

The 2013 C4OA Regional Meeting – Carson City, NV

By Mary Elise Arnold-Giambrone

#RM-0511

Having never attended a C4OA regional meeting in Carson City, I had no idea what to expect. Not to imply that I'm a seasoned veteran of the Carson City Coin Collectors of America meetings in any way, shape, or form—since I've only attended two other annuals, held in conjunction with the ANA's World's Fair of Money, one in 2011 and the other in 2013, both in Chicago, a whopping 35 miles from my home.

Why, you may ask, did I expect my experience at the regional in Carson City to be any different than the Chicago C4OA annual meetings? Well, for one thing, I was in Carson City! The very heart, home, and heritage of our beloved coin collections! Plus we met at the Carson Nugget, mere steps from the former "CC" Mint (now the Nevada State Museum, of course). I also figured that, since the C4OA is based in Nevada, members were more likely to attend this meeting regularly, and they'd be more familiar with one another.



Rusty Goe presenting appreciation card to western regional meeting coordinator Bruce Thayer.



*Members listening to Rusty Goe's lecture,
“Rehashing Information about the Carson City Mint and its
Coins,” at the 2013 C4OA western regional meeting.*

I was right to expect a different experience in Carson City. (Not better, Chicago attendees, just different. Love you!) The fifth (I think) regional meeting of the Carson City Coin Collectors of America was lively and full of laughter, endured lots of member-to-member ribbing, and most of all overflowed with camaraderie.

Introductions started with Bruce Thayer, C4OA member and western regional meeting organizer, who then had the other 24 or so attendees go around the room and introduce themselves.

Rusty Goe, our club president, began and ended his turn at the lectern with a combination lecture/Q&A session—and a lot of laughs—designed to help members rehash, revive, and review information about all things Carson City. Even I raised my hand once—with a correct answer no less! Question: “Can you name eight collectors who distinguished themselves as Carson City coin set builders?” My answer: “Dr. Simeon Lemuel Lee.” (Retained that one from Rusty’s

presentation at the Chicago ANA meeting just one week prior.) During Rusty's regional meeting lecture, I was also reminded of my conversation with a bartender in Reno the night before. She asked if I was in the area to attend Burning Man, to which I replied, "No, I'm here to attend a coin show, and to write about our coin club meeting." After her initial surprise (probably because I'm pierced and tattooed like many of the Burning Man attendees, though a bit less hippy), she said, "OK, what's the most valuable coin out there?" I revised her answer requirements by stating that I only collected Carson City coins—and then wowed her by relaying that the 1873-CC *Without Arrows* dime recently sold at auction for nearly \$2 million. Adding, of course, that it's a one of a kind. How's that for *rehashing*?

Before moving on to the individual member show-and-tell session, Rusty presented Bruce Thayer with a custom-made thank-you card for Bruce's diligent efforts in organizing the western regional meeting (for the second consecutive year). Your work is greatly appreciated, Bruce! Rusty also recognized Larry Martin's efforts for suggesting the venue, and Michael Parrott's efforts of taking the photographs.

Tony Arnold was first on the presentation list—announcing he'd just become a member of the elite Century Club, after having just purchased the 100th and 101st coins for his "CC" coin set, dubbed *The Navy Mustang Collection*. Tony then segued into the presentation of a surprise gift for each meeting attendee—commemorative golf towels that feature the C4OA logo along with custom layout and text. The first towel was framed and went to our club president, Rusty Goe.

Michael Parrott presented his complete, beautifully framed, consecutively numbered, all in PCGS holders, with *The Drummer Collection* pedigree on them, \$5 "CC" gold half eagle set—which he told us had been reborn. Michael also passed around his Carson City Mint "Royalty" binder—filled with articles about the four rarest

coins from the Carson City Mint, written by Rusty Goe to promote the 2012 *Battle Born Collection* auction.

Ryan Baum—in his first ever C4OA presentation, at his first ever regional meeting—spoke about his career in banking, which included a fascinating connection to the *Norman Biltz* collection, the 109 “CC” coins on display at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. He also talked about his first “CC” coin, an 1878 Morgan dollar in VF, passed down through three generations of his family.

Mark Archambault told us that he now has a complete set of “CC” half dollars, to which he’s decided to add varieties (thanks to Bill Bugert’s book)—just to keep it challenging. He only needs two more varieties to complete the *Loosechange* collection. Mark also includes ephemera among his “CC” collectibles (attributed to Randy Clifton’s influence)—canceled checks (similar to Dan McCarty,



Tony Arnold sharing the good news of his recent induction into the Century Club of Carson City coin collectors.

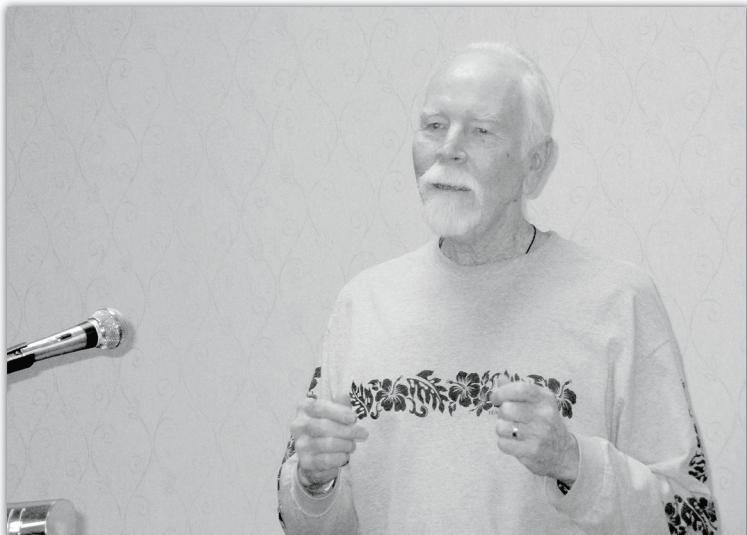


Michael "The Drummer" Parrott displaying his pedigree 19-piece set of "CC" half eagles.

who brought a binder of his own canceled checks to the Chicago ANA meeting one week earlier).

Kirk Harris was our next presenter. He passed around his complete 1878 Carson City coin set. Kirk's favorite "CC" coin year was 1878, since his dad's and his first coins were both 1878-CC Morgan silver dollars (though neither coin made it into this particular collection—Kirk's piece having disappeared over time, and his dad's example having eventually been sold).

John Crane, our next brave impromptu soul, talked about his counterstamped/countermarked 1876-CC quarter dollar with "Costa Rica" stamped on it—which unfortunately turned out to be counterfeit! (Has happened or will happen to many of us, I'm sure, John.) He is working it out with his dealer friend, who is looking



John Crane sharing about his adventure with a fake counterstamped “CC” coin, and expressing his passion for all things related to the Carson City Mint.

for a replacement to compensate for the financial loss. John also presented an 1875-CC 20-cent piece to Rusty—which is, of course, counterfeit as well!

Tom DeFina shared photos of an 1876-CC dime, brought by a non-C4OA member from Connecticut to the Chicago meeting a week prior. The dime was struck from rusted dies, off-center about 8%—and the owner got it from someone who picked it up at a flea market! I remember Rusty telling the Connecticut man that he had never seen another 1876-CC dime like this one. Should be interesting to see the results when PCGS finishes grading it!

Next, Bruce Thayer showed off examples from the *Rian’s Bequest Collection*—a nine-piece 1875-CC type set, which features all denominations, including subtypes (both the *Above* and *Below Bow* dimes), and a S/CC Trade dollar. Although Rusty tells us in one of his YouTube videos, “How to Build a Traditional 10-Piece Type Set of Coins from the Carson City Mint,” Bruce is one of many of us

who've shown you can also choose a creative route when building your "CC" type set.

Since Rusty in his lecture, "Rehashing Information about the Carson City Mint and its Coins – Boring or Beneficial?," spoke to the group about not being lone rangers—I became another of the *unscheduled* presenters. I briefly talked about my article in the May 2013 issue of *The Numismatist*, "Collecting Greatness," which speaks to my beer-budget version of a 10-piece "CC" coin type set. I also passed my collection around and invited attendees to view it.

After a brief intermission—and lots of member viewing and drooling over an assortment of prizes, and raffle ticket purchasing—the following prizes, valued at an approximate total of \$2,500, were awarded. (Special thanks to the donors: Randy Clifton for the signed, Comstock-themed checks; Bruce Thayer for the custom-made 10-piece "CC" coin type set holder with one starter coin, a half dollar; and Larry Martin for the other two starter coins for the type set, the dime and the quarter!)



Bruce Thayer presenting raffle prize (circulated 1893-CC Morgan dollar) to Mark Archambault.



Golf towel with the C4OA logo that Tony and Mary Arnold presented to each person in attendance at the Carson City regional meeting.

1. Mike Walsh won the first raffle prize, an 1873-CC *With Arrows* Liberty Seated half dollar, PCGS G-06, valued at \$210.
2. Bill Dunn took home the second raffle prize—an 1875-CC Trade dollar, PCGS VG-10, valued at \$215.
3. Mike Walsh's name was chosen yet again! This time our first—and third—raffle winner scored a check from 1888, signed by Adolph Sutro, valued at \$230.
4. Kirk Harris bagged the fourth raffle prize, a check from 1870, signed by James G. Fair, and valued at \$240.
5. John Tinney's fifth-place raffle prize win scored him the final check—from 1874, signed by John Mackay, valued at \$250.
6. Russell Baum—a guest of his brother Ryan—scored with the sixth raffle prize win—an 1880-CC Morgan silver dollar, PCGS G-06, valued at \$275. His very first Carson City coin!
7. Mark Archambault snagged the second-to-last raffle prize, the 1893-CC Morgan silver dollar, PCGS VG-08, valued at \$300.



C4OA members and guests enjoying an after-meeting dinner.

8. Concluding the list of raffle prize winners, with the grand prize, is the luckiest man I know—my dad, Tony Arnold. He scored big with the 10-piece “CC” coin type set holder, which already included a circulated dime, quarter, and half dollar—a \$650 value. (Spoiler alert: Tony gave his prize to his lovely bride, Mary Ann—so she is now an official “CC” coin collector!)

Attentive readers, you’ve probably noticed I haven’t provided much detail about individual presentations, including Rusty Goe’s. Be assured this is by design! It is not my desire to submit an article so long that it will take up an entire edition of *Curry’s Chronicle*. It is my intention—and hope (as I’m sure it is yours)—that every person who presented at the 2013 western regional meeting will write and submit (if they haven’t already) their own articles for inclusion in *Curry’s Chronicle*. This is a not-so-subtle hint, folks. If your name is in my article ... please, please write one of your own and share all the juicy details of your presentation!

In closing, let me borrow a page from Rusty Goe’s book, *The Mint on Carson Street*, which he reiterated at the end of his own presentation at the C4OA western regional meeting: “And so, it is difficult to leave the subject of the Carson City Mint. But, hopefully, the end of this book does not signal an impulse to leave it, but rather one to continue exploring it over and over again.” We look forward to all of your article submissions, fellow C4OA members!

(Images courtesy of Michael Parrott and Southgate Coins)

Members’ Generosity at Western Regional Meeting Adds Money to C4OA’s Treasury

Raffle ticket revenues from the 2013 regional meeting in Carson City totaled \$690. Members tossed in another \$685 in donations. The \$1,375 collected will go in the C4OA’s operating account. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.