



## CSNA History

### CALIFORNIA STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

In August 1946, Dr. Calvert L. Emmons attended the ANA convention in Davenport, Iowa and while there resolved that California should be able to support a state numismatic organization. Following his return from the national convention, he discussed the idea with Dr. C. Glenn Curtis and J. R. Stewart. The subject became a topic of conversation during the 1946 meeting of the Orange County Coin Club. Drs. Emmons and Curtis favored the state club idea because of their experiences with the state medical society. Dr. Emmons was encouraged to take the lead and a meeting in Fresno was planned for January 12, 1947.

Dr. and Mrs. Curtis and Kenneth W. Lee were the only ones from the south to reach their destination. Stewart Bingham and Dr. Emmons tried but failed because of bad weather.. Both ridge route and desert road were closed by snow and neither knew of the Cuyama road from Santa Maria to Bakersfield—the route used by Curtis and Lee.

Although nothing developed from the Fresno meeting, those who were there enthusiastically favored a state association. Talks were made on general plans for the proposed organizations and all present pledged assistance. Besides Dr. and Mrs. Curtis and Lee, these included Earl A Parker, Edward Fogler, ED Fish, Ralph A. Mitchell, Fred Tinkham, Everett S. Ostrom, Walter Carrithers, Kelsie Jackson, Merrill Cole, Wilbur O. Pauls, Ray Baird Jr., Jess Watts, Gary S. Glead, Mrs. R. D. Ball, M. W. Gunter, Fred Schaffer, Jake Ward and Ray Baird.

Dr. Emmons wrote to the several coin clubs in California and asked them to send interested individuals to a meeting in Santa Barbara on February 22, 1947 (Washington's Birthday). Present were Dr. C. L. Emmons, Mr. and Mrs. Leonel C. Panosh, J. R. Stewart, Edward Fogler, Roy Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Bingham, David Redfield, Kenneth W. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. David R.

Dinius and G. Meador.

Preliminary actions were taken. Dr. Emmons serving as committee

Chairman.. "California State Numismatic Association" was decided upon as the official Association name, and its purpose was determined to be to promote, extend and protect the interests of numismatics in all its forms and branches."

Dr.. Emmons appointed Lee, Dinius and Fogler as a nominations committee and the following slate was submitted: President, Dr. C. L. Emmons, Ontario; Vice President, David L. Redfield, San Francisco; Secretary-Treasurer, Leonel C. Panosh, San Diego; and Librarian-Curator, Stewart J. Bingham, Pomona. The slate was elected and Lee installed the new officers who represented various sections of the state.

It was decided that annual dues be \$1 a year. (In the January 1948 Bulletin, a proposed by-law change would have raised dues to \$1.50. At the Fresno convention in February 1948, however, it was voted to raise dues to \$2 annually.)

The group at Santa Barbara also decided that the Association should hold a convention in the near future. Lee and Fogler were appointed to draw up by-laws.

The new organization hoped for 50 members in its first year. By October, when the first convention was held, membership had reached 242, a figure far beyond the fondest dreams of its organizers. There are 1,569 as of January 1983.

Membership numbers were assigned as follows: #1 Dr. Calvert L. Emmons; #2 David L. Redfield; #3 Leonel Panosh; #4 Stewart J. Bingham; #5 Edward Fogler; #6 Kenneth W. Lee; #7 Roy Hill; #8 J. R. Stewart; #9 David R. Dinius; #10 Dr. C. Glenn Curtis; #11 Earl A. Parker; #12 Ralph A. Mitchell.

Various meetings were held in the Southern and Northern parts of the state and, through correspondence, all details of the functions of the Association were complete.

On September 3, 1947, President Emmons called a meeting in Los Angeles at the Alexandria Hotel. At that time, plans were made for a fall convention. Ed Fogler, who had just returned from the ANA convention in Buffalo, was requested to survey facilities at Bakersfield, a possible convention site. On September 10, 1947, Fogler reported that the Hotel El Tejon was suitable and the chamber of commerce, city officials and police department would gladly cooperate. President Emmons appointed Fogler convention general director and authorized him to make necessary arrangements. Date of the convention was set for October 11-12, 1947.

## **First Convention**

Registration totaled 119 at the Bakersfield convention, and Association membership climbed to 273 by its close, 30 of these being out-of-state members. Fourteen states besides California was represented. California clubs having CSNA membership at the time were Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, California Coin Club, Orange County Coin Club, San Diego Numismatic Society, Bay Cities Coin Club, Hanford Coin Club and San Joaquin Valley Coin Club. Los Angeles led in CSNA memberships with 36. San Francisco and San Diego were tied for second, each having 20 members.

Lewis M. Reagan, ANA general secretary, was speaker at the Saturday banquet and Loyd B. Gettys, ANA president, at the Sunday luncheon. Ralph A. Mitchell was master of ceremonies on both occasions. An all-girl marimba orchestra provided music during the meals.

In the Hurricane Room, nine dealers had bourse spaces. In the arcade next to the banquet hall, 13 members displayed coins. Exhibitors were Harold M. Budd, Gleb Popoff, Roy Hill, Dr. C. L. Emmons, Christian M. Petersen, Charles L. Ruby, Fred E. Draper, Fred Smith, Ralph Mitchell, Clinton Hester, DR. Bruce L. Wallace, S. M. Koepfel and L. C. Panosh. The glass-covered exhibit cases were not fitted with locks, but there was police protection.

The auction of 386 lots was conducted by Earl A. Parker, San Francisco, and Kenneth W. Lee, Glendale, Sam J. Kabealo, Pasadena, serving as auctioneer. Proceeds of the auction were just under \$2,000. There were no mail bids.

Through the efforts of Dr. Emmons, J. R. Stewart and Stewart J. Bingham, 90 glass-covered frames were made (no bottoms). Bingham furnished plate glass free. Stewart purchased the lumber at small cost. Displays were placed on the tables and the frames were then placed over them. Bottoms and locks were added to the frames in time for the second convention, held at Fresno.

Convention officials were Dr. Calvert L. Emmons, general chairman; Loyd B. Gettys, honorary chairman; Edward Fogler, general director; Leonel C. Panosh, finance and registration chairman; J. R. Stewart, registration; Kenneth W. Lee and Earl A. Parker, auctions (S. J. Kabealo was auctioneer); Ralph A. Mitchell, Mr. And Mrs. D. L. Redfield, Miss June Connors, Charles Ruby, D. R. Dinius, Everett S. Ostrom, Fred E. Tinkham, Mrs. Helen Pearson and Adolph Larson Jr., Entertainment; and Dr. Bruce L. Wallace, Joe Steele and Roy Hill, displays and bourse.

## **Fresno Convention**

The second convention was held at Fresno February 21-24, 1948, the Association celebrating its first anniversary there. An imaginary line was drawn at Delano to divide the state, so that one convention would be held in the North and the next in the South, to give everyone a chance to attend at least one state convention a year.

Held at the Hotel Californian, the convention drew 109 registrants, 35 of whom arrive on Friday, the day before the convention opened. There was no convention activity on Friday, just a general informal numismatic get-together. The lounge was a scene of pleasant activity. Groups of collectors set up tables, played cards and renewed friendships begun the fall before in Bakersfield.

All convention activities were held on the mezzanine floor off the lobby. The meeting room was on one side, the banquet hall on another, the exhibit room and dealers' bourse on the third, and a large lounge on the fourth. Bourse and exhibits were set up Saturday morning.

Kosoff was speaker at the Saturday banquet; Jack Ogilvie, at the Sunday luncheon. Ralph Mitchell again was master of ceremonies.

Kenneth W. Lee and Earl A. Parker again were auction committee, Sam J. Kabealo calling the bids. The convention official program listed 188 lots. Seventeen exhibits were made by members. Among these was one by Ronnie Lyons, Los Angeles, who was the youngest member at the Bakersfield convention, but who had to give as youngest member at Fresno to Donald Loftis of South Pasadena.

Committee members other than those named were general chairman, DR. C. L. Emmons; honorary chairman, Ralph A. Mitchell; general director, Everett S. Ostrom; finance and registration, Leonel C. Panosh and J. R. Stewart; reception committee same as at Bakersfield; entertainment, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart J. Bingham, Mrs., Helen Pearson and Adolph Larson Jr.; display, Roy Hill; and bourse, A. Kosoff.

### **First Board of Directors**

All officers were named to second terms and in addition, for the first, a five-man board of directors was elected, composed of Ralph A. Mitchell, Col., Charles Steele, Everett S. Ostrom, John El Lenker and J. R. Stewart. Directors were nominated and elected from the floor. Kenneth W. Lee and Ed Folger, nominations committee, submitted the officer slate. Fogler, then a member of the ANA board of governors, installed officers and directors Sunday morning.

By this convention the number of exhibit cases with locks had grown to 104

## **The Association Magazine**

The first CSNA Bulletin appeared in June 1947., when Leonel C. Panosh, then secretary , wrote, "I stuck out my neck and offered to get out this bulletin, so here it is, Volume 1, Number 1. I hope you like it, and if so that you tell me so; but if you don't, I hope you tell me why. If your name is not mentioned or your club is not mentioned, it is because nobody told me." This first Bulletin is now a collector's item and is missing from most bound copies in numismatic libraries.

The second Bulletin appeared in September 1947. these first two numbers were mimeographed on legal-size paper. The format was changed for Vol. 1, No.3, December 1947. Secretary Panosh commented, "I hope you like the shape of this Bulletin.. It was done in this way to make it easier to keep a file of them, which some of you may want to do."

Thereafter, with the lone exception of the January 1949 issue, the Bulletin was mimeographed in the present size of CALCOIN News, Volume 2 also consisted of three numbers dated January, June and August, 1948. Volume 3 was increased to four numbers, January, March June and October, 1949.

During the business session November 12, 1949, at the San Diego convention, Secretary Panosh stated that pressure of other matters precluded his continuing as Bulletin Editor, whereupon A. Kosoff nominated Major Charles V. Kappen, Professor of Journalism at San Jose State, for magazine editor. Professor Kappen was elected and served half-way through 19621, with the exception of the issues of November 1951 through July 1953, when he reentered the Army for Service in Japan, Formosa and Korea. L. C. Panosh was acting editor during that period. On April 22, 1956, at the San Jose Convention, the office became an elective one, and Professor Kappen was elected editor for a one-year term.

Beginning with the first issue under Editor Kappen, that of January-February 1950, the magazine was printed. Volume 4, Number 1 was printed in San Francisco. All subsequent issues rolled from the press of the Globe Printing Company, San Jose, until the magazine was moved to San Francisco in 1962. Professor Kappen felt that the magazine should have a name other than the simple heading, "California State Numismatic Association," which had appeared on the CSNA bulletin. He named the magazine CALCOIN News, short for California Coin News, which he believed to be one of its purposes. The "State Club News, Views and Who's" was substituted for "State" in the March 1950 issue. CALCOIN News as a title appeared first on the cover of the March 1950 issue.

"Who's Who in California Numismatics" became a regular feature of the magazine in May 1950. Dr. Calvert L. Emmons, first president, led the Who's Who list.

At the Santa Cruz Convention, Dr. C. Glenn Curtis showed slides of famous persons on coins, commenting on each as his

portrait appeared on the screen. Editor Kappen asked for Curtis' file of 3X5 cars, which he later sent to L. C. Panosh. The series, "Names in History," later "Names in world History," was begun by Acting Editor Panosh in the January, 1952 issue. Dariou7s the Great and Julius Caesar leading the parade of names. Dr. Curtis was joined by Bill Tobitt in January 1955.

Con articles in most cases have been papers presented at CSNA Conventions and at the various local club meetings.

First convention picture to be used in CALCOIN News, that of the Long Beach convention, appeared in the January 1951 issue.

Professor Kappen resigned the editorship after publishing the first two issues of 1962 until his death in January 1972. Jerry Kroeger was acting editor of the Spring 1972 issue. Mrs. Barbara Hyde edited the magazine for three years beginning with the Summer 1972 issue through that of Spring 1975, when she resigned.

Mrs.. Virginia Hall assumed the editorship with the Summer `1975 issue.

CALCOIN News first entered the ANA competition in 1971 and was judged best regional or state publication for that year and most subsequent years.

William H. Connell and William H. Spence joined the magazine in 1955 as assistant editor for the north and south, respectively. Since the, assistant editors, north, have been John E. Ohls, Dorothy Beaulieu, Lesley C. Lodge, Dennis Olswang, Jerry Kroeger, Maxine Bryce and Lorelie Fulwider. Assistant editors, south, have been Charles M. Johnson, Charles G. Colver, Peggy Borgolte, Nona Moore and Elisabeth Wisslead..

## **Library Catalog**

The CSNA Library Catalog was first issued in May 1968, compiled by the Librarian, Dorothy E. Beaulieu, with the Assistance of Charles V. Kappen. The second edition appeared June 1, 1975.

## **Symposium**

The first annual CSNA symposium was held March 22, 1969 in Boyd Auditorium, Long Beach, with Maurice M. Gould as chairman and moderator. Speakers were Major Sheldon Carroll, curator of the Bank of Canada Numismatic collection; Adna G. Wilde, then executive director the of the ANA; Ralph "Curly" Mitchell; and Miguel L. Munoz, past president of the Sociedad Numsiamtica de Mexico.

## **"Money Talks"**

James L. Betton was appointed editor of a numismatic anthology, a reprinting in book form of the "Best of CALCOIN News" by then President Charles V.. Kappen. The 371 page book was published in 1970.

## **Counterfeit Seminar**

The first annual California Educational Seminar was held September 23, and 24, 1972, at California State Polytechnic College in Pomona. This seminar on the detection of counterfeits is sponsored jointly by the California State Numismatic Association, the Organization of International Numismatists, the Numismatic Association of Southern California and the Council of Interracial Numismatics.

Virgil Hancock and John Hunter were instructors. Maurice M. Gould, founder, served as chairman.

## **The Mint Story**

Built in 1874, in operation until 1937 and occupied by the General Services Administration until 1968, the old San Francisco Mint seemed doomed to certain destruction.. Led by Gordon B. Hunt, CSNA and other California groups waged a long arduous crusade to save the "Granite Lady."

On March 23, 1972, President Nixon announced that the Old Mint would be turned over to the Treasury Department for restoration by the Bureau of the Mint. On April 19, 1972, Director of the Mint, Mary Brooks, officially took possession of the building, the first step in the beginning of its new life as a combination museum-computer center.

During the meeting in San Francisco, Mrs. Brooks met with numerous historical societies, numismatic organizational and museum curators to assimilate ideas for making the Old Mint into a "living" museum of coins, the coinage process and related history of California, including the Old Mint itself. Plans called for a display of one million dollars in gold bullion, the 1873 press from Denver for stamping out medals and many of the Old Mint's original furnishings.. The principal theme would be numismatic.

Gordon Hunt, who worked diligently from the inception of the idea of a museum in the Old Mint, was selected as chairman to coordinate ideas and to convey them to Mrs. Brooks.. He was assisted by Angelo Turrine with John Fies and John Sears acting as secretaries.. Robert Bridges of the San Francisco Assay Office served as liaison between the Bureau of the Mint and collectors.

Mint officials present during the meeting included Gloria Ohlinger, Roy Cahoon and Robert Bridges. Also present were George White, project manager for the restoration of the Old "S" Mint and Walter Sontheimer, the architect.. Among CSNA members in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Ben Abelson, Charles Colver, John Fies, Roy Hill, Gordon Hunt, Barbara Hyde, Ruth Ludwigsen, S. Everett Phillips, George Sailor, John Sears, Frank Strazzarino and Don Thrall.

CSNA continue its interest in the Old Mint by loaning on a permanent basis its entire collection of coins, tokens and Exonumia. For the official opening of the "Old Mint Numismatic Museum" Mrs. Brooks formally requested CSNA to furnish appropriate displays for three rooms of the Old Mint. This was done under the supervision of then Curator Bryan O. Burke and Director Randy Briggs..

CSNA issued a special 1 5/8" medal on the occasion of the dedication of the Numismatic Museum and a companion piece was struck the following year commemorating the 100th anniversary of the second U. S. Mint at San Francisco. The pair of medals are in the size of the U. S. \$50 Pan-Pacific gold commemorative coins of 1915, the first in octagon shape.

### **Story of Official Seal**

The CSNA seal was adopted in October 1950 by officers and directors. Invitation had been extended members to submit ideas for a seal following a board meeting in Brea January 25, 1950.

The seal was drawn by on one person. Charles D. Kiser, President of the First National Bank, Santa Ana, and then Vice President of the CSNA, drew it up, using the ideas of several persons. Ideas suggested buy Bob Webster of Santa Monica, a youngster who then was neighbor of Karl Brainard, and by Roy Hill, San Francisco, were incorporated into the seal. idea being added to theirs by Kiser and others.

The lettering in the circular border and on the map of California is self-explanatory.. The clipper ship sailing on the Pacific Ocean represents the early development of this state during Gold Rush days. The staff of the California Republic flag rests at Santa Barbara, where the CSNA was organized February 22, 1947.

### **Medal of Merit**

Highest award of the California State Numismatic Association is the Medal of Merit, presented for "outstanding service" to CSNA, "above and beyond the call of duty."

The 3-inch silver medal has the lamp of knowledge over open wreath at bottom, and above, MEDAL OF MERIT / CALIFORNIA / STATE NUMISMATIC / ASSOCIATION. The recipients name and the date appear on the reverse. The medal is produced by the Metallic Art Company, New York

Although a maximum of two medals of merit may be awarded in one year, only 22 presentations have been made by the CSNA Executive Board since the organization was founded 36 years ago. First two presentations were made at the autumn 1956 convention.

Those honored have been:

- Dr.. Calvert L. Emmons 1956
- Charles V. Kappen 1956
- Dr.. C. Glenn Curtis 1958
- Leonel C. Panosh 1958
- T. Kirk Hill 1960
- Robert G. McArthur 1961
- Erich Werling 1963
- Ralph A. Mitchell 1964
- Lesley G. Lodge 1966
- Charles M. Johnson 1967
- Dan Harley 1968
- Rudy Gjurovich 1968
- Charles G. Colver 1970
- Herbert M. Bergen 1971
- Clifford L. Liss 1972
- James L. Betton 1972
- S. Everett Phillips 1973
- Barbara R. Hyde 1973
- Dorothy E. Beaulieu 1976
- Edward L. McClung 1976
- William O. Wisslead 1977
- Virginia M. Hall 1981

(This history compiled 1983)