

Educational Symposium Report

by Phil Iversen

It was warm and pleasant Saturday when about three-dozen people attended the 48th annual CSNA education symposium at the Holiday Inn located in Van Nuys for the day-long event.

President Howard Feltham started off the event by welcoming everybody and thanking them for making this another great event this year. He then turned the podium over to Phil Iversen, education director, who introduced Merrill Gibson as the first speaker of the day and who gave a very informative and insightful perspective on collecting ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins. These were produced from approximately 600 BC to 800 AD and were either hand struck or cast in a variety of different metals.

Paul Ranc was the next presenter and his Powerpoint presentation showed a wide variety of similarities of ancient and modern coins depicting flying eagles, busts, shields, wreaths and images of Liberty in many forms. Both Merrill and Paul are members of the Ancient Coin Club of Los Angeles and are celebrating their club's 50th anniversary this year! Visit them at the club table during the ANA show this August and thank them for their participation and support.

Next up on the agenda was Jose Gallego who came up on the bus with a group of nice club members from the San Diego area, also making a stop for a few others from Orange County. Jose introduced us to a whole new collecting field. This was about the reverse



Above from left: Phil Iversen, Merrill Gibson (seated), and Paul Ranc.

Above from left: David Schwager, Phil Iversen, Jose Gallego, and Mel Wacks.

design varieties on Washington quarters that is starting to generate a lot of interest and are now beginning to be designated by several of the major grading firms.

Since the hotel did not have a restaurant all attendees scattered to many of the local nearby eating establishments and refueled before the afternoon session began.

Starting off after lunch was Mel Wacks, founder of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, plus president of the American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) and editor-in-chief of *The Shekel*, the publication by the organization. He told about a pair of two sibling artists who created a series of very popular medals for AINA. What was most fascinating was the behind-the-scenes stories, interesting and often humorous, connected with the making of the medals.

David Schwager was the last speaker of the day. He told the audience about various items made by the Scovill Manufacturing Company located in Waterbury, Connecticut. For over 200 years this company, which first started making buttons, eventually branched out into manufacturing other products such as advertising tokens, hard times tokens, brass holders for encased postage stamps, civil war tokens, blanks for the US mint, world coins, and transportation tokens, too.

Audience members then asked questions of the speakers, and this was followed by a drawing for a wide and interesting variety of nice door prizes. Everybody, including myself, went away with much new knowledge thanks to the wonderful speakers in attendance at this event.

