

Rochester Numismatic Association

America's Oldest Continuously Operating Coin Club – ANA Branch #2 – Life Club #8
Member: American Numismatic Society – Empire State Numismatic Association
Canadian Numismatic Association – Token and Medal Society – Rochester Museum & Science Center
Newsletter Editor (ad hoc) – Scott Fybush (scott@fybush.com)
P.O. Box 10056 – Rochester NY 14610-0056 – www.the-rna.com



Letter from the President

by Jason Childers

Hi folks,

I hope everyone had a great summer. I was pleasantly surprised at the turnout at the ANA show in New York. We had a large contingent at the show, and John Zabel pointed out that there were 12 past and present RNA presidents there.

The new RNA year has started, and a few things are coming up.

Our annual coin show is later in the year this year.

Happening Saturday and Sunday, 2-3 November, this gives people enough time to get a display ready (I plan on having one). With two months, there is plenty of time to assemble one, even you are starting from scratch.

Also, our Vice President, Dave Gottfried, is assembling a list of speakers for the year. If you have a talk that you would like to present to the club, he's looking for you.

But our first meeting, 13 September, is our annual talk about the club members' experiences at the ANA show. I invite all members who attended to come and tell their story. Those who didn't should come and hear about what they missed.

I look forward to the start to a fun '02-'03 season. Won't you come join us?

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 10 September – 8 PM
"What I did on my summer vacation": Bring your stories, pictures and summertime finds from the ANA convention or wherever your travels may have taken you!

2002-2003 meeting schedule:

Tuesday 24 September – 8 PM

Tuesday 8 October – 8 PM

Tuesday 22 October – 8 PM

Tuesday 12 November – 8 PM

Tuesday 26 November – 8 PM

Tuesday 10 December – 8 PM

Holiday Auction

Tuesday 14 January – 8 PM

Tuesday 28 January – 8 PM

Tuesday 11 February – 8 PM

Tuesday 25 February – 8 PM

Tuesday 11 March – 8 PM

Tuesday 25 March – 8 PM

Tuesday 8 April – 8 PM

Tuesday 22 April – 8 PM

Tuesday 13 May – 8 PM

Tuesday 27 May – 7:30 PM

Meinhart Speaking Contest

Tuesday 10 June – 8 PM

Annual Meeting

Tuesday 24 June – 8 PM

Annual Auction

Want to be on the speakers' schedule?
Check with Dave Gottfried at the next meeting, or drop him a line. Your participation keeps our meetings interesting and educational!

November 2-3, 2002
30th Annual RNA Coin Show
Eisenhart Auditorium
657 East Avenue

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the lower level of the Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue. Please enter through the Gannett School and take the elevator to the lower level and through the tunnel to our meeting room.

RNA Takes Manhattan!

The American Numismatic Association's annual convention produced a record turnout of Rochester numismatists July 30-August 4 in New York City.

It was all but impossible to walk the bourse floor (actually, floors – two of them, plus a mezzanine for exhibits) or ride the escalators at the Marriott Marquis Hotel without bumping into at least one fellow RNA'er.

John Zabel took a head count of RNA past and current presidents and came up with an even dozen – in addition to himself and Sheryl, he saw Charlie Ricard, Ken Traub, John Nicastro, Dan White, Ira Stein, Doug Musinger, Wayne Scheible, Gerry Muhl, Scott Fybush and current prez Jason Childers.

Other RNA'ers spotted in and around the bourse floor included Polly Roberts, Gehring Pittman, Dave Gottfried, Melanie Childers, Mark Holmes, Pat Scheible, Jim Sanders, Nick Graver and Harris Rusitzky – and probably a few more your editor missed while spending way too much money at the Canadian Mint booth!

No, Bill Coe wasn't there to bid up the price on the 1933 Double Eagle (though we're sure he was watching enviously from back home), but the

continued on page 2

September 2002

INSIDE: Bob Doty gets our archives in order...picnic pictures..."Mr. 1933" sounds off in CW...and more!

The RNA invades Manhattan

continued from front page

record-setting auction was certainly a highlight of the event, with the official U.S. Mint card commemorating the coin as one of the most popular souvenir items. (At \$5, it was certainly a lot cheaper than \$7 million!)

The Mint also had the just-released silver proof sets on hand for sale; your editor had to return his first one after finding some nasty water spots on Sacajawea! Quality control, anyone?

Down the hall at the Numismatic Theater, Nick Graver was among the presenters (you'll hear a version of his talk later this year at a club meeting); we also sat in on a talk by Rochester native and former *New York Times* numismatic columnist Ed Reiter, who spoke at the RNA's 75th anniversary banquet and just might stop by a club meeting again sometime.

John Zabel again served as a judge upstairs at the exhibit tables, where the variety of material on hand was impressive, but the lighting made some cases hard to see, unfortunately.

Your editor and Dave Gottfried sat in on a Friday afternoon public session with the Citizens' Commemorative Coin Advisory Commission, whose members seemed interested to hear our gripes about the lack of artistry on current coinage, even though they're largely powerless to do much about it.

And the ANA board received our package of materials submitted in support of Rochester's bid for the midwinter ANA convention in 2012. No decisions have been made so far, but there's plenty of time.

How was *your* convention experience? Share your stories about the ANA (or other summer fun) at our Sept. 9 meeting!

Scott Fybush

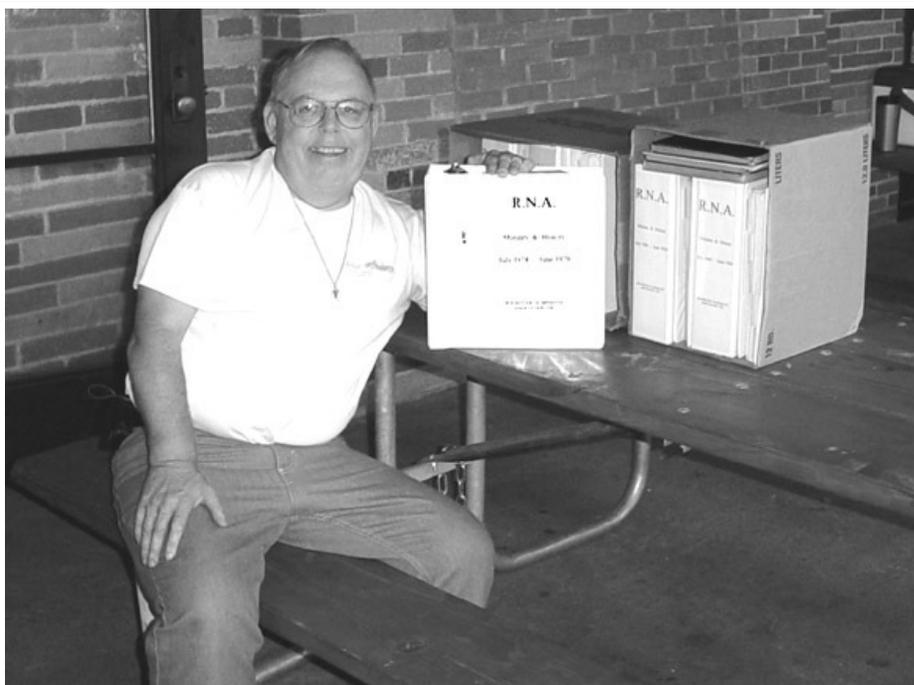


photo: Melanie Childers

Historian Doty Completes Archives

So what has RNA historian Bob Doty been up to when he hasn't been working on his pristine 1963 Studebaker Avanti down there in Florida? He's been compiling the club's archives into a series of binders, each one covering five years of RNA history, from 1912 right up to the present.

Bob brought the binders up with him for the RNA picnic (much to the relief of Sharon Doty!) and presented them to the club for our library. Each binder includes minutes, ephemera such as newspaper articles and banquet programs, secretary's correspondence, newsletters and anything else Bob could scrounge from the archives, all meticulously arranged by date. (If you have anything to add to recent volumes, since many minutes from the nineties are missing, please let Bob know!)

The binders will be available for inspection at RNA meetings – please take a minute to look over our club's long history and to appreciate the many hours of long work Bob put in on this important and valuable project!

1933 \$20 blues

In my collecting circle, I am known as "Mr. 1933." As early as 1969, I had chosen to collect the U.S. coins of my birth year, 1933. At first, I searched for a 1933 silver dollar. Then, I got a "Red Book" and learned that no dollar coins were minted that year. To my astonishment, no nickels, dimes or quarters were made either!

The only U.S. coins minted in 1933 were the 1933 Lincoln cent, the 1933-D Lincoln cent, the 1933-S Walking Liberty half dollar, the 1933-D Mint Oregon Trail half dollar, the 1933 Indian Head \$10 eagle and the 1933 Saint-Gaudens \$20 double eagle.

That left me to collect only six coins. I have four of them. Guess which two I still need?

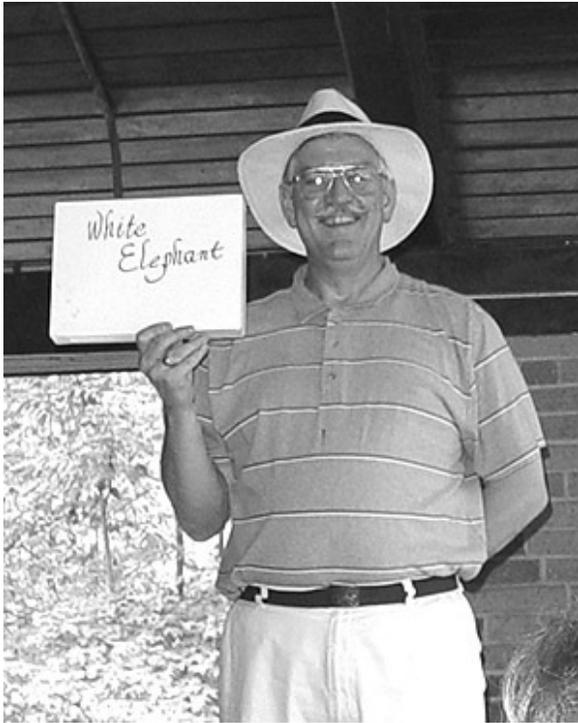
All of the recent hype about the upcoming auction of the only 1933 double eagle available to collectors has both whetted my appetite and frustrated me because of the expected \$4 million to \$6 million sale price. Although interesting and educational, all this hoopla has really hurt.

Is there anyone out there who will buy it as a gift for me? I surely hope someone will treasure it as much as I would for its beauty and historical significance.

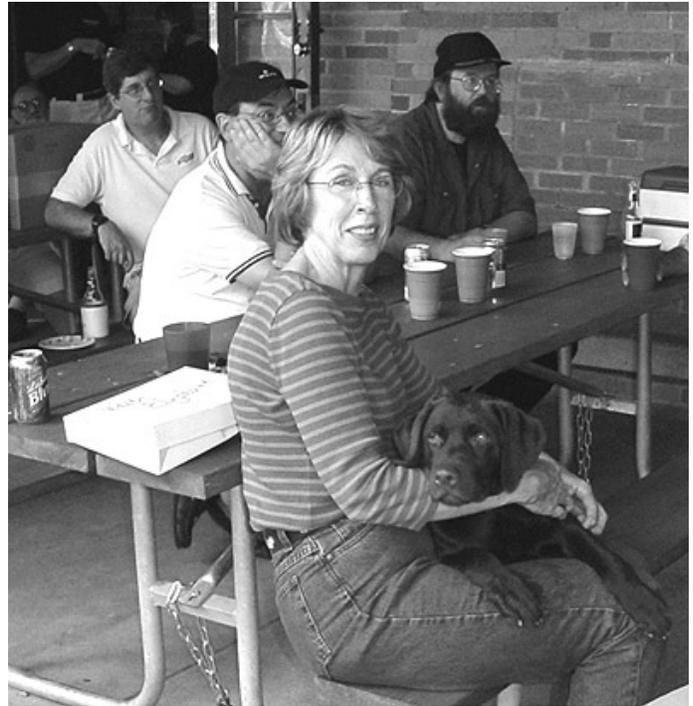
*William D. Coe
Rochester, NY*

This letter to the editor appeared in *Coin World* August 5, 2002! The buyer of the 1933 double eagle remains anonymous at press time – suppose Bill got a nice present after all?

RNA Members Enjoy the Sun at 2002 Picnic



What's that John Zabel is auctioning? Why, an actual White Elephant, of course!



Pat Scheible and Kazi wait for John to auction off some dog food, while Dan White, Mark Holmes and Jim Sanders watch



Tom Adams and family watch the auction while Tom Krause studies the treasurer's money box he's just inherited from Dave Gottfried

*Photos by
Melanie Childers*



Jane Dintruff enjoys a refreshing beverage

For once, the sun was shining and the temperature was warm on the designated Sunday for the RNA annual picnic! Several dozen RNA members and family (plus a few dogs!) turned out at Powder Mills Park for the picnic July 21, which featured food from Rochester's Beale Street Cafe.

Among the "white elephant" items auctioned by John Zabel were two fat packets of Confederate currency, six Canadian dollars ("our northern neighbors have six bucks and no does") and plenty of leftover paper plates, potato chips and other refreshments.

Winner of the "Ride of the Day," without a doubt: Bob and Sharon Doty's 1963 Studebaker Avanti, lovingly trucked up from Florida for a Studebaker car show that followed the picnic.

2002-2003 Officers

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Board Update

Your new board met for the first time at the RNA picnic July 21.

Board member Scott Fybush proposed having the club cut a second reverse die for its presidential medals, to eliminate the need to polish and then sandblast the die each time the medal finish changes from proof to matte and back.

The motion was approved unanimously, and a new die will be cut this year.

President Jason Childers proposed having some permanent vinyl signs made up to better direct traffic to the picnic and coin show.

John Nicastro will investigate the cost of having signs made; the motion was tabled until the cost can be determined.

The board accepted the books of minutes and club history prepared by Bob Doty (*see page two*), with

gratitude for his hard work on behalf of the club.

The books are being kept by club secretary Edie Coe until a permanent home for them can be found.

Bill Coe suggested the formation of a bylaws review committee to make some modifications to the bylaws, including making the immediate past president an automatic board member.

The board voted to create a committee, chaired by Arthur D. Cohen. Bill Coe and Jim Sanders volunteered to serve on that committee.

Dues (\$15, \$17 if you wish your medal mailed to you) for the 2002-2003 year will be due to treasurer Tom Krause at the first September meeting. You can pay him then, or send your check to the RNA post-office box. Members whose dues are not paid within 90 days will be considered in arrears.

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