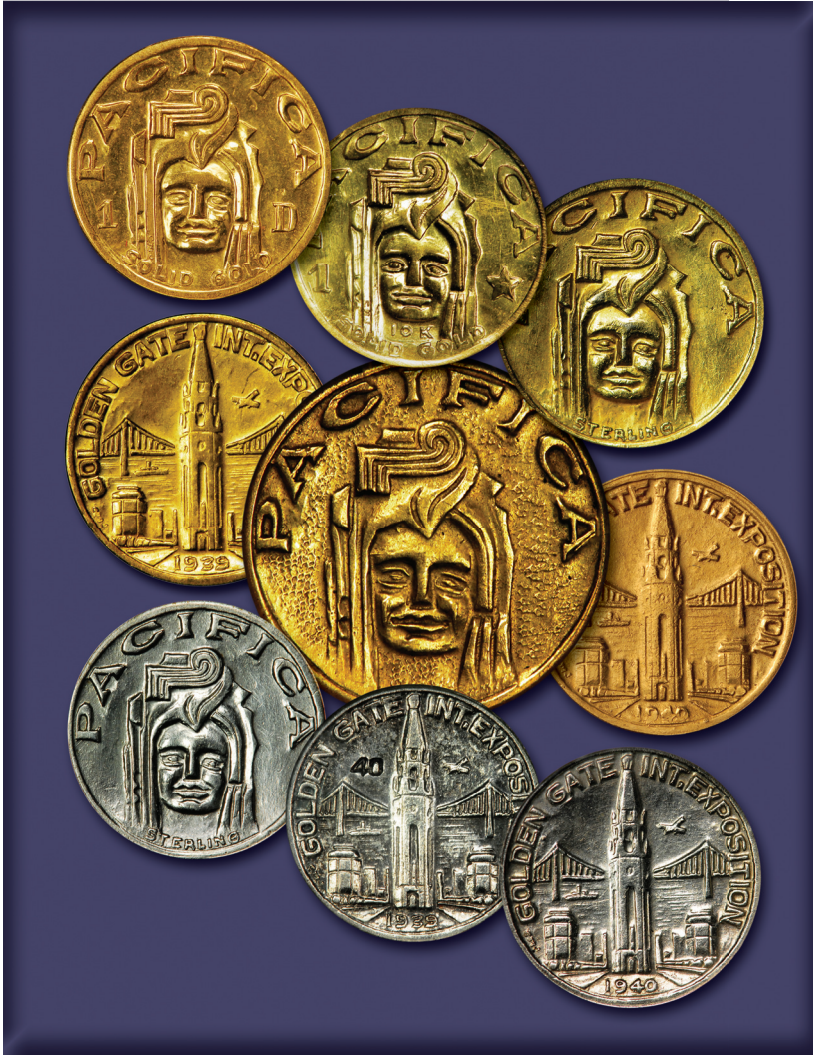


*1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco.*

Charbneau so-called dollars were produced in gold, sterling silver, gold-plated silver, copper, and gold-plated copper.



(Have a favorite coin, medal, or story to share? Submit your material to [bill.hyder@gmail.com](mailto:bill.hyder@gmail.com) and see it appear on the bulletin back cover.)

*Note Date Change!*



**1145<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

7:30PM Wednesday September 21, 2011

Building C, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California

**Charbneau So-Called Dollars  
from the Golden Gate  
International Exposition**

Jeff Shevlin

presenting a talk by

Jeff Shevlin and Bill Hyder

## *1144th meeting, August 24, 2011*

Bill Hyder presented a talk prepared by himself and Jeff Shevlin entitled:

### *Were Charbneau So-Called Dollars the Last of the Coins of the Golden West?*

Hyder related a brief biography of Jules Charbneau and noted that he designed the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition souvenir three piece Alaska gold set before designing the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition souvenir gold dollar-sized medal. The AYPE gold pieces are best known for their inclusion in a 1915 set of gold tokens known as the Coins of the Golden West. The set is typically attributed to ME Hart Co. of San Francisco.

Who was ME Hart and why are the AYPE pieces attributed to Hart instead of Charbneau? Hyder and Shevlin presented their evidence that Charbneau in fact designed the gold pieces and even ran an ad as the manufacturer and wholesale agent for the gold sets. The identity of ME Hart is more problematic, but they presented their theory that ME Hart is actually Mrs. Mary E. Hart, a California journalist and Alaska gold miner. They reviewed their evidence for the places and events where Jules Charbneau, Mrs. Mary E. Hart, and Farran Zerbe likely interacted and had opportunities to partner or influence one another. Although they cannot prove that Mrs. Mary E. Hart owned ME Hart Co., they presented numerous threads of evidence that point to her owning the company and consolidating set of gold tokens for sale as opposed to manufacturing them herself. In the process, they built the case that the Charbneau dollar was the last in a tradition of small gold medals struck for US expositions between 1900 and 1940.

### *Member exhibits:*

Herb shared GGIE bracelets and a ladies compact with designs that also appeared on souvenir medals and tokens.

Michael displayed a Midwinter International Exposition award medal acquired from the Jerry Schimmel collection.

Whalen brought SS Central America relics including an 1855S and an 1857S Twenty Dollar gold pieces.

Bill shared a boxed silver Charbneau so-called dollar and a boxed set of AYPE gold pieces.

Steven shared a Canadian “Red Poppy” dollar.

Dan brought an 1876 “Nevada Dollar” from the US Centennial exposition and two 1936 commemorative Philippines pesos with Roosevelt and Quezon and Murphy and Quezon.

### *Raffle:*

Ed won a French jeton.

Whalen a selection of postcards and a Yosemite medal.

Dan a 1990 uncirculated set.



### *2011 meeting Schedule:*

September 21, 2011: Building C, Fort Mason

**(Note the 3rd Wednesday in September)** Jeff Shevlin, Speaker

October 26, 2011: Building C, Fort Mason

November 23, 2011: Building C, Fort Mason

December 28, 2011: Building C, Fort Mason