

RNA



News

The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association



The RNA's Newest Medal

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July-August 2008

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Beginning again

Wow. Time flies. It is now my turn to head the stewardship of the RNA. It was just last summer at a local flea market, I mentioned to another collector that I would be the next president of the RNA; and I was taken aback by the response that, "It seems the RNA will let anybody be president." Expecting a personal insult, I asked him why he made that comment. It turns out the collector, who shall remain nameless, was a former member and president of the RNA, who felt the annual changes of the RNA presidency diluted the pool of qualified candidates for the position.

Since then I have been chewing my mental cud, pondering the comment. Surveying the members of our organization, I noticed we have people of many different backgrounds and age groups, who bring to the organization many different perspectives, interesting nuggets of knowledge and useful information to our hobby. Many offer the benefit of their professional expertise to assist the RNA in financial or legal matters. No matter what the area of your interest is, there is someone in the club willing and able to enlighten you on the subject. The more you interact with other members, the more you will learn and enjoy the RNA experience.

Then I reflected on the past presidents of the RNA, and realized I stand on the shoulders of many people who have contributed to the order and traditions we enjoy today. From the former member's perspective, the glass is half empty, but from my perspective, the glass is half full. For better or worse, the RNA is the sum total of all the

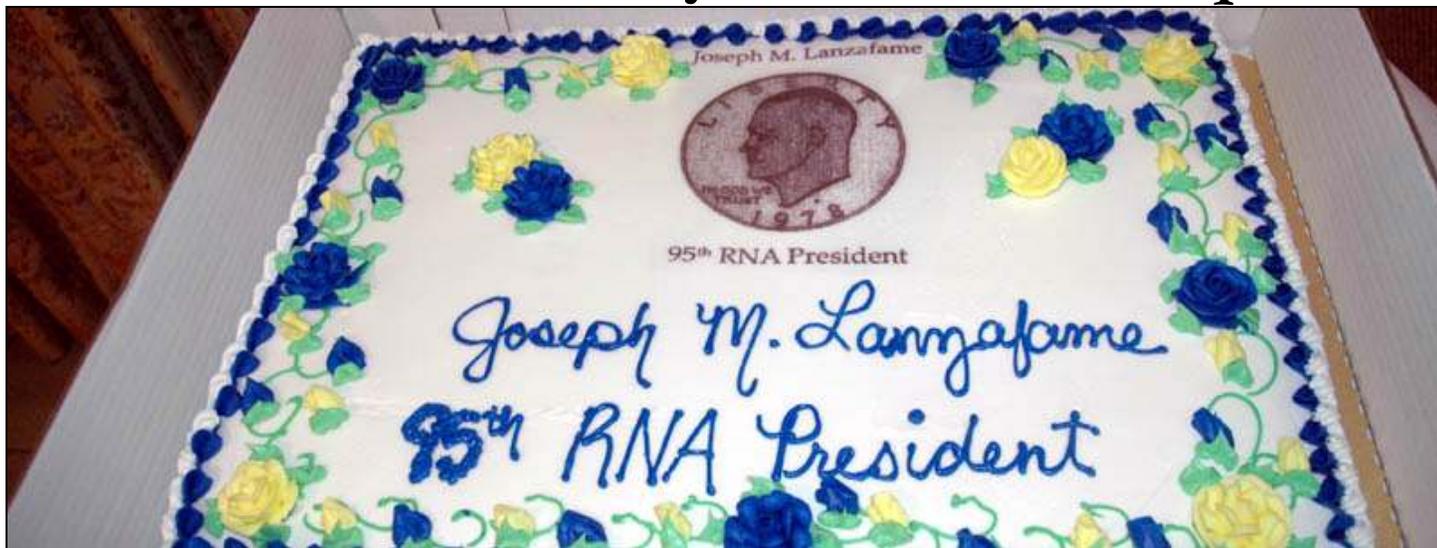
effort and contributions of each and every member since 1912. Because of this, I believe we are a strong organization, and I hope, with the assistance of the RNA board and officers, to contribute to its continued success.

At this time, I would like to thank Ted Vacarella for his diligent service during the past year. Ted meticulously brought together several documents the club uses regularly throughout the year, and placed them on a computer disk to keep future RNA officers from having to "reinvent the wheel." He helped refine the mission statement of the RNA and promoted several programs in pursuit of those goals. He oversaw the revision of many protocols to secure, yet make accessible, both the RNA library and the collection. Ted also sowed the seed of renewed cooperation with the Rochester Museum & Science Center to promote numismatic-related activities, which I believe will be of mutual benefit to both organizations when the plans come to fruition. I am sure Ted will continue to be a valuable asset to the RNA.

As president, I see it as my job to implement many of the new protocols and plans now in place to promote the mission of the RNA. Personally, I would like to see the RNA collection digitally photographed and placed on the RNA Web site for every member to view. We shall see. But more importantly, I plan to continue to promote the fun and enjoyment of social fellowship the RNA currently enjoys. I look forward to working with all of you!

John Stephens

Lanzafame Presidency Saluted at Banquet



Joe Lanzafame, RNA president in 2006-07, enjoyed his honorary banquet May 23rd at the Green Lantern Inn in Fairport. RNA members enjoyed a buffet dinner that included carved prime rib, pasta, chicken and salmon. Members also received their presidential medals, which displayed Tibetan writing along with Joe's likeness. Banquet attendees received wooden nickels and custom postcards featuring Joe and his Great Pyrenees William Wallace, better known as Willie. The door prizes included postcards with first-day cancellation stamps.



***left - The guest of honor with Ursula Loose
below - One of the custom stamps and wooden nickels***



Next up – the RNA picnic, Sunday, August 3rd

One of the highlights of the RNA calendar each year is the annual picnic, and this year the RNA's moveable feast relocates from Powder Mill Park, where it's been for the last seven summers, to Mendon Ponds Park.

The picnic isn't hard to find – if you're coming from most anywhere in Monroe County, make your way to Clover Street (Route 65) and head south. Mendon Ponds Park will be on your left as you head south. From the Thruway, take exit 46 (Henrietta) and head east on Route 253 (Calkins Road), then turn right on Clover Street. And if you're Tim and Darlene Corio, hang a left out of your driveway and just keep going a couple of miles...

The festivities begin with a board meeting at noon, to which all members are invited. Food service starts at 1 PM and runs until it's all gone. And don't forget to bring a white elephant item or two for our auction, which caps off the afternoon.

This year's picnic coincides with the end of the ANA's World's Fair of Money, being held in Baltimore July 29th-August 3rd. Members who'll be in Baltimore are encouraged to contact editor Scott Fybus so we can all get together, say hello and perhaps enjoy a crab cake or two.

And wherever your summer takes you, be sure to make our first meeting back on September 4th!

Club News and Notes

Josh Blodgett won the Meinhart Speaking Contest this year with his talk on the American dollar bill, in which he revealed that the bill was first issued in 1862, and that its current design debuted in 1957.

Three other RJNA members gave Josh some serious competition, and the judges enthusiastically applauded their talks.

Colin Cubitt spoke about Canadian Millennium Quarters, **Thalia Irwin** gave a presentation on the Australian kookaburra, which graces a silver coin in that country, and **Thomas Coene** talked about the commemorative coins of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday.



Each speaker received a trophy and a commemorative dollar coin.

The contest, which was held at the May 15th RNA meeting, is open every year to interested RJNA members.



Congratulations to **Scott and Lisa Fybusch** and **David and Julie Gottfried** on the newest additions to their families!

Eli Benjamin Fybusch (left) was born May 13th at 5:32 a.m., nearly five weeks early, but weighing in at a decent-sized 5 pounds, 8

ounces and 18½ inches long. Eli joins big sister **Ariel**, who will be five years old in September.

He has been growing very steadily, although he has not yet caught up to **Samuel Xavier Gottfried!** Samuel (right) was born June 25th at 9:31 a.m., right on his due date. He came into the world



at an ample 11 pounds, 3 ounces and 22½ inches long. Samuel also has a big sister, **Audrey**, 19 months.

While we're on the "good and welfare" topic, the club welcomed **Wayne and Pat Scheible** back to town at the June 19th meeting after their winter in Arizona.

And the latest news about **Bob Doty** isn't as good as we all hoped – word from wife **Jeannie** is that three potential kidney donors were rejected, and Bob's condition is not improving. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers, won't you?

The RNA coin show coordinators urge members to consider putting together displays for the show November 1st and 2nd. Even though it's summer, now is a good time to get exhibits organized. The inside dimensions of the RNA cases are 32 by 20 inches. Interested members may call Gerry Muhl at 336-9459 with any questions.

Gerry Muhl's RNA Q&A

Why is there an axe on the reverse of the Winged Liberty Dime?

The first Winged Liberty dimes were struck in 1916, when World War I was raging in Europe. Technically, the U.S. was not involved in the fighting, although a number of our ships had been sunk and we were selling millions of dollars of supplies to both England and France. The device on the dime's reverse is known as a fasces, actually an axe bound within a group of rods.

According to Walter Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, the symbolism of the executioner's axe was interpreted as the power of life or death. In ancient Roman law, it connoted the power to kill mercifully by the blade or mercilessly by the rods. The symbol was an updated "Don't tread on me." It could also be interpreted as saying that the U.S. could instantly punish with extreme force if necessary, therefore enemies of liberty, beware.

By the way, those bands holding the rods together are one diagnostic of whether the time is of higher grade. The most sought-after coin is one with the three sets of bands so well struck that the centerline of the bands is clear and without interruption.

What proof coins exist from U.S. branch mints?

The 1838-O half-dollar, of which only 20 exist. The die broke after 20 impressions were made. The 1879-O dollar, which was struck upon reopening the New Orleans Mint after the Civil War. There are 12 of them. The 1883-O dollar, which was struck on a hydraulic press, and of which there are 12 in existence. It is not known how many exist of the 1921-S dollar and the 1855-S quarter eagle. There is more than one remaining of the 1854-S 20-dollar gold piece.

Valuing RNA Presidential Medals

By Arthur D. Cohen

Editor's Note: Collecting the RNA's presidential medals has long been a popular pastime for club members. Here, Art Cohen (himself honored on the 1990 medal) offers a price guide to RNA medals.

Do you have price information about RNA presidential or other medals? Submit it to the RNA News and we'll be happy to print yours, too.



1. 1912 George French	\$35-45	32. 1944 William M. Hutchinson	\$30-35	65. 1977 William D. Coe	\$5-6
2. 1913 L.J. Woolsey	\$50-60	33. 1945 Valance W. Judson	\$25-30	66. 1978 John F. Nicastro	\$5-6
3. 1914 George J. Bauer	\$50-60	34. 1946 Barney Bloom	\$25-30	67. 1979 Gerard Muhl	\$5-6
4. 1915 Louis G. Amberg	\$50-60	35. 1947 Frank E. Eichorn	\$25-30	68. 1980 Bea Weaver	\$5-6
5. 1916 Fred B. King	\$50-60	36. 1948 Francis L. Cady	\$20-25	69. 1981 Robert E. Doty	\$5-6
6. 1917 Fred E. Merritt	\$50-60	37. 1949 S. Clark Place	\$10-15	70. 1982 William J. Carr	\$5-6
7. 1918 Harry H. Yawger	\$50-60	38. 1950 John Jay Pittman	\$35-50	71. 1983 Andrew W. Harkness	\$5-6
8. 1919 S. Handler	\$50-60	39. 1951 Arnold J. Pittinger	\$10-12	72. 1984 Matteo P. Latona	\$5-6
9. 1920 John C. Woodbury	\$350-400	40. 1952 Norman F. Prince	\$10-12	73. 1985 Dennis Culhane	\$5-6
10. 1921 Woolf H. Amberg	\$50-60	41. 1953 Arnim B. Judd	\$10-12	74. 1986 Keith Fader	\$5-6
11. 1922 George A. Gillette	\$50-60	42. 1954 William A. Elston, Jr.	\$8-10	75. 1987 John Zabel	\$5-6
12. 1923 Claude T. Borradaile	\$50-60	43. 1955 James. I. McGowan	\$5-6	76. 1988 Kenneth N. Traub	\$5-6
13. 1924 William F. Sunday	\$50-60	44. 1956 Howard F. Osterman	\$5-6	77. 1989 Jane R. Hanken	\$5-6
14. 1925 John W. Horner	\$50-60	45. 1957 Jack Cohen	\$7-9	with obverse die break	\$50-75
15. 1926 Paul M. Lange	\$50-60	46. 1958 Stella Osterman	\$7-9	78. 1990 Arthur D. Cohen	\$5-6
16. 1927 Almond H. Plumb	\$50-60	47. 1959 John MacMillan	\$5-6	79. 1991 Brian E. Lavell	\$5-6
17. 1928 Arthur C. Parker	\$50-60	48. 1960 Charles J. Ricard	\$5-6	80. 1992 John G. Cooper	\$5-6
18. 1929 Chester A. Peake	\$50-60	49. 1961 Edward A. Gilroy	\$5-6	81. 1993 Ralph F. Dintruff, Jr.	\$5-6
19. 1930 Augustus J. Kaufman	\$50-60	50. 1962 Herbert W. VandenBrul	\$5-6	82. 1994 Spencer I. Radnich, Jr.	\$5-6
20. 1931 Alphonse A. Kolb	\$35-40	51. 1963 Edwin B. Qualiana	\$5-6	83. 1995 Wayne Scheible	\$5-6
21. 1932 Gustave J. Lindboe	\$45-50	52. 1964 Robert E. Ogg	\$5-6	84. 1996 Sheryl B. Zabel	\$5-6
22. 1933 John W. Sloane	\$45-50	53. 1965 Burdette F. Nash	\$5-6	85. 1997 Douglas S. Musinger	\$5-6
23. 1934 Charles W. Foster	\$45-50	54. 1966 Henry R. Dutcher, Jr.	\$5-6	86. 1998 Ira S. Stein	\$5-6
24. 1935 Earle H. Potter	\$50-60	55. 1967 Allyn M. Bates	\$5-6	87. 1999 Frank VanZandt	\$5-6
25. 1936 Joseph B. Harzinski	\$200-250	56. 1968 Herbert D. Becks	\$5-6	88. 2000 Darlene L. Corio	\$5-6
26. 1937 James E. Powers	\$45-50	57. 1969 Michael J. Schopp	\$5-6	89. 2001 Dan A. White	\$5-6
27. 1938 F. Emmett Peake	\$35-40	58. 1970 Jesse D. Shaffer	\$5-6	90. 2002 Scott D. Fybush	\$5-6
28. 1939 William A. Elston	\$45-50	59. 1971 Samuel F. Gaudino	\$5-6	91. 2003 Jason A. Childers	\$5-6
29. 1940 Leslie C. Swartz	\$50-60	60. 1972 Joseph A. Fumia	\$5-6	92. 2004 David A. Gottfried	\$5-6
30. 1942 Floyd B. Newell	\$25-30	61. 1973 Lenard L. Babin	\$7-8	93. 2005 Edith B. Coe	\$5-6
(Fiber Composition Bronze)		62. 1974 Douglas G. Borden	\$5-6	94. 2006 Thomas J. Kraus	\$5-6
31. 1943 Edward F. Meinhart	\$30-35	63. 1975 Donovan A. Shilling	\$5-6	95. 2007 Joseph Lanzafame	\$5-6
(Fiber Composition Bronze)		64. 1976 Paul A. Kraemer	\$5-6		

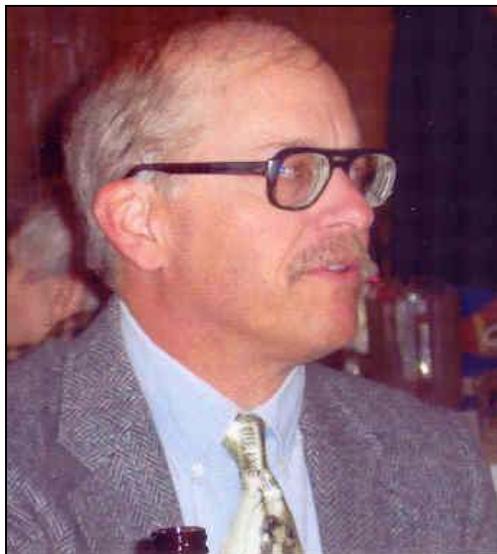


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McLeod Stamp & Coin Co. says farewell



John Kellas, left, and Ursula Loose (with then-not-quite-one-year-old future RJNA member Ariel Fybush) served the numismatic public for 34 years with their store, McLeod Stamp & Coin Company.

On March 1, 2008, Ursula Loose and John Kellas closed the doors of McLeod Stamp & Coin Company at 2423 Monroe Avenue for the last time, ending a 34-year run as one of Rochester's foremost coin shops and the city's last full-service stamp dealer.

McLeod Stamp & Coin Company was founded in 1974 by the late Andy Hale and coin dealer David Bates. Loose joined the firm in 1975, Kellas in 1977 and Randy Jones in 1981. Throughout the shop's existence, they were the only full-time employees, joined by part-time secretary Beverly Herzich.

The 1990s brought a move from the original cramped second-floor space at 2198 Monroe Ave. to a larger, first-floor facility down the street.

Bates had left Rochester in 1977, leaving Hale as sole owner until his death in 2001. Loose and Kellas became co-owners of the shop for the remainder of its existence.

Several significant numismatic finds marked the shop's final years. In 2004, Jones talked to a walk-in customer whose family had owned a 1792 pattern no-silver-center cent for

over two centuries. The specimen, previously unknown to collectors, brought \$437,000 at auction in 2005.

Loose purchased a 1796 large cent from a customer, then answered an offhand "is this worth anything?" question about another coin in the customer's purse, identifying an AU 1796 dime valued at more than \$20,000.

In the store's final months, RJNA member Eshan Mitra plucked a high-grade 1955 double-die cent out of the "junk box," a fitting find in a store known for its support of young collectors.

McLeod's stock was sold to Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc. of Middletown, NY in early March. Gitner resold the firm's name and much of its numismatic material to James Frey's Greece Coin and Stamp Co.

The former McLeod space at 2423 Monroe Ave. was leased to RNA member Douglas Musinger, who has reopened as Brighton Tokens & Coins, with Jones and RNA member Dan White as employees.

Ursula, John and Randy thank the members of the RNA for all their support and patronage!

Applications Corner

The following people have applied for membership in the RNA since the last issue of the RNA News. RNA members with pertinent information about applicants are requested to contact the Membership Committee, in care of Bill Coe. If no objections are received within 45 days after publication, these applicants will become members of the RNA:

Vincent P. Cavanaugh, Rochester, NY
Alex Hrabko, Rochester, NY
Gary Wycker, Pittsford, NY

Gregory Hunt, Pittsford, NY
Robert A. DeLena, Geneseo, NY
David T. Robinson, Rochester, NY

The Calendar July-August

- **July 30 – August 3 – ANA World’s Fair of Money, Baltimore** How many RNA members can we get together in Baltimore?
- **Sunday August 3 – RNA Picnic** Note the new location this year – it’s at **Mendon Ponds Park** on Clover Street (Route 65) in the town of Mendon. Details on Page 4!
- **Thursday, September 4 – 8 PM – RNA Meeting** It’s the first meeting back, and time for our traditional first-meeting topic: “What I Did This Summer.” Bring the coins you bought, pictures of your summer travels, or anything else you’d like to share with your fellow club members – and bring a friend, too!
- **Additional 2008 meetings: September 18, October 2, October 16, November 6, November 20, December 4 & 18**
- **Saturday & Sunday, November 1-2 – 36th Annual RNA Coin Show and Sale** It’s never too early to start thinking about an exhibit. See details, page 5!

Regular RNA meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month, except July and August, at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue. Enter through the Eisenhart or Gannett School doors and follow the signs downstairs to our lower-level meeting room. All are welcome! Call Dave Gottfried at 738-0908 if you need a ride or directions.

RJNA meetings are held in either the ballroom of the Eisenhart Auditorium building or an upstairs classroom at the Gannett School; follow the signs posted on the building’s doors or call Steve Lanzafame at 288-1932 for more information.

The Calendar welcomes meeting notices from other area clubs. Send them to rnanews@fybush.com or PO Box 10056, Rochester NY 14610.

Dates in RNA History

Compiled by Gerard Muhl

July 21, 1942: RNA meets at museum.

July 2, 1949: John Pittman, RNA President, made honorary RJNA member.

July 19, 1949: RNA picnic held at Canandaigua Lake. An 1866-S no motto uncirculated \$20 gold piece is shown there.

August 20, 1944: RNA picnic prize in horseshoe contest is an uncirculated 1921 Peace Dollar. For second place, the prize is a roll of uncirculated 1944 cents.

August 18, 1947: RNA sets up advisory committee for coin purchases to aid club curator.

August 6, 1949: John Pittman earns first place for U.S. coins at ANA. George Bauer gets second place for world coins.

Minutes note: John Pittman was conducting the white-elephant sale at the club picnic when his four-year-old daughter Polly climbed up to him, saying, “Daddy, whatever are you doing?”

The 1940s were good for donations to the club’s collection. The number of coins donated as listed in the minutes was as follows: **1943**, 169 coins; **1946**, 222 coins; **1947**, 229 coins. Some items given were a 1799 dollar, an Oregon 50-cent piece, a 1920 uncirculated Wilson “dollar,” a 1904 proof cent, 1722 and 1723 Woods Colonials and an uncirculated 1855 cent.

What were some coins shown at RNA meetings in the **1940s and 1950s**? An 1846 gold and silver proof set, an 1858-1915 proof dime set, a complete set of 1796-1858 uncirculated dimes, an 1858-1915 proof 50-cent set, complete sets of Indian 2½-dollar and 5-dollar gold pieces, an 1879 proof set with trade dollar, an Isabella and Columbus 50-cent proof, a complete set of 3-cent proof and uncirculated nickels, a complete set of 2-cent and 3-cent silver, an 1824 50-cent piece overstruck with Washington and Lafayette dollar, eight ancient silver medals of Emperor Augustus, an uncirculated 1933 10-dollar gold piece, an uncirculated Norris 5-dollar gold piece, 1829-1873 half-dimes uncirculated or proof, an 1803 proof dollar and an 1849 Moffett 5-dollar uncirculated gold piece.