

The History of Central States

Part 7 - 1951-1952

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The 1951 Central States convention was held in Minneapolis. A committee from the Northwest Coin Club met in September of 1950 with CSNS President Lillard Culver and other Society officers to make plans for the Twin Cities affair, May 11-13. The convention headquarters was the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. M. Hilding Nelson was the convention chairman. Exhibit chairman, Ed Mitchell, stated: "By a super job of tapping all available grey matter, we intend to keep registration cost down to the level of last year, interest above previous years and quality and quantity at a pace to challenge future years." Publicity chairman, Elmer Tupper, promoted the convention with promises of a Friday evening party, a tour of the flour milling section of Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, as well as a big Saturday evening banquet with "fun and zip!"

Rates at the Curtis Hotel were: one person, \$4.50; two persons with double bed, \$5.50; and two persons with twin beds, \$6.50.

The weatherman cooperated with the Minneapolis CSNS convention by providing three sunny days with temperatures in the mid-70s. Movies and musical entertainment were Friday evening fare with J. V. McDermott in charge of the punch bowl.

Seventy-five exhibit cases contained such choice displays as Dr. Judd's 405 different U. S. patterns and McDermott's 1913 Liberty nickel. Ribbons for the top four exhibits were provided by Numismatic Gallery. Clarence Gott's gold coin exhibit took first place.

Overheard in the Saturday twelve-table bourse were McDermott turning down a \$5,000 offer for his nickel, Art Kagin buying out the other dealers' commemorative's, and the "scarce" '50-D nickels being distributed one roll per person by the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank..

All CSNS officers were reelected during the Saturday business meeting. Education programs were held on Sunday and featured a lecture on ancient coins by M. Vernon Sheldon and his Kodachrome slides.

The 1952 CSNS convention was based on an invitation of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association which also invited the Ohio State Numismatic Society to hold a joint convention with Central States, May 2-4. Will Reinhardt wrote a poem titled, "Cincinnati

Bound," published in the January, 1952, Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine. In part, it read: "On May second, third and fourth, you may ride your hobby back and forth. You'll forget about this arctic weather, when you and the Buckeyes meet together. For ole Sol [Sol Kaplan was convention chairman] will be beaming with radiant rays to make life more pleasant on these three days."

Convention publicity chairman, Ed Mitchell, highlighted the auction to be conducted by Abe Kosoff of Numismatic Gallery. He promised entertainment for the ladies including a field trip around Cincinnati and style show and luncheon.

Despite a gasoline strike which caused numerous last minute cancellations, the Cincinnati "two-in-one" convention was well attended. Twenty-six exhibits were in place from a list of exhibitors that reads like the "Who's Who" of the hobby: Richard Yeoman, J. V. McDermott, Art Kagin, Glenn Smedley, Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, M. Vernon Sheldon, James Curtis, John J. Pittman, and the Chase National Bank's collection of obsolete Ohio notes.

The auction was attended by 122 floor bidders and 800 mail bidders. Some prices realized were: 1793 Chain cent, VF, \$250; 1859 \$20 proof, \$525; and an 1865 \$20 proof, \$425.

At the CSNS business meeting, a resolution was passed asking the Treasury Department to include a silver dollar in future proof sets. New officers were installed: James W. Curtis, president; C. C. Shroyer, vice president; and Paul Ginther, secretary-treasurer. The Saturday evening roast beef banquet featured a Mr. Parker, radio and TV commentator, who was interned in Japan during World War II. He told of the many fine coin collections he had seen during his 20 years in the Orient. Chicago was approved for the 1953 convention, May 1-3, with Glenn Smedley as chairman.