

PCNS EVENTS

May 25 Meeting speaker: Federico Castillo

June 25 BBQ Luncheon — \$10 per person *in advance*

July–Dec . . . We still need speakers for the last half of 2016.
Please email webmaster@pcns.org if you can present a program. Your topic can even be something about which you submitted a *Paper*.

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1201ST Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



A Numismatic Tour of the Timber Industry in Northern California

by Federico Castillo

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 7:30 PM

at Fort Mason Center, Building C, San Francisco

BBQ LUNCHEON TICKETS FOR JUNE 25

June is our Annual Banquet date in place of our regular monthly meeting. This year, the date is Saturday, June 25th, and it's only \$10 per person — a bargain price for all-you-can-eat BBQ!

Mark your calendar and plan now to attend. Location details in Tiburon will be sent to all who pay for tickets.

Tickets are on sale now. Make payment to *PCNS* by mailing a check, in person at our meeting, or online via PayPal (to: money@pcns.org).

And remember... there will be no meeting at Fort Mason in June!

APRIL PROGRAM REPORT

The 1906 Earthquake and Fire How saving the Old Mint saved San Francisco

Our speaker, Jason Macario, came prepared with a presentation full of fascinating early images of the Mint and the city, along with a wealth of historic detail. He noted that, as the first US state west of Missouri, California, and the boom town of SF were particularly isolated from the rest of the US economy. The town of 1,000 in 1848 swelled to over 20,000 by 1850 due to the discovery of gold. Any form of world precious metal coinage passed as money in area.

The US approved a mint in 1852, and it opened in 1854. During its first 20 years, the SF Mint struck 44% of all gold coinage produced in the US, including all other branch mints. In 1874, the Old Mint at 5th and Mission was opened. It's architect, Alfred B. Mullett, was aware of previous SF fires and some risks of earthquake, so he designed the building to withstand both and to be defensible as a fortress.

When the 7-point earthquake struck in 1906, a small night crew was in the Mint, but another 50 employees and 10 soldiers soon arrived to protect the mint and the \$330,000,000 in gold being held in its vaults. An artesian well located in the mint's courtyard allowed them to soak the building during the hours of firefighting, and, later, it provided fresh water for residents during the disaster's aftermath.

The days of fire burned nearly everything around the mint structure, and most of the buildings which appear to be standing in contemporary photos were actually completely gutted by fire. The

Mint was the only usable government building in town after the disaster, and it served as the city bank and distribution center for food, water, and clothing for some time thereafter. The mint opened accounts without requiring proof of existing accounts in banks, because almost all banking records had been destroyed.

Coinage production at the mint during 1906 was comparable to other years in this period. However, while the 1906-S gold coins can be found in top grade, the silver 50¢ coin is rarely available uncirculated. (It was probably distributed locally and much in demand for circulation during the city's recovery.)

APRIL MEMBER EXHIBITS

Jason — 1906-S coinage set in mint state, but missing the 50¢

Mary — 5 tetradrachms of Antiochus the Great showing various stages of his portraiture, including a barbarous imitation

Dan — a souvenir badge for unidentified SF event of August 11–16, 1930, Argentine 1915 PPIE medal, and a Mechanics Institute medal

Bill — a selection of 1906 souvenir medals showing views of the Cliff House, Post Office, and Earthquake ruins, along with a badge of 3 medals, and a 1908/9 New Years/Recovery souvenir

Mike — 1794 Conder Token of the Franklin Press in England

Bob — book: Gold by Matthew Hart (which he donated to the drawing)

Herb — 1708 seige coin: 20 sous from Lille

Ken — 1883 Hawaiian dollar coin and several Hawaiian stamps

APRIL DRAWING WINNERS

Dan (1891 SF RR booklet)

Mary (magnifier donated by Dan)

Jason (Royal Mint £5 commemorative and an Aeroflot medal)

Chris (gold book donated by Bob)

Bob (1992 Year of the Rooster stamp set, 1971 40% Silver Ike dollar).

The drawing brought in \$31 for the Society.