

The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association



## **A Striking Experience** Junior Club members design, mint medals

PLUS: Counterfeits on display at the fall coin show RNA releases writers medal, Sanders memorial medal

October 2005

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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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#### **FROM THE EDITOR**

### Want to be a writer?

If you were at our packed meeting September 15 (what a turnout!), you got an advance glimpse of the medal you see at the middle of this page.

This lovely piece of work, being struck at the North American Mint even as you read this, is the RNA's new Writers Medal, a close cousin to the Speakers Medal that the club proudly hands out each year at our banquet to anyone who gives a talk at a

club meeting. How do you get one? That's simple - write something that's published in the RNA News! And to make sure that as many of you as possible get to own one of these medals, we here at RNA News (which is basically just "me" here at RNA News) are proud to present a quick

guide to help make writing an article for *RNA News* as simple and easy as possible. So what do you need?

**An idea:** If it's something that interests you and is even vaguely numismatic in theme, we're interested in it at *RNA News*. A great place to start, if you're a speaker at an RNA meeting, is with that topic. Remember, for every RNA member who gets to hear your presentation in person, there are two more who don't. An *RNA News* article is a great way to share your research and expertise with the rest of the club!

**Illustrations:** If you have hi-res JPEGs of the items you're writing about, that's great. If you have no idea what a hi-res JPEG is, that's OK, too. Here at *RNA News* world HQ, we can work with just about any kind of picture (we've even used photocopies, though that's less than ideal) – and we can scan or photograph your coins, medals or what have you to create illustrations, too.

Writing skill: Let's say you just won a Pulitzer, or that you have a monthly column in *Numismatist*. That's great – and yeah, we mean you, Mitch Sanders! But even if all you have are some basic notes from your talk, arranged in a way that makes sense, we here at *RNA News* can work with you to edit that into an interesting article.

**Format:** A Microsoft Word document is ideal, but we're not picky here. Some of our favorite *RNA News* articles originated as typed or even handwritten manuscripts. They may take a little longer to be retyped and to appear in print, but send 'em along anyway – we'll

use them.

Deadlines: We like to get RNA News to you a few days before each meeting. So our deadline for submissions is the Friday after the second meeting of each month. For our November 2005 issue, that's October 21. For December 2005, that's November

18. For January 2006, that's December 16, and so on. Material that's timely will always find space in the next issue if it reaches us by those deadlines. Material that's not of an immediate nature may be held for a future issue.

Any questions? We're here for you – just drop a line to *rnanews@fybush.com* or talk to me at a meeting. There are lots of these medals ready for you – and after your fifth article, you get a gold-plated version. (Oh, and special thanks toGerry Muhl for his hard work getting these medals made!)

Now...hit those keyboards!

A few more notes while I've got you here in what's usually Tom Kraus' space (he's on page 4 this month): *RNA News* welcomes contributions from you in other forms, too. We'll publish your "wanted" ads for free, and if you're a dealer, we offer business-card and larger ads that are an economical way to get the word out to the entire club membership (and beyond – the November issue will have extra copies distributed at the coin show). Just drop us a line if you'd like more information!

> Scott Fybush October 2005 **3**

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT Junior Club members strike own medals

What do puppies, kittens and young numismatists (YNs) have in common? Zest for life; sweet innocence; unbridled enthusiasm? All of the above, and lots more. Our own YNs, members of the Rochester Junior Numismatic Association, have that unbridled enthusiasm for coin collecting. It's fun to witness it at RJNA meetings or when you have a chance encounter in

the coin shop or at a coin show. With encouragement and direction from their advisors, mainly Joseph Lanzafame and Ursula Loose, RJNA members began talking about designing a medal of their own about two years ago.

The junior club had received two gifts of financial support from Richard Nachbar and wanted to use that money wisely for the benefit of all its members.

What began innocently enough with discussions and questions about what kind of a "coin" could be designed – How about a wooden nickel? Could it be the size of a silver dollar? – evolved into a project that spanned over two years, from the fall of 2003 until the summer of 2005.

Many discussions in 2003-04 led to design submissions in the fall of 2004 in which nearly all RJNA members participated. One of the memorable designs was a copy of a Seated Liberty obverse with the head of Ursula, a tribute to her steady support for "her kids" from her kids.

A point in the design process

was reached when our kids needed technical support. It was suggested that a real expert be brought in. Mr. Gerry Muhl had the experience and contacts on medal production and advised the juniors on the size of the medal, what metals to use and how to proceed with some of the design elements. At the last meeting in June, Mr Muhl was authorized to have the medal struck. The plan was to have as many of the RJNA members present at that time as possible. That plan became a reality on September 2nd when nine RJNA members toured the North American Mint and were present for the first striking of the RJNA Medal.

I am extremely proud of our RJNA officers and all

R-J-N-A BST. 1947



RJNA members for completing this project, which was both educational and lots of fun. It would not have been possible without the help and support of the aforementioned advisors and junior club parents and grandparents. I want to extend special thanks to Messrs. Joseph Lanzafame, Gerard Muhl, Richard Nachbar and Frau Ursula Loose. Congratulations, RJNA for a job well done. I am looking forward to your medal sale at the upcoming RNA show.

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Directors and officers, please note that we plan on having our second board meeting at 7PM, just prior to our next RNA meeting on Thursday, October 6. All RNA members are invited to this meeting. All board meetings are open to any RNA members.

Members, we need your help in making the RNA run smoothly. We need as many volunteers as possible to help with our activities. We need help at meetings, at the upcoming show, and in

planning and executing future events. Bring a friend to a club meeting or to our fall show. Consider sharing your numismatic knowledge with our YNs, and catch their spirit. The next RJNA meeting is October 21st. I hope to see you soon.





Photos by Tom Kraus (top left) The RJNA at the North American Mint (above) Sam Kashtan strikes a medal (left) Ryan Conrad shows off his newly struck medals (below) Gerry Muhl explains the minting process (on the cover) John Lewis adds to the RJNA medal collection



#### AT THE COIN SHOW Can you spot the counterfeits?

#### By Richard N. Nachbar

Do you know how to tell if the "S" mint mark on your prized 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent is original, or if it was added to a much more common Philadelphia strike? Would you like to examine eight different altered examples in one sitting so that you can master the difference?

Or how about that "D" mint mark on your 1916 Mercury dime? Did Denver put it there in 1916, or did some con artist affix it several decades later? Would you benefit from studying eight alterations of this key date, again all in one sitting?

How about die-struck counterfeits, from a 1795 Flowing Hair half dollar to several different Trade dollars and gold type coins – from dollars to Double Eagles?

Yes, these and many more counterfeit and altered U.S. coins will be on display at the upcoming RNA Convention on Saturday, November 5. But unlike some other exhibits, this one will be interactive – meaning that you can ask to see various coins and examine them yourselves with your favorite magnifying glass to learn as much as you can, hands on! A small microscope will also be available for your use. Can you tell an original 1949 Mint Set from a much less valuable put-together set? How about a 1936 Proof Set made up of skillfully polished business strikes? Colonial coins, world crowns, ancients, even U.S. Silver Eagles dated 1905, 1906 and 1908 (yes, you read correctly) are included in this special one-day-only exhibit. How has all this been made possible?

Since establishing my business over 30 years ago, it has been my policy to remove from the marketplace all counterfeit and altered coins passing through my hands from collections and estates that I have purchased. I used to donate them to the ANA for use in their counterfeit detection seminars, but they have told me they now have more than they can use. So I have saved several hundred thousand dollars "worth" of these coins in the past few years for a potential educational exhibit of my own. This will be only the second time that these coins will be on display, having debuted October 1, 2005 at the BNA show in Buffalo.

Please see my assistant Francisco Perez at my booth at the show – Saturday only – and remember to bring your best loupes!

#### The Odd Page News and Notes from All Over

#### **Ricard honored in person with life membership**

Among the members present at our September 15 meeting was member #1 himself, Charles J. Ricard, in town from his home in Illinois for a visit.

And while Charlie was present for the meeting, the club was pleased to present him with a certificate naming him an honorary life member.



That's a rare privilege, but one that members bestowed on Charlie by a vote at the annual meeting in June. Charlie is now one of only two life members in the club. (The other is Ed Quagliana, who was with us at the picnic and who was featured in this spot in September's *RNA News.*)

Shown above is past president Edie Coe, presenting the certificate to Charlie.

#### **Club issues Sanders memorial medal**

It's been a busy fall so far for the RNA when it comes to medals. There's the new writers medal (page 3), which will be made in both silver- and gold-plated versions. There's the RJNA medal (pages 4-5), which will be available in silver, silver clad and gold-plated versions. In addition, the September 15 meeting featured a preview of the Jim Sanders memorial medal, which will be available in October.

The medal was designed by Gerry Muhl and features a Roman head on the obverse, with the legend "IN MEMORY OF/JAMES SANDERS."

It shares a common reverse with the speakers and writers medals, featuring the interlocked letters "R N A" in the center and the legend "ROCHESTER NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION" surrounding it. Ordering details on the Sanders medal (as well as the RJNA medals) will be available in the November *RNA News*; they'll also be available at the RNA's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coin Show and Sale, November 5 and 6.



**Gerry Muhl's Numismatic Almanac** 

October 1, 1957 One-dollar silver certificates bearing the motto "In God We Trust" first placed in circulation. October 1, 1979 American Arts Gold Medallion Act goes into effect. Subjects of these gold medals include Grant Wood, Marian Anderson, Mark Twain and Willa Cather. October 6, 1972 U.S. Assay Commission abolished. How many R.N.A. members were on it? October 6, 1983 Mexican branch mint opened at San Luis Potosi. October 9, 1962 Gold U.S. Mint medal struck for General Douglas MacArthur. October 10, 1978 Susan B. Anthony dollar approved. Were you there the following July when they were first issued in Rochester? (Yes, at age 7, with my grandfather! – Editor) October 11, 1974 Congress OKs one-cent composition change. It didn't take place until 1982! October 12, 1936 William Forrester Dunham dies. Among the coins he once owned — 1804 dollar, 1822 five-dollar gold and 1852 half-cent! October 16, 1962 U.S. Mint strikes 250th Anniversary Padre Junipero Serra medals. Can you bring one to an RNA meeting? October 16, 1933 President Roosevelt announces he will devalue the dollar by 40.94% by raising the official gold price to \$35 per ounce. October 17, 1975 Mint strikes General Chuck Yeager medal. October 17, 1968 Law passed for the striking of Mint medal commemorating 150th anniversary of Memphis. October 18, 1973 West Point granted right to coin money. October 25, 1945 President Truman signs law for Presidential Coat-of-Arms (actually used since 1880). It is found on reverse of Kennedy Half Dollars. October 28, 1986 Bicentennial of U.S. Constitution coins approved. Bring one to the October 20 meeting if you have it!

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## **The Calendar October - November**

- Thursday October 6 8 PM Doug Borden speaks on "U.S. Space Stamps." This is Doug's 27<sup>th</sup> talk to the RNA since he joined in 1963, and it's also a demonstration on the use of PowerPoint to create an interesting visual talk. *There will be a board meeting at 7 PM, preceding the regular meeting. All members are welcome!*
- Thursday October 20 8 PM Dan White speaks. Perhaps we'll hear about his experiences at the ANA's Summer Seminar this year, or maybe he'll share details about the exciting life of an ANA regional rep. Stay tuned!
- Friday October 21 7:30 PM Rochester Junior Numismatic Association Know someone 17 or younger who is interested in numismatics? Why not bring them to the first RJNA meeting of the year? Or just show up and join in the "Stump the Advisor" fun.
- Saturday-Sunday, November 5-6 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual RNA Coin and Stamp Show and Sale All the details in November's issue but in the meantime, chairman Bill Coe reminds you that now is the time to think about presenting an exhibit at the show. Contact Bill for additional details!
- Thursday November 3 8 PM Mitch Sanders speaks on "The Meaning of Money: Mexico"
- Thursday November 17 8 PM Scott Fybush speaks on "The Panama-Pacific Commemoratives"
- Additional fall 2005 meetings: December 1, December 15

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* Rochester Numismatic Association PO Box 10056 Rochester NY 14610-0056