Message from ANA National Coordinator

Michael S. ‘Stan’ Turrini

How Is Your Collecting Doing? – The late Ray Mah (1945-2004), of British Columbia, Canada, was famous for this greeting – when talking with his fellow coin hobbyists, he would always begin with ‘How Is Your Collecting Doing?’ I had the pleasure to meet this towering stalwart of Canadian numismatics, and in a eulogy published in the August 2004 The Shoreline (North Shore Numismatic Society), it was noted that ‘his passion for the hobby was his gift to all who know him.’

I begin this message with Ray’s opening joiner, and suggest that those reading this who understand that fellowship is the foundation of our hobby – ‘this world of money’ – copy or paraphrase it and spread it around, like Ray would do, to greet and to welcome, whether to the first-time hobby visitor or a long-time hobby friend. Think About It.

As the National Coordinator, I have the pleasure to announce, and many may already know, two items of good news for our Representative Program.

First, Greg Rohan, president of Heritage Auction Galleries, donated $8,000 to the Representative Program on August 1 during the World’s Fair of Money® in Baltimore. This generous donation, which will fund the Representative Program for one year, was secured by my predecessor, ANA Vice President Patricia Jagger-Finner.

Needless to say, this funding shall enhance our Program, and it is anticipated that Heritage intends to continue the funding annually. If anyone knows Greg Rohan or might see him over the next months, please introduce yourself and share your appreciation. Thanks To Heritage Auction Galleries and Patti Finner!

Second, Paul R. Johnson, of Unionville, Ontario, ‘Colonel’ Jim Majoros, of Toms River, N.J., and Michael M. ‘Steamer’ Stanley, of Concord, Calif. were appointed to the newly created position of Assistant National Coordinators, reporting directly to the National Coordinator and Sandy Hill, our liaison at headquarters.

Their primary responsibility is to communicate with the District Representatives: Paul overseeing our northern neighbor, Canada, ‘Colonel’ Majoros assigned to the U.S. east of the Mississippi, and ‘Steamer’ Stanley overseeing the U.S. west of the Mississippi. Their chore would be akin to an old position of ‘Snapper’ below a Supervisor on the long-closed Mare Island (Vallejo, California) Naval Shipyard: while the Supervisor (me) expedited the ‘national’ obligations and overall program, they would be the direct contacts with the District Representatives, ‘snapping’ as to how each is doing.

District Representatives, over the next few months, should anticipate contacts from these new Assistant National Coordinators – they are here to help.

One of the primary and best ways for Sandy and your National Coordinator to be of value and to assist is the timely and regular submission of Quarterly Reports. If a District Representative is behind or lacking in this vital chore, well, you might have a contact from one of the three ‘Snappers!’

During our meetings in Baltimore, one discussion point repeated itself: communication. The National Coordinator, our Staff Liaison, and now Assistant National Coordinators can only assist the District Representatives, and local coin clubs, when we all ‘communicate.’

To this end, District Representatives do not forget your Quarterly Reports and local coin clubs do not forget to update and revise your Coin Club Questionnaires. For the latter, the recommendation is the month your election is held. Both these can be completed online, too.

One other announcement: the National Coordinator, namely me, and the Assistant National Coordinators will be assigned an e-mail address at www.money.org. In the meantime, you can communicate with me at EMPERORI@juno.com. My cell is 707-246-6327.

We enjoy a great hobby. It can open doors to understanding and make, maybe in a small way, the tomorrows yet-to-be brighter.

Remember: Have Fun With Your Hobby! Always Serve Others! Enjoy Your Collecting! And, Create Hope!
ANA Governor Radford Stearns Dies

Dr. Charles Radford Stearns, a member of the ANA Board of Governors, died on Aug. 31 after a long illness. He was 67 years old.

“We have all lost a special person and dedicated numismatist,” said ANA President Barry Stuppler. “As a board member I was able to see his passion for helping the ANA provide better services and educational programs for its membership. Our board and the entire numismatic community will sincerely miss him.”

Radford Stearns was born in Evanston, Ill. in 1940. He attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery (Loyola) in 1967. He served as a Naval Officer in Albany, Ga. from 1967-1969, and practiced dentistry in Lilburn, Ga. until his retirement in 2006. In his time away from dentistry and numismatics, he enjoyed adventure travel, scuba diving, wildlife photography and the Georgia Aquarium; he also supported the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Lilburn Relay for Life.

A prolific exhibitor and collector of Georgia Colonial paper money, Dr. Stearns is a former winner of the ANA Howland Wood Best in Show exhibit award. He also was a collector of Russian money. He was an exhibitor at shows across the country, including conventions held by the Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS) and Florida United Numismatists (FUN). Stearns received the ANA Good Fellowship Award in 1987 for serving as General Chairman of the Association’s 96th anniversary convention in Atlanta; he served at various ANA conventions as Assistant General Chair, Educational Forum Chair and Exhibit Chair.

Stearns was elected to the ANA Board of Governors in 2007; as Governor he was co-chair of the Educational Committee. He conducted numerous educational programs for the ANA, CSNS, FUN, and other organizations. Stearns served in many capacities for the Georgia Numismatic Association and Blue Ridge Numismatic Association, and was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the United States Assay Commission.


“Radford Stearns was a fine man and a great asset for our Association,” said ANA Executive Director Larry Shepherd. “His knowledge, leadership and passion for numismatics will be deeply missed.”

Congratulations to winners of the Club Publications Contest!

The ANA thanks the 42 member organizations who submitted their publications for consideration in the 2008 Club Publications Contest. Clubs are encouraged to enter the 2009 contest(*).

Local Clubs

First Place: “Madison County Coin Club Newsletter,” Madison County Coin Club (Editor: Harold Fears)
Second Place: “The Cincinnati Numismatist,” Cincinnati Numismatic Association (Editor: Katie Heinrich)
Third Place (tie): “MCCA Newsletter,” Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta, (Editor: David Crenshaw); and “Stephen James CSRA Coin Club Newsletter,” Stephen James CSRA Coin Club (Editor: Arno Safran)

Regional Clubs

First Place: The California Numismatist, joint publication of the California State Numismatic Association and the Numismatic Association of Southern California (Editor: Greg Burns)
Second Place: The MichMatist, Michigan State Numismatic Society (Editor: Michael C. Strub)
Third Place (tie): The TNA News, Texas Numismatic Association (Editor: Ron Kersey); and Winning Ways, Women in Numismatics (Editor: Katie Heinrich)

Specialty Clubs

First Place: Casino Chip and Token News, Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club (Editor: Allan Anderson)
Second Place: International Bank Note Society Journal, International Bank Note Society (Editor: Owen W. Linzmayer)
Third Place (tie): Curry’s Chronicle, Carson City Coin Collectors of America (Editor: Rusty Goe); and Paper Money, Society of Paper Money Collectors (Editor: Fred L. Reed III)

Electronic Newsletters

First Place: “The E-Gobrecht,” Liberty Seated Collectors Club (Editor: Bill Bugert)
Second Place: “Dallas Coin Club Newsletter,” Dallas Coin Club (Editor: Kathy Lawrence)
Third Place: “The Double Shift,” Greater Houston Coin Club (Editor: John Barber)

(*) For questions, e-mail magazine@money.org.
Swindling, Benoit Receive Outstanding District Representative Awards

Jeffrey Swindling and Bruce Benoit received the American Numismatic Association’s 2008 Outstanding District Representative awards. The announcement was made by Club Representative Program National Coordinator Michael S. “Stan” Turrini on August 2 at the World’s Fair of Money® in Baltimore. The award is given annually to recognize commitment, leadership and a willingness to enthusiastically serve the ANA and its member clubs.

“In the last year, Jeff and Bruce have distinguished themselves by recruiting dozens of new ANA members and being ambassadors for our Association and our hobby,” Turrini said. “It’s been a great year for our program; our District Representatives are an extremely dedicated group of people.”

Jeffrey Swindling is a life member and former ANA Young Numismatist of the Year. He is a District Representative in Florida, and has been an ANA national volunteer since 2002. In 2007 he recruited 67 new ANA members and increased the YN membership of his home club, the Greater Jacksonville Coin Club, by 25 percent. Swindling is an Eagle Scout and currently serves as chair of the ANA’s YN and Scouting committees. He is a certified exhibit judge and accomplished exhibitor and author.

Bruce Benoit has been a District Representative since 2005 and is a tireless promoter of numismatics in eastern Wisconsin. He has served as bourse chairman for the South Shore Coin Club and program director of Boy Scout Merit Badge workshops for the Milwaukee Numismatic Society. Benoit is a certified exhibit judge and award-winning exhibitor at ANA and Central States Numismatic Society conventions. He was assistant general chairman for the 2007 World’s Fair of Money in Milwaukee, and has attended and promoted Summer Seminar since 2002.

The Club Representative Program works directly with collectors and clubs to strengthen numismatics through the services offered by the ANA. By using the talent and enthusiasm of volunteers, the program provides educational resources for club meetings, supports club education programs and exhibits, assists in the formation of new local and regional clubs, and promotes the benefits of ANA membership.

For more information, call 719-482-9846 or visit www.money.org (select “ANA Clubs”).

ANA Library

Preparing for your next club meeting doesn’t have to be a struggle. The ANA’s Dwight N. Manley Numismatic Library has more than 50,000 items that are available to ANA members.

The library’s collection of slide sets, DVDs and VHS tapes make preparing for an upcoming club presentation a breeze – selections cover a whole range of numismatic topics from ancient coins to the modern mint process. Many clubs take advantage of this membership benefit, and your club can, too.

Requesting library materials is easy. To search our online catalog, visit www.money.org, select “Library” from the “Explore the World of Money” dropdown menu, then select “Search the Library Catalog.” After you’ve explored all the library has to offer, send your request (along with your name and ANA number) to library@money.org.

ANA members can check out up to six items at a time for a six week period. Materials are checked out for free – the library just asks that members pay shipping costs.

In order to keep costs low, our staff ships packages via media mail, which usually takes around 10 days.

If you have any questions or need assistance locating an item, please call Library Manager RyAnne Scott at 719-482-9821.
Message from the ANA Staff Liaison  
by Sandy Hill

Now that most of you are back to “normal” life after the World’s Fair of Money®, I would like to share some ideas I have gleaned from listening to members of local clubs from across the country. They are proven methods to attract new members and keep old ones.

Web sites seem to be a necessary tool these days. Several clubs have application forms and meeting information on their sites. In addition, they have put games on their sites. (See www.money.org and www.USMint.gov for ideas.) Some clubs use games fashioned after “Deal or No Deal” and “Jeopardy” on their sites and at their meetings and shows. I observed ANA Governor Walter Ostromecki playing “Deal or No Deal” with some YN’s and they were having a great time. Questions were asked when each “suitcase” was selected and the kids could opt for a prize or keep going. In the process, they learned more about coins and currency.

Don’t forget that when you have a show you can order a Show Kit from ANA. (Forms are on the web site or ask your District Rep to help you. Order kits at least five weeks ahead of time.) Remember also that every time one of your club’s members joins ANA and lists the club as a sponsor, the club gets three Bonus Bucks with each year paid. Some clubs are using these Bonus Bucks to pay their dues and some use them to purchase items from the MoneyMarket catalog. It all adds up!

Andrew Keene,  
Our Newest District Representative

Wisconsin native Andrew Keene recently added to his already impressive numismatic resume by becoming an ANA District Representative. Keene, 13, serves as Secretary and YN Chair for the Midwest Chapter of the International Bank Note Society (IBNS), and Secretary of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society. He is also active with the IBNS at an international level as co-chair of its YN committee.

“I have been collecting numerous things since I was six, including stamps, coins, and postcards,” said Keene, whose other interests include playing the violin, playing tennis and biking. “I went to a coin show and stopped at (2007 ANA Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient) Neil Shafer’s booth, bought a few notes, started attending IBNS meetings, and have been hooked ever since.”

Congratulations to Andrew on all his accomplishments and on his new role in the Club Rep Program!

News from Around the Country

California  
by Michael S. ‘Stan’ Turrini

The hobby is doing well here in California, while our State Legislature cannot adopt an annual budget and Interstate 80, at last, is being resurfaced. This is The Golden State! Earthquakes and Traffic!

Ryan Johnson, at age 17 (he is 18 now), was elected president of the San Jose Coin Club last April, making him the youngest local coin club president anywhere. He followed his grandparents, Ray and Sally, who both served as SJCC’s presidents, and he has served the club over the past few years in other positions, including Historian, Vice-President and Junior President, and has assisted the club with its YN and social events efforts. A Senior at San Jose’s Prospect High School, he is already committed to the United States Marines and is in JROTC.

ANA Governor Clifford Mishler is the scheduled Master of Ceremonies on Saturday, December 6, at the 22nd Annual Joint Christmas Party of the Fairfield Coin Club and Vallejo Numismatic Society, set for Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Fairfield. This will be Gov. Mishler’s second appearance as the Master of Ceremonies, and several well-known ANA officials have served in the past including Historian, Vice-President and Junior President, and has assisted the club with its YN and social events efforts. A Senior at San Jose’s Prospect High School, he is already committed to the United States Marines and is in JROTC.

The California Numismatist, the joint quarterly publication of the California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) and Numismatic Association of Southern California (NASC), was recognized in the ANA’s Outstanding Club Publications Contest with First Place in the “Regional Clubs” category. The Editor is Grey Burns, and the Assistant Editors are both well-known to the Representative Program: Michael S. ‘Stan’ Turrini and Virginia L. ‘Ginny’ Bourke.

On October 25, the Vallejo Numismatic Society will host the 9th Annual Northern California Educational Symposium of the California State Numismatic Association. The Coordinator is Michael S. Turrini, and two other established participants in the Representative Program are involved as presenters: Richard Jozefiak, from Madison, Alabama, with his “Alaskan Numismatics: 1784 To Today” and Paul R. Johnson, of Unionville, Ontario, Canada, with his “Coinage of the Royal Canadian Mint: 1908-2008”.

For information about California local coin clubs and events, write to PO Box 4104, Vallejo, California, 94590-0410. (Also see page 8 for Stan’s phone and e-mail contact information.)
Connecticut
by Dick Bacca

The planning for the Litchfield County Coin Club’s 500th meeting in September continues. Founded in 1952, meeting records have been tracked over the years and their 500th meeting scheduled for September 16th, 2008 will be celebrated with a party, coin displays in local banks, along with news media announcements. The club’s 500th meeting will include readings from the original meeting minutes held back in the 1952-53 period, handouts of original club auction sheets from the 1960s, plus a live auction of member supplied coins. Refreshments will also be served. Meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 7:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month September through June. Information is available by writing to LCCC, PO Box 1701, Torrington, CT 06790 or email LCcoinclub@aol.com.

More recently, volunteers from the LCCC club supported the ANA by manning the ANA booth for four days at the 2008 American Philatelic Society (APS) National Convention, held in Hartford, CT this past August.

Florida

Photo: APS show Rick Murawski (left) and Dick Bacca (right) man the ANA booth at the APS convention.

Florida Coin Club of the Year
by Tony Swicer, District Delegate

Late last year, I came up with a program that all 22 Florida United Numismatists (FUN) member coin clubs could participate in. After securing approval from the FUN Board, we had our program ready.

I sent an 11-question questionnaire to all the clubs. Questions included:

- Does your club have a web site? What is it?
- A newsletter?
- YN Program?
- Educational programs at every meeting?
- Do you speak at civic organizations?
- What was your club membership in 2000 versus now?
- Club Brochure?
- Club Coin Show?
- Club Library? Donate books to Library?
- Participate in ANA events?

I also told them to attach anything else they wanted to submit. I attached a brief explanation of each question, and a general rules sheet which gave each club four months to send in the questionnaire. A panel of three judges filled out a judge’s sheet with the 11 questions on it, awarding 0-5 points, based on the club’s answers. Extra points could be awarded and the winning club would have the highest score. The judges had three weeks to judge the clubs and all the results were sent to me.

The winning club received a large plaque, a life membership in FUN, and a check for $200. In the end, all three judges voted the Greater Jacksonville Coin Club the winner with 161 points. The Palm Beach Coin Club was second with 152 points, and Central Florida Coin Club was third with 141 points. The whole purpose of this contest was to make every club stronger by adding any of the ideas in the questions to their regular...
and attended the ANA Summer Seminar for two weeks this past summer. I made arrangements that I would drive him and his family to the WHCC meeting in September.

Washington and Oregon
by Eric Holcomb

Eric is the exhibit chairman for the ANA’s National Money Show™, March 13-15, 2009 in Portland, Oregon, and is encouraging collectors to bring exhibits to the show. Eric gave a seminar on numismatic exhibiting on June 14 in Portland, and will be available for consultation October 18-19 at the annual fall convention in Portland sponsored by the Willamette Coin Club and the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association.

In Baltimore, the ANA Board approved a special “Oregon 150th Anniversary” exhibit award for the Portland convention. Exhibitors who can tie in to this theme will have a second opportunity to win an exhibit award, in addition to the opportunity to win a class award in one of the topical classes at the “spring” show. Contact Eric or the ANA for more information.

Specialty Numismatic Clubs

These three articles are included as examples of what specialty numismatic clubs and their members can do to help the hobby and the ANA’s educational mission.

Carson City Coin Collectors of America
by Marie Goe

Our club was honored for the second year in a row by the Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG) with a Best Small Publication award in the coin club category, for the club’s quarterly journal, Curry’s Chronicle. The ANA also honored our journal with a third place award in the publication category.

New Jersey
by Jim Majoros

My personal thanks to the ANA Show Committee Maryland staff as they did an absolutely commendable job in handling the number of questions, etc. that came up at the convention in Baltimore. In this time frame of the Olympics, I would definitely award them with a gold medal. I really enjoyed working with all of you, especially Ed Craig and Tom Palmer whom I had the extreme pleasure of working with in the areas of registration, etc.; not to lessen the dedication and work of the many others that made the convention the success that it was. Thanks everyone in Maryland!

The ANA convention was organized so well, thanks again to Brenda Bishop and her most capable staff, especially the treasure trivia hunt for the youngsters. Parents really gave the ANA an A+ when their youngsters completed the hunt and all the items they received.

The Ocean County Coin Club participated in “National Night Out” held in Brick, NJ on August 5th that brought out over 500 at the annual evening event that is centered around kids. The club’s staff handed out hundreds of info sheets and answered questions and it was a great exposure for the club. The club copied off the ANA “Sand Bowl” that was at the Baltimore Convention and had their own bowl of sand with over a hundred coins, etc. that kids could search for.

The Watchung Hills Coin Club extended an invitation to Zachary Beier to visit their club in north Jersey. Zachary was GSNA (Garden State) YN of the Year, and club activities, or making weak or neglected areas stronger.

Photo: Greater Jacksonville Coin Club receives “Florida Coin Club of the Year” award at the Summer FUN show in West Palm Beach on June 26-28, 2008. Tony Swicer presented the plaque to club President Tom Bobbitt and his wife Barbara at the message center on the bourse floor of the show. The next award will be presented July 9-11, 2009.

Photo: members of the Carson City Coin Collectors of America at the club’s annual meeting at the ANA World’s Fair of Money® in Baltimore.
Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club by Sheldon Smith

Sheldon tells us about a great little story of a casino chip collector getting on TV just from a casual conversation between two golfers, one a TV guy, the other a chip collector. The chip collector says, “I collect chips from casinos.” The TV guys says, “really, interesting!” The chip guy says, “but I only have a few chips, but I know somebody that has a LOT!” The TV guy says, “can I talk to him?”

As it turns out, the collector with a lot of chips is Richard Jahn, the “Monaco Chip Man,” and member of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Richard has a substantial collection of casino chips from Atlantic City, Las Vegas and California, but it turns out his most exciting collection of casino chips and related items is from Monaco, dating back to the late 19th Century!

Richard has become such an expert that he’s getting ready to publish a book on the casinos of Monaco, but the casinos of Monaco have not cooperated in allowing their collections to be photographed. So Richard keeps searching for those illusive chips, appealing to fellow collectors, and appearing on TV with pieces of his collection! We wish him success in finishing his collection and his book!

For more information, you can reach Sheldon Smith by e-mail at sheldon655@hotmail.com, or by phone at 847-835-8075.

Society of Silver Dollar Collectors by Ash Harrison

With a “Knowledge-is-King” battle-cry, excited VAM(*) enthusiasts assembled at the 2008 ANA Show in Baltimore for the summer Society of Silver Dollar Collectors (SSDC) meeting. Ash Harrison, President of the SSDC, presided over a series of reports outlining “what’s new” in the burgeoning area of VAM collecting.

(*) VAM refers to the Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of Morgan and Peace Dollars by Leroy C. Van Allen and A. George Mallis, and the coin die varieties identified therein.

Brian Raines, who is ever-vigilant at providing cutting-edge research, opened a subject that was fascinating. He showed us 5 different 1879-S reverse of 1879 coins that share obverses with 1879-S reverse of 1878 coins. They happen to be five of the more scarce reverse of 1878 varieties. The coins have severely over-polished reverse dies.

John Roberts, attributor for ANACS, noted that the director’s report for January 1879 states that the mint was having problems with the thickness of the new coins. They were experimenting with the relief of the new design reverse dies to try to alleviate the problem. Likely, these were the particular product from those dies and the very first coins with this type reverse!

Rob Joyce provided an update on the exponential use of VAMworld.com, the open wiki repository for VAMs. The site, in the past month has seen 16,114 visits. This translates to 218,143 pages viewed! As of the 9th of August 2008, the site has 227 registered users, 4,400 pages, 11,769 images and a whopping 10,212 public discussion messages. The SSDC is working diligently, along with a group of dedicated VAM enthusiasts to get this website fully up-to-date. New Morgan dollar varieties are being discovered regularly, and it is a challenge to stay atop the information.

Several guest speakers were invited to discuss their latest books. Jeff Oxman was asked to discuss the now available, eagerly-awaited re-issue of the “HOT 50” book. Yes! Everyone at the meeting was given a free copy of this in-demand item.

Dr. Michael Fey discussed his new Top 100 Insights book, which is truly a must-own item for the VAM enthusiast. The book is a compilation as well as an update to the last 10 years of his quarterly Insights publication.

John Baumgart touched on the numerous VAM CD-ROMs he has created as well as a new VAM attributing venture that may occur with the SSDC.

The SSDC actively supports the education mission of the ANA, and its leaders constantly supply new, cutting-edge information into the marketplace. In fact, SSDC president Ash Harrison underwrote the Advanced Morgan Dollar Study that was held on Monday and Tuesday, the 28th and 29th of July, to kick off the ANA show. The 17 students that attended were “armed and dangerous” by the time they went to the bourse floor on Wednesday.

The Society's objective is to present information that will keep its members at the forefront of this segment of the hobby. Plan to attend the next major meeting of the SSDC at the FUN show, where the SSDC will bring in their new board of directors.
Mission statement: The ANA Representative Program "is to work directly with collectors and clubs to promote and expand the numismatic experience through the services and programs offered by the Association."

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Deadline for submission of material for 4th Quarter 2008 MintMark: November 15, 2008.

To receive the electronic-only version of future MintMark issues, or to change your e-mail, call 719-482-9846 or e-mail clubrep@money.org.

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Editor’s Message by Eric Holcomb

This issue of MintMark is coming out a bit late for the third quarter (because there wasn’t enough material submitted before the ANA convention), but at least that means that there is some news from the convention included in this edition. See, for example, Stan Turrini’s message on page 1, and the stories about the Club Publications awards (page 2) and the Outstanding District Representative awards (page 3).

As always, I am looking for ideas relating to the program’s mission statement, as well as ideas for promoting the numismatic hobby in general. This time, we have three articles from specialty numismatic clubs about how they help the hobby.