

RNA News

November - December 2015



First RNA President, Dr. George P. French, circa 1912. The image is etched to copper plate, which was then attached to a wood printing block with small metal tacks. Dr. French shaved his mustache for the medal work, as the mustache was then going out of favor. From the RNA Collection: *Editors*.

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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.



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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Visit us at : www.the-rna.com

Rochester Numismatic Association

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Regular **Rochester Numismatic Association** meetings are held from September to June at 7:30 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays at **Eisenhart Auditorium** of the **Rochester Museum & Science Center**, 657 East Avenue. The auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. Enter and exit through the right-side door and go down the stairs to the lower level meeting room. For elevator service to the lower level call 271-4552 X 601 to speak with the Eisenhart security desk attendant. Entry for the elevator is through the **Genesee Community Charter School** door.

Rochester Junior Numismatic Association (RJNA) meetings will be held during 2015 at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Eisenhart Auditorium on the lower level; for more information, call RJNA advisor Joe Lanzafame at 585-314-1240.

The coin show was a resounding success thanks to the leadership of Chip Scoppa, Bill Coe and all the RNA committees who worked so hard to make the show shine. Without the help of all of our member volunteers we couldn't have been so successful.

The kitchen was "five star". It wasn't difficult to produce a delicious success when the tandem of Tim and Darlene Corio and Sharon Miller teamed up to make a scrumptious roast beef sandwich! I can attest to that result.

At the show all of us love "the hunt" to make a memorable addition to our collections. I hope everyone added at least one new treasure to their collection. The 43rd Annual Coin Show and Sale was well attended.

I had a chance to visit with the three speakers (Dennis Fortier, John Frost and Jerry Fortin) who gave their talks on Saturday at the coin show. All are members of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (www.lscweb.org). Each was very pleased with their first class treatment by the RNA. One speaker said that several people from the 42nd show (including all of Saturday's speakers) were discussing the coin show last year. They said this was one of the best shows they had ever been a part of. He explained the high quality of every operation of the show and they were definitely coming back to this year's show. They were true to their word. The exhibit and displays were outstanding, with the Liberty Seated and Barber collections having some of the rarest coins in those areas of collecting.

The RNA website is still under development but hopefully will be coming soon to us in its entirety. The website would be an anchor for our development as an organization: who we are and what we are doing. Right now it has basic information to that end, with much more to come in the future.

While thumbing through a recent publication of "Boy's Life" (the Boy Scout magazine) at the doctor's office there was an article on "collecting". Coin collecting was one of the featured collections. The brief image and text told scouts they could "collect coins of all of the United States Mints past and present". They explained Americans coins came mostly with mint marks to identify the mints. Could the magazine have made a more meaningful suggestion for boys just starting to collect coins?

Gerald Vaccarella

The RNA in the 1930's

June 21, 1930: Chautauqua Coin Club has joint meeting with Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Youngstown and Pittsburgh clubs.

June 16-17, 1933: RNA members go to 4th Annual Tri-State Coin meeting in Jamestown, NY.

June 1, 1936: Club orders 1936 US proof set for members @ \$1.89 per set.

June 18, 1938: One of four RNA summer picnics is held at "Point Peake" at Irondequoit Bay. There was horseshoes and baseball with 79 year old Mr. Kaufman leading the baseball team.

June 6, 1939: F. T. Newell elected an honorary life member of RNA.

June 2, 1939: George Bauer donates Chinese coins to RNA.

July 7, 1931: RNA meeting held at the Rochester Museum branch at 21 Exchange Street.

July 17, 1934: Club plans coin exhibit for the Rochester Centennial Exposition.

August 23-28, 1930: The ANA holds its convention in Buffalo. RNA member George Bauer is elected ANA President.

August 27, 1932: RNA holds its fourth summer picnic, including a horseshoe contest.

August 11, 1934: RNA awarded first place for its display at the Rochester Museum Hobby Show.

September 9, 1933: Club members discuss their trip to the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, IL.

21st Century Numismatics: Monitoring Academic Contributions via Academia.edu

By Roger Kuntz, RNA member

Academia.edu has been described as a “social networking website” for academics. It was launched in 2008 and had over 21 million registered users as of April, 2015. This site attracts over 36 million visitors per month. The platform is used by academics to share research papers, monitor their impact, and follow research in a particular field. It is a particularly useful tool for allowing visitors to track the research of particular academics that they follow. The platform provides academics with an efficient way to distribute the fruits of their research. There are currently 1.5 million research interests represented on Academia.edu and several million papers have been uploaded to date. This number is increasing rapidly as an increasing number of academics are embracing this concept and uploading their work to this site. It represents a convenient way for collectors to stay abreast of the progress being made primarily in ancient and mediaeval numismatics by scholars working in these disciplines.

For those of us who are not professional scholars and lack ready access to the periodical literature in a field, it provides access to the research papers that have been uploaded by the nearly 23 million academics that have joined Academia.edu. The academic contributors in this endeavor are participants in the so-called “open access” movement, responding to a perceived need to provide timely and unrestricted access to their work. For those who are interested in numismatics, this site will be useful for gaining access to the literature authored by those that are working in ancient and mediaeval numismatics, where significant academic research is ongoing.

Exploring Academia.edu

On the main page, type “numismatics” in the search box. This will bring up a listing of individuals identified as having an interest in one of many disciplines that are numismatic or in fields that are related to numismatics. It will note the professional affiliations and research interests of each. (Note that the listing of scholars represented here is more than 320 pages long.) This includes Greek (8,000 individuals), Roman (2,700), Byzantine (1,100), Mediaeval (200), and Islamic (1,500) numismatics. It includes related fields such as coins, coin hoards and several fields related to ancient or mediaeval history. However, there are no entries for American numismatics, American coins, or modern coins. Research that is currently being done in the field of numismatics appears to be primarily focused on the coins produced by ancient or mediaeval cultures, so this site will be of little interest to viewers whose interest in numismatics is restricted to modern issues, including coins of the United States.

The search function will also allow the visitor to search for a specific research interest or a particular scholar.

Following a Particular Scholar

From the main page or the list of scholars working in a particular discipline, select one. (Peter van Alfen, for example.) This will bring up a page devoted to him which will list his professional affiliation (ANS curator) and a list of his research interests (he lists more than 40), a listing of his websites and on-line publications, a listing of his books and edited volumes, a listing of his published papers, exhibition catalogs, and book reviews, his dissertation, his CV, and his current contact information. There is also a notation indicating how many times each of his contributions has been accessed via this site. Selecting any title will download it, provided that the scholar has previously uploaded his paper to this site. Visitors may conveniently specify which scholar(s) they would like to follow by designating this on the site’s main page.

These titles are selected from our **John Jay Pittman Memorial Library**. They are located in one cabinet for easy access. They include recent additions and key books for understanding each subject. See our Librarian at any meeting.

100 Greatest U. S. Coins	Garrett, J and Guth, R
Adventures with Rare Coins	Bowers, Q. David
America's Money America's Story	Doty, Richard
ANA Grading Standards for US Coins	Bressett, Kenneth
ANA Grading Standards for US Coins	Bressett, Kenneth
American Numismatics Before the Civil War 1760-1860	Bowers, Q. David
Ancient Coin Collecting	Sayles, Wayne G
Ancient Coin Collecting II: Numismatic Art of the Greek World	Sayles, Wayne G
Australian Coins and Banknotes	McDonald, Greg
Bust Half Fever	Souders, Edgar E
Certified Commemoratives: Investing, Collecting & Trading 1892-1954	Laibstain, Harry
Cherrypickers' Guide to Rare Die Varieties of US Coins Volume II	Fivaz, Bill & Stanton, J T
Complete Guide to Barber Dimes, The	Lawrence, David
Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, The	Lawrence, David
Complete Guide to Buffalo Nickels	Lawrence, David
Complete Guide to Lincoln Cents	Lange, David W
Complete Guide to Mercury Dimes	Lange, David W
Complete Guide to Shield & Liberty Head Nickels	Peters, Gloria & Mohon, Cynthia
Comprehensive Catalog of Military Payment Certificates	Schwan, Fred
Curious Currency: The Story of Money from the Stone Age to the Internet Age	Leonard, Jr., Robert D
Double Dimes: The US Twenty-cent Piece	Brunner, LJ and Frost, JM
Early Coins of America - reprint 1965	Crosby, S S
Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836 (reprint)	Parsley, Donald L
Early Paper Money of America (1686-1800)	Newman, Eric P
Encyclopedia of US Half Cents 1793-1857	Breen, Walter
Encyclopedia of Early US Cents 1793-1814	Breen, Walter
Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cent Attribution Guide	Snow, Richard E
Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint	Winter, Douglas
Greek Coins & Their Values Vol. 2: Asia and Africa	Sear, David R
Guide Book of Morgan Silver Dollars	Bowers, Q. David
Guide Book of Shield and Liberty Head Nickels	Bowers, Q. David
Guide Book of United States Coins, 2013 (spiral)	Yeoman, R S and Bressett, K
Guide to Biblical Coins	Hendin, David
History of the US Mint and Its Coinage	Lange, David W
Insider's Guide to Collecting Type I Double Eagles	Winter, Douglas & Crum, Adam
International Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Numismatics (Serial)	Carlton, R Scott
John Hull, the Mint, and the Economics of Massachusetts Coinage	Jordan, Louis
Latin American Tokens	Rulau, Russell

John Jay Pittman Memorial Library selections (continued from page 4)

Making the Grade: Comp Grading Guide US Coins	Deisher, Beth
Medallic Portraits of Washington	Rulau, Russell & George Fuld
Mint on Carson Street	Goe, Rusty
New York State Scrip and Private Issues	Harris, Gordon L
Numismatic Forgery	Larson, Charles M
Obsolete Paper Money issued by banks in the US	Bowers, Q. David
Pattern Coins: Complete Source for History, Rarity & Values	Judd, MD, J Hewitt
Proof Gold Coinage of the United States	Loewinger, M.D.
Roman Coins and Their Values, Vol. 1	Sear, David R
Roman Coins and Their Values, Vol. 2	Sear, David R
Roman Coins and Their Values, Vol. 3	Sear, David R
Secret History of the First US Mint	Orosz, JJ and Augsburg, LD
Standard Catalog of US Obsolete Bank Notes 1782-1866	Haxby, James A
Standard Catalog of World Coins: 1601-1700	Moe, Marian S
Standard Catalog of World Coins: 1901-2000	Bruce, Colin R
Standard Catalog of World Coins: 1801-1900	Cuhaj, George S.
Standard Catalog of World Coins: 1701-1800	Bruce, Colin R
Standard Catalog of World Paper Money: General Issues, 1368-1960	Cuhaj, George S.
Standard Catalog of United States Tokens 1700-1900	Rulau, Russell
Standard Guide to Small-size US Paper Money 1928 to date	Oakes, Dean & Schwartz, John
Treasury of Jewish Coins, A	Meshorer, Ya'akov
US Proof Sets and Mint Sets 1936-2002	Gale, Bill and Guth, Ronald
Encyclopedia of US & Colonial Proof Coins 1722-1977	Breen, Walter

RNA members can check out most of these books during any meeting. The RNA Librarian, Michael Luck, is usually available prior to the beginning of each meeting, and is pleased to assist you with finding additional titles in the library that would benefit your research on many different numismatic topics.

Numismatist of the Year

Nominations for **Numismatist of the Year** are presently being sought by committee chairperson Sharon Miller. Listed below are the pertinent details concerning nominations, per procedures established in 1988. Send written nominations to Sharon on or before the first regular meeting in February, 2016. Sharon's email address is: samiller07@rochester.rr.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.

2016-17 Officers and Board Members

Immediate past President Sharon Miller and the **Nominating Committee** are also seeking nominations for two Board positions and for the position of RNA Treasurer for the 2016-17 fiscal year beginning 1 July. Nominations should be made on or before the second meeting of February, 2016, per our By Laws.

Club News and Notes

2015 - 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues: Family or individual (life member none) \$ 25
 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; don't allow your membership to lapse! --

Or, pay by mail with a check payable to **RNA, PO Box 10056, Rochester, NY 14610-0056**

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On October 28, 2015, Eric Miller was elected director by the Board of Directors to complete the 2014-2017 term of former director David Robinson, who was elected RNA Treasurer at the annual meeting last June.

In 1976, RNA created the **Best Exhibit of Show Award.** It is named after Alphonse Kolb, seen here presenting the plaque to Andrew Harkness (Bill Coe at right). Thirty-nine members have received this coveted honor over the last four decades. This year's winner of the award is Chip Scoppa for his exhibit entitled, "Pocket Pistol - Pocket Change." "It was a very novel and clever comparison of how much (your) dollars would buy in the mid-1800's," according to Bill Coe. "The exhibit contained a small pistol along with a \$10 gold coin and a fifty-cent piece of the proper time period. The pistol price was \$10.50" at that time.



Since the September-October issue of **RNA News,** one new member joined RNA: we welcome Maria Paris of Rochester, New York.

Rochester Numismatic Association Documents

Over the years, our Association has developed By Laws and related procedures and traditions that have been documented by various members. There are job descriptions for officers, meeting agendas, guidelines for awards and other honors as well as Mission Statements for our Association, our Collection and Library. While much of this may seem mundane, it is essential to the operation of our Association, a New York Corporation approved as a Not-for-Profit Organization under IRS 501 (c) (3) regulations. All members are welcome at every Board meeting; a copy of RNA documentation is available to any member by contacting: the **Editors.**

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The RNA Meeting and Events Calendar November - December 2015

Wednesday, November 11: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: **Steve Eisinger** - Obscure, Bizarre and Defunct Countries; Their Coins and Stamps; *Board meeting at 6:45*

Wednesday, November 25: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: speaker to be determined

Wednesday, November 25: 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting

Wednesday, December 9: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: **Lisa Fybush** - Cherchez la Femme

Wednesday, December 23: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: All members - **holiday auction**, no speaker

Wednesday, December 23: 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting

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: December 28 for January-February 2016; and February 22, 2016 for March-April 2016.

Rochester Numismatic Association

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