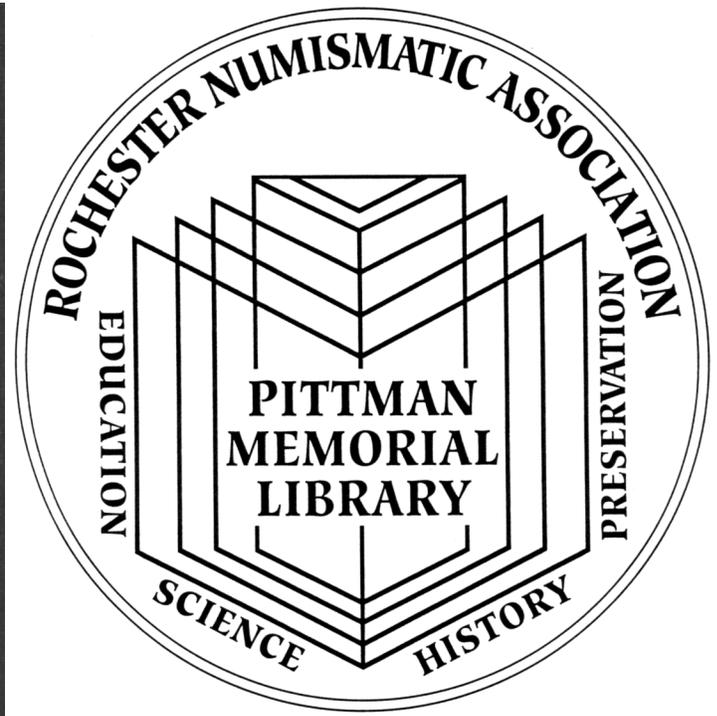


RNA News

November - December 2014



John Jay Pittman, RNA President, 1950, made a substantial donation to the Rochester Numismatic Association through his estate to endow the library that now bears his name. Our library connects us not only to the current state of numismatic science, technology and collecting practice, but also to a rich history of ancient, United States and foreign coinage; currency; medals; tokens and other numismatic materials. The library also contains the meeting minutes and other historical records of our Association since its beginning in 1912.

***From the President: Change... and Challenge* page 3**
***Where Will We Meet? The RNA's Current Relationship with the RMSC ...* pages 4 - 6**
***Club News & Notes:* pages 6, 7**
***Calendar* page 8**

Visit our website at <http://www.the-rna.com>

The *John Jay Pittman Memorial Library* is available at every regular meeting.

Members may select from more than 1000 titles.

See the RNA Librarian to sign for and borrow materials.



RAINY DAY HOARD



Earlier this month, a regular client of ours was in a cash pinch. His wife had been asking for granite countertops in their kitchen for several months. The cost was over \$6,000 and he could not hold her off any longer. Then it hit him. He could pay for it with his stash of Ike Dollars that he had been saving for several years. He would bring them home regularly and drop them into five-gallon water jugs in his basement, nearly filling three big jugs. Soon he was in our office with 6,409 Ikes, so we then cut him a check and his wife got the kitchen upgrade. **HIS "RAINY DAY HOARD" HAD SAVED THE DAY AND HIS WIFE WAS DELIGHTED!** A couple of days later, he also sold to us a box full of certified platinum eagles, several very large gold medals, full bags of Walkers and Mercs, a bag and a half of BU Franklins and lots of proof US90 silver coins. Maybe his wife is looking now for a new addition, but we didn't dare to ask! **DO YOU HAVE A RAINY DAY HOARD THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET TOP DOLLAR FOR?** It doesn't have to be 320 pounds of Ike Dollars. **HOW ABOUT ALL THOSE PROOF SETS, MINT SETS, COMMEMS AND SILVER DOLLARS YOU HAVE BEEN STORING FOR YEARS?** Give me a call today and our instant check can be in your hand in no time at all!



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Change... and Challenge

Since the last RNA News, fall has come and is slipping away. The leaves were exceptionally beautiful this year, but can you feel a change in the air?

Just like the weather, the RNA has been experiencing some changes also. Effective January 2015 we will be changing our meeting days to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday (still at the Eisenhart Auditorium-Lower Level). Meeting times will start at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m., and we are rent-free for 2015 thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor (or donors). See the article, "Where Will We Meet" beginning on page 4.

You may be thinking – what can I do to help? We are in the beginning stages of fund raising and setting up an endowment fund. But it will take time to accomplish our goal.

As your President, I **challenge** all of you to step up and contribute monies toward these funds. One member has already challenged us with his/(her) donation of \$1,000 if (4) or (5) members will also do a matching contribution. That's \$4,000-\$5000! **What a great way to start!!**

So, think how you may contribute. Remember, our club will only be as good as we want it to be. **Everybody contributes, everybody wins!** I'll keep you posted in the coming months.

Until next time,

Sharon Miller

* * * * *

Forty-second Annual COIN Show and Sale

November 8 & 9, 2014
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

11:00 AM "Boy Scout Merit Badge Project", Chip Scoppa

1:00 PM "Beginning Coin Collecting", Jerry Vaccarella

2:00 PM "Introduction to Collecting Medals" Gerry Muhl

Rochester Museum & Science Center —

Eisenhart Auditorium
657 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

FREE ADMISSION

FREE PARKING

Present a Display (It is Not Too Late)

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.

Educational Forums

Be sure to join us in the Ballroom on **Saturday** for the special educational presentations.

SPECIALIST ACTIVITIES: PLEASE VISIT AND HELP US WELCOME:

Eddie Blowers - ANACS Coin Grading Service. If you wish to have coins professionally graded, bring them to the show and discuss them with Eddie. He can help you schedule the service right on the spot. Eddie is also the President of the Buffalo Numismatic Association.

SPECIALIST COLLECTORS

Two numismatists are visiting us from New England to promote their dedicated activities. Please visit Dennis and John to learn another area of coin collecting that may interest you. They can give you the information needed to join their specialties.

Dennis Fortier - Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC)

John Frost - Barber Coin Collectors Society (BCCS)

Where will we meet?: The RNA's Current Relationship with the RMSC

By Roger Kuntz, RNA Member

Meeting at the RMSC

The year 2015 will mark the ninety-sixth consecutive year that we will meet on the campus of the RMSC. To many, this would seem to represent a veritable long-term partnership. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, a series of donations was made to the RMSC by the late Alphonse Kolb, a life member of both the RNA and the RMSC, for the purpose of securing an agreement between the two organizations that would allow us to continue to meet on the RMSC campus rent-free for an indefinite period. It was hoped that this action would ensure that we would always have a “rent-free home.” For three decades, it appeared to us that the RMSC has been honoring that agreement. However, on April 30th of this year, a group of our representatives met with Candice Sheffer (RMSC Vice-President for Finance and Human Resources) and were advised that it would be necessary for the RMSC to begin charging rent for our meeting room. Most of our leaders did not understand why our longstanding agreement had failed and there was considerable uncertainty as well as some disagreement about what action we should take.

The Committee for Relations with the RMSC

Roger Kuntz, Bill Coe, and Gerry Muhl obtained Board approval to form an “ad-hoc committee” with the authority to engage the services of an attorney skilled in negotiation, so that we could investigate (1) why our agreement with the RMSC had failed, (2) how we could best salvage our once cordial relationship with the RMSC, and (3) how we could continue to hold our meetings on their campus. Our attorney is Ross Lanzafame, a partner at Harter, Secrest, and Emery. He is first and foremost, a counselor, which is why he was selected. We sought to communicate rather than to create an adversarial relationship. Ross served us admirably in this role and we were able to engage in a constructive dialogue with the RMSC.

Our Request for a Second Meeting with the leadership of the RMSC

We requested that the attendees of our second meeting include the Museum Director (Kate Bennett) and the President of their Board of Trustees (John Carver). Prior to this meeting, our attorney filed a request with the RMSC for any documents that may be in their possession related to the agreement made between the late Alphonse Kolb and one of their former Directors. At the same time, Gerry Muhl made a search of the RNA archives for any documents that had previously escaped our notice. Gerry's finding was that we possessed no written document that constituted such an agreement but that there was significant material contained within our records of general meetings and meetings of our Board that described just such an agreement. This suggested that the agreement had apparently been made on a “handshake basis.” The search of the RMSC archives yielded evidence suggesting that Alphonse Kolb had made the donations in the amounts that we believed he had given. They also failed to find a written document that constituted the agreement but they acknowledged that museum practice over the previous three decades indicated that they had been operating as though such an agreement was in place throughout that period. Taken together, these findings suggested that we had much common ground that could be explored at a second meeting with their leadership that was held on July 21, 2014. It resulted in a fruitful discussion. As a result of our meeting and the more cordial exchange of ideas, both sides could now agree on three important points:

1. There has been a longstanding agreement in place between the organizations that should be allowed to continue. It was generally recognized that during Alphonse Kolb's lifetime, and for three decades thereafter, the RNA met on the RMSC campus during evening hours when the museum was open and during this period, the RNA was not charged a fee for these meetings in consideration of the donations made by Alphonse Kolb. It was also recognized that it could not have been foreseen by anyone that there would come a time when the loss of financial support of the RMSC from both local government and local industry would result in the need to cancel most of the museum's evening programs and to close the facility during evening hours. That day came and our attorney has advised us that, while we may have a claim to a rent-free meeting room during normal business hours, we do not have the right to insist on the use of a rent-free

(continued on page 5)

room after their normal business hours. This would have been beyond the scope of any agreement made at a time when the facility was open virtually every evening.

2. The loss of financial support experienced by the RMSC was and continues to be serious. The RMSC's endowment resources were being rapidly and seriously depleted and the situation required correction if their existence and mission were to continue. This forced the layoff of many employees and also a re-structuring of how they operated because such continued losses could not be sustained. As a result of their new business practices, the RMSC has begun charging organizations that utilize their facilities substantial fees for meeting space privileges. This will be a necessary part of their financial recovery.
3. As a result of our still-intact long-standing agreement, the RMSC is willing to waive meeting room charges if our meetings could be held during hours on weekdays or weekends when the museum is open. However, we recognize that our members have a bias in favor of weekday evening meetings at times when the museum is officially closed. We recognize that the RMSC has obligations related to security at any time when a campus facility is open that cannot be ignored. The RMSC has indicated that they would be willing to restrict charges made to the RNA for an "after hours" meeting room to their security costs as an acknowledgement of our agreement. Thus, the RNA would not be assessed normal meeting charges. As a part of this consideration, the RMSC will also waive meeting costs to us for any meetings held after hours when another organization is already bearing the expense of these security costs. Looking ahead to a time when the RMSC is able to return to financial stability, Candice Sheffer has advised us that when the museum is once again able to resume a regular evening schedule of events, additional security costs will cease and we will again enjoy free meeting room privileges.

Recent Developments

We learned on October 3rd, that the museum had received funds from an anonymous donor in an amount sufficient to pay for our meeting room expenses through the end of the calendar year 2015. This can only be regarded as a most welcome and timely gift that has bought us the time to better consider our options without the need to make a decision in haste that might be regretted later. We can now consider what our meeting room needs actually are, fine tune our search process, and decide whether there are any meeting rooms that meet our needs as well as does the room now being used at the Eisenhart Auditorium.

Meeting Room Requirements

Ideally, any meeting room suitable for our use should be able to accommodate 40 to 50 members, with provisions for light refreshments, have access to space to store the seven large steel cabinets that house our reference library, space for the RNA archives, and storage room for the materials required for our annual coin show. Our "baggage space" is substantial but it is almost certainly essential. It is uncertain how many facilities offering meeting rooms would be willing or able to provide full-time storage for these resources. Many would understandably not want to assume the responsibility for housing such resources.

Our Assessment and Recommendations

1. It became indisputably clear at our last meeting, that the RMSC is willing to recognize our agreement and has become flexible enough to work with us on other issues related to meeting there. The RMSC has provided meeting space that has met our needs for 95 years and appears to be willing to continue. The storage of our reference library, archives, and other materials are not a problem for them.
2. Members of the ad-hoc committee are in agreement that the RMSC has capable leadership and a plan to restore the museum to financial well-being that we believe will bear fruit.
3. We believe that it would be prudent for the RNA to continue to take action to maintain a relationship with

(Continued on page 6)

the RMSC that is cordial and mutually beneficial. We view the work of the ad-hoc committee as one way to accomplish this and hope that the RNA will see the wisdom in maintaining this committee.

- 4. We strongly support the movement within the RNA to create an endowment for our future use.
- 5. We recognize that any decision regarding where we will meet in the future is likely to be controversial since our Board is divided on this issue. This committee, however, is united in the belief that our best course of action would be to stay at the RMSC, which has been our home for 95 years.
- 6. We hope that our members appreciate what this committee has accomplished, agree with our strong endorsement of the RMSC, and actively make their preferences known to our leaders.

Club News and Notes

Have you paid your 2014 - 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES?

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 - unpaid dues are now considered past due --

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

* * * * *

Nominations for **Numismatist of the Year** are presently being sought by committee chairman John Vicaretti. Listed below are the pertinent details concerning nominations, per procedures established in 1988. Send written nominations to John by the first regular meeting in February, 2015. John's email address: jpvdds@aol.com

The nominee must be a member in good standing, and a detailed justification is required, including:
Contributes to the science of numismatics; Promotes interest and growth in numismatics; Publish numismatic articles; Presents talks to outside organizations; Contributes to the RNA; Active in the current and previous years; Presents programs; and, Established member.

Immediate past President John Vicaretti and the **Nominating Committee** are also seeking nominations for two Board positions and for the position of RNA Treasurer for the 2015-16 fiscal year beginning 1 July. Nominations should be made on or before the second meeting of February, 2015, per our By Laws.

* * * * *

Since the September-October issue of ***RNA News***, three new members have joined RNA: We welcome Mark A. Benvenuto of Royal Oak, Michigan, and Barbara & Christopher Kasulaitis of Fairport, NY.

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Club News and Notes (continued)

The RNA in the 1940's

May 4, 1948: RNA sponsors RJNA essay contest about Australian coins. South Australia Coin Club offers prizes.

September 2, 1941: George Bauer asks ANA for a show in Rochester. It goes to Cincinnati.

September 16, 1941: Club will begin "dealer nights" twice a year. Everyone can be a dealer with a commission on sales going to RNA. Members post want lists during the meeting before dealer night. Auctions are now limited to ten items.

September 21, 1948: RNA strikes one copy of George Bauer's store token in gold and gives it to him.

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

Member:
American Numismatic Society
Royal Canadian Numismatic
Association
Token and Medal Society

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Vice Pres.: Jerry Vaccarella
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Treasurer: George Fekete
Secretary: Paul Taylor
PaulTaylorGlass@hotmail.com
Curator: John Zabel
Librarian: Michael Luck
Historian: Gerard Muhl

Board of Directors:

Roger Kuntz, Andrew Mantione
(2012-2015)

Sheryl Zabel, Ted Vaccarella
(2013-2016)

Dennis DeYoung, David Robinson
(2014-2017)

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.

The RNA Calendar

November - December 2014

Thursday, November 6: 8 PM - RNA Meeting: **Dan White** - An Introduction to Mint Errors

Saturday & Sunday, November 8 & 9: 42nd Annual RNA Coin Show and Sale

Thursday, November 20: 8 PM - RNA Meeting: **Niels Hansen** - A Visit to the Carson City Mint

Friday, November 21: 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting

Thursday, December 4: 8 PM - RNA Meeting: **Gerard Muhl** - A Lively Look at the RNA Medal Series 1913 to the Present

Thursday, December 18: 8 PM - RNA Meeting: All members - **holiday auction**, no speaker

Friday, December 19: 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting

Note: beginning in 2015, RNA will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, January 14, 2015: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: **John Zabel** - Kingdom of Laos Notes

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: 12/21/2014 for January-February 2015; 2/22/2015 for March-April 2015; and 4/26/2015 for May-June 2015.

Rochester Numismatic Association

PO Box 10056, Rochester NY 14610-0056