

Women In Numismatics (WIN) General Meeting
January 12, 2019
Orlando, Florida

WIN President Charmy Harker called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. There were ten people present, and each one said their name and what they collect. Harker announced that 2020 will be the Year of Women in Numismatics. WIN is planning seminars with speakers to be held at FUN, Central States and the ANA conventions. Free WIN memberships will be offered to all female young numismatists who attend the ANA Summer Seminar.

ANA Vice President Don Kagin entered the room to request more women be involved in numismatics.

James Zylstra, who collects primitive money and ancient coins, was the guest speaker. Jim said he "accidentally" started collecting. He explained that "bride price" was money given to the father of the bride from the father of the groom. It was frequently corn, a goat, cowrie shells, or a cow if the family was more financially secure and could offer a bigger gift. This form of exchange has been around for centuries. Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the two main areas for bride prices. Characteristics of bride price are the following: (1) they were negotiated between the two fathers, (2) there was no standard amount, (3) villages had different currencies, but all had something like a "penny," generally a cowrie shell, (4) the two families joined together by marriage, (5) if there was a divorce, all bride money was returned to the father of the groom, (6) some men had 3-4 wives if they had enough money, and (7) the first wife inherited everything if the husband passed away. Bright calico fabrics were also prized possessions and considered money fabric. It is a male-dominated society, and the women carried babies, did the work and/or run the business, and carried items on their heads. The men would frequently take it easy and socialize with each other.

Jim was presented with a certificate of appreciation and his talk was well received by all present. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Wibker
WIN Secretary