

ANA TO BEGIN SEARCH FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) is organizing a committee to begin searching for a new executive director more than a year before Edward C. Rochette retires from that position.

"The ANA Board of Governors has been talking informally about the process to replace Ed Rochette, who rejoined the staff two years ago on a temporary but needed basis," says Association President H. Robert Campbell. "We are way out in front of this all-important search process."

Rochette is scheduled to retire on July 31, 2001. The Board anticipates his replacement will be hired by May 1, allowing for an overlap in management.

"I'm encouraged by the Board's decision to begin this process early," says Rochette, who also served on the ANA Board of Governors and as president. "The organization is very sound; our finances are probably in the best shape they have been in years; and the staff is unquestionably the finest I've ever had the pleasure to work with."

Campbell says the 10 people serving on the Executive Search Committee will represent a cross-section of the hobby, "from casual collector to professional dealer; from respected researcher to average reader of coin magazines. We are looking for someone who knows the ANA and is familiar with the hobby. In addition, the ideal candidate will be a respected leader of our organization and our staff at headquarters."

The Board will be considering a time-table for the committee when ANA Governors meet in Philadelphia at the Association's 109th Anniversary Convention in August. Campbell anticipates that the committee will have to sift through more than 200 applications before approving 10 candidates for the Board to narrow down to four or five. The finalists will be interviewed by the Board next spring.

"The ANA is not rushed in its search for a new executive director," Campbell says. "We have been very fortunate to have Ed Rochette at the helm these past two years and know he will continue to serve us well until the new director is in place. He also will continue to serve in an advisory role after he steps down as executive director."

Rochette, who served 20 years on the ANA staff (1966-86) both as executive director and editor of *The Numismatist* and six years on the Board of Governors (1987-93), was asked by the Board in July 1998 to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Association on an interim basis. Last year, the Board extended him a contract to serve another two years as executive director.

The ANA is the world's largest nonprofit, educational organization for collectors of coins, paper money, tokens and medals. Founded in 1891, the Association is chartered by Congress and has nearly 30,000 members, including more than 450 local, state and regional clubs.

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.