

Raffle

Four prizes went to:

1. Hawaiian Coins & Tokens, by Bressett & Gould; to *Jack Free*.
2. Latin American Tokens, by Rulau; to *Gordon Donnell*.
3. A Silver Liberian 1974 \$5.00, (one of the largest silver coins ever minted by the US); to *Larry Reppeteau*.
4. Two \$100 Skagway, Alaska Scrip Notes; to *Paul Holtzman*.

Late News

Ruth Philips, current CSNA president and former PCNS president will be joining us at the banquet along with Theresa Lund, editor of CalCoin News. Be sure to come and thank Ruth for her support of PCNS and the CSNA educational symposium.



1023rd meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

6:00PM Saturday, June 30, 2001

Gold Mirror Italian Restaurant, 800 Taraval St. at 18th Ave. San Francisco

Annual PCNS Banquet & Bingo

Dinner at 7:00 PM
No host bar at 6:00PM
\$32.00 per person

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 194271 San Francisco, CA 94119-4271
www.pcns.org

Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us for the annual PCNS banquet. This year we will be having dinner at the Gold Mirror Italian Restaurant, 800 Taraval St. at 18th Ave. in San Francisco. The cost will be \$32 per person. Please return the enclosed invitation by June 22 with your selection from the four choices of main entree.

As we will be having a private room, the famous PCNS Bingo game will return. As in the past, the prizes are donated by the members. Please bring some numismatic goodies! Thanks in advance to a generous donation by *Jerry Schimmel*.

1022nd meeting- May 2001

Birds on Coins – Halbert Carmichael

(Review by *Herb Miles*)

Mr. Halbert Carmichael, a bird watcher (“birder” as he puts it), gave a spirited talk spiced with slides of a portion of his collection featuring birds of the world. He began with an Athenian tetradrachm showing the city’s famous owl symbol. Halbert noted that he does not collect heraldic eagles and the like because they are unidentifiable; he prefers birds that show real animals identifiable by genus and species. Therefore, Roman coins, many portraying birds, seem not to fit into his collection since they are mostly unidentifiable, however, he is still deciding if he will add this subgroup of ancient coins to his collecting interests.

Many of Halbert’s coins show beautiful engravings of specific birds, such as the bird of paradise on a German New Guinea piece, the Quetzal on Guatemala’s coinage, the peacock on a Burmese coin, and the series of coins for which Gilroy Roberts did the engraving.

Halbert did note that many countries strike coins featuring birds just for the collector market; they are not designed to circulate as many are of precious metals, gold and silver, etc. He also stated that some countries portray birds which are not native to their own country! One example is a

coin from the Bailiwick of Jersey which shows a Mauritius pink pigeon, but this particular endangered bird was brought to the Bailiwick to allow them to reproduce in quantity and then be reintroduced to Mauritius.

Some of the birds featured are quite striking being an integral part of the coin’s design, some are not very lifelike, and some are so poorly done as to be no more than an afterthought design element. Halbert showed a few slides of current technology being applied to design elements on coins, holograms, color additions, and decals on coins! What will be next? Collectors wait with bated breath.

Exhibits by *Herb Miles*

Larry Reppeteau brought his circulation find of a counterfeit 1935 S Lincoln Cent, a sand cast piece!

Steve Huston brought a coin accumulation/collection brought from Arkansas via Pennsylvania, mostly junk silver, but including a very nice 1854 with arrows quarter dollar.

Gordon Donnell exhibited his Fitzgerald’s \$10 casino token, several elongated cents, a worn Buffalo nickel retrieved from the nickel slots, and a roll of 2000 Denver half dollars.

Phil Nordin exhibited die varieties of the Philippine Flora & Fauna series of coins where the genus was misspelled on the circulation strikes.

Mark Wm Clark brought a Philippine inaugural medal, an Eisenhower inaugural medal, a 1904 bronze St. Louis fair medal, and an error (very thin) \$100 peso coin from Mexico.

Vern Arbogast exhibited some of the newest Euro trimetal pieces and some interesting junk box finds.

Sarah Nordin brought Utah State Prison brass tokens featuring a seagull (in honor of our speaker) and containing a mysterious acronym AYOP (Adult Young Offender Population), but of course the prison does not house young offenders.

Jack Free dug a hole with his silver 1911 PPIE shovel and brought some PPIE postcards showing daytime and nighttime scenes of the fair, a 2001 proof set and an Empire Coin Company coin dealer token (from dealer Q. David Bowers).

Jerry Schimmel exhibited a grouping of Mechanics' Institute bronze, silver and gold winners' medals.

Michael Wehner brought his new acquisition, a San Francisco token featuring Sharon's Quarters in Golden Gate Park, the area where a children's park and merry-go-round are located. Michael stated that his research noted that this is the oldest public playground in the United States.

Seagulls and Utah Prison Tokens, *Sarah Nordin*



Utah Prison token *Zara* UT11-13

In the mid-1980's, the Utah Department of Corrections produced a series of tokens for use by inmates in the state prison system. Prison tokens don't usually carry dates or designs, but the Utah series is an exception to both rules. The 23mm and 25mm brass pieces were dated 1985 and 1988, and at least one obverse design of 1985 carries a stylized image of a seagull. They are listed in *Zara's* catalog on prison tokens as UT-11 through UT-13.

The California Gull is the state bird of Utah. The story goes back to 1847, when the first Mormon settlers in the area of modern-day Salt Lake City were almost driven to starvation by a three-inch-long species of shieldback katydid, later named the Mormon Cricket, which ravaged their fields. The pioneers were saved by large flocks of hungry California Seagulls, which flew in from Salt Lake and consumed the insects. Latter Day Saints refer to the incident as the "Miracle of the Gulls", and the California Seagull has enjoyed a place of honor ever since.

Prisoners may not exactly be "free as a bird", but the seagull image on the Utah 1985 token serves as a reminder of the state's history. There is no other recorded use of a bird from any state on a prison token.

Die Varieties of the Philippines Monkey-Eating Eagle, *Phil Nordin*

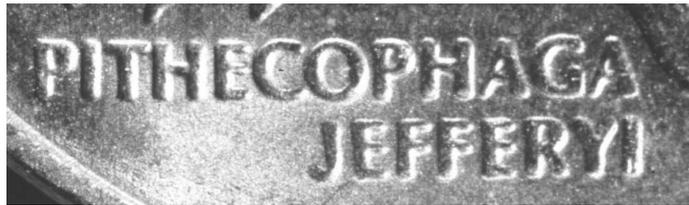


In 1983, the Central Bank of the Philippines replaced the reverse designs of its minor coinage with the so-called "Flora

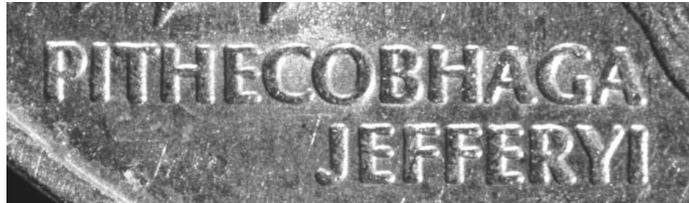
and Fauna” series, to highlight the archipelago’s biodiversity. For the copper-nickel 50-sentimo, KM-242.1, a dramatic image of the endangered Monkey-Eating Eagle was chosen. The coin measures 25mm in diameter. Mintage of the 1983 issue was 27,644,000 pieces.

The eagle is endemic to the southern Philippine island of Palawan, where its local name is *tabon*. The scientific name of the eagle is *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, the first word referring to the genus, or group of related eagles, and the second word referring to the species, the specific kind of eagle.

Each of the coins in the Flora and Fauna series carries the scientific name of the plant or animal represented. In the case of the 50-sentimo, a misspelling of the genus created a variety, KM-242.2, spelled *Pithecobhaga*. The variety seems confined to circulation strikes only.



Correct spelling of the genus (*Pithecophaga*)



Incorrect spelling of the genus (*Pithecobhaga*)

The variety appears to have been created early in the year. A Midwest coin dealer obtained a quantity of the Flora and Fauna coins directly from the Central Bank. Largely because of his inventory, uncirculated examples of the misspelled 50-sentimo variety are readily available in the

market today. By contrast, specimens in circulation were uncommon in the Philippines. I was in the Olongapo area at the time, and I checked 100 coins from the local bank. I found only two of the misspelled variety, and I saw only one more for the time I was there. My guess is that the Central Bank located the misspelled hub which created the dies, and removed it from use.

Brazilian Pavilion GGIE medal, Michael Wehner



Obverse: BRAZILIAN PAVILION / GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION / 1939 / (Small signature SHREVE & CO S.F.) / (Pavilion building)
Reverse: ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRASIL / (Brazilian Coat of Arms) 63mm diameter, brass

This large and seldomly seen brass medal commemorates the Brazilian Pavilion at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exhibition. Presented to promote Brazil and its products, the pavilion featured a large café in its south wing where fair goers sipped Brazilian coffee and mate, a South American herbal tea. Pictured on the medal is the main entrance showing a large floral mural on the west side of the tower. Murals also adorned the eastern side of the tower. Decorated with Bird of Paradise, tree-ferns, philodendrons, and rubber and banana trees, the interior was donated to the East Bay Regional Park District and rebuilt after the fair closed with a new exterior as the “Brazilian Room” in Tilden Park in Berkeley. Famous for its exotic Brazilian hardwood paneling, including the rare species Jacaranda and Sucupira, the Brazilian room remains a popular place for weddings and parties.

The medal was manufactured by the San Francisco jeweler Shreve & Co. The original finish of the piece is

unclear. The specimen at hand is oxidized. The only other piece known to the author (via an internet photo) appeared to be brilliant in finish.