

Women In Numismatics (WIN) General Membership Meeting
April 25, 2019
Schaumburg, Illinois

WIN President Charmy Harker called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. She thanked everyone for coming and made a few announcements. (1) In 2020 WIN will have a Celebration of Women in Numismatics. Special events will take place at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) show in Orlando in January, Central States (CSNS) in Schaumburg in April, and the American Numismatic Association (ANA) World's Fair of Money in Pittsburgh in August. Watch for details in *Winning Ways* and on WIN's website. (2) The next WIN meeting will be held at the ANA convention in Rosemont, Illinois, in August. (3) A free membership in WIN will be given to each female YN who attends the ANA Summer Seminar in 2020.

Charmy introduced WIN's guest speaker, Mitch Ernst. Mitch is the current president of CSNS, and is also the past president of both the Omaha Coin Club and the Nebraska Numismatic Association for over 10 years. Mitch's topic was "Oscar Roty's Marianne, 'La Semeuse' – France's Symbol of Liberty."

Oscar Roty was a famous sculptor born in France on June 11, 1846. He became a professor in Paris, and in 1905 he was awarded a medal of honor for some of his works. Roty is best known, however, for his "La Semeuse," depicted on French coins. The English translation of "la semeuse" is "the sower."

Marianne was France's version of Liberty. Representations of Liberty are generally strong allegorical figures, usually women, designed by men. During wartime Marianne had a more Joan of Arc look. The model used by Roty for many of the designs for coins and stamps was Charlotte Ragot. She was the model for the Republique Francaise coin design used from 1897-1920. The design had Marianne wearing a Phrygian cap, which was the symbol of liberty. The rising sun in the background represented a new day. Marianne was "the sower," spreading seeds to germinate. This same design was adopted for French postage in 1903.

It is believed that Roty's Marianne inspired designs by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. La Semeuse is still on coins today, although an updated version is now depicted. Her symbolism is still seen, and our symbols unite us and transmit values, so she has served her purpose well.

After a brief question and answer period, WIN VP Louise Boling presented Mitch with a certificate of appreciation. Everyone present enjoyed Mitch's presentation immensely and gave him a round of applause. Mitch brought a coin for a door prize drawing that was won by WIN Secretary Cindy Wibker. He also had stickered coins for everyone attending his presentation, and had several pieces on exhibit for all to see.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Wibker
WIN Secretary