

# RNA News

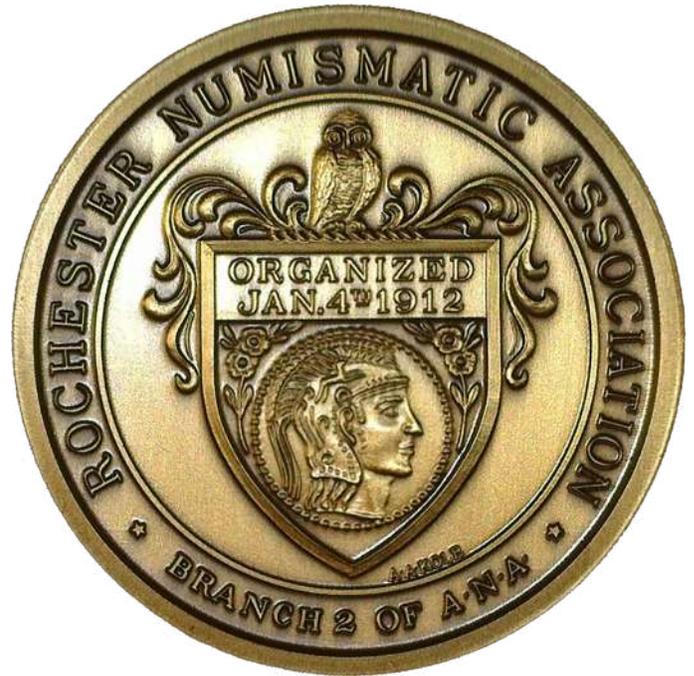
The Official Journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

July-August 2019

## The Eric P. Miller Presidential Medal



**Medal Obverse**  
Photo by John Zabel



**Medal Reverse**  
Photo by John Zabel



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The John Jay Pittman Memorial Library is available at every regular meeting.  
Members can select from 600 titles with new ones added regularly.  
See the RNA Librarian to sign for and borrow material.  
A complete, searchable library inventory is available on the RNA website.



### RNA

One of America's Oldest  
Local Coin Clubs

### Memberships

American Numismatic Association  
Branch #2, Life Club #8  
Established January 1912  
American Numismatic Society  
Royal Canadian Numismatic  
Association  
Token and Medal Society

### Meetings

Rochester Museum &  
Science Center  
- Eisenhart Auditorium -

### Board of Directors

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Gary Korneliuson, Vice President  
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John Zabel, Curator  
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Steve Eisinger [2019-2022]

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Gerard Muhl

### RNA News

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### RNA Committees

RNA Bylaws designate several committees appointed by the President and Board of Directors.  
Below are the current active committees:

#### Membership

John Bailey  
Bill Coe, Chair  
Dennis DeYoung  
John Stephens

#### Endowment

Sharon Miller [2017-2020]  
Gerald Vaccarella [2017-2020]  
Earl Gurell [2018-2021]  
John Lighthouse [2018-2021]  
Jason Childers [2019-2022]  
Steve Eisinger [2019-2022]  
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#### Auditing

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George T. Fekete  
John Lighthouse  
Ted Vaccarella, Chair  
John Vicaretti

### President & Editor Email Addresses

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[editor@rochesternumismaticassociation.org](mailto:editor@rochesternumismaticassociation.org)

Regular **RNA** meetings are held from September to June at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month (see Calendar for possible schedule exceptions at Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays) at **Eisenhart Auditorium** of the **Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607**. The auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. **Enter and exit through the door on the right side of the building.** The meeting room is down the stairs on the lower level. For elevator service to the lower level call 585-271-4552 Ext. 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 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Eisenhart Auditorium on the lower level; for more information, contact RJNA advisor Joe Lanzafame at 585-314-1240.

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Like many collectors I started collecting coins in my youth. After losing interest I sold the meager collection that I had at the time. One of the problems I think was the fact that I didn't read much about the hobby and felt frustrated as a result. Several years later when I walked into a local coin store I started looking around and instantly became obsessed. This time I took a lot more time to read, study and research coins. This is what I think helped solidify my interest in coin collecting. Joining the RNA also provided me with the opportunity to talk with other collectors and learn even more.

Over the years I have collected many different coins trying to figure out the area(s) that I prefer. Three significant areas that have sparked my interest have been Colonial American coins, Belgian Congo-related coins and early Latin American coins. I have since sold off my Colonial American collection due to financial needs and sorely miss them. At one point I had 20 different Vermont copper varieties in nice grades from fine to almost uncirculated in rarities 1-5. As many of you know I have one of the finest and most comprehensive Belgian Congo and related collections that exists. Yet I still find new discoveries from time to time. Don't count on any one reference to inform you about what's out there. Many references are out of date or not very comprehensive. I have been a contributor to the Krause publications for the Belgian Congo-related coins for about a decade and assisted with my knowledge and photographs for a book on the subject that was published about two years ago.

I have been a member of the Rochester Numismatic Association since 1996. I joined just in time to meet one of the club's most famous members, John J. Pittman, shortly before he passed away. I also was able to get to know his wife and daughter Polly. I was able to sit in, along with other club members who were interested at the time,

on private viewings of some of the Pittman collection. I also attended the first Pittman sale in Baltimore with a fellow member where we saw some eye-popping prices realized. I still have one piece from that sale. I purchased one coin from the third auction that consisted of World coins. I won that coin via mail-bid which is virtually impossible these days in an auction like that with the availability of advanced bidding technology. I still retain this coin in my Belgian Congo collection.

I have made new friends and continue to learn a lot at the club's meetings. I have watched many very informative, interesting and sometimes entertaining presentations at our meetings. Membership certainly does have its privileges. The RNA has a large number of very well informed minds. I particularly enjoy when members bring in coins from their collections to show. These are great opportunities for some members to see coins they might not otherwise see in real life. I try to show material from my collection at most meetings.

After being a member for about four years I moved to California for 15 years. But I did not forget the club and remained a member all those years. I read the newsletters and tried to keep in touch with some members from time to time. When I moved back to Rochester one of the first things that I wanted to do was attend a meeting since I was never able to do so during the years I lived in California, even on my brief visits to Rochester. I have presented exhibits at our annual coin show each year since my return winning best of show twice out of four times.

The annual RNA picnic will be Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup> at the White Brook Nature Park from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Tickets are available on the RNA website or you can pay the RNA treasurer. I hope to see everyone there!

I look forward to a positive and fun-filled year of collecting and sharing with you all.

Scott Annechino



Photo by Scott Annechino

### RNA Online Resources



[WWW.ROCHESTERNUMISMATICASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.ROCHESTERNUMISMATICASSOCIATION.ORG)



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/21533643632](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/21533643632)



[@ROCCOINCLUB](https://TWITTER.COM/ROCCOINCLUB)

Social Media Chair: David Gottfried

Webmaster: David Gottfried

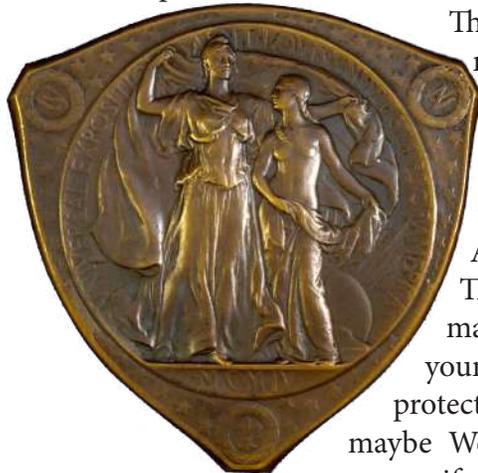
**A** **DOLPH WEINMAN'S 1904 ST. LOUIS EXPO MEDAL**  
 by Gerry Muhl, 67<sup>th</sup> RNA President  
 & Andy Harkness, 71<sup>st</sup> RNA President

The St. Louis World's Fair is remembered for a number of events. It was the site of the third modern Olympic games. It introduced the first ice cream cone. United States President Theodore Roosevelt gave a speech there.

For the numismatist, the American Numismatic Association's annual convention was held there. Famed promoter and numismatist Farrow Zerbe persuaded the U.S. Mint to strike and issue proof sets for our newest territory, the Philippines. Some 1,350 sets were offered at the Philippine expo pavilion.

For today's medal collector we remember Adolph Weinman's first commemorative medal commission, the beautiful, nearly four inch gold clad award medal that also was sold in a bronze souvenir edition at the fair.

The images in this article are from a St. Louis Exposition medal in the RNA collection.



**Medal Obverse**  
 Photo by John Zabel

The front of the medal shows a figure of liberty draping a semi-nude young woman in the American flag. The young woman may represent the young American protected by liberty. But maybe Weinman is saying more if we really study the medal closely.

Under 10x magnification on an unworn medal the sharp-eyed observer may spot a plethora of honey bees attached to the young woman's modestly held drapery. The bees are a reference to Napoleon Bonaparte who had solid gold bees sewn to his coronation robe. Bonaparte related the bees to the first king of France,



**Medal Reverse**  
 Photo by John Zabel

the legendary Childeric who died in AD481. But he made a mistake. The bees should have been cicadas.



**Cicada Detail on Medal**  
 Photo by John Zabel

Childeric's burial was accidentally discovered in 1653 at Tournai in Belgium. He was son of Merovech from which the Merovingian dynasty derives its name. His son Clovis is credited with ending Roman rule in France by his AD486 victory at the Battle of Suissons.

Childeric's burial objects included 100 gold and 200 silver Roman and Byzantine coins. More importantly to our story the burial also included 300 solid gold cicadas, symbol of eternal life. The cicada wings were inlaid with garnets and were sewn on the king's brocade cloak; it was the most elaborate Frankish burial ever discovered. Unfortunately most of this treasure was stolen from the Imperial Art Gallery in Paris in 1831. Drawings of the treasured items were made before the theft.

Weinman must have been familiar with the story of Napoleon's role and perhaps also that of Childeric but spun the meaning differently. He took the Imperial Robe and placed it protectively over the young woman using the allegory that in 1904 America the common people held the royal power of state. The Louisiana Exposition medal thus speaks of the French involvement in the sale of Louisiana to America by Napoleon as well as the transition of imperial power from a king or emperor to a free people.

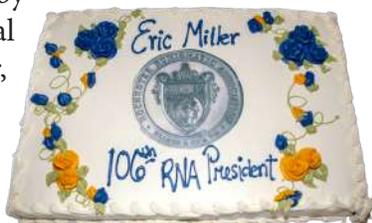
Weinman's symbolism is subtle but unmistakable.



RNA members and guests gathered at Shadow Lake Golf & Racquet Club on May 17 for the 2019 RNA Annual Banquet honoring Eric Miller.

A social hour of hors d'oeuvres and cash bar preceded the buffet dinner.

Emcee John Zabel opened the official program after dessert was served by introducing the special guests: Eric's mother, father, wife (Sabrina) and daughter (Anna) as well as his sister Cheryl Fletcher from Alaska, nephew Greg Fletcher and in-laws Peter and Judy Meyer attended.



Eric Miller, by Bill Coe highlighted the evening.

The evening concluded with numismatic prize drawings and distribution of presidential medals.

Photos by Tim Corio

A gentle roast of the guest of honor was led by Ted Vaccarella with assistance from his brother Jerry.

Presentation of the 2018 presidential medal to the RNA's 106<sup>th</sup> president,



During the year members and guests who spoke about their areas of interest at RNA meetings and earned an Alphonse A. Kolb Speaker's Medal for their presentations were recognized by John Zabel.

The Charles J. Ricard Writers Medal is awarded to members whose well-researched and well-written articles are published in the *RNA News*. Recipients of the award were recognized by Gerry Muhl.



The following Long Service Awards were presented:

- Forty Years: Gary Thompson
- Fifty Years: Bill & Edie Coe, Clark King, Gerard E. Muhl and Wayne & Pat Scheible.

### ***Eric Miller Medal***

For the last decade or so it has been customary for the past president to personalize his presidential medal with embellishments.

After some thought about this, I had only to remember some of the past presidents' messages.

My career is working as a CT technologist. CT scan uses an x-rays so my first embellishment is an x-ray tube signifying my career.

A passion in my life that has taken my family and I around the USA is fishing. The other embellishment I chose is a brown trout that I personally caught. With the power of computer graphics, Bill Durand was able to take the fish from a picture and incorporate it onto the medal.

If you look closely at my jacket I am wearing two pins: one is the presidential RNA pin and the other is a New York Yankees pin.

Go Yankees!

~ Eric



# MEINHART SPEAKING CONTEST

Editor's Report

The 2019 Meinhardt Speaking contest was held at the May 22 RNA meeting. The presentations were well-researched, educational, extremely interesting and entertaining.

Members of the Rochester Junior Numismatic Association are eligible to participate in this annual contest.

The 2019 winner is Andrew Ophardt. During the award ceremony the judges remarked that picking the best presentation this year was very difficult and encouraged the participants to continue their numismatic research and speak about it.

PDFs of their PowerPoint presentations can be viewed and/or downloaded at the RNA website: [ROCHESTERNUMISMATICASSOCIATION.ORG/CALENDAR.PHP](http://ROCHESTERNUMISMATICASSOCIATION.ORG/CALENDAR.PHP).



Left to Right: Lanzafame, Savka & Ophardt  
Photos by Susie Scoppa

pocket change in denominations less than a dollar. His talk, *Little Changes to the Change*, described the evolving appearance he observed on coins beginning with the 1793 liberty cap half cent and continuing through the 1964 Kennedy half dollar.

Phillip Savka presented *History of the United States*

*Mints* from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century through today. Phillip documented

the history of the Philadelphia mint and the eight branch mints. Little known facts about the mints were brought

to life with photographs of the buildings, interesting production statistics and images showing mint marks on coins produced at the various mints.



First U.S. Mint in Philadelphia  
From Savka PowerPoint



Large Cent Ring of Chains to Wreath  
From Ophardt PowerPoint

ORG/CALENDAR.PHP.

Andrew Ophardt developed an interest in small changes in the appearance of U.S.

The RNA thanks Joe Lanzafame, the longtime RJNA advisor, for his continued leadership and guidance of the young numismatists who regularly attend meetings.



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[bfo@georgefekete.com](mailto:bfo@georgefekete.com)

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION

Editor's Note

RNA bylaws designate three types of membership: regular, family and honorary life.

According to the bylaws, "honorary life member nominees shall be selected by the Board of Directors from those who have been members for at least ten years and who, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, have made some notable contribution to the science of numismatics. Any member of the Board of Directors may propose any member of the Association meeting the qualifications therefore for honorary life membership. Election to honorary life membership, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors,

shall, after written notice to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to an annual meeting, be held, by secret ballot at an annual meeting of the membership of the association and shall be by the affirmative vote of ninety percent (90%) of the members present at such meeting.

Honorary life members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Association but shall be exempt from the payment of dues or special assessments."

Life membership is a rare honor. Currently there are three life members: William Coe, Arthur Cohen and Gerard Muhl. The RNA Board of Directors has approved the nomination of Ted Vaccarella to be the next RNA life member.

## Club News & Notes

### ***Dues Increase***

The RNA Board of Directors approved a dues increase to \$30.00 per year effective July 1, 2019. The last dues increase was from \$20.00 to \$25.00 in 2010-2011. The increase to \$25.00 was 25% while the current increase is 20%.

Using the latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index calculator, the 2019-2010 dues would be \$29.34 in 2019 dollars. In other words, the new dues essentially cover the cost of inflation and not an increase in real dollars.

Some member services have been added and others improved since the previous dues increase representing an increase of real value per dues dollar.

### ***Website Passwords***

As with all websites with protected data, the RNA website will require a password change in July. We did not do this last July so users could acclimate themselves to the new website without disruption. Sometime in July members who have paid their dues will be allowed access to the Members Only area using their new membership numbers. The format of the password is:

MxxxYYYYMMDD or FxxxYYYYMMDD or  
fxxxYYYYMMDD or LxxxYYYYMMDD

The M is for standard member, F is for main family member, f is for associate family member and L is for lifetime member.

YYYYMMDD is the date you became a member.

Every member received a password when the website went live.

The change is xxx, your member number. This

number changes annually and is controlled by Bill Coe's membership management. Your membership number is on your 2019 membership card. If you have not paid your dues, you will not have access to the Members Only area of the website.

There will be a notification on the login page when the new passwords go into effect.

Please do not share your password.

### ***Annual Picnic***

Each year during the summer the RNA holds the club's annual picnic. The picnic is scheduled for August 11 at the White Brook Nature Area in Fairport, NY from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

An RNA Board of Directors meeting will precede the picnic from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Members are welcome at the Board meeting.

See the RNA website calendar for more details.

Steve Eisinger will lead a moderate hike after the picnic.

### ***RNA Coin Show and Sale***

It's not too early to start planning for the Forty-Seventh Annual Coin Show and Sale sponsored by the RNA. The show is scheduled for November 1-2 at the Eisenhart Auditorium on the RMSC campus.

Dealers at the bourse will offer numismatic material for a wide range of interests and prices.

You are encouraged to exhibit material in your area of interest. Exhibitors are eligible for the Alphonse Kolb Best of Show award.

Educational Forums will provide the opportunity for attendees to refine their numismatic skills or learn new ones.

# RNA Events Calendar

- Board Meeting** (White Brook Nature Area) [12:00-1:00 p.m.] ..... **August 11**
- Annual Picnic** (White Brook Nature Area) [1:00-4:00 p.m.] ..... **August 11**
- RNA Meeting:** *What I did this Summer in Numismatics* ..... **September 12**
- RNA Meeting:** *Scientific Methods for the Numismatist* by George T. Fekete ..... **September 26**
- RJNA Meeting**..... **September 26**
- Forty-Seventh Annual Coin Show and Sale** (at RMSC) ..... **November 1-2**

RNA & RJNA Meetings at the RMSC are held on Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

\* Members are welcome to attend RNA Board meetings.

☛ ☛ ☛ *See the RNA Website for Additional Event Details* ☛ ☛ ☛

**Ontario County Coin Club**

First Sunday, Monthly	Canandaigua Elks Club
Meeting at 2:00 p.m.	19 Niagara Street
(Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)	Canandaigua, NY 14424



**RNA News Deadlines**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| September-October 2019 Submissions ..... <b>August 24</b>   | November-December 2019 Submissions ..... <b>October 24</b> |
| September-October 2019 Publication ..... <b>September 1</b> | November-December 2019 Publication..... <b>November 1</b>  |

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