

July Exhibits

Michael S. Turrini brought a copy of an article just published in Numismatic News with his interview of member *Mark Wm. Clark*.

Mark Wm. Clark brought a cloth tag from the Philadelphia Mint showing that the bag it was attached to held 1000 1897 Silver \$1 dollars.

Whalen brought an Al Smith campaign medal from the 1928 presidential race; Smith was criticized then for being a Catholic. *Gordon Donnell* exhibited his latest raffle winnings, a MS 70 2002 U.S. \$5 gold piece!

Phil Nordin explained how he has been introducing numismatics to young learners in his elementary classes by cleverly having them research information from donated world minor coins that correspond to their country of origin

Dave Lange introduced us to his two new books, "History of the US Mint & Coinage" and the second edition of his "Complete Guide to Mercury Dimes." Dave also generously donated his notes on the Society's history.

Rick Webster brought a new acquisition for his Barbarous Roman coin collection

Michael Wehner exhibited the San Francisco Coin Club medal featuring the "Granite Lady" that he designed for the convention.

Ken Takahashi brought his just acquired replica Jefferson Peace Medal and a 2005 ANA convention medal.

New Member

Please welcome Louis Winchester of Oakland, California to the Society,



1072nd meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, August 24, 2005

Fort Mason, Building C, Room 370
San Francisco, California

Post-ANA convention syndrome.

Everyone!

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday, August 24, 2005 for the 1072nd meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. With no speaker on the schedule, you are invited to share your ANA convention experiences and acquisitions in an extended show and tell. Note that there are five Wednesdays this August, so the meeting is relatively early in the month.

1071nd Meeting July 27, 2005. **A History of the Solidus: From the Roman Empire to the Renaissance**, *Steven Caywood*
(review by *Herb Miles*)

Young Numismatist Steve Caywood of Utah gave a spirited PowerPoint talk on the History of the Solidus, a Byzantine gold coin. Steve has been collecting for about 8 years, since his early teenage years, and has specialized in Byzantine gold coins for the past 5 years. The solidus was issued for about 1000 years making it one of the longest serving trade coins. After the western Roman empire fell in 476 AD, the Roman empire in the east continued, eventually being called the Byzantine empire.

Steve traced the gradual changes to this particular coin as it evolved from the Roman aureus. The Byzantine empire gradually changed from pagan depictions on the coins to the emerging Christian symbols spurred by Emperor Constantine who adopted Christianity as the state religion. The coins began to portray Christian icons, such as angels and Christ appeared during the 700s under Emperor Justinian. A period occurred where the church forbade the portrayal of Christ, but religious icons were restored in 842 or thereabouts. As the empire waned, the solidus name was changed, then was restored and eventually was lost forever in the mid 1300s when John V issued the last solidi.

Steve noted that the French Sou is a descendant of the solidus, one of a number of coins that descended from this long-served coin. Steve also mentioned a number of methods for forming a collection, 1) pieces that reflect the declining state of the empire over the years, 2) by emperor, 3) by mint, 4) or with a type set featuring one from each historical period.

A very well done talk after which Steve was presented an engraved PCNS Speaker's medal.

ANA Convention wrapup

With the 2005 World's Fair of Money successfully completed, the local host clubs have much to be proud of. Only the third ANA convention to be held in San Francisco, the others being in 1915 and 1949, this event had a wide PCNS participation. As noted in last month's Bulletin, eleven speakers at the show and four members of the Organizing Committee are active Society members. The PCNS table in the local club section was well staffed and well attended. Thanks to members Herb Miles, Steve Huston, Michael Whalen, Sandra Whalen, Ken Takahashi, Jerry Schimmel, Ed Fulwider and Gordon Donnell for all the time that they spent promoting the Society at the convention. And of course, special thanks to Mark W. Clark for many long hours devoted to the local club table over the course of the event.

A number of Society members entered competitive exhibits at the convention.

Michael S. Turrini "Wells Fargo 1902 Medal... A Rarity and a Legend"

Herb Miles "British and American Anti-Slavery Tokens"

Gordon Donnell "Depression Era Wooden Money and Scrip"

Elliot Wehner "Contemporary Military Numismatics" 3rd place overall in Class 4 (Tokens). 1st place in Youth Class 5.

Michael Wehner "California Gold Rush Bills of Exchange" 3rd place in Class 16 (Western Americana) and "A complete collection of Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Exonumia" 3rd place in Class 18 (Local Interest) and The Thomas H. Law Award (Best New Exhibitor).

July Raffle (*Elliot Wehner*, raffle coordinator)

1908 S Philippines Peso was won by *Michael S. Turrini*.

1 Rupee of India, went home with *Michael Whalen*.

Michael Whalen also took home a Panama ¼ Balboa.

And *Lee Penn* was lucky to abscond with a 10 Centesimi of Italy.