



NUMISMATIC

VIGNETTES



• Most of us have wondered at the significance or origin of company or product names we come across now and then. In my case, one such is the name of one of the oldest producers of medallic items in this country: *The Green Duck Company*. Located in Chicago, it has been producing medals, tokens and badges since 1906 for customers whose names run the gamut of the alphabet, from American Motors to Zenith Radio. It is still in business although its more youthful sister, *The Lincoln Mint*, has taken over the production of fine arts items.

But what about that illogical name, *The Green Duck Company*. It is a contraction of the names of its two founding partners, Greeburg and Duckheisel. Sorry if that revelation shatters any romantic ideas—there was no feathered fowl involved after all.

By the time you read this, many ANA members will have an example to *The Lincoln Mint's* work in the form of the Boston convention medal and/or badge.

• "Too few have roots in economy," stated Sydney J. Harris in his syndicated column in the *Chicago Daily News* recently. The excellent column was too lengthy to repeat here in toto, but the essence was as follows.

The bottom one-fifth of our population gets one-twentieth of the national income; and has NO liquid assets what-

ever beyond what happens to be in its pockets. The next 30 per cent holds liquid assets of less than \$500 per family. So the bottom one-half of American families have less than \$100 each in liquid assets, which amounts to less than 3 per cent of the country's total.

It's no mystery, considering this fact, that so many families must look to credit or charity for the basic necessities of mere existence whenever the pay check is interrupted for even a short period. We all have money and charge cards, so consider ourselves to be affluent; yet as a society of possession and ready resources we are sorely lacking and almost wholly dependent on our precarious jobs.

"Our grandparents, on the contrary, were more of a society of possession than of consumption. They lived sparingly and limited their needs, and generally owned their homes or shops or farms, and could ride out an economic storm more readily. More Americans need a genuine and deeply rooted stake in the capitalistic order, so that 'affluence' becomes more of a matter of 'owning' than of 'spending.'"

Mr. Harris is not known as an economist, yet here he has set forth a basic economic fact that should be heeded by those of us who feel that "economics" is for millionaires, financiers and governments only.—Glenn S.