

ANA Names Ed Rochette 2003 Numismatist of the Year

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) confers its "Numismatist of the Year" Award in recognition of overall devotion and dedication to the ANA and numismatics.

This year's recipient is ANA Executive Director Emeritus Edward C. Rochette of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A lifelong collector, Rochette has devoted nearly all his adult life to ANA service. Joining the Association's staff as editor of the ANA's magazine in 1966, he spent most of his first 20 years as executive vice president. He retired from his staff position, and in 1987 was elected to the ANA Board of Governors, serving as vice president from 1989 to 1991 and president from 1991 to 1993.

In 1998, at the recommendation of the ANA President's Advisory Council and with the approval of the Board of Governors, Rochette returned to the ANA staff as interim executive director. A year later, he was asked to take the position permanently, and in 2001 his contracted was extended two years. He stepped aside from the day-to-day operations of the Association on January 1, 2003, taking on the role of senior advisor responsible for fund-raising until his retirement on July 31.

During his second tenure as executive director, Rochette oversaw the complete remodeling and expansion of the ANA's Money Museum and Library; creation of the Harry W. Bass Jr. Gallery of United States gold coins by the Bass foundation; and the make-over of the Association's Numismatist magazine, now in its 116th year of publication.

As a member of the ANA staff and Board of Governors, Rochette was instrumental in the recovery of some of numismatics' greatest rarities, including an 1804 Draped Bust silver dollar belonging to Willis du Pont. The coin now resides in the Smithsonian Institution National Numismatic Collection.

Thirty-five years ago, Rochette launched the week-long ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs with 17 students and instructors. This year, the now two-week Summer Seminar attracted 450 students and instructors who participated in 34 classes and 13 mini-seminars.

A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Rochette served in the United States Navy during World War II, and attended Washington University in St. Louis, and Clark University in Worcester. A prolific writer, he has authored several numismatic books, including *The Romance of Coin Collecting*, *Medallic Portraits of John F. Kennedy* and *Making Money: Rogues and Rascals Who've Made Their Own*. For many years, he wrote a weekly coin column nationally syndicated by the Los Angeles Times and a monthly column for *COINage* magazine, and he continues to pen his monthly column "The Other Side of the Coin" for the ANA's Numismatist magazine. Before joining the ANA staff, Rochette was executive editor of *Numismatic News*, where he remained a regular contributor until he returned to the ANA staff.

Rochette is a recipient of the ANA's Glenn Smedley Memorial and Lifetime Achievement Awards, Medal of Merit, and the Association's highest honor, the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award for Distinguished Service. He also is a Numismatic Hall of Fame inductee.

Rochette served on the United States Assay Commission, was named a Numismatic Ambassador by Numismatic News, and has received the Numismatic Literary Guild's coveted Clemy Award and Sandra Rae Mishler gold medal for original research.

After leaving the Board of Governors in 1993, Rochette was instrumental in developing the numismatic exhibit at the International Olympic Committee's at its museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, and has served as a numismatic consultant to the United States Olympic Committee and the United States Air Force Academy.

"While I am deeply honored to receive this recognition, little could have been accomplished had it not been for the help and support of the dedicated staff at ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs," Rochette says. "It is to them that I owe sincere thanks and gratitude for their willingness to take the extra measures necessary to achieve success with our many programs. I accept this award in their name."

In bestowing this award, the American Numismatic Association expresses the sincere appreciation of its members to Edward C. Rochette, Numismatist of the Year.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. The ANA helps its 28,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of education and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or go to www.money.org.