

RNA News

The Official Journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

Summer 2026

RNA Summer Picnic



Whitebrook Park
Aldrich Rd off of Pittsford-Palmrya Rd.



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RNA

One of America's Oldest
Local Coin Club,
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

Officers

Andrew Geoghan, President
Joe McMahon , VP
Dennis DeYoung, Treasurer
Dennis DeYoung, Secretary
John Zabel, Curator

Directors

David Gottfried [2024-2027]
Tim Flaven [2024-2027]
Sheryl Zabel [2025-2028]
Robert Burlingham [2025-2028]
Chip Scoppa [2026-2029]
Jason Childers [2026-2029]

Historian

Dennis DeYoung

RNA News

Sheryl Zabel, Editor
John Zabel, Production

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Address

Rochester Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 10056
Rochester, NY 14610-0056

RochesterNumismaticAssociation.org

RNA Committees

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

Membership

Jason Childers, Chair
Scott Annechino
David Gottfried
Dennis DeYoung

Endowment

John Zabel, Chair [RNA Curator]
Dennis DeYoung [Treasurer, Ex-Officio]
Steve Eisinger
Jason Childers

Auditing

Kerri Klajbor, Chair
Dennis DeYoung
John Lighthouse

Email Addresses

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treasurer@rochesternumismaticassociation.org
secretary@rochesternumismaticassociation.org
librarian@rochesternumismaticassociation.org
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 the Calendar on the website for schedule exceptions at Thanksgiving and Christmas.)

Meetings take place in the **Eisenhart Auditorium** of the **Rochester Museum & Science Center** located at **657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY**. The Auditorium is the glass front building behind the Museum. Enter through the main entrance and turn left to go up the ramp to the ballroom.

Members and visitors who cannot attend in person are welcome to join the live Zoom stream!



The John Jay Pittman Memorial Library

The club's numismatic 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.



From Our President

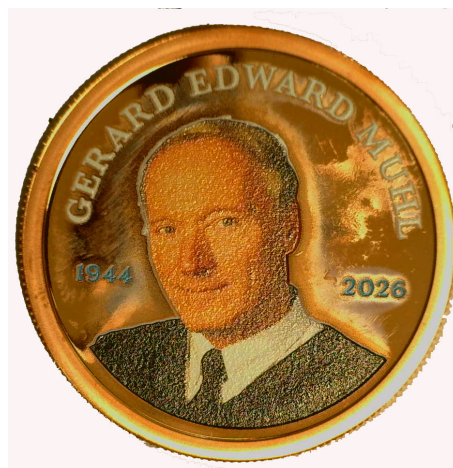
As we begin the 115th year of the Rochester Numismatic Association, I'm full of excitement. I'm grateful, honored, and privileged to be accepted into the officer group once again; this time to serve as the club president. At this time, I'd like to introduce myself to the club.

Let me bring you in on a little secret . . . I'm not a typical coin collector. I do not have a complete set of any coin series – not even close. Nor am I actively building a set. I don't often have coins to share during the exhibits & displays portion of our meetings. I haven't memorized the key dates for any series. I don't even buy coins all that often.

Now that I've revealed this, you may be wondering why I have been involved with the RNA as the treasurer for two years and the vice president for a year and why would I continue onward. Well, you see, I'm a coin admirer. I enjoy coins as a work of art, as a piece of history, as a connection to the past, as a connection to other nations across the world, as an item to wonder about.

I enjoy a walk through a coin show or a visit to a coin shop with the anticipation that I will find something that I have never seen before. I enjoy the coins shared by the club members during our exhibits & displays portions of the meetings. I genuinely enjoy a coin when a fellow RNA member offers to share a view of what they have. So, please share frequently.

~ Andrew Geoghan, President - RNA



Gerry Muhl commemorative medal issued after his death

Photo by John Zabel

Membership Dues

On July 1st, membership dues for the 2026-27 club year will start to being due. They will continue to be \$40 a year. Dues can paid via:

- 1.) mailing payment to the club at RNA, PO Box 10056, Rochester, NY 14610-0056;
- 2.) purchase them at the RNA store: <https://rochesternumismaticassociation.org/store.php>
- 3.) pay in person at a club meeting or a club event, such as the club picnic or the RNA Coin Show

If one is unsure if one is up-to-date (or if one may have paid ahead), please contact Jason Childers, Membership Chair, at paploo42@mac.com

The RNA Summer Picnic

The summer picnic will be held on Sunday, August 23rd at the Whitebrook Nature Area located on Aldrich Rd. in the town of Perinton.

The cost of the picnic is \$15 per person with children under twelve free. The fee covers the food supplied by the club and the cost of the shelter.

The picnic starts around noon with a board meeting. All members are invited to listen in. Food will be served after 1:00.

Bring a “White Elephant” for an auction after the meal. The “Elephant” should preferable be wrapped so no one knows what it is. It could be anything the you feel would intrigue the buyer.

Steve Eisenger will plan a hick for those that would like to get some good exercise.

What is a Piedfort?

by Dennis DeYoung



Photo: OldCurrencyExchange.com

Piedfort coins are exceptionally thick, heavy collector's items, typically double the thickness and weight of standard-issue coins while maintaining the same diameter. Originating in 12th-century, the word comes from French *pied* (foot) + *fort* (strong/heavy), literally meaning “heavy foot” and idiomatically “heavy weight.” The modern English form **piedfort** appears in numismatic literature and reference works, although “**piefort**” (without the ‘d’) is a common variant or misspelling that you may also see in catalogs and listings.

They are struck as proofs, often for collectors, dignitaries, or as early trial patterns, featuring higher metal content and superior craftsmanship. Piedforts are not just limited to silver; they can be struck in various precious metals, including gold. While The Royal Mint is today one of the most prolific issuers of commemorative piedforts, they are far from the only mint producing them. The Monnaie de Paris (France) pioneered modern collector piedforts in the 1890s and continues to issue them. Other notable producers include the Perth Mint (Australia), known

for its impressive 2 oz silver piedforts, and the China Mint, which has issued piedfort Pandas and Lunar coins since 1988. Historically, standout examples include the rare Amsterdam Piedfort Ducaton of 1672 pictured here.



Key Features and Details:

Term Origin: Derived from the French "*pied fort*," meaning "heavy foot" or "heavy measure".

Historical origin: The practice dates back to medieval Europe – first in 12th-century France, later spreading to Great Britain.

Physical characteristics: They are usually twice as thick as normal coins; noticeably heavier while retaining the same diameter.

Metal and finish: Often struck in precious metals and finished to proof standards; superior strike and surface quality are common.

Production purpose: Originally created as trial strikes, modern piedforts are produced for collectors and high-end presentations, not for general circulation.

Rarity and value: Due to low mintages, higher precious metal content, and superior quality, they are highly valued by collectors.



The topic came up at an RNA meeting recently when a member showed a set of three piedfort RNA Medals (copper, bronze, and silver) struck to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary. They had just been freshly slabbed by NGC as Proof 65, 66, and 67. In addition, at least a couple of heavy silver piedforts exist of the A. A. Kolb "Lady Germania" medal that the RNA uses as its Speaker's Medal. Perhaps there are more RNA piedforts out there in private hands?

Don't be ashamed if you struggle to pronounce, or even recall, the term "piedfort" – hopefully seeing it in print here in *The RNA News* will make it stick!

RNA Online Resources

 www.rochesternumismaticassociation.org
 www.facebook.com/groups/21533643632
 @RocCoinClub

Social Media Chair: David Gottfried
Webmaster: John Zabel

Numismatist of the Year

Nominations are now being taken for the RNA's Numismatist of the Year (NOTY) Award.

- Any established RNA Member in good standing—active in the current and previous years
- Contributes to the science of numismatics
- Promotes interest and growth in numismatics
- Publishes numismatic articles
- Presents talks to outside organizations
- Presents programs at RNA meetings
- Contributes to the RNA

To nominate someone, see Dennis DeYoung at an RNA meeting or mail a brief paragraph of nomination to the RNA PO Box found on page 2 of this newsletter.



Upcoming RNA Events

RNA Summer Picnic August 23
 RNA First Fall Meeting September 9
 RNA Coin Show Oct. 31—Nov. 1
 RNA Annual Banquet TBD (October)

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