or unpub@aol.com for information.
- **Saturday-Sunday November 1-2 – 31st Annual Coin Show and Sale:** Volunteers needed! See Bill Coe – or just wait for him to find you. He will. (And you won’t regret doing it.)
- **Thursday November 6 – 8 PM – Alec Ollies** speaks on “Maundy Sets”
- **Thursday November 20 – 8 PM – John Bixler** speaks on “Australian Decimal Coinage: Regular Issues and Circulating Commemoratives.”

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. Enter through the Eisenhart or Gannett School doors and follow the signs downstairs to our lower-level meeting room. All are welcome! Call Dave Gottfried at 263-3658 if you need a ride or directions.

RJNA meetings are held in either the ballroom of the Eisenhart Auditorium building or an upstairs classroom at the Gannett School; follow the signs posted on the building’s doors or call Steve Lanzafame at 288-1932 for more information.

The Calendar welcomes meeting notices from other area clubs. Send them to rnanews@fybush.com or PO Box 10056, Rochester NY 14610.

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