

# RNA News

The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

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**Rare 1792 cent makes headlines at ANA – but its owners showed up at Rochester’s McLeod Stamp & Coin first  
PLUS: John Stephens’ big award – and Coin Show 2004**

**October 2004**

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# RNA News

The official journal of the  
Rochester Numismatic Association  
Established January 1912

One of America's oldest local coin clubs

ANA Branch #2  
Life Club #8

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

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Librarian: Jason Childers  
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Darlene Corio, Douglas Musinger  
(2003-2006)  
William D. Coe, Scott Fybush  
(2002-2005)

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

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Off and running...

Well, this 2004-2005 year is off to a busy start. Our meeting on September 2nd held in the RMSC was well attended. We liked the looks of the new cabinets in the Library. Thanks again to David Gottfried, Jason Childers, and Gerry Muhl!

I now have keys to the cabinets so we will have the sign-in book and auction trays out and ready by 7:15 P.M. We tried nametags at this meeting and almost everyone thought it was a good idea. John Zabel will check on the cost of more permanent tags. I am sure our visitors and prospective members will appreciate our wearing them.

A "special RNA board meeting" was held after the regular meeting to discuss the possibility of having a joint show with ESNA in the near future. The spring of 2005 or 2006 is being considered. The Board will met again at 7:30 P.M. before the meeting on September 16 and discussed the issue further with John Cali, Secretary of ESNA and a

member of the RNA.

We recently received a note from Thomas M. Fortunato, Special Events Coordinator/ROPEX, Bourse Chairman, Rochester Philatelic Association, stating that the RPA is in the process of asking

the American Philatelic Society to allow coin dealers into ROPEX June 10-12, 2005. Who knows.... we may end up with a "Mega Show." Keep reading the RNA News for updates! Treasurer Ted Vaccarella has received the treasurer's records from Tom Kraus and is ready to accept your 2004-2005 dues.

Vice President Tom Kraus is still looking for speakers for this year. Please don't hesitate to contact him if you have a

subject you would like to speak on. Secretary Joe Lanzafame has our minutes up to date and is taking care of our correspondence.

I thank them very much for their dedication to the Club!

See you Thursday, October 7 and 21!

*Edie Coe*

**"Treasurer Ted Vaccarella has received the treasurer's records from Tom Kraus and is ready to accept your 2004-2005 dues. Vice President Tom Kraus is still looking for speakers for this year. Please don't hesitate to contact him if you have a subject you would like to speak on. Secretary Joe Lanzafame has our minutes up to date and is taking care of our correspondence."**

# 1792 Cent Makes ANA Headlines – But Do You Know the Rest of the Story?

**Editor's Note:** One of the highlights of the ANA convention in Pittsburgh this summer was the surprise appearance of a heretofore unknown ninth specimen of the "no silver" 1792 cent, Judd 2. While the national numismatic press mentioned that the coin came from a "New York state" owner, there's more to the story.

We're grateful to **Randolph Jones** of *Andy Hale McLeod Stamp & Coin* (we all know him as "Randy," of course, and he's a regular guest at our annual banquets) for sharing the tale of his small but crucial role in bringing this rarity to light.

And thanks to **Donn Pearlman** for our cover photo.

There are times in life when one falls into an exciting situation without even trying. Such an event happened to me this summer.

About ten days before the ANA convention in Pittsburgh (Aug. 18-22), I was behind the counter at McLeod Stamp & Coin Co. in Brighton, when a gentleman and lady entered the store. They approached me and asked if I could appraise a handful of coins for them. There were a few silver dollars, some half dollars and a number of other coins, all of them quite common.

After I finished explaining to them the value of their coins, they thanked me and then stated that they had a question. I invited them to ask, and they explained that they were in possession of a rare and very valuable coin, which they might

want to sell. They explained to me that the coin had been in the family for generations, and that they believed it to be genuine. In the family tree was an ancestor who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and an early governor of the state of Connecticut. They stated their belief that he was probably in the right place at the right time to obtain an example of this early U.S. coin. The coin of which they were speaking was a 1792 silver center cent, the second type, without the silver center.

My immediate reaction was that someone in the family had obtained a forgery of this very rare coin (eight known copies, according to the Red Book, 2005 edition, page 71), and it somehow had entered the family's history as being real. I told them that to sell such a rare and difficult coin, it

would have to be authenticated. They wanted to know how to do that.

I stated they could carefully pack it up, insure it and mail it to PCGS. They seemed uncomfortable with that idea, so I explained that the ANA convention was coming up in Pittsburgh, and that there would not only be experts there who could tell them whether the piece was real, but that the various certification companies normally took tables at such big shows and offered authentication on the spot. They thought that was a good idea, and after jotting down a couple of contact phone numbers I gave them, they thanked me and took their leave.

I didn't hear anything further from them until the Thursday after the ANA convention, when the lady came walking back into the store with a little smile on her face. She proceeded to inform me that they had taken my advice, gone to Pittsburgh and visited the table of PCGS,

where their coin was indeed pronounced genuine, and slabbed right away as a VF30. Not only was it genuine, it was also a previously unknown example, and they felt it was the third finest of the now nine known pieces. She shows me a blown-up photo of the coin, expressed her gratitude with a check to McLeod, thanked me again and made her exit.

She indicated that Heritage auctions would be handling the sale of the piece, though neither *Numismatic News* nor

*Coin World* indicated anything about disposition of the coin. The lady thought Heritage had mentioned \$300,000 to \$400,000 as the estimated value. *Coin World* states experts put the value above \$400,000.

Both *Numismatic News* (Sept. 7, 2004 issue) and *Coin World* (Sept. 6, 2004 issue) have articles on this new discovery in their coverage of the ANA convention. I am eagerly awaiting word on when the coin will come up for auction, and intend to follow up on the eventual price realized for this wonderful new find.

Even though I never actually handled the coin and never saw the piece itself, it was exciting to have been involved peripherally in the discovery and publication of such an exciting early coin.

# John Stephens' Big Exhibit Prize

You may recall that John Stephens, R.N.A. Member # 63, garnered first place in the R.N.A.'s 2003 31st Annual Coin & Stamp Show & Sale Exhibit competition and won the prestigious Alphonse Kolb Best of Show Award with his Apothecary Weights exhibit.

John decided to place it in exhibit at the 2004 Summer American Numismatic Association Money Show at Pittsburgh, PA

in August. This was John's first exhibit at the A.N.A. He called his exhibit "Got Scruples? Introduction to Collecting Apothecary Weights."

John entered his exhibit in ANA exhibit class 14 – General and Specialized. The category had seven other exhibits. The judges evaluated the information presented, the creativity and originality of the exhibit, the completeness, and degree of difficulty in finding the material presented, condition and rarity.

After all the judging, John brought home the bacon. At the September 2, R.N.A. general meeting, John Zabel, R.N.A. Curator and A.N.A. Exhibit Judge, explained what John accomplished.

First, John won First Place in his category (of Apothecary Weights). Secondly, John won Best New Exhibitor. The Best New Exhibitor award is given to a first time exhibitor and is judged independent of the class of the exhibit.

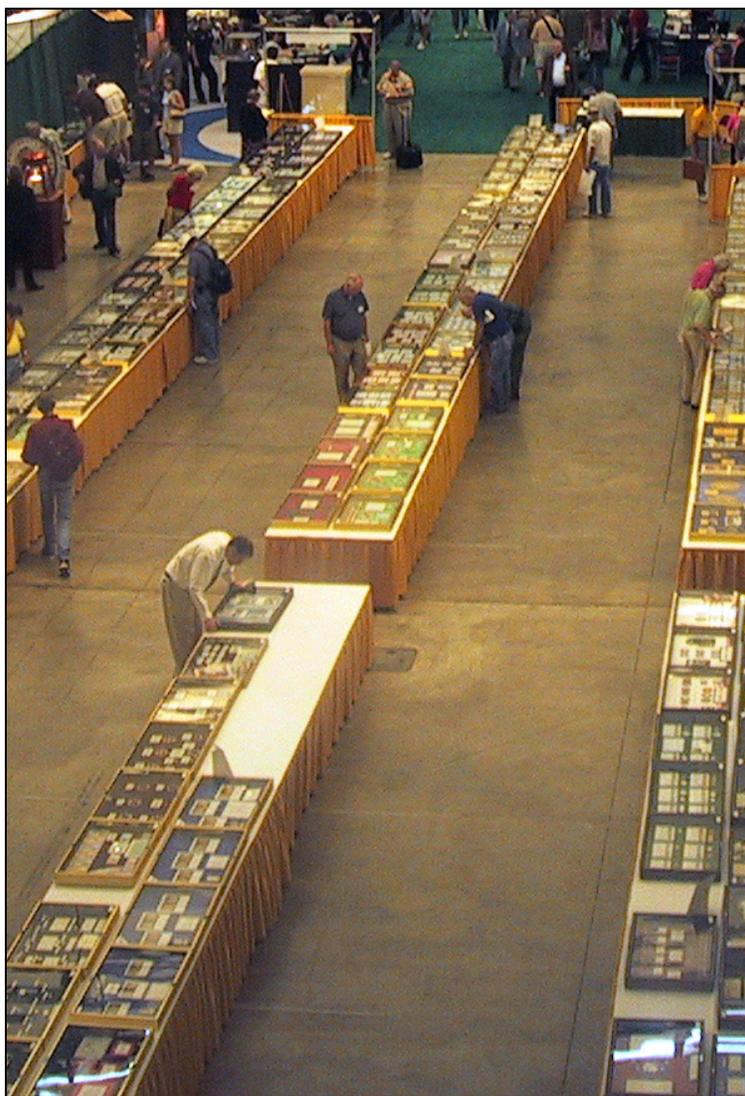
Then, after all of the 25 categories' first place winners were determined, those first place winners were judged against each other by new set of judges to determine the Best of Show awards. The judges looked for how striking the exhibit was, the depth of information presented, how well an novice would understand the exhibit, how unusual the material and presentation were, and the display of the

dedication of the exhibitor to collecting. After all the first place winners were evaluated, John's exhibit was awarded Third Place in Best of Show.

According to John Zabel, it is very difficult for a first time exhibitor to win at all. You can see that as John Stephens piled on the awards, he was defying the odds of winning First Place in Category and Best New Exhibitor. Then to cap it off, to place in the top three of the Best of Show was, indeed, outstanding. We are very proud of John and his accomplishment and say thank you for representing the R.N.A.

At the meeting, John said he really enjoyed the experience, but was mostly thrilled that others enjoyed and appreciated his

efforts at building the exhibit. We think he is quite modest and really is a good exhibitor that we all appreciate having among us.



**ANA conventiongoers view the exhibits – including John's**

# The RNA's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coin Show and Sale

**Saturday, November 6 – 10AM to 5 PM - Sunday, November 7 – 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 Kansas City or San Jose 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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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. We'll also have extra copies of the *RNA News* and information about the club – as well as 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!)

## *Club News and Notes*

### **Our condolences...**

...go out to longtime member **Philip Kates**, on the death of his wife (and fellow RNA member) **Marion Kates**, on September 3.

And the club sends its condolences to former member and past president **Matteo "Pat" Latona**, on the death of his wife of 50 years, **Ruth Latona**, on September 25.

• • •

### **Welcome Home**

One of the RNA's most peripatetic members, **Douglas Borden**, has spent quite a while down south, most recently in Spartanburg, South Carolina. But Doug and Jeanne must have missed those lovely Rochester winters, since they've returned home to upstate New York. By the time you read this, they'll be unpacking boxes in their new patio home in

Greece, and we hope to see them on a more regular basis at club meetings now that they're back.

• • •

### **Speak! Speak!**

That's the command from Vice President **Tom Kraus**, who tells *The Odd Page* that he's still trying to fill the schedule of speakers for the 2004-2005 meeting year. Check in with Tom at a meeting, or see the contact information on page 3 – your club needs you.

• • •

### **Board Meeting**

Your RNA Board will meet on **Tuesday, October 26** at 7 PM at Gerry Muhl's house in Irondequoit. The meeting is open to all members; please contact President **Edie Coe** if you need directions or a ride.

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# The Calendar **October-November**

- **Thursday October 7 – 8 PM – Bill Coe’s eBay Box** Bill learned how to make purchases on eBay last January. He has been active since then and has a small box of miscellaneous items. You are left to imagine what he might have to discuss. He plans an unusual presentation wherein you members will determine exactly what he will feature.
- **Friday October 15 – 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.
- **Thursday October 21 - 8 PM – Scott Fybush** shares what he learned at the ANA Summer Seminar this year, and offers some inspirational words about why you – yes, *you* – should go to Colorado Springs, too.
- **Thursday November 4 – 8 PM – John Bailey** speaks on the RNA’s half-cent collection, after spending the summer studying and cataloging our holdings. Don’t miss this one!
- **Saturday November 6 – Sunday November 7 – RNA’s 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coin Show & Sale** See page 6!
- **Thursday November 18 – 8 PM – Dave Gottfried** talks about his life after leaving the presidency, and reads excerpts from his new autobiography, “My Life,” available now at a bookstore near you.

**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 738-0908 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.**

## ***RNA News***

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Rochester NY 14610-0056**