

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

Hello again to our members! And a big "salutations" to everyone else who is reading our newsletter for the first time!

As you may know, our 30th Annual Coin Show is happening on Saturday and Sunday, 2-3 November (for many of you, you already know this, because you came to the show and received a copy of the newsletter).

There will be several exhibits displayed, and again we have sold all of our dealers' tables (way to go, Bill and Ursula).

I hope that all our members who are in town do come down to show their support for the club. We also could use volunteers for setting up and take down, as well as working at the hospitality table.

I will be holding the next board meeting at Dave Gottfried's house, 14 Overdale Park (see directions at right) on Tuesday, 19 November at 8:00. All members in good standing are welcome to join us. I welcome all input to help make your club a better club. Please drop me a line to let me know if you plan on attending.

The first and only meeting in December (next month) is our Winter Auction. There is no second meeting in December.

I hope to see you all at the show! (Especially you!)

Numismatically yours,

Jason

Upcoming Meetings

November 2-3, 2002

30th Annual RNA Coin Show
Eisenhart Auditorium
657 East Avenue

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Full list of dealers – page 5!

Tuesday 12 November – 8 PM

Program TBA

Friday 15 November – 6:30 PM

Rochester Junior Numismatic Association

The juniors will hold their meeting at McLeod Stamp & Coin, 2423 Monroe Avenue (between Edgewood and Westfall, near I-590). All collectors ages 11-18 are welcome to attend and learn about coin collecting! (See more from junior club advisor Steve Lanzafame on page 7.)

Tuesday 19 November – 8 PM

RNA Board Meeting

Open to all interested members. The meeting will be held at 14 Overdale Park, off Luzerne Street. Turn off Monroe Avenue at Harwood Street, just east of the I-490 exit, and follow Harwood around until it becomes Luzerne. Overdale is on the right.

Tuesday 26 November – 8 PM

Veteran member **Nick Graver** speaks on "Photographic Numismatics." This illustrated talk was also presented at the ANA convention in New York this past summer – don't miss it!

Tuesday 10 December – 8 PM

Holiday Auction

Tuesday 24 December – No Meeting

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the lower level of the Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue. Follow the signs from the Eisenhart or Gannett School entrances, as posted, downstairs to our lower-level meeting room.

Pittman coins surface in Canadian collector's auction

One of the greatest collections of Canadian coins ever to hit the auction block will be on display at next January's Florida United Numismatists (FUN) show in Orlando and will be auctioned at the New York International Show a few days later – and it includes a number of Canadian rarities from the collection of longtime RNA member John Jay Pittman.



courtesy Heritage Coin Co.

Assembled by collectors Sid and Alicia Belzberg, the collection includes one of the greatest rarities of pre-Confederation Canadian coinage: the unique \$10 and \$20 gold pieces issued by British Columbia in 1862.

Those coins, which did not come from the Pittman collection, are said to be highly desired by the Bank of Canada collection, which does not

continued on page 2

November-December 2002

INSIDE: Gerry Muhl on peace coins, part 2...Jason Childers on the next State Quarters...Steve Lanzafame on the Junior club...and more!

Pittman coins among Canadian auction rarities

continued from front page

currently contain examples of the British Columbia gold coinage.

Other rarities included in the Belzberg collection – which contains one of every Canadian coin, all in certified mint state condition – are a gem uncirculated 1921 50-cent piece and a gem uncirculated 1921 5-cent piece, as well as some finest-known examples of coinage from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and several extremely rare Canadian patterns.

Complete details on which of the coins came from the Pittman auction held several years ago will be forthcoming when Heritage Auctions releases the full catalog in printed form and on its Web site, www.heritagecoin.com, in mid-December. (We'll try to include catalog information in the December or January issues of the RNA newsletter.)

At press time, photos of many of the Belzberg coins were already available at the site.

The display of the coins will take place at the FUN show, January 9-12, 2003 in Orlando; the auction will take place January 13, 2003 in New York City prior to the New York International show.

According to *Canadian Coin News*, the Belzbergs founded Belzberg Technologies, which provides financial information and trading systems. They're selling the collection in order to buy back more of their company's stock.

The couple says they intend to remain active in collecting ancient and medieval coinage – watch out, Wayne and Pat Scheible!

For more information on the Belzberg auction, contact Cathy Hadd at Heritage, 214-252-4216, or Cathy@HeritageCoin.com.

Scott Fybush

Extend the State Quarter Program? Jason Childers offers legislative insight into the latest proposal

The State Quarter program has proved to be very popular with collectors and (previously) non-collectors alike, and will probably continue to be through 2008, when the program is scheduled to end. Just recently, the House of Representatives passed a bill to extend the program into 2009 to include the District of Columbia, and the five Territories: the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This allows 4,960,340 Americans to have their home areas to be celebrated, most of which have been part of the United States longer than several States.

The House bill (H.R.4005), which is "to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to commemorate the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes", was presented on 19 March 2002, sponsored by 2 downstate New York Representatives (Peter King (R, NY-3 (Seaford, Nassau County)), and Carolyn Maloney (D, NY-14 (parts of Manhattan and Queens))), and Congressional Delegates from American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. (The Northern Marianas have no representation in Washington.) The bill was passed by the House on 7 October 2002, and was received by the Senate on the 8th. No action has occurred since.

Recognition of these territories is not a whimsical idea. These territories have been possessed by the United States for at least 50 years, and in 5 of 6 of the entities, people born in these regions are American citizens. (In American Samoa, they are American nationals, which is a slightly different status.) And celebrating the territories and DC would be seen as a step of inclusion, since they are represented in Congress by non-voting Delegates (except for the Northern Marianas, as I

had said before, doesn't even have that luxury). And only the District of Columbia can vote in federal elections, and received this right only since 1961.

The order of release of the new quarters would be: DC (created in 1800); Puerto Rico (annexed in 1898); Guam (1898); the Virgin Islands (1917); American Samoa (1929); and the Northern Marianas (opted for Commonwealth status in 1986).

H.R. 4005 has gone farther than previous attempts in extending the State Quarter program. Three similar bills were presented in the 106th Congress (1999-2000), and one during the 105th (1997-98), all of which had been referred to the respective committees (106th: H.R.1029, H.R.5010, S.760; 105th: H.R.3673). The current bill has the distinction of being passed by the House.

But the bill will only last until 3 January 2003, when the 109th Congress is sworn in. Then the process would have to start all over again.

If you would like to see these possessions celebrated (and have the State Quarter program extended), you can help by writing your US Senators, as well as the members of the Senate Banking Committee. If the bill does not pass, by the start of the next Congress, write both of your Senators and your Representative, and tell them that you want to have this program extended, so that every American can know that he is a part of the United States family.

**For updates and the full text of this bill (H.R. 4003), go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
For the list of members of the Senate Banking Committee, as well as links to each Senator's website, go to <http://www.senate.gov/>
For the list of members of the House Committee on Financial Services, go to <http://financialservices.house.gov/>
For links to House members' websites, go to <http://www.house.gov/>**

Peace Coins Have Short History

Part II

by Gerard Muhl

With the repudiation of Communist socialism in the Soviet Union in the 1990s, many countries reiterated the hope for lasting world peace by issuing coins with peace themes of various denominations and of varying quality. Bhutan issued a 300 Ngultrum coin with a portrait of Dag Hammarskjold, commemorating his work for peace, especially in Africa. This issue coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations organization.



After getting its independence in 1992, Bosnia asserted its sovereignty by issuing its own coinage. As the center of numerous U.N. peacekeeping missions, Bosnia expressed a hope for peace in its 1992-1994 14 Ecu series of coins. Each coin has a different reverse design emblematic of peace. The 1994 design features a teddy bear, a design that urges peace of all children.



In 1986, Canada issued a non-circulating \$100 gold piece with a spray of

maple leaves emblazoned with the word "Peace" in both English and French. In 1995, that nation issued an aureate-bronze, 26mm circulating commemorative dollar showing the Peacekeeping monument in Ottawa. Canada is very proud of its role in international peacekeeping. It was Canadian prime minister Lester Pearson who proposed a U.N.

peacekeeping force and sent Canadian troops to participate in that force. For his untiring role in the cause of peace, Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957.



In 1995, two more nations issued coins with a Peace motif. Finland's entry was an .830 fine silver 100 Markkaa coin with a stylized peace dove. Sometimes less is more, as with this coin. One side has the dove and date, while the other portrays oak leaves, denomination and the country's name. Perhaps the U.S. Citizens' Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee should consider simplifying the amount of words on our coins and let the viewer see the message on the coin more clearly.

The African nation of Malawi's 5 Kwacha coin was also given a peace design in 1995. It shows a child reading a book, and carries the legend "Nations United for Peace." The message is that literacy can bring peace and help pull nations from that poverty which so often leads to strife.



Finally, there is a South African entry for peace coins. This 2 Rand piece was issued in 1993, less than one full year before the April 1994 democratic election ending the blight of apartheid in that country. It shows a light dove and a darker

dove flying side by side over a rising sun. Struck in proof sterling silver, it made a bold statement with hope for a peaceful future.

It is well to see countries choosing peace themes for their numismatic iconography. Coins can have an effect on everyone who handles them. A problem, however, is that fewer than twenty nations in the last century have made a commitment to peace through emblematic coin designs.



Furthermore, of those coins with a peace theme only a small minority were designed for general circulation. Most were non-circulating commemoratives designed to be sold to collectors, often beyond the border of the issuing country.

For a coin to have maximum impact at conditioning a people it should be seen in commerce every day. We have examples of that effect in our own country with anti-slavery tokens, temperance tokens and Hard Times political tokens that circulated with a message in the early 19th century.

We also have our current 10-cent piece. Issued as a commemorative to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, it also became a poignant reminder to a generation of the March of Dimes campaign to collect dimes (and dollars) to help eliminate crippling diseases.

What an impact a circulating peace coin would have on the nation issuing it! It could only be positive. In this era of uncertainty, it would be great comfort to citizens everywhere to see peace take a front seat and appear as a symbol on the coins of every nation. What will happen, only time can tell.

The Odd Page

or, News and Notes from All Over
(because you really can't just have a seven-page
newsletter, now can you?)

by Scott Fybush

Found In Rolls: RNA members know Richard Imburgia as “the penny roll guy,” for his amazing patience in sorting through hundreds of thousands of one-cent pieces in search of those elusive double die coins and other errors.

But those of us who attended the October 8 meeting now know that Richard occasionally allows his attention to stray from the lowly cent.

Over the course of eleven months, Richard went through \$20,080 in dimes – that’s 4,016 rolls, or an amazing 200,800 coins – to see what was lurking out there in “circulation.”

So what did he find? \$18.00 worth (that’s 180 dimes!) of silver Roosevelts; \$8.00 of Winged Liberty (“Mercury”) dimes, including a 1917-S in Fine, a 1919-S in Fine and a 1939-D in XF; \$3.20 in Canadian silver dimes; three double dies (two 1970 DDR-4s and a 1970 DDR-2); four Roosevelts with repunched mint marks (a 1959-D RPM #2 and three new discoveries – a 1969-D RPM #2, a 1983-D RPM #1 and a 1986-P RPM #1).



Your editor's uninspiring
pocket change finds...

And that’s not all: Richard also turned up a pretty nice set of Proof clad Roosevelts: 1968-S, 1969-S, 1971-S, 1973-S, 1976-S, 1977-S, 1978-S, 1979-S, 1980-S and 1983-S.

Not all of us may have Richard’s level of patience, but never let it be said there aren’t finds out there among all that clad coinage in your change!

• • •

Rochester, 2012! Yes, it’s *still* a decade off. But there’s some news this month about the RNA’s bid to host the ANA’s spring convention (the “National Money Show”) in our club’s centennial year.

ANA convention manager Brenda Bishop wrote the board to let us know that the national organization has decided not to choose spring convention sites more than four years in advance.

“There are too many variables too far out, which could potentially help or hinder any venue,” Bishop wrote. She calls the decision to approve funding for a fast ferry to Toronto “great news,” though, and assures us that we’ll be kept abreast of any other clubs wishing to host the spring show in 2012.

We also heard from ANA executive director Edward C. Rochette, who wrote:

“Thank you for your recent letter on the exciting developments occurring in the Rochester area. To have so convenient an access to

our collecting comrades north of the border is indeed an encouraging development and a plus towards hosting a future ANA Spring convention...As new boards come and old boards go, as well as changes in management at headquarters, I suggest that it would be best for RNA to keep renewing their intent to host the 2012 National Money Show in Rochester. And, if I am still around, I’ll be there. Rochester has a numismatic legacy few other areas can touch.”



Stay tuned to this space in the years to come as we continue our push to bring the nation’s collectors to Western New York for our club’s centennial!

• • •

To arms, comrades! (I): The latest issue of *Coin World* brought word of an urgent call for letters and e-mails to save one of our nation’s numismatic treasures.

The Old San Francisco Mint, aka the “Granite Lady,” was San Francisco’s mint facility from 1874 until 1937. It survived the 1906 earthquake, not to mention urban renewal in the sixties that threatened its survival.

The Granite Lady reopened to the public in 1973 as a museum honoring California’s Gold Rush and the history of coinage in California. Alas, seismic damage from 1989 and 1994 earthquakes closed the museum – and the building is once again threatened with redevelopment that would fail to honor its long history as a Mint facility.

If you support the proposal to reopen the building as a National Gold Rush Museum – and especially if you think you might visit San Francisco some time to play tourist there – drop a line to “Old Mint Task Force, c/o Ms. Hala Hijazi, 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 448, San Francisco CA 94102,” fax it to 415-554-6018, or send an e-mail to hala.hijazi@sfgov.org.

• • •

To arms, comrades! (II): The questionable state of Monroe County’s finances could leave your club without a meeting place, if things don’t go right for the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The word from our contacts at RMSC is that county budget cuts could



force them to close the campus at 5 PM daily, which would lock us out of our longtime meeting space.

The RMSC suggests you contact your county lawmaker and county executive Jack Doyle to let them know you’re concerned about budget cuts at the museum. You know what to do...

• • •

Last Word: Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this such a big newsletter! Want to keep it that way? Pick up that keyboard and have your say. And if you just learned about the RNA from picking up this newsletter at the Coin Show, we can’t wait to see you at a meeting! All the details are on the front page – we’ll see you there.

Full Roster of Dealers Set For 30th Annual RNA Coin Show November 2-3

Thanks to the hard work of Ursula Loose and Bill Coe, our 30th annual coin show is again a bourse floor sellout! Here's the full list of participating dealers. Please be sure to thank them for helping to make this year's show a success.

Jacquelyn Allen
Treasured Treasures
P.O. Box 692
Mendon, NY 14506

Gary W. Alt, Sr.
The Coinery
P.O. Box 371
Lockport, NY 14095

Robert Bielec
Power City Coins
540 31st St.
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Terry Bogert
Letchworth Coins
6 Dolbeer Street
Perry, NY 14530

Michael Capawan
Keshequa Coins
P.O. Box 253
Nunda, NY 14517

Arthur D. Cohen
Penfield Note Exchange
P.O. Box 311
Penfield, NY 14526

Arthur J. Cohen
2210 Summit Circle Dr.
Rochester, NY 14618

Robert H. Cornell
Bid-Ten Back Co.
189 Mulberry Street
Springfield, MA 01105

John P. Cross
Classic Collections
7 Ellis Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14701

David J. Cutitta
33 Woodrow Road
Batavia, NY 14020

Anthony Denny
Rare Coins
1648 W. 8th Street
Erie, PA 16505

Joseph M. Fusco
Silver Sleigh
1625 W. River Parkway
Grand Island, NY 14072

Andy Hale
& Ursula Loose
McLeod Stamp & Coin Co.
2423 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Andrew Harkness
P.O. Box 515
Pittsford, NY 14534

Roderick P. Hughes III
The Professors
P.O. Box 3
St. Bonaventure, NY
14778

Ray Komka
Ray Komka Coins
1778 Empire Blvd.
Webster, NY 14580

Peter Kostyk
P.O. Box 1984
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Tom P. Kwasnik
Able Manor Coins
P.O. Box 101
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Joseph (Steven)
Lanzafame
365 Hurstbourne Road
Rochester, NY 14609

Richard H. Leenhouts
Richard's Coin Exchange
P.O. Box 115
Williamson, NY 14589

Frank Munzi
724 Mohawk Street
Lewiston, NY 14092

Douglas Musinger **
Brighton Tokens & Coins
1427 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Timothy J. Oldenburg
P.O. Box 1063
North Tonawanda, NY
14120

David C. Pease
Pine Tree Coins
P.O. Box 61
Almond, NY 14804

Merritt Reynolds
Coins of Merritt
P.O. Box 203
Felts Mills, NY 13638

Robert Rutkosky
Pocket Change
P.O. Box 9684
Erie, PA 16505

Ronald Winter *
P.O. Box 222
Lyons, NY 14489

Gary Wycker *
P.O. Box 1141
Pittsford, NY 14534

*Saturday Only
**Sunday Only

Coin Show Medals Still Available

The 30th anniversary of the RNA coin show is being marked with the striking of the latest in the club's long history of medallic issues – and it's not too late to add one to your collection!

This handsome medal features A.A. Weinman's Walking Liberty design on the obverse, paired with an attractive wreath design on the reverse, with a legend reading "ROCHESTER NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 30TH ANNUAL COIN SHOW 2002."

Limited strikings in silver (one- and two-ounce) and bronze sold out at the October 8 meeting, but silver-plated versions of the medal are still available at press time. They'll be for sale (\$7) at the Coin Show, or reserve yours in advance by contacting Gerry Muhl at 336-9459.



“Senior Moments” with the Junior Club

by Joe “Steven” Lanzafame
Junior Club adviser

It came as a minor surprise to me how much I enjoyed the RJNA meetings.

For those of you who may not know, the “RJNA” is the “Rochester Junior Numismatic Association”, child of the RNA and home to local collectors who are under the age of eighteen. The RJNA meets at 7:30 p.m. on every 3rd Friday of the month during the school year at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments are provided.

It should be noted that the RJNA is as special in the world of coins as we like to think the “Senior RNA” to be. The RNA is the longest continuously meeting coin club in the country, if not the world, and the RJNA, founded in 1947, holds a similar distinction with over half a century and 530+ meetings under their belt.

For the past decade, Ursula Loose has been carrying the Numismatic Torch to her “children,” as she likes to think of them, and it is due to her influence and invitation that I began attending RJNA meetings. The first time I went, it was as a favor to Ursula who asked me to talk to her kids. In retrospect, it was a great favor to myself.

A typical junior club meeting begins somewhere between slight disorganization and major chaos.

“Ursula’s kids” are always very excited to arrive, milling around looking at each other’s coins or asking one of the adults questions about a coin they can’t identify or some anomaly they found in their parents’ pocket change. We try to let the Juniors run their own meetings and with a little prodding the co-Presidents (currently Teddy Kraus and

Joseph Geiger) bring the meeting to loose order and run through the agenda.

The members have Show & Tell, sharing their new acquisitions with the other juniors. This is usually followed by a presentation from one of the Senior club members in attendance who find themselves possessed of a much more attentive and enthusiastic audience than they are likely to find at a regular RNA meeting. I encourage every one to try this at least once (and this means you, Jim Sanders, you and your fruit labels).

The meeting usually wraps up with the Juniors’ favorite activity: “Stump the Advisor”, a very trying game in which they are encouraged to expose the ignorance of myself and any other RNA members in the room by asking questions from any of the various highways and byways of Numismatics. Each question, whether they stump us or not, is rewarded with a prize, which is probably why they love this game so much. However, there have been some nights when they were having such fun making us look silly that they even forgot to take any prizes.

By the way, if you think this is easy, you underestimate the intelligence and creativity of this band of merry coin collectors. “What’s the rarest mint mark on a U.S. coin?” can be followed by “What countries coins have a pine tree on them?” which is quickly followed by “What’s the composition of a 1982 George Washington half dollar?” (and they expect you to know even the trace metals!)

And, I must admit, “Stump the Advisor” is my favorite part of the evening also, although I always pretend to hate it just a little. It’s not that we get a lot of questions right (I almost bought champagne for the adults the night we got 3 in a row correct), it’s just that they ask questions that are interesting and that I never thought to ask myself.

And we all laugh, at the questions and the answers, and an hour in a room full of laughing children is a special treat for anyone.

The RNA is a wonderful organization with a great group of people in the membership, but the Juniors...well, the Juniors are in a league of their own. The senior club is burdened with having a bunch of adults, each with their own set of limited numismatic interests. The Juniors find just about everything interesting. It is refreshing and it fuels my own excitement for coins every time I think it may be waning.

So, parents bring your children. RNA members bring your coins and knowledge. The future of our organization and our hobby depends on fostering the young collectors who will follow in our footsteps. I guarantee you will have more fun than you think possible. I always do.

Come to the RJNA...

The Rochester Junior Numismatic Association is open to young numismatists ages 11-18. Meetings are normally held on the third Friday of every month except July and August, from 7:30-9:30 PM. Refreshments are served; bring a coin or collectible to show and discuss – and plenty of questions!

Meetings are normally held at the Gannett School of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue.

The November 15 meeting will take place at McLeod Stamp and Coin, 2423 Monroe Avenue, near I-590.

2002-2003 Officers

President: Jason Childers

806 Grand Avenue
Rochester NY 14609-6541
585-224-9715
paploo@mindex.com

Vice President: David Gottfried

55 St. Paul Street
Rochester NY 14604
585-263-3658
davidg@mychamber.com

Secretary: Edie Coe

101 Oakbriar Drive
Rochester NY 14616
585-865-7992
billcoe@juno.com

Treasurer: Tom Kraus

168 Grosvenor Rd.
Rochester NY 14610-2517
585-241-3807
tkraus1@rochester.rr.com

Meeting and Club Notes

The RNA welcomed two new members at its October 22 meeting. Peter Giamos and Mike Luck are both past members rejoining the club after long absences, and we're happy to have them back!

• • •

Congratulations to Wayne and Pat Scheible on the birth of a new grandchild! Dillon was born November 6, weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces and 21 inches long and arriving in perfect "MS-70" condition.

• • •

Best wishes to Bill Coe as he recovers from a recent angioplasty. We were happy to see him back on his feet at the October 22 meeting – just in time for the coin show! (Most club members would agree: it's hard to imagine trying to put on

a show without the leadership he's displayed all these years!)

• • •

The next board meeting will take place Tuesday, November 12 at the home of vice president David Gottfried. The meeting will begin at 8 PM, and all club members are encouraged to attend. See page one for directions and more details.

• • •

Andy Harkness and his wife have been on the road lately. At the October 8 meeting, Andy shared some recollections of a summer trip that took them to Spain, Portugal, France and England.

The Harknesses also spent a month in China...and on the way stopped off in Hong Kong, where they ended up in Room 1933 of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel...perfect for a vacationing Bill Coe!

Rochester Numismatic Association
PO Box 10056
Rochester NY 14610-0056