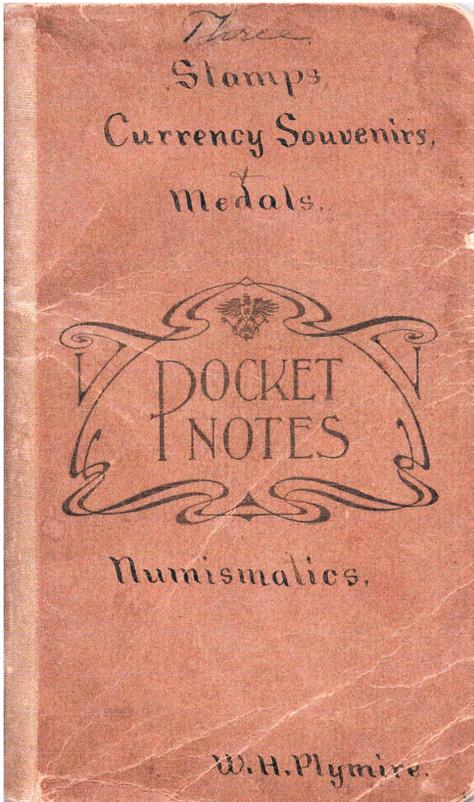


RNA News

January - February 2018



8.
 1 U.S. Trade Dollar. ^{Confederate States of America}
 Obverse: Lady Liberty sitting on a commercial package ^(Bale of Cotton) aside of which is a sheaf of wheat and in front of her and to her right as a foundation is the wavy sea, all denoting Trade and Commerce. She holds in her left hand a ribbon with Liberty stamped in it; in her right an olive branch. At the base of all is the label "In God we Trust". Below this is date 1877. A milled border and edge with 13 stars around within.
 Reverse: In the center is the same bald eagle without the shielded breast indicating peace and good will and its head turned the other direction looking for trade across the Pacific instead of the Atlantic. The olive branch and the three arrows held by its claws, are reversed. The olive branch represents peace and victory and the arrows may mean war or darts of love. I presume the latter is meant; but I do not know what the number 3 means. Above the eagle on a pendant are the words "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one.) Below is 420 grains. 900 fine. Below this: Trade Dollar.

Above: the William H. Plymire Numismatics Diary: article begins on page 4.

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Visit our **NEW** website at <http://www.rochesternumismaticassociation.org/>

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

- Eisenhart Auditorium -

Member:

American Numismatic Society
Royal Canadian Numismatic
Association
Token and Medal Society

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Susie Scoppa, Sheryl Zabel

(2017-2020)

www.rochesternumismaticassociation.org

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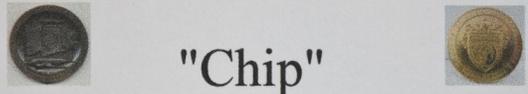
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For the LOVE of Coins



Regular **RNA** meetings are held from September to June at 7:30 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays (see Calendar for possible schedule exceptions at Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays) 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 downstairs 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 are held at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Eisenhart Auditorium on the lower level; for more information, contact RJNA advisor Joe Lanzafame at 585-314-1240.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter is trying to get a firm grip on our weather, such is the case in Upstate New York. Thanks to John Zabel, we now have an Emergency Notification Plan in place. As some of us witnessed a few weeks ago, the “Robocall” worked very well. The website is very close to completion. If you haven’t checked it out I highly encourage that you do. As a member, you can log in and check out the members only section”. Check out the wonderful RNA collection and the RNA Library inventory. Until now they were enigmas that everyone can now view. The library inventory is searchable by Keyword and Subkey. author, title and even by publisher.

The RNA Website is nearly completed and ahead of schedule as well. With it nearing completion, I would like to formally thank: John Lighthouse and George Fekete for spearheading website development, and Mike Triassi who was hired as web developer. John, George and Mike all have spent numerous hours in making the website a success. There are other people who have also spent a considerable amount of time contributing to the website as well: John Zabel and John Lighthouse worked on the RNA collection. John Zabel took all the photos of the RNA collection. Ted Vaccarella edited, reorganized, updated the library list and he has kept it current. Chip Scoppa photographed all the RNA presidential and non-presidential medals. Craig Charles created a website that was used briefly until the actual website went live this past spring. If you see any of these people, please thank them for all their great contributions. John Lighthouse, George Fekete, John Zabel, Ted Vaccarella, Chip Scoppa and Craig Charles thank you for all your time and effort in making the website a success! If I have missed anyone, I am sorry, as your time and efforts also matter.

The RNA Coin Show was another success, thanks to the efforts of many RNA members. Thanks to Bill Coe and Chip Scoppa who organized the coin show. This was Bill’s 40th year organizing the RNA Coin Show. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to attend due to work obligations but the show was a resounding success. The two things the dealers always comment on are: the lunches the RNA provides and the dealer carry in and carry out.

Also of importance: please remember to pay your dues. There are quite a few members who haven’t paid. Come to a meeting and pay (look for Treasurer Ed Cain), mail them to our post office box (see page 2) or pay via the RNA store link on the RNA website.

If you haven’t attended a meeting recently, come in and see familiar faces and share in our camaraderie. With the unpredictable winter weather our next board meeting will be March 14, 2018 at 6:15pm

Eric P Miller

RNA Committees

RNA Bylaws identify several committees appointed by the President and Board of Directors. Here are our currently active committees:

Membership:

Bill Coe (Chair), Dennis DeYoung, John Stephens and John Bailey

Auditing

Janet R. Pawlyk; Scott Fybush; John Vicaretti

Endowment Committee

John Zabel (RNA Curator and Chair); 2015-2018
John Lighthouse, Earl Gurell; 2016-19 Steve Eisinger,
Maria Paris; 2017-2020 Sharon Miller, Gerald Vaccarella Ex-officio: Ed Cain, Treasurer

The William H. Plymire Numismatics Diary

By Gerard Muhl, RNA President - 1979

Not many people keep a coin diary these days but back in 1903 diaries were popular. Perhaps Facebook has electronically replaced the hand-written form but, where will that record be in one hundred years?

Recently a coin collector's diary turned up in Canandaigua, New York. The unsigned, 98 page 4 x 6-inch notebook in beautiful handwriting, tells the story of a developing collection from 1903 to the last entries in 1927.

The identity of the writer comes from an aluminum token that he said he stamped in Lima, Ohio in 1903. On the token he identified himself as: William H. Plymire, born in 1862, graduated Valparaiso, Indiana with BS and BA degrees in 1891. He married in 1898 and was currency Principal at Cordova, Illinois in 1903. It must have been a very large token.

It is interesting to note that Principal Plymire began his collecting with coins given him by friends and relations. Rarely he records a purchase as on August 27, 1904 when he spent three dollars at Siegel's Loan Office in Rock Island, Illinois. He notes that he received many foreign coins plus one Pine Tree shilling and one Connecticut Cent worn enough that he felt the date of the later was 1767. For every coin he added to the collection he adds a thorough description of what it looked like. For the Connecticut Cent he stated:

"Connec. Big Copper Cent - considerably defective. Obverse: a lady seated with a staff or scepter in left hand and an olive branch in right hand. I think she is to represent the goddess liberty, Libera or Persephone, Proserpina or Hora, daughter of Zeus and Demeter or Cerces, and wife of Hades, queen of the shades... Below the goddess on this coin is the date 1767 and on the border the only thing distinguishable, ET + LIB. Reverse: Head or portrait of? to the left. There are remains of a milled border and the letters "ORI CONNEC "

Condition, mint mark, price, or rarity were not an issue. His coin finds were generally about the pure esthetics of a piece, i.e. what it looked like. Another coin, from Siegels, was a trade dollar. The entry states:

"U.S. Trade Dollar. Obverse: Goddess of Liberty or Lady Liberty sitting on a bale of cotton aside of which is the wavy sea, all denoting Trade and Commerce. She holds in her left hand a ribbon with Liberty stamped in it: in her right an olive branch. At the base of all is the label "In God we Trust." Below this is date 1877. Reverse: In the center is the same bald eagle without the shield breast indicating peace and good will and its head turned the other direction looking for trade across the Pacific instead of the Atlantic. The olive branch and the three arrows held by its claws are reversed. The olive branch represents peace and victory and the arrows may mean war or darts of love. I presume the latter is meant."

In the cold February of 1906, already having 40 Large Cents and a complete collection of Indian Head Cents (except the 1877), he decided to try for a complete set of pennies, nickels and dimes from the beginning of those denominations.

On August 24, 1909 Plymire noted that he got ten of the new Lincoln Cents at Davenport, Iowa. He wrote that the reverse "has the bust of Lincoln our martyr president and liberator of the American slaves. Lincoln is facing right and smiling as if he were talking to a child." He continues that he felt lucky to get the cents with the designer's initials "VDB" on them as he thought the U.S. Mint recalled all those not yet in the hands of the public. His rationale is that by containing the initials of a living person, that that would go against a statute of Congress prohibiting the picture or even initials of a living person. Later on, by May 1910 he had found six more VDB cents, and he noted that he "will save all I can get." No mention of mint marks is made.

In the next 16 years the diary grew with the addition of more coins, tokens and pieces of paper money. Of the latter he saved an 1866 twenty-dollar National Bank of St. Louis note, an 1863 fifty-dollar treasury note, and a one dollar 1918 Federal Reserve Note. The first two notes are either counterfeit or advertising pieces as they were only printed on one side.

In 1926-27 Plymire, presumably retired from education, took a trip to Cuba and then to the U.S. Sesquicentennial of American Independence Exposition held in Philadelphia. In Cuba he bought 42 foreign coins - mostly what had once circulated there at one time. These included a 1793 one real of Charles III King of Spain. Interestingly he also found coins of France, Canada, Brazil, England, and even China (Chinese workers were once recruited to work in the Caribbean). Cuba seemed to represent quite a bit of international commerce at the time.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

At the Philadelphia Exposition his collecting became even more eclectic. The first piece he mentions is a PRT (Philadelphia Railway Transit) token. He describes it as being in "treble gilt". Were there gilt-on-solid gold tokens issued? The Atwood Catalogue of transportation tokens does not list any for Philadelphia. If the token was truly gold plated it was probably done by a private concern.

On page 49 of the coin diary Plymire mentions getting a 2 7/8 inch "Lucky Penny" with an encased Indian Head penny. The reverse had a wreath surrounding the image of the Liberty Bell.

At the fair he also purchased the official medal (Hibler, Kappen So-Called Dollars catalogue no. 451). It showed Washington on one side and a "flying steed" on the other. At the U.S. Mint exhibit, he bought the Sesqui half dollar for one dollar and splurged to buy the Sesqui 2 1/2-dollar gold piece having to pay \$4 for it. He did not seem to worry that the Sesqui commemorative had the portrait of Calvin Coolidge on it even though living persons were to be banned by the coining law of 1866. That statute was already broken when Governor Kilby appeared on the 1921 Alabama fifty cent piece.

Plymire's collection continued to grow at random. He added coins when traveling, or being visited by friends and relatives. No mention of coin stores, auctions, or antique shops can be found in the coin diary with one exception. Mention is made of the "Fort Worth Coin Co." (B. Max Mehl's concern) as offering \$75 for a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel. Mehl advertised in Popular Science Magazine to which Plymire subscribed. He does not seem to have sent in one dollar, the cost of Mehl's Rare Coin Encyclopedia with new editions every year from 1902 well into the 1960's.

The diary ran out of pages in 1927 so one can only wonder if there is a book number 4 (this having the word "Three penciled on the cover.) In any event the collecting stopped five years later when Plymire dies peacefully in his sleep in 1932 at the age of seventy.

Building a collection without standard guide books, with few coin stores or mail order coin businesses, and few non-specialist books in print was quite a task. Documenting his modest collection gave a certain immortality to William H. Plymire. Will today's collectors be remembered, in a similar way, 100 years in the future?

* * * * *

It's all in the numbers – What's in your wallet??

RNA News thanks Dave Lefevre of the Canandaigua Coin Club for putting us on to this aspect of collecting paper money. By the way, some of these notes when found sell for several hundreds of dollars. *Editors.*

Listed below are descriptions and examples for some "fancy" serial number notes that you might find in your wallet. Collectors of these types of notes are known as "notaphilists". Value depends on a lot of things, not the least of which is condition, but in general the harder it is to find, the more valuable it will be.

Also, the closer to "perfect" for a particular category that a note is, the more valuable it will be; consequently, the first example in the "low" category will have a premium over that of the second example. In addition, a given note may occupy several categories at the same time, also adding to its value. Taking the second example of a "flipper," it is also a "super repeater" as well as a "binary."

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Examples</u>		
Solid	All 8 digits the same	55555555	or	22222222
Low	All but last 2 digits zero	00000001	or	00000057
High	All but last 2 digits nine	99999900	or	99999932
Binary	Only 2 different digits in S/N	36633666	or	77722727
Super Binary	All digits 0 or 1	01100011	or	11100010

(Continued on page 6)

It's all in the numbers – What's in your wallet??

(Continued from page 5)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Examples</u>		
Devil	666 appears somewhere in S/N	74826665	or	96661538
Ladder	Numbers are sequential; up or down	56789012	or	43210987
Super Ladder	Same w/o wrap-around	12345678	or	87654321
Radar	Reads the same both forward & backwards	01133110	or	28711782
Super Radar	Radar with interior digits the same	20000002	or	73333337
Repeater	Digits repeat	28642864	or	10731073
Super Repeater	1st 2 digits repeat 4 times	63636363	or	72727272
Double Quad	2 sets of 4 digits same next to each other	77773333	or	11119999
Quad Double	4 sets of pairs	44880022	or	33990055
Bookends	Same set of 2 or 3 digits at both ends	20516320	or	54827548
Tombstone	Could be interpreted as a date range	19182014	or	19212016
Date	Specifies a date in mm/dd/yyyy format	09112001	or	07041776
Zip Code	Last 5 digits a zip code w/preceding O's	00014519	or	00090210
Flipper	Reads the same right side up & upside down	00069000	or	69696969
Stand Alone	Single number surrounded by zero's	07000000	or	00002000
Trailing Zero	7 zeros after a number	80000000	or	10000000
Trinary	Only 3 different numbers in S/N	29329939	or	15561165
Skip	Every other digit the same number	46484142	or	72426292
7-in-a-row	7 consecutive digits the same	98888888	or	33333336
7-of-a-kind	7 digits the same	55552555	or	81888888
Full-House	2 digits same + 3 digits same adjacent	82 559991	or	66333847
Roll-Over	A pair of notes w/same letter fore & aft	A99999999A	&	A00000001A
	That goes from 99999999 to 00000001			
Mismatch	2 different serial numbers on the same note	55444430	&	5444430

* * * * *

2017-2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE!

Dues: Family or individual (life member none) \$ 25

Please mail my Presidential Medal (add \$3)

Donation (RNA is tax exempt)

Total amount enclosed \$

Pay the Treasurer - ***if dues remain unpaid after January 31, your membership is subject to termination.*** Mail to RNA at the address listed on page 2 or pay via the ***RNA Store*** link at the RNA website.

* * * * *

Club News and Notes

Since the November-December issue of *RNA News*, five new members have joined RNA: we welcome Sandra Glantz, Pittsford, NY; Amy and James Quirin, Webster, NY; Craig Olson, Rochester, NY; and Donald Keating, Rochester, NY.

Numismatist of the Year

Nominations for Numismatist of the Year are presently being sought by committee chairperson George Fekete. Listed below are the pertinent details concerning nominations, per procedures established in 1988. Send written nominations to George on or before the first regular meeting in February, 2018. George's email address is gtf@georgefekete.com.

The nominee must be a member in good standing, and a detailed written 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.

2018-19 Officers and Board Members

Immediate past President George Fekete and the **Nominating Committee** are seeking nominations for two Board positions and for the position of RNA Treasurer for the 2018-19 fiscal year beginning 1 July 2018. Nominations should be made on or before the second meeting of February, 2018, per our By Laws.

* * * * *

In the July-August *RNA News*, Gerald Vaccarella wrote about lucky coins. But have you heard of the "Lucky Loonie?" The story goes that during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Trent Evans, a member of the ice crew from Edmonton, Alberta, planted a Loonie in the ice at the center of the Olympic Hockey rink. He hoped the coin would bring luck to the Canadian team. The Loonie was later covered with yellow dye so its presence was a secret.

The luck rubbed off on the Canada hockey teams that year. Both men's and women's teams won the gold medal (the first time in 40 years). Canadians now celebrate that Loonie with a special case for it in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. Visitors are invited to touch the actual coin for good luck.

Of course, being Canada, the Royal Canadian Mint decided to strike "official" Lucky Loonies for the 2004 Olympics with a special design. Nearly 6,500,000 were struck for circulation plus 20,000 extra sterling silver enameled copies for collectors. It then became a series with Lucky Loonies flying from the mint for every Olympic games.

Bring one to show us at a Rochester Numismatic Association meeting.

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The RNA Meeting and Events Calendar January - February 2018

Wednesday, January 10: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: **Scott Annechino** - American Colonial Coinage

Wednesday, January 24: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: Topic to be determined

Wednesday, January 24: 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting

Wednesday, February 14: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: **Susie Scoppa** - Couples on Coins

Wednesday, February 28: 7:30 PM - RNA Meeting: **George Fekete** - Sacagawea: Finishing School

Wednesday, February 28: 7:30 PM - RJNA Meeting

Save the Date: Friday, May 4, 2018; : **Annual Banquet**

Save the Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2018: **Annual meeting** and election of officers

Schedule of future 2017-18 Board meetings: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

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: February 28 for March-April 2018, and April 25 for May-June 2018.

Rochester Numismatic Association

PO Box 10056, Rochester NY 14610-0056