

# RNA News

The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association



## Coin Show Wrap-Up

**PLUS: Numismatic Fiction • An Editorial Transition**

**Spring 2011**

November 2, 2010

**Richard:**

I apologize for my tardy thank you for the great work you did in liquidating a portion of my coin portfolio this past summer.

I was very pleased that you would take on my opportunity and make it a priority at this year's American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money in Boston.

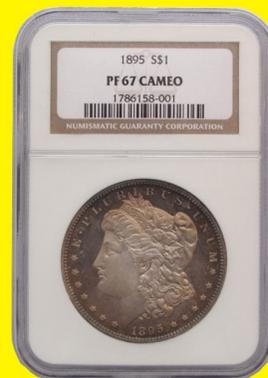
Thank you for your expertise, your hard work, your fairness and the prices realized.

I would be willing to recommend you and your services to anyone you would desire to put me in contact with.

Sincerely,

**T.L.J., Wisconsin**

“THANK YOU FOR  
THE GREAT WORK  
YOU DID.”



Toll Free 1-877-622-4227 [www.coinexpert.com](http://www.coinexpert.com)

**Richard Nachbar**  
SATISFYING SERIOUS COLLECTOR SELLERS SINCE 1973  
**RARE COINS**



5820 Main Street, Suite 601  
Williamsville, NY 14221, Fax 716-635-9762  
Email: [nachbar@coinexpert.com](mailto:nachbar@coinexpert.com)

# 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

Newsletter Editors:  
Scott and Lisa Fybush  
rmanews@fybush.com

#### 2010-2011 Officers:

**President:** Peter Blaisdell  
pfbaisdell@yahoo.com

**Vice President:** Chip Scoppa  
cscoppa@rochester.rr.com

**Treasurer:** John Vicaretti

**Secretary:** John Lighthouse  
jlighthouse1@rochester.rr.com

**Curator:** John Zabel  
**Librarian:** John Bailey  
**Historian:** Gerard Muhl

#### Board of Directors:

Jim Ford, Paul Taylor  
(2010-2013)

Dennis DeYoung, Sharon Miller  
(2009-2012)

Grant Hobika, Arthur D. Cohen  
(2008-2011)

Visit the RNA Web site:

[www.the-rna.com](http://www.the-rna.com)

P.O. Box 10056

Rochester NY 14610-0056

Material published in RNA News is  
copyright by its authors or by the  
Rochester Numismatic Association, and  
may not be reproduced without  
permission of the author or the RNA. All  
rights reserved.

## FROM THE EDITOR

# All Good Things...

Nine years ago this month, I was serving as the RNA's president when a crisis arose – our secretary resigned for family reasons, and there was a sudden urgent need for a newsletter.

So I produced one...then kept producing one for nearly a decade thereafter.

It's now time to hand off that responsibility.

My life has become more complicated in the years since I took over as "ad hoc" newsletter editor, and you've seen a couple of those complications attending RNA and RJNA meetings. Add to that the stresses of running a struggling small business from home and throw in a peck of health problems for Lisa, who graciously came on board a few years back as co-editor, and the continued responsibility of producing the *RNA News* six times a year has become just a little more than we can continue right now, especially as I take on responsibility for a centennial history of our club.

In stepping down, somewhat reluctantly, from that responsibility, there's also something of a call to action: For all of the kind words so many RNA members have offered about the newsletter over the last few years, a certain amount of action has been missing. A few members have carried nearly all the weight of contributing articles (and we've been grateful for all of them!), but other promised items never materialized, alas.

And in recent months, it's

become a challenge even to get some of the regular features you're accustomed to seeing in the *RNA News*.

For instance, from the beginning the back page has featured a list of upcoming speakers – but if you look at the last issues, you'll see far too many "To Be Announced" topics and "Speaker Needed" listings. That can't help but lower attendance at meetings. If you haven't given a talk in a while, check with our vice president, Chip Scoppa, and sign up. Your club will thank you.

As for the newsletter, it will continue in modified form. Several members have expressed interest in producing a new version of the *RNA News*, and Lisa and I hope to remain involved in a limited capacity, to the extent our time permits.

Interested in helping out? Please come join us for a discussion at **7 p.m. on Thursday, February 17**, prior to the regular meeting.

We'll be discussing the new form a newsletter can take, as well as how to better integrate it with the website at *the-rna.com*, where Tim Corio's been doing a great job building a useful resource for our club.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to serve you with nine years of *RNA News*. If this newsletter has been enjoyable to you, the best possible way to thank your editors – and your club – would be to consider how you, too, can contribute something of your time and energy to making our club even stronger as we head into our centennial year.

*Scott and Lisa Fybush*

# Halloween doesn't scare away numismatic customers

by Bill Coe

Though it was a week earlier than usual, the RNA's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show and Sale still drew heavy attendance, and the dealers still flooded the Rochester Museum & Science Center's Eisenhart Auditorium. Approximately 400 people attended the show.

In addition to a floor packed with dealers, the stage was full of numismatic exhibits and educational displays, coordinated by Gerry Muhl and John Zabel. Zabel, an ANA-qualified judge, chose "Money That Circulated During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Rochester," which featured both

currency and coins, as the Alphonse Kolb Memorial Best-of-Show winner. Muhl, who has been a member since May 13, 1969, and is the current club historian, took home the plaque.

RNA members won all the prizes from the end-of-show drawing.

Eric Miller was the winner of the 1914-D 2 1/2 dollar gold coin. Carl Klapp received the \$50 cash and Andy Brennan took home the \$25.

The club publicized the show in the *RNA News*, *Coin World*, *Numismatic News* and the *Numismatist*. At least one local TV crew came to report on the show.

Several club members helped with the various activities needed to put on the show. A specific list is shown on the next page of this issue, and we thank every one of you.

4 RNA News

The project that the dealers seemed to appreciate the most was the delicious, affordable lunches prepared by Tim and Darlene Corio and their committee. We know that their efforts put a very good face on the RNA. Thanks to all who helped them make the deliveries.

Another feature the dealers comment favorably on is the fact that the RNA is the only group to help them carry their coins into the auditorium. Thanks to all who helped with this function.

Once again, we thank the former McLeod Stamp and Coin Co. (Ursula Loose), Richard Nachbar Rare Coins,

John Cooper, and Douglas Musinger's Brighton Tokens and Coins for providing the door prizes, and Wayne Scheible for underwriting the cost of the program booklets.

When members weren't working, they had an opportunity to visit more than 30 dealers at

one time and in one place, a benefit that club members receive every year with the RNA's show. Not only did they have a chance to look at the coins before they purchased them, but they also were able to have multiple dealers give opinions on coins they had for sale.

Thanks for another successful coin show. The RNA's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show & Sale will take place November 5 & 6, 2011, in the same location. It is not too early to begin to plan your exhibit for that show.

*Show credits appear on the next page.*



**Randy Jones of Brighton Token and Coin talks with fellow RNA members Bill Coe, Donovan Shilling and John Lighthouse at the coin show**

# Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2010 Coin Show!

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual RNA Coin Show and Sale could not have happened without the dedicated volunteering efforts of many coin club members. Here's who made the show happen:

**Dealers:** Randy Jones, Richard Leenhouts, Arthur D. Cohen, Tom Kwasnik, Dan White, Grant Hobika, Joe Mantione, Andy Mantione, Doug Musinger, Robert Buechel, Michael Taylor

**Hospitality:** Darlene Corio, John Zabel, Gerry Muhl, Tim Corio, Ralph Dintruff, Edie Coe, Tom Adams, Earl Gurell, Scott Fybush, Lisa Fybush, Sheryl Zabel, Chip Scoppa, John Cali, Rick Kase, Ted Vaccarella, Paul Taylor, Zane Dick, Joe Hanna, Jeff LaPlante, Jane Dintruff

**Table Set-Up Crew:** Gerry Muhl, John Bixler, Doug Musinger, Bill Coe, Tim Corio, Darlene Corio, John Kellas III, Patrick Flynn

**Dealer Carry-In Crew:** Tim Corio, Darlene Corio, Tom Adams, John Bixler, Steve Eisinger, Chip Scoppa, Lysle Young, John Bailey, Ken Traub, John Lighthouse, Lew Hyde, Jr., Jim Schmitt, Patrick Flynn, Scott Fybush

**Dealer Carry-Out and Table Knock-Down Crew:** Tim Corio, Darlene Corio, John Bixler, Tom Adams, Chip Scoppa, Steve Eisinger, Zane Dick, Paul Taylor, Ken Traub, Keith Bock, Jim Grabowski

**Exhibits:** Gerry Muhl, Chip Scoppa, John Zabel, Ken Traub, Jeff LaPlante

**Ads in Program:** Doug Musinger, John Cooper, Bill Coe, Wayne Scheible, Tom Kwasnik, Joe Mantione, Michael Omeluch

**Program Ad Sales:** Ursula Loose

**Program Setup and Printing:** Wayne Scheible, Bill Coe

**Posters, Post Cards and Dealers List:** John Cooper, Bill Coe

**Rochester Philatelic Association:** Rick Kase, John Cali

**Table Sales:** Ursula Loose, Bill Coe

**Post Card Addressing, Name Badges, Table Assignments and Signs:** Tim Corio, Bill Coe, John Bixler, Gerry Muhl

**Door Prize Donations:** Doug Musinger, John Cooper, Richard Nachbar

**Master of Ceremonies and Drawing Ticket Sales:** Darlene Corio

**Drawing Ticket Coordinator and Sales:** Darlene Corio plus Hospitality Crew

**Coffee Supplies, Donuts, Bagels and Cleanup:** Doug Musinger, Bill Coe, Edie Coe, Tim Corio, Darlene Corio

**Dealer Lunches – Purchase and Presentation:** Tim Corio, Darlene Corio, Edie Coe, Lisa Fybush, Ted Vaccarella, Sharon Miller, Bob Adams, Jeff LaPlante

**Publicity:** John Cooper, Gerry Muhl, Scott Fybush, Lisa Fybush, Bill Coe

**Videos and Educational Forum:** Ursula Loose, John Zabel, Bill Coe

**Show Banners Development and Placement:** Gerry Muhl

**Exhibits Coordinator, Cases and Kolb Best of Show Award Plaque:** Gerry Muhl, John Zabel, John Bixler, John Kellas III

**Waste Baskets and Paper Bags:** Tim Corio, Darlene Corio, Mike Luck, Bill Coe

**Spark Plug (Program Advertising):** Ursula Loose

**Treasurer and Correspondent (Including Prize Disbursement and Thank-You Letters):** Bill Coe



# The Coin Club Murders

By Steven Eisinger

Gobrecht loved the coin club. He went to every meeting. He bought and sold coins, but only when the price was right and he was screwing someone else. He had been a member for 50 years. The coin club was his life.

But there was a problem. Gobrecht was number 4. Now, the number is very important. When one joins the club a number is assigned – the highest number of all the active members. Fifty years ago Gobrecht was given the number 127. Every year some members resign or let their memberships expire, thus losing their numbers. Then the remaining members move down in number. Since most of the members are crotchety old men, the mortality rate is high. Over the years, Gobrecht's number had become lower and lower until now after 50 years he was number 4. Only three members had lower numbers. It was an honor to be number 4.

But Gobrecht hated being number 4. He wanted to be number 1. Not a day, not an hour passed that Gobrecht didn't think about it and hope for another member demise to move him down a notch.

His chance of ever becoming number 1 was not good. The current number 1 was Augustus, a decrepit, deaf and half-senile old geezer who proclaimed poverty but had a million dollars in ancient coins secreted under his floor boards, and whose favorite expression at meetings was a bellowed "What say, young numismamismatist?" His wispy white hair drifted away from his head in all directions. He emitted the musty odor of old wet books. He looked like he might go on forever. Gobrecht despised Augustus.

But one day Augustus was found murdered in his own ramshackle house, buried under a great pile of his own ancient coins. The police were baffled. Naturally Gobrecht moved down to number 3.

The new number 1 was Isobella, a flatulent and blind old hag who came to meetings with a white cane, dressed in rags and pushing an old shopping cart around with her worldly possessions in it, including her coins. Isobella loved pennies. She had trained her guide dog to sniff out pennies on the street, and she would crawl about in the dirt searching for hours if need be. She was said to have put together many years ago a perfect mint state set of Lincoln wheaties from circulation. Gobrecht loathed Isobella.

It looked like she might go on for a long time, but then one day she was found murdered, choked on handfuls of 1877 Indian Heads, 1909 S VDBs and 14 Ds. The police cast about hopelessly for clues. Gobrecht moved down to number 2.

The new number 1 was Longacre, a despicable man. In appearance he was porcine, with tiny little close-set eyes and great sweaty rolls of pale flesh bulging out from his neck and belly. He never changed his socks, so his feet smelled. He wore a perpetual scowl and expressed himself in sarcastic

profanities. His fortune derived from a string of pornography shops. Longacre lusted for gold. He proclaimed to the club that he owned thousands of gold coins. But he never hesitated to buy more, outbidding Gobrecht at the auction on more than one occasion. Gobrecht held Longacre in deepest disdain.

Longacre, despite his lower number, was younger than Gobrecht. Prospects for him dying first were slim. Of this he reminded Gobrecht at every meeting of the coin club, usually by chortling, "eat your heart out, fish-face," then chanting, "I'm number wuuu-uuun," in a sing-song voice. But die he did, of mysterious causes, found lying supine in his bed with arms outstretched. In his left hand was a splendid 1933 St. Gaudens double eagle. In his right hand was the gorgeous 1933 eagle. Over each eye was a magnificent example of the 1915 Panama Pacific Expo 50-dollar gold pieces, one round, the other octagonal. It had the look of murder. The police were confused. Thus, upon Longacre's death, Gobrecht at last moved down to number 1.

Oh! The joy! Number 1 at last. Gobrecht strutted and preened at the first meeting after his ascension. He delighted in reminding everyone that he was now number 1 by waving his outstretched finger in the air. Now they'd better show him some respect. The bliss!

Yet a sound aroused him. It was a laugh or a snort, issuing from behind him. It was Barber, the new number 2. Barber! A more horrid man did not walk the earth! He was shifty, nasty, deceitful and malodorous under the arms. He was said to have amassed a great collection of error coins, and indeed he resembled an error himself. His head was greatly misshapen, and he drooled and sputtered when he emitted his evil laugh. He was scrawny and cadaverous, stooped in the shoulders, shrunken in the chest, yet bulbous in the abdomen. An uglier or meaner man did not exist. He had once sold Gobrecht a wooden nickel that turned out to be plastic. Gobrecht was disgusted by the new number 2.

"Har, har, huk, huk, yuk," Barber said. "Think you're pretty fancy-dancy being number 1, do you? How long do you think you will last? What kind of coins are in your death-bed collection? Yuk, yuk, yuk, yurk, yurk, sppfftt! Snghgh!" he sprayed Gobrecht gleefully.

An invisible icy hand clutched Gobrecht's heart. Could such perfidy and betrayal exist in the world? He had not imagined! Just as he had achieved his lifelong goal, now came the threat of losing all. And the embarrassment! He pictured himself lying dead on a bed of coins. What if people discovered that his collection included thousands of colored Kennedy half dollars from the Franklin Mint, and elongated cents from Disney World? His hand began to sweat on the Chinese counterfeit coin that he planned to sell at the auction.

# Club News and Notes

From RNA member **Nicholas Graver**:

## **Wanted: Thoughts and stories on the replacement of worn-out U.S. coins.**

We know that old and tattered paper currency is shredded and sold in various forms by the U.S. government gift shops at the mints, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and at the government displays at major coin shows.

The picture is not so clear regarding official policy on recycling worn and mutilated coins. What actually happens when one tries to get coins replaced can be an interesting saga.

Official policy for replacing American coins is not universally well understood, and what happens sometimes might surprise or amuse you.

I would love to hear from RNA members who have had experience in this area, especially amusing anecdotes that will help this “feeler” become an interesting article or lecture.

Please contact me at 276 Brooklawn Drive, Rochester 14618 or at [ngraver@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ngraver@rochester.rr.com).

• • •

It is time to place orders for the **Steven H. Eisinger** 98th RNA President medal. Each member who was a “member-in-good-standing” during the year that Steve was president (July 2009 through June 2010) is eligible for one copy of the bronze medal. They may order additional copies. New members who are not yet eligible to receive a medal may also order copies of the bronze. Last year’s price for the bronze medal was \$17 each; the price is expected to be in that range again for the Eisinger medal, which will be revealed and presented at the annual banquet in May 2011.

The club is also taking orders for copies of the medal minted in .999 fine silver. The 2009 John Stephens silver

medal (presented in May 2010) sold for \$60. The price of silver has gone from \$17.63/ounce to nearly \$30/ounce since then. That will put the 2.5 ounce silver medals in the \$100 range, counting manufacturing charges.

Orders will be taken during at the next meeting. Members may also call **Bill Coe** at 585-865-7992 (leave a voice mail message if there is no answer) or email [billcoe@juno.com](mailto:billcoe@juno.com) as soon as possible.

• • •

Several RNA members added an interesting volume to their numismatic bookshelves a couple of years ago: *Agricultural and Mechanical Society Award Medals of the United States*. The book was produced by **Andrew Harkness** with **Tim Corio**, and it contained a plethora of research on a topic that’s long been Andy’s passion.

Since that volume was released, Andy and Tim have done even more work on the topic, and now they’re out with *Agricultural and Mechanical Society Award Medals of the United States, Second Edition*.

The new volume is available at lulu.com, either as a printed volume (in full color, for \$75) or as a free online read. The latter version, Andy says, is a gift to RNA members who might enjoy reading the volume online. (It’s also available in the RNA library!)

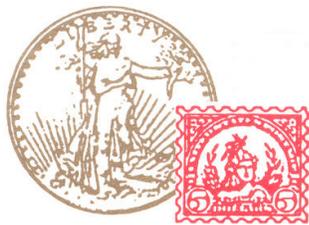
• • •

The RNA is sad to report that the grandson of **John** and **Terry Nicastro**, **Anthony Poselovich**, died November 8, 2010 at the age of 4 ½. He was diagnosed with cancer when he was 6 months old, and it had been on and off ever since. A memorial Mass was held for him at Assumption Church in Fairport on November 13. Anthony’s parents are **Jason** and **Catherine (Nicastro) Poselovich**. They have a younger son, **Andre**.

## New Members Corner

Since the November/December issue of the RNA News, the following person has joined the RNA:

**Jim J. Grabowski, Webster NY**



**RIDGE COIN & STAMP**  
LIFE MEMBER ANA – RNA – FUN  
**ridgecns@aol.com**

FULL SERVICE DEALERSHIP SPECIALIZING IN  
RARE COINS – BANK APPRAISALS – GOLD/SILVER  
ESTATE LIQUIDATIONS – CONSULTATION  
**585-342-8206** –2064 East Ridge Rd., Rochester, NY 14622  
**MICHAEL OMELUCH, Professional Numismatist**

# The Calendar **Spring 2011**

- **Thursday, February 17 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** Howard Greenwald will talk about what happens "When Money Dies"
- **Friday, February 18 - 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting**
- **Thursday, March 3 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** The club will present a video by Scott Fybush and David Gottfried of **Doug Borden's** talk on "The Bluenose"
- **Thursday, March 17 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** Grant Hobika will speak
- **Friday, March 18 - 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting**
- **Thursday, April 7 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** John and Sheryl Zabel will give a presentation
- **Friday, April 15 - 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting**
- **Thursday, April 21 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** Susie Scoppa will talk about the "Founding of Rome"
- **Thursday, May 5 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** Grant Hobika will give another talk
- **Thursday, May 19 - 7 PM - RNA Meeting** Come eat pizza and see the **Meinhart Speakers Contest!**
- **Friday, May 20 - 6 PM - RNA Annual Banquet** Eat, drink and socialize at Fairport's Green Lantern Inn
- **Thursday, June 2 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** The RNA Scavenger Hunt Reports
- **Thursday, June 16 - 8 PM - RNA Meeting** Get your cash out for the club's annual auction!
- **Friday, June 17 - 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting**

**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 Joe Lanzafame at 288-1932 for more information.**

**The Calendar welcomes meeting notices from other area clubs. Send them to [rnanews@fybush.com](mailto:rnanews@fybush.com) or PO Box 10056, Rochester NY 14610.**