

Highlights of the Annual C4OA Meeting and Carson City Coin Symposium

By Maya Roberts (RM-0399) and Rusty Goe (CLM-0001)

Almost 50 people attended the C4OA's annual meeting and Carson City Coin Symposium at the Los Angeles Convention Center on August 6, 2009. Club president Rusty Goe welcomed everyone and then introduced membership services coordinator Maya Roberts and the C4OA's new treasurer, Don Haight. Goe announced that 62 new members had signed up over the past 12 months, bringing the total of signups to 462 during the club's first four and a quarter years in existence. Goe then reminded everyone about the club's regional meeting in Carson City scheduled for August 21, 2009 at the Nevada State Museum's annual coin show. Maya and Rusty also gave a brief tour of the club's new Web site (see page 24).



Goe, McCloskey, Bugert and Low.

Next, Rusty Goe introduced the first symposium speaker Bill Bugert, whose PowerPoint presentation focused on the different die marriages of 1875-CC halves. He assigned rarity ratings for each of the die marriages and explained that even though the WB-7D variety is common relative to other varieties of this date, it should still be considered rare relative to other dates in the Liberty Seated half dollar series. Bugert stated that the 1875-CC date is categorized inappropriately as a common date and that it is undervalued.



Bill Bugert in front of the audience.

Next up was Darrell Low who presented an overview of Liberty Seated coins from the Carson City Mint. After providing some brief background history on the Carson City Mint, Low presented pertinent information about each of the six Liberty Seated denominations in the Carson City series: dimes, twenty-cent pieces, quarters, half dollars, silver dollars, and Trade dollars. He displayed images of selected coins, separated the key dates from the more common

issues, and talked about his favorite pieces. Darrell's talk stimulated everyone to search for examples of "CC" Liberty Seated coins to add to their collections.



Darrell Low presenting his lecture.

Rusty Goe then introduced John McCloskey, president of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. McCloskey's PowerPoint presentation provided an introduction to gold half eagles from the Carson City Mint. He listed mintages for each of the 19 dates in this series as well as the number of varieties for each date. According to McCloskey, the 1874-CC comprises the most varieties with five, which represents one-seventh of the thirty-five varieties for the whole series. John used images to show how the different obverse and reverse hub types are separated into two periods of time. The Type 1 obverse and reverse hubs were used from 1870 to 1880 and the Type 2 hubs were used from 1881 to 1893. An easy identifier for the different obverse hubs is the distance between the stars and the denticles. The stars on the Type 1 varieties are farther from the

denticles and the stars on the Type 2 varieties are closer. McCloskey revealed other helpful diagnostics for “CC” gold half eagles, such as the small defect visible at the top of the 7th star on all examples dated 1870 to 1880 and the denticle counts for the two obverse and reverse hub varieties. One of John’s favorites is the extra “8” in the denticles below the date on the 1872-CC half eagles.



John McCloskey speaking on “CC” gold half eagles.

Rusty Goe presented the final lecture of the day, in his profile of Harold M. Budd, Sr., an avid “CC” coin enthusiast from the first half of the 20th century. Most of Goe’s presentation is preserved in his article in this issue of *Curry’s Chronicle* on page 84.

The symposium received an overwhelming positive response from those in attendance. The four topics presented proved how versatile the broad subject of the Carson City Mint is. You can isolate one date from one series of “CC” coins like Bill Bugert did in his lecture on 1875-CC half dollars or you can touch the highpoints on six denominations at a time as did Darrell Low. John McCloskey

showed that even as in depth as his overview of Carson City gold half eagles appeared, he still held much information in reserve on his subject. And Rusty Goe demonstrated that while the coins are what we most often concentrate on, it is the stories of collectors that pursue the coins that breathe life into them.



Rusty Goe speaking on Harold M. Budd, Sr.

In the club's nearly four and half years of existence we have conducted a Carson City–Comstock seminar (in October 2006) and now this Carson City Coin Symposium; in addition to publishing 17 issues of *Curry's Chronicle* to date. It is the club's goal to keep disseminating information in word and in print about the Carson City Mint and its coins. This is a message that deserves to be spread as far and as wide as possible.

(Images courtesy of Southgate Coins)