

RNA News

September - October 2014



Pictured at the RNA Picnic on August 24: (Standing) - R Dintruff, T Vaccarella, G Fekete, J Childers, T Corio, S Eisinger, G Vaccarella, W Coe, T Kwasnik, R Kase, D Corio, J Nash, G Muhl, J Zabel, S Zabel, R Kuntz, J Lighthouse, W Scheible, P Scheible, A Eddy, B Vaccarella, J Muhl, & S Miller; Front: D White & C Scoppa
Photo courtesy of Sharon Miller

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is coming to a close. I hope everyone saved some time for rest and relaxation. Soon we will have a change of seasons and that begins another year in numismatics.

Seven adults and one guest traveled to Chicago, IL from Aug. 5th to 9th to attend the *ANA World's Fair of Money* Convention. Charles Ricard, Member No. ONE, was presented with a one-of-a-kind silver Napoleonic medal designed by Gerry Muhl. We wanted to show Charles how much we appreciated his service over the years. Next came the show floor which was buzzing with activity. Dealers came from California on the west to Europe on the east. Even one of our own dealers, Andrew Harkness, was there. Lots of slabbed gold coins and paper money were displayed. Did you ever see a \$10,000 bill? One was there. The John F. Kennedy gold coins commemorating 50 Years of the Kennedy Half Dollar set off such a frenzy that after two days, the U.S. Mint discontinued sales. Lots to see and lots to buy. My hope was that everyone came away with at least one coin for their collection.

It was announced at the Award Banquet held Thursday evening that Scott Fybush received an award from *The Numismatic Literary Guild* as having the "Best Paper Money Article in 2013" which appeared in *Coinage* Magazine. Congratulations, Scott!

Next came the RNA picnic held at *White Brook Nature Area* in Perinton. What fabulous weather we had! A beautiful cake was provided by George Fekete to honor our immediate past president, John Lighthouse. Then we had another beautiful cake for Ralph Dintruff's 81st birthday. Happy Birthday, Ralph! Last, but not least, an ice cream truck arrived and everyone received their choice of ice cream (even **Fools Gold** was offered) and toppings. What RNA picnic wouldn't be complete without an auction? And after all this, Steve Eisinger led several on a nature hike. With close to thirty people in attendance, great weather and good food made this picnic a memorable one.

In closing, I have one more item. Have you heard rumors or "grape vine talk" that changes are forthcoming about our meeting days and times with the *Rochester Museum and Science Center* (RMSC)? Our Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Bill Coe, Gerry Muhl, and Roger Kuntz has finished their work. Now the Board has to decide what will work best for our members. We will still continue to meet at our regular times and days thru December 31st. Schedule changes, if any, will take place beginning in 2015 and may be on a short-term or long-term basis. I'll keep you posted as details develop.

Until next time,

Sharon Miller

The Charles Ricard Medal; Sharon Miller presented the medal to Charlie at the ANA meeting in Chicago.



Photos courtesy of John Zabel

Forty-second Annual

C O I N

Show and Sale

November 8 & 9, 2014

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FEATURING: Educational Forums

Rochester Museum & Science Center — Eisenhart Auditorium

657 East Avenue

Rochester, NY 14607

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

Obviously, it is hoped by the Coin Show Committee that every R.N.A. member will take advantage of this opportunity to visit several coin 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 other club members better.

Sign-up sheets will be sent around for the various activities for which we need help. Please show up at the Show and be as generous with your time as you can. Several types of activities and many time frames are available. Over the years, the R.N.A. 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.

Club News and Notes

2014 - 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!

Dues: Family or individual (life member none)	\$ <u> 25 </u>
Please mail my Presidential Medal (add \$3)	_____
Donation (RNA is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the IRS Code) . . .	_____
Total amount enclosed	\$ _____

-- Pay the Treasurer at any meeting in September --

Please make checks payable to RNA; mail to **RNA, PO Box 10056, Rochester, NY 14610-0056**

RNA President 101 John Lighthouse on the Making of his Medal

Most people that know me well know that I have little patience. With that in mind, the tale of my presidential medal was a true test of my patience. Bill Coe can attest to the various communications on the topic. He has the patience that I lack. There are three key parts to the medal process: the photographs, the design and the minting. The photographs began with...."the old photographer moved and we have a new one we know nothing about." So, I am the guinea pig...patience is slipping away right from the start. Well, as it turns out, the new photographer did a great job. The next step is the design with Bill Durand who takes the photographs and tries to make everyone look great. Well, he is working on a large labor union job so this part now takes longer than anticipated...patience slipping away. Time to call Bill Coe.

Of course, my desire to have an artifact (a lighthouse) included in the medal design didn't help. Why Not!!! Finally, the design part is done and Bill & I take it over to the North American Mint. A great bunch of people. Well, we find out that they will be moving their operations to a new facility off Lexington Ave....patience gone and panic sets in. The move was supposed to happen in March but it was mid-April before the move was complete. This is one month prior to the banquet. Finally, on May 2nd, Bill and I meet at the new NAM facility which is much larger than the old one. I struck 5 copper medals – they were gorgeous. Billy then mentioned that all the medals will be sent to Chicago for finishing. They were to be back in Rochester 2 days before the banquet. Now I have to rely on some shipping company to deliver the medals on time. The rest is history. The medals were back on time for the banquet so I survived the test of my patience.

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Did you move recently?
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Please let the Secretary know so there is no interruption in delivery of the newsletter or special notices.
Thank you!

RNA COIN SHOW AND SALE

It's time to start planning your RNA Coin Show

Exhibit for November 8 & 9, 2014.

Use more than one display case, if necessary.

Each case size is 32 X 20 X 1.75 inches.

Let's see some great displays!



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Hours:
May - December

Mon, Wed, Thurs,
10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday
10:00am - 7:00pm

Club News and Notes (continued)

Member Survey: Enclosed again with the newsletter this month is a short Member Survey. If you didn't find the time to complete it during the summer, your participation now would be appreciated. Mail the survey to RNA during September or return it to any RNA officer at either one of the September 2014 meetings.

Did You Know...? Between 1937 and 1939 while working in a Waterbury, Connecticut bank, our late past RNA President **Douglas Borden** (member #2) searched over one million coins. Doug found a complete set of Lincoln Cents (8 - 1914D, 3 - 1909S VDB, and one 1931S). He also assembled complete sets of Buffalo nickels and of Liberty nickels (including 3 - 1885 and 3 - 1912 S). Doug also gathered a complete set of Mercury dimes and other scarce coins including a 1916 Standing Liberty quarter in about fine condition!

RNA News

Established January 1912

One of America's oldest local coin clubs

American Numismatic Association,

Branch #2, Life Club #8

Meetings:

Rochester Museum &

Science Center

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American Numismatic Society

Royal Canadian Numismatic

Association

Token and Medal Society

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Visit us at : www.the-rna.com

Rochester Numismatic Association

P.O. Box 10056

Rochester NY 14610-0056

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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. The auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. Enter through the Eisenhart or Gannett School doors and follow the signs downstairs to the lower-level meeting room. All are welcome! If you have difficulty with stairs ask the receptionist in the auditorium for elevator directions.

Rochester Junior Numismatic Association (RJNA) meetings are also held in the lower level meeting room at Eisenhart Auditorium; for more information, call RJNA advisor Joe Lanzafame at 585-314-1240 for more information.

From HAT to RAT and Beyond

By Andrew Harkness, RNA President - 1983

Famous token and medal collector Steve Tanenbaum and I became friends immediately upon joining the RNA in the early 1970's. I moved here to work for New York State. He came to Xerox with a newly minted master's degree from M.I.T.

We specialized in collecting exnumia, became friendly competitors and had a flexible partnership at shows. We did the RNA, Dome, Cherry Hill (NJ) and Chicago Exnumia shows.

Occasionally we would join in a day of bar and business hopping. On these trips we didn't have a drink! Not one. Steve would plan the trip; we would take a day off from work and go to various bars and businesses. We were searching for "good for" tokens and metal store cards. These trips were very fruitful. We got the left-over tokens; sometimes a boxful of obsolete pieces. These tokens made for a number of articles in the Tokens and Medal Society Journal (TAMS).

Xerox downsizing in Rochester ended our partnership. Steve moved back to Brooklyn where he became a full-time dealer, collector and researcher. He soon had a new partner in Richard Rossa. This partnership ended after fifteen years.

Steve became an authority on many hobby subjects, being quoted in numerous books and periodicals. We remained close through the years. Steve was unmarried and able to spend all of his spare time studying and searching.

Three years ago Steve was run down by a criminal who was running from the police. His estate revealed world-class collections, especially Civil War tokens. A lot of us miss Steve.

But what about 'HAT' and 'RAT' - think "partnership:" Harkness and Tanenbaum, and Rossa and Tanenbaum.

* * * * *

Photo: The 1974 RNA Coin Show: Ed Gilroy (RNA President, 1961) buying Andrew Harkness' (left) Civil War token collection, allowing Andy to turn to his Agricultural Medal project. Center: Steve Tanenbaum.



- Thursday, September 4:** 8 PM - RNA Meeting: What I did this summer in Numismatics; *Board meeting* at 7 pm
- Thursday, September 18:** 8 PM - RNA Meeting: **Chip Scoppa** - WW II Era: Boy Scout Merit Badge Project
- Friday, September 19:** 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting
- Thursday, October 2:** 8 PM - RNA Meeting: **George Fekete** - to be announced
- Thursday, October 16:** 8 PM - RNA Meeting: speaker to be determined
- Friday, October 17:** 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting
- Saturday & Sunday, November 8 & 9:** 42nd Annual RNA Coin Show and Sale (see page 4)

The *Ontario County Coin Club* meets at 2 pm on the first Sunday of every month at the Canandaigua Elks Club, 19 Niagara Street. Doors open at 1 pm.

Future RNA News publication deadlines: 10/26/2014 for November-December 2014; 12/21/2014 for January-February 2015; and 2/22/2015 for March-April 2015.

Rochester Numismatic Association

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