

# "What's Trump?"

A periodical of the RCCA

Spring 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

## President's Letter

Coit R. Morrison



*Hello Everyone!*

The ROOK Card Collectors Association has been a long time in the making. It's hard to put a date on when I first started collecting ROOK cards. The game is such an integral part of the Morrison Clan tradition, back to a time before I was born. I remember as a young strap, wishing I could play as I watched my elders compete around the kitchen table. That day eventually did come, and to this day, I still enjoy playing a good game of ROOK. By the late 90's I had accumulated almost ten different sets of ROOK cards through flea markets, yard and estate sales. At that time I had assumed my collection was near complete. In 1998 I was introduced to eBay

– that was the year my assumption was to be severely challenged. The more sets I purchased on eBay, the more I became aware of how enormous the diversity of sets were. After almost a decade of making ROOK purchases on eBay, I still see no end in sight. During this past decade, I have made acquaintance with many ROOK Card collectors – the vast majority of them through eBay and my Web site – RookCards.com. We have been communicating and comparing notes about our collections. The past several years has produced a great influx of collectors, so a dialogue had initiated on defining what a ROOK card collecting organization would look like. After much time of discussion and planning, a small group of us gathered in Chattanooga to formalize years of effort into reality – The ROOK Card Collectors Association was born. There is still much work to do and time will tell what our young organization will become – but I am encouraged with the start, and believe the potential to bring together and educate ROOK card collectors is significant. There is much I can write about the RCCA – but in this first letter I will introduce a few of the benefits of membership and the vision I have to carry us into the future.

**Newsletter:** This newsletter is the first in what we hope is many more to come. The newsletter will be available in printed and digital format and be published quarterly (May, Aug, Nov, Feb). This first edition we are making available to all the ROOK card

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## Meet Jared Bruckner

RCCA Vice-President



Most of you know me by my eBay name of jaredbruckner, and I assume that most of you have also visited my website at jaredbruckner.com (or rookcardsonline.com) and viewed my rook card collection. Here is my life story.

I was born in Berwyn Illinois (the home of Al Copone) in October of 1942. We lived in Illinois until 1955 when we moved to Holly Michigan (about halfway between Flint and Pontiac). During my high school years I worked in a grocery store about 40 hours a week. I graduated from Adelpian Academy (located in Holly) in 1960 and from Andrews University (located in Berrien Springs Michigan – near Benton Harbor) in 1965 with a BA in mathematics.

In August I married my sweetheart of four years, Mary Jane, and we established our first home in Hinsdale, Illinois, where Mary Jane was finishing becoming an RN, and I attended Illinois Institute of Technology studying for my MS in mathematics.

We moved to South Lancaster, Massachusetts, in 1967, where I had accepted a job teaching mathematics at Atlantic Union College – a small church related liberal arts college. Part of my responsibilities included teaching a couple of computer classes, and I soon fell in love with computers – a love that had started when I took my first computer class when a graduate student at IIT.

In 1969 I accepted a teaching assistantship at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, which is located about 20 miles from South Lancaster. We moved to Worcester and in 1970 I accepted an appointment as an Instructor of Computer Science at WPI.

Working full time delayed my completion of the MS in Computer Science until 1972. (BTW 1972 was the year the first email was sent!)

After receiving the MS in Computer Science I was invited to come back to Atlantic Union College to start a computer science program there. We moved into a new house in Lancaster, MA, about three miles from the college, and that was home for the next 23 years. During that time I was promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor, to Associate Professor, then Professor and also served 17 years as Chair of the Math & Applied Science Department (mathematics, physics, computer science, and engineering).

In 1993 I completed work on a Doctor of Science degree in Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell after nine years of taking classes and working on my thesis. I could go on forever about the problems that I encountered along the way. I survived two changes in thesis advisors; the last one nearly didn't survive an automobile accident; which put him in a coma for months! He was not the same after coming out of the coma.

In 1995, I accepted a position at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN (near Chattanooga). SAU is a sister school of Atlantic Union College, both operated by the Seventh-day Adventist church. The first two years I split my time between teaching in the Department of Computer Science and as Research Director in the Software Technology Center. In 1997 the Department of Computer Science became the School of Computing and I was appointed Associate Dean – a position that included running all the day to day operations of the School. In 2001 I was appointed Dean of the School of Computing. Between 1997 and 2001 the enrollment in the School of Computing went from about 45 to 160. Needless to say we experienced a lot of growing pains!

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collectors we are aware of. The subsequent issues will be for members only – it is our plan to have membership applications sent out sometime in May. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep the membership informed on RCCA news and business, to introduce members to other collectors of the hobby, and to share observations and research in the intricacies of collecting ROOK cards. The name of the newsletter is “What’s Trump?” and Donna Culver is the Editor.

**WEB Page:** <http://ROOKcca.org> is the official WEB site of the RCCA. The site will be initiated sometime in the month of May. The home page will tell the internet community what the RCCA is about – but most of the WEB page will be password encoded and will be available for members only. Some of the sections will be as follows: RCCA News & business, forum (interaction with other members), newsletter archive, ROOK Research, ROOK Card Variations, prices realized, etc. The Web page will be growing in content and depth as the years progress.

**Membership Directory:** The asset that makes or breaks a group is the membership. One of the more valuable benefits of membership is the annual Membership Directory. Part of the application process is collecting some information about each member. This information will be printed and distributed in the beginning of every calendar year. For security reasons it will not be available on the WEB, not even with a password. With this tool, members will be able to communicate directly as well as learning a little bio information about each other. As soon as the application deadline (July 31) passes for charter membership we will issue an early edition of the Directory in August. If you have not received your

membership application packet by mid May, just let me know ([Coit@RookCards.com](mailto:Coit@RookCards.com)) and I will rectify the situation.

**Annual Convention:** The benefit of being connected to other collectors by way of newsletter, forum, web page, email and phone are very valuable. BUT having the group meet together as a whole is even better. Meeting other collectors face to face – playing the game of ROOK with each other – learning the different ways people across the continent play ROOK – looking at one another’s collections – sharing information about what we have been learning about the hobby – this is what the convention is all about. We realized from the first convention that we needed to plan earlier and more extensively for the next one. This is just what we are in the process of doing. More details will follow soon. But we at least have chosen the date as the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Mark your calendars now and keep the weekend clear. It should prove to be a highlight of the year.

This is just a start of better things to come. The success and quality of the RCCA should not be dependant on just a few key members – but as all members take part in the communicational, educational, and fellowship aspects of collecting ROOK cards – the ROOK Card Collectors Association has the potential of becoming a great promoter and facilitator of our unique hobby. It is my hope you will join in and help make this a reality.

Hope to see you in person at the convention!

Happy Collecting,

Coit R. Morrison  
RCCA President

Currently I am what I call “semi-retired.” In January 2006 I resigned the position as Dean and became just another professor. My teaching load was the same as when I was Dean! This semester I am only teaching classes which are on-line, so I have had some freedom to travel and do not spend a whole lot of time in the office. My official retirement date is September 1, 2007. After that I hope to have more time to spend working on my Rook collection.

My hobbies, in addition to Rook card collecting, include bird watching, hiking (I am a member of the 4000-Footer Club of the White Mountains having climbed all 48 peaks over 4000 feet elevation in the White Mountains.), photography, stamp collecting (specializing on Singapore), collecting belt buckles, and travel. Mary and I are planning our second driving trip to Alaska for this summer. We leave May 15 for about two months living in our van. We bought the van in 2003 with 5000 miles on it and it now has 56,000 vacation miles, so you see that I like to drive.

Mary worked as a nurse our first four years together, but injured her back lifting a patient in 1969. After her third back surgery, she was finally doing much better when she went to her doctor in Boston. He asked her how far she could bend over and when she showed him she ruptured another disk right there in his office! So it took another major surgery to try to correct that. She has not been able to work since then and has spent a lot of time lying down. We even traveled across the country with her lying on a makeshift bed in the back seat of the car. In 1994 a friend got her to ask her doctor for some arthritis medication. She did and it worked like a miracle! Before taking it she would hurt for hours after sitting for only a few minutes. Afterwards, she could sit for hours and not be in too much pain.

Our one daughter, Jana, was born in 1979. She is married (you most likely have seen here wedding pictures at my web site), has a step daughter who is eight years old, and has worked as Student Statement Coordinator at Southern Adventist University since her graduation with a BA in Business Administration in 2001. She lives about 30 minutes from us, so we get to see her often. In fact, Jana and I eat lunch together most Tuesdays and she comes home for lunch with Mary on Thursdays.

I started collecting Rook cards in December of 2004. I really don't know what got me started, but Coit's website was a major influence. I had been buying belt buckles on eBay and was tired of searching through 18,000 entries for belt buckles! I had played Rook since college days and play Rook most every week with our close friends and neighbors. I knew that I was spending a lot of money, but at the time was only getting about 1% a year from the bank, so why not “invest” in Rook cards. Sounded like a fun thing so I did it!

Coit says that he contacts eBay'ers who appear to be serious Rook collectors, but he did not contact me until June 10, 2005, after I spent over \$500 outbidding him on two Rook sets (114 and 115). We first met in February of 2006 when Mary and I were his guests to visit the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

Well, that is too much about me. I would love to hear about you. Why not sit down and write out your life story to share with me and the other Rook card collectors?

Would you like to tell us something about yourself and your journey in collecting ROOK Cards? If so, contact Donna Culver at [donna\\_alex@yahoo.com](mailto:donna_alex@yahoo.com).

# Old Red/Blue Rook Cardbacks

Written by Jared Bruckner

In looking over my collection of Rook cards I noticed something about what I call the Old Red/Blue Rook Cardbacks. (Coit calls these "First Rook variation - no extra white line outlining image".) What I noticed was that some of these had a very faint white line while others had no line. Figure 1 shows no line whereas Figure 2 shows a thin white line around the inside of the ornate scroll around the bird. (not to be confused with the rather large white line as seen in the Red/Blue Rook cardbacks. See Figure 3.) This made me wonder if there were really two different cardbacks instead of just one.

Then I noticed that I could predict something about the black nine from observing the presents or absents of this thin white line. As a rule when the thin white line was absent, the word "NINE" on the black nine was printed in red and when the thin white line was present, and then the "NINE" on the black nine was printed in black! I have one example that violates that rule, set 108, where there is a thin white line and the "NINE" is printed in red. (It may appear from my web site that set 236 violates the rule also, but that set has mixed cards and the black nine has a thin red line.) Those Gold Famous Blue Label boxes seem always to have surprises in them! Does anyone have further evidence for or against this rule? Please let me know.

I think there is enough evidence that the category of Old Red/Blue Rook cardbacks should be split. But what do I call them? Help me out and make some suggestions at [jared@jaredbruckner.com](mailto:jared@jaredbruckner.com).



Figure 1 (No extra white line at all)



Figure 2 (Very thin extra white line)

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## Letter from the Editor

Hello! My name is Donna Culver, and I am Editor of "What's Trump?" I am sure you might think this is a peculiar name for the newsletter. I thought it was appropriate, though, because around my table it is the most heard question when playing Rook. I say it a lot of times in an effort to hurry the winner of the kiddy, hoping that they will lose their train of thought.

My hope for this newsletter is to continually grow and be bigger and better with each issue. Also, I would like to see the RCCA grow with leaps and bounds. Communication is very important to me, and would love your input about everything you like or dislike about the newsletter. Please do not hesitate to let me know. I am interested in your opinions. Ultimately, this is your newsletter.

Jared Bruckner, our RCCA Vice President, has come up with some very interesting articles he will be working on in the year to come. Some of which are: "Photographing Rook Sets", "Rook Rules", "Displaying Your Collection", and "Organizing and Storing Your Collection".

Coit Morrison, our RCCA President, also has a lot of exciting upcoming President Letter's he is currently working on. He will be talking a lot about his collection and his journey in Rook Card Collecting. Coit will also have a "Q&A" article in the upcoming newsletter. So, send in your questions. Coit is a fountain of information on the hobby of collecting Rook Cards. Feel free to ask him whatever questions you might have.

So, if you have any additional topics you would like to see in upcoming articles, please do not hesitate to let anyone on the Board know! I look forward to getting to know each one of you!



Figure 3 (Thick extra white line)

## Charter Member Deadline

Do not forget to get your applications postmarked no later than July 31, 2007 to be a Charter Member of the RCCA!

Dues are only \$10.00 in 2006, and \$15.00 will be the dues every year thereafter.

Contact anyone on the Board for more information.

# RCCA

## Board Members

### President:

Coit Morrison – [coit@rookcards.com](mailto:coit@rookcards.com)

### Vice President:

Jared Bruckner – [buckner@southern.edu](mailto:buckner@southern.edu)

### Treasurer:

Donna Culver – [donna\\_alex@yahoo.com](mailto:donna_alex@yahoo.com)

### Secretary:

Donna Culver – [donna\\_alex@yahoo.com](mailto:donna_alex@yahoo.com)

### Other Positions:

#### Newsletter:

Donna Culver – [donna\\_alex@yahoo.com](mailto:donna_alex@yahoo.com)

#### WebPage:

Coit Morrison – [coit@rookcards.com](mailto:coit@rookcards.com)

For Club or Membership Information please contact Coit Morrison at RCCA, P.O. Box 818, Rock Hill, SC 29731 or via e-mail at [coit@rookcards.com](mailto:coit@rookcards.com).

RCCA Official Website: <http://ROOKcca.org>

## Mark Your Calendars!



The 2008 RCCA Convention is scheduled for MLK weekend, January 18-21, 2008.

Relax and stay as many days as you would like on Lake Strom Thurmond, the Largest Lake in South Carolina, at Hickory Knob State Park.

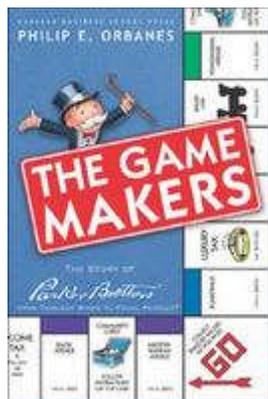
You do not want to miss this great opportunity to meet and mingle with other collectors, show off your collection and play the game we all love: ROOK!

More details to come as the time quickly comes upon us.

To have a better appreciation of the Game of ROOK, one should have a better understanding of the history of Parker Brothers and George S. Parker - the man who made it all possible.

*"The Game Makers"* by Philip E. Orbanes is a must read for any serious ROOK card collector.

**Hardcover:** 256 pages  
**Publisher:** Harvard Business School Press (Nov 14, 2003)  
**ISBN-10:** 1591392691  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1591392699



Do you have any comments about, or suggestions for upcoming newsletters?

If so, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the RCCA Board.

# Auctions Realized Over \$25 on eBay

Submitted by: Jared Bruckner

Picture	Winning Bidder	Date	High Bid
	rhett.utk	Feb-03-07	\$511.00
	bglazener	Feb-11-07	\$307.26
	alexcon2006	Feb-19-07	\$204.00
	alexcon2006	Feb-20-07	\$248.49
	coit	Feb-28-07	\$200.00
	fordfalcon	Mar-08-07	\$129.12
	alexcon2006	Mar-10-07	\$77.02
	alexcon2006	Mar-18-07	\$104.00
	ironhead87	Apr-03-07	\$38.00
	steveyoder	Apr-04-07	\$107.50
	alexcon2006	Apr-05-07	\$40.00

	snookmaster	Apr-14-07	\$51.00
	steveyoder	Apr-15-07	\$52.26
	tommy_girl03	Apr-15-07	\$47.00
	mgunzfrench	Apr-16-07	\$27.02
	alexcon2006	Apr-16-07	\$25.62
	reedriders	Apr-19-07	\$36.50

## Upcoming Topics in Future Editions



- How does the date of March 22, 1910 relate to the number 952,939 – and what do both have to do with the game of ROOK? The answer might surprise you.
- What are the facts about the ROOK Card Company and its relationship to Parker Brothers, Inc.?
  - What does a first edition set of ROOK cards look like?
- When did the ROOK card first become included in sets and when was it first used as part of the game?