

PCNS MEETINGS, EVENTS, SPEAKERS

May 24 . . . Dan Hipple: *The Circle of Friends of the Medallion*

June 24 . . . Saturday BBQ in Tiburon, advance tickets \$10-@

July 26 . . . William Hyder: *So-Called Dollars of Century 21*

Aug 23 . . . Meeting speaker/topic to be announced *

Sep 27 . . . Meeting speaker/topic to be announced *

Oct 25 . . . Meeting speaker/topic to be announced *

Nov 29 . . . PCNS Numismatic Book Sale
(a benefit fundraiser event for PCNS)

Dec 27 . . . Annual holiday gathering and election

* Please email webmaster@pcns.org if you can present a program during August–October. Topics can even be something about which you submitted or plan a *Paper*.

2017 PCNS OFFICERS

President . . . William Hyder

Vice Pres. . . Daniel Hipple

Recorder . . . Stephen Huston (*Secretary/Treasurer*)

Governors . . . Jason Macario, Bob Somers, Edward Treuting

Past Pres. . . Herb Miles

CONTACTING & PAYING PCNS

Email messages to PCNS: webmaster@pcns.org

PayPal address for payments: money@pcns.org

Emails regarding money can also be sent directly to money@pcns.org

THE PCNS WEBSITE

Visit us online at pcns.org to read our Papers or to check meeting schedules.

Use a QR-scanner/reader to launch pcns.org via this code.



1213TH Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Circle of Friends of the Medallion by Dan Hipple

Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 7:30 PM

at Fort Mason Center, Building C, San Francisco

MAY TOPIC

Circle of Friends of the Medallion

Dan Hipple will speak on the series of medals issued by this group, and their impact on medal production and design. Bring anything related to medals, or recent acquisitions, etc.

PAPERS CONTEST UPDATE

Six papers were received this year. Judging is under way, and prizes will be announced at the BBQ.

PCNS BBQ JUNE 24

The Annual PCNS BBQ is Saturday afternoon, June 24, hosted by Dan Hipple in Tiburon. The BBQ usually occupies our afternoon fully with good food, lively discussion, awards, and anything else that seems to fit the occasion. Tickets are only \$10 per person, but advance purchase is required so we can be sure to have too much food on hand. Leftovers are likely!

Ticket Orders: send a check now, pay at the May meeting, or pay online — www.pcns.org — using PayPal or a credit card.

If you want to bring food to share, please plan a dessert.

APRIL PROGRAM REPORT

Jason Macario presented *The Secrets of the Old Mint*.

Nazi Symbols at the Old Mint. There was a rumor that Nazi sympathizers had an influence on the mint's design. This was based on the so-called swastikas used as decorative features. Research revealed that the lamps and other swastika-like decorations were installed around 1914, well before the Nazi party's origins. The symbol was once common in many cultures for good luck, but it's reputation became tarnished by Nazi use.

The Missing Corner Stone. The second mint's corner stone was prepared in 1869/70. It should have been placed at the NE corner of the building, by Masonic tradition, but records make no mention of its actual location. The May 25, 1870, official

program also makes no mention of the capsule's contents. As a government building, it was expected to hold 11 denominations based on the current coinage types, including the 1870-S coins. If they are in that corner stone, the 1870-S quarter is unique.

Hunting for Hidden Gold. The gold vault was short \$30,000 when inventoried on June 29, 1901. The chief cashier had the combination to the vault, and his chief clerk had access during work, so both fell under suspicion. Audits and work records revealed that the clerk, Walter Dimmick, was a known gambler who lived beyond his means and was implicated in other thefts and embezzlement. Dimmick was soon fired, then arrested, and tried repeatedly! He was convicted on related charges, but the jury was hung on the theft of the \$30,000. It took 4 trials before a jury was impaneled without any of Dimmick's friends serving on it, and they finally brought in a guilty verdict on the gold theft. The 1,500 missing double eagles were never found.

Mystery of the Lost Tunnel. Also in 1901, the Selby Smelting Works was burglarized of \$280,000 in gold being processed for the mint. It was taken by tunneling into the vault from a nearby railroad tunnel. Later that year, the SF Mint Superintendent claimed he heard of a similar plan to steal directly from the US Mint basement vaults. Mint security was put on high alert, strange sounds and vibrations were reported, but exhaustive searches of the area around the mint failed to reveal any cause. No loss occurred, no tunnel was found, and the reported disturbances ceased after a short time.

Jason displayed some 1870-S coins: the silver dime, gold dollar, quarter eagle, half eagle, eagle, and the double eagle.

APRIL DRAWING REPORT

Prizes included a sheet of 1940s blank checks from Star Engineering of SF, a PCNS medal for service honoring Maxine Bryce, a PCNS 800th Meeting medal (1982), a Silver Bicentennial medal honoring Paul Revere, a SF bullion receipt of 1934, and a folder of 72 Chinese unofficial restrrike crowns. The winners were: Bill (1), Dan (2), and Jason (3).