

RNA News

The Official Journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

November-December 2025



London Coin Fair, London, England on September 6, 2025



Niagara Falls medal



Club Information	Page 2
From Your President	Page 3
First Time Visit to the London Coin Fair	Page 4
Coin Collecting 2.0.....	Page 5
One Of My Favorite Medal—Niagara Falls.....	Page 7



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

Established January 1912

Memberships

American Numismatic Association
Branch #2, Life Club #8

American Numismatic Society

Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

Token and Medal Society

Meetings

Rochester Museum & Science Center

- Eisenhart Auditorium -

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Cary Conrow, President

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Dennis DeYoung, Secretary

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Historian

Dennis DeYoung

Assistant Curator

Gerard Muhl

RNA News

Sheryl Zabel, Editor,

John Zabel, Production

Gerard Muhl, Contributing Editor

Rochester Numismatic Association

P.O. Box 10056 Rochester, NY

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Membership

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Dennis DeYoung

Scott Annechino

Darlene Corio

Endowment

Jason Childers [2023-2025]

Steve Eisinger [2023-2025]

Dennis DeYoung Treasurer [Ex-Officio]

John Zabel, Chair [RNA Curator]

Auditing

Dennis DeYoung

John Lighthouse

Chip Scoppa

John Vicaretti

RNA Committees

RNA Bylaws designate several committees appointed by the President and Board of Directors.

Above are the current active committees:

Email Addresses

president@rochesternumismaticassociation.org

vicepresident@rochesternumismaticassociation.org

secretary@rochesternumismaticassociation.org

editor@rochesternumismaticassociation.org

curator@rochesternumismaticassociation.org

treasurer@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 main entrance, and turn left to go up the ramp to the ballroom. We will continue to have these meetings on Zoom for members who cannot attend in person.**

From Our President

RNA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Cary Conrow

Fall greetings fellow collectors and numismatists. We hope the new season finds you well! I think many of us become more oriented towards indoor activity as the cold, wet and wintry season approaches. I always focus more on collecting and numismatic reading from about November to March. Our annual coin show, therefore, seems well-timed and it looks like our 2025 show will be very successful—from the standpoint of both dealers and collectors. It looks like a nice rebound from the 2023 show, since I've already heard positive comments from a number of dealers.

I frequently consider, “what can I contribute to the RNA in my role as president”? Primarily what I hope is to pass on my maintaining enthusiasm and enjoyment of collecting to other members. In part I think a “balanced approach” to collecting is important. Stay mindful of one's health and finances; for instance, don't spend too many hours at a time hunched over a desk examining minute details on your coins and currency—to the point of having an aching, stiff neck! Note Dr. Steve Eisinger's balancing physical exercise (hiking, etc.) with numismatic activity.

Another aspect of a “balanced approach” is maintaining a “healthy budget”. To do this I've never desired or felt bad about a coin I can't afford. Probably most everyone has thought similarly about the hobby and collecting.

One last thing to mention as a highlight at this early point in our year 2025-26 is the club acquiring a considerably rare item A new “Life Member” - John Zabel. Also bear in mind “high grade” life members are even more scarce.

Again, congratulations and thank you John for all your work in behalf of the RNA.

From the club collection

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal we present a medal for the opening of the canal in 1825.



First Time Visit to the London Coin Fair

By

Richard Jozefiak

ANA District Representative- AL & GA

From September 3-10, 2025, I was on the first *Numismatic News* "Numis Tour" of the United Kingdom. One of the highlights of the tour was going to the largest coin show in the UK. The tour group went to the London Coin Fair, held at Novotel London West Convention Center on Saturday, September 6.

I brought with me a dozen issues of *The Numismatist*, ANA membership applications, ANA benefits folders, and ANA pens to give out. I asked permission of the show's organizers if I could put out the ANA materials, and they were happy to do so. Most of the items I brought were gone within an hour.

The London Coin Fair bills itself as the largest in the UK. It was about 70 tables, but no exhibits, supply dealers, educational programs or YN programs. It is about the size of a typical small U.S. coin show. I did sign up one new ANA member.

Interesting, most coins I saw were "raw". Most of the third party "slabbed" coins were U.S. coins. There were a lot of ancient coins and medals for sale.

It was interesting to see the differences and similarities between a British coin show compared to a U.S. coin show. It was a great experience.



*London Coin Fair, London, England on
September 6, 2025*



*The author at the entrance to the London
Coin Fair*



*The author by the table he had to put out ANA materials at the Lon-
don Coin Fair.*



RNA Online Resources



www.rochesternumismaticassociation.org

www.facebook.com/groups/21533643632

[@RocCoinClub](https://twitter.com/RocCoinClub)

Social Media Chair: David Gottfried
Webmaster: John Zabel

COIN COLLECTING 2.0

FROM RED BOOKS TO BLOCKCHAINS

by
Dennis
DeYoung

Every hobby evolves—and numismatics is no exception. From print catalogs to online databases to blockchain, collecting keeps getting more complex. Maybe you skipped learning about Bitcoin since they aren't "real coins"—let's take a minute now to catch you up on some other things that are changing fast!

PCGS recently published a book entitled "Buying the Book Before the Coin in the Digital Age". It's supposed to be an in-depth look at how blockchain, digital catalogs, and provenance tracking are transforming modern collecting and auction practices. *But what the heck does that mean?!?*

PCGS revisits the time-honored advice "buy the book before the coin," arguing that collectors should continue investing in seminal print references to build deep numismatic expertise—even as instant online searches and AI tools proliferate. The article underscores that physical books and journals provide rigorously vetted, trusted scholarship tailored to specific collecting goals, offering value no quick online query can match.

But if you're like me, you've bought some books, and you still have the feeling sometimes that it's not enough. It might be many years of looking, discussing, pondering, buying, (making mistakes), and second-guessing before you suddenly realize you are comfortable giving advice, dealing, or even collecting in a particular corner of the world of numismatics. And if you have taken this journey recently, chances are that some digital resources have effectively supplemented your "book learning" already.

PCGS CoinFacts is the largest, most comprehensive, FREE online U.S. coin encyclopedia and it's available via web and a dedicated smartphone app for on-the-go use. Like two free but separate tools from NGC (Price Guide & Census/Population Report), this tool aggregates detailed listings of die varieties, population reports, price histories, grading standards, and high-resolution images. It also provides collectors and dealers with advanced search filters, personalized portfolio tracking, and a mobile-friendly interface for on-the-go research and verification.

If you are a grizzled veteran of the hobby, with the surface wear to show for it, this article probably hasn't made you too uncomfortable, yet. But why did I bring up Bitcoin earlier? Bitcoin is built on technology called blockchain—which you don't need to know much about, so relax. ☞ Just know that blockchain technology enables secure, transparent, and tamper-resistant recording of transactions across a decentralized network in the form of a distributed ledger that any participant can verify. (It's okay if you want to read that last sentence twice; if you are smart enough to collect coins, you'll pick it apart just fine on a second reading.)

If you'd rather skip the technical deep dive, jump to the next paragraph down. So beyond just

tracking coin provenance, blockchains can host smart contracts—self-executing code that automates agreements—and underpin tokenization platforms for digital collectibles. You could even imagine a future RNA membership badge or archival catalog entry minted on-chain, instantly verifiable without manual record-keeping.

This book positions blockchain-based provenance as the digital heir to the traditional “reference book” (e.g., “the Red Book”), giving each individual coin a tamper-proof, timestamped ownership history that underwrites trust and authenticity. Key benefits include:

- **Immutable Chain of Custody**

By embedding each coin’s unique identifier and transaction record on a distributed ledger, blockchain creates a single, verifiable source of truth for past owners, grading events, and auction results—no more paper trails that can be lost or forged.

- **Instant Provenance Checking**

Collectors and dealers can query a coin’s entire provenance in seconds via online platforms or mobile apps, streamlining due diligence and dramatically reducing counterfeit risk.

- **Complement to Digital Catalogs**

Rather than replacing print scholarship, blockchain provenance dovetails with tools like PCGS CoinFacts or NGC Price Guide and digital catalogs: you still “buy the book” to understand a coin’s context and varieties, then tap into the blockchain to confirm its history before you buy.

This synergy—rigorous print references plus real-time, cryptographically secured provenance—effectively reframes the “book before the coin” adage for the digital age.

Having watched technology evolve for my whole life, here are my predictions... It will come first in the form of proprietary implementations from the major grading services. All will be grading all the coins by the time one of those companies creates a free and open standard that will come to dominate. And if they are smart, the company that does that will bring an affordable and easy-to-use scanner to the market, which will allow even the digital newbies (a.k.a. crusty collectors) among us to move into the new world of coin collecting. The world is changing; enjoy the ride—after all nobody takes a horse-drawn hack to an RNA meeting anymore!

One of my favorite medals. RNA Newsletter.

By Tim Flaven

Niagara Falls, slowly we turn, inch by inch, to one of my favorite medals. The 75th anniversary medal /coin of the City of Niagara Falls, NY.

I found this little gem at one of the annual antique shows , at the New York State Fair Grounds. For \$2.00.

It has the City of Niagara Falls Seal on the obverse. But It's an older view of the Falls, not one currently used, by the city web page. It has a full falls view, with mist showing with a forested background. While the current seal on the city's web page is a picture of the top of the falls. It's one and half inch round, and weighs about one and half ounces.

It was commissioned by the City's Anniversary Commission of the City Council in 1967. The city council gave a grant to the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce to produce events and commemoratives for the city's 75th anniversary.

10,000 were made in Bronze and 550 in silver. They sold for \$.75 cents and \$7.50 respectively. Mail order was \$1.50 and \$10.00. 400 silver was sold by October 8, 1967. No mention of the bronze sales.

The Reverse was designed by local artist Carl Cadille.

If anyone finds one in Silver, I would like to see it, or buy it.



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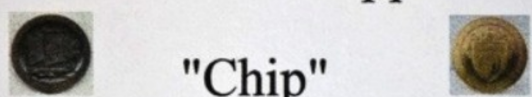
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For the LOVE of Coins



RNA Events

RNA Meeting— Laotian Currency during the Kingship..... November 12
RNA Meeting December 10

Members are welcome to attend RNA Board meetings.

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

Rochester Numismatic Association
PO Box 10056
Rochester, NY 14610-0056