

The History of Central States

Part 8 - 1953-1954

by W.Ray Lockwood

1953 was historic for Central States, in at least four respects!

1. The first official publication, The Sentinel, was born.
2. The first convention medallic convention badge was issued to convention registrants.
3. The first awarding of Past President and Medal of Merit Awards.
4. The first Interim/Fall meeting of the board of governors was held.

May 1-3, 1953, were the dates of the 11th Anniversary Convention held in Chicago's LaSalle Hotel. Chairman Glenn Smedley announced that the registration fee of \$1.00 was a "depression rate to combat inflation" The registration fee did include the first-ever medallic badge, good looking oval-shaped golden design featuring the CSNS logo on one side and the location and dates on the other. Four-hundred badges were contracted and all were handed out by the morning of May 2.

Glenn Ostrander, exhibit chairman, announced that all exhibitors would have their names printed in the official convention program. He stated: "No collector of numismatic material will deny that outside of owning certain items, the greatest pleasure derived from collecting coins comes from exhibiting." He further advised: "Again, a reminder, not how much or how rare, but how attractive and how described is important."

The convention featured a two-session auction conducted by R. Green of Chicago and included the collection of Ragnar Cederlund, former ANA vice- president. Among the 44 dealers who manned the bourse were: Art Kelley, Aubrey & Adeline Bebee, the Kagin brothers (Art and Paul), James Kelly, New Netherlands Coin Co., and the Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff) of California. The 44 dealer number set a record with the closest being 36 at the 1950 / Milwaukee ANA convention.

The convention was held in the LaSalle Hotel, in the heart of Chicago. A large room was reserved for the ladies, complete with a television receiver! The ladies also participated in a field trip to world-famous Marshall Field's department store.

The 1953 Chicago Coin Club's Bulletin declared that the CSNS convention was the "most important event in the recent history of the Chicago Coin Club." It listed convention

statistics such as: attendance, 499 from 32 states; a banquet which included a beef dinner and bottle of wine at each table, attended by 245 guests. During the banquet, the first-ever silver medals were presented to eight Past-CSNS Presidents, and six first-ever bronze Medals of Merit were awarded to Lillard Culver, Earl Brown, James Curtis, Paul Ginther, Glenn Smedley and Richard Yeoman. Lee Hewitt, "founding father" of Central States, was given a gold medal inscribed "Honorary President".

At the Sunday business session, Milwaukee was selected as the site for the 1954 - 12th anniversary - convention. According to an article in Volume One, Issue One, of the new Sentinel, two innovations were to appear in Milwaukee. First, a complete listing of members would appear in the Convention's Official program. Second, a display case housing the Past-Presidents' Medals and the Medals of Merit would be found in the exhibit area.

Prior to the 1954 Milwaukee convention, two issues of the new Sentinel were published. The first issue, dated October, 1953, noted these membership statistics: "CSNS is growing: May, 1952 - 109 members; May, 1953 - 160 members; August, 1953 - 207 members. CSNS President James W. Curtis promoted a goal of 400 members by May, 1954. Regular members were urged to purchase a life membership for \$15.00! The first Sentinel editor was Elston G. Bradfield of the Chicago Tribune staff. And the first-ever interim CSNS board meeting was held on Saturday, Oct. 31, 1953, at the Chicago Coin Club's annual show.

The 1954 CSNS convention was held in Milwaukee's Hotel Pfister, April 30-May 2. Registration fee was again \$1.00 which included a medallion badge. Banquet tickets were on an actual cost basis with all other activities free. Forty-two members attended the business meeting. The Central States treasury showed a balance of \$400 with a membership of 278 (224 regular, 51 life and 3 "corporate" -).

Convention registration totaled 506, a new record, with 54 dealers, also a new record, and an auction called by Numismatic Gallery of California. Twenty-six exhibitors used 57 cases. The first place exhibit winner was Verne DeRemer for his "Development and Manufacture of Coinage." The CSNS plaque for Best in Show went to James Curtis for his exhibit of articles used as money during the past 2000 years.

Other than the usual numismatic activities, the convention featured tours of the city and its world-famous breweries, a night Milwaukee Braves baseball game, and programs for the ladies. The bronze Medal of Merit was bestowed on Elston G. Bradfield, Sentinel editor and assistant editor of ANA's The Numismatist.

New officers elected were: President C. C. "Tim" Shroyer of Toledo; vice president – Erwin Gerber of Milwaukee; and secretary-treasurer Earl Brown of Chicago. The new board of governors included Harry X Boosel, Harold Brown, James Buchbinder, Ivan Ebling, Lloyd Gettys, Sol Kaplan, Richard Kenney, Mark Nelson and Glenn Smedley.



INTRODUCING THE SENTINEL

The officers of CSNS are planning to issue The Sentinel twice a year, in the Spring immediately before the annual convention, and in the autumn before the interim meeting. Your assistance in making it a newsworthy publication is sought. You are urged to submit short articles describing collecting activities, numismatic news of your locality, or information in the field of coin collecting. The Editor welcomes your personal comments and brief items of interest to fellow numismatists in the Central States area.

CSNS INTERIM MEETING COINCIDES WITH CCC BANQUET

The CSNS Board of Directors interim get-together is set for the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, October 31. Ten in the morning is the time and the meeting is open to all. On the same day and in the same hotel, the Chicago Coin Club will hold its annual banquet and auction. CCC's affable President, Clyde Grimm, offers a hearty invitation to you to attend and bring your wife and friends for a week-end of numismatic pleasure.

CSNS PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

As members of Central States Numismatic Society we can look back with considerable pride to our 1953 Convention at Chicago. The Convention established a qualitative standard, featured an exceptional group of exhibits, and had a registration of approximately 500. Yet it was this high registration which carried with it a disturbing factor. Apparently those registrants were numismatists who felt that the convention had a great deal to offer, and who went to Chicago for a numismatic good time. Unfortunately, at the time of the convention, we had only 160 paid up CSNS members. This means that these 160 individuals shouldered the financial and moral obligations, whereas the other 340 registrants did not assume such responsibilities. This failure can certainly not be charged to exorbitant membership fees. It costs only \$1.00 a year for membership, and only \$15.00 for a life membership, to be a full member of our Society. Apparently, the real difficulty lay in the lack of personal contact and individual invitation to join. It is to the best interests of the Society to have as large a membership as possible. This not only establishes a better financial position for carrying on expanded activities and bringing greater benefits to the membership, but also permits more individuals to share in the advantages that a large regional organization can bring them. I earnestly urge each of you to secure one new member for our Society between now and January 1. If all

First Issue of the Sentinel: Late in 1953, the first literary efforts of Elston Bradfield produced the Sentinel, later renamed The Centinel, for the CSNS Membership. The Society's Journal has been published continuously for more than 50 years.

The Fall, 1954, interim board meeting was again held in conjunction with the Chicago Coin Club's annual show, and the 1955 convention was awarded to the Detroit Coin Club.