

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2021-2022

November 24, 2021 (in person!).....Jason Macario, *Hunting for Hidden Gold*
December 22, 2021**Holiday Party and Election**
January 26, 2022*Speaker and Topic TBA**
February 23, 2022**Speaker and Topic TBA**
March 23, 2022.....*Speaker and Topic TBA**

* See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

There are several opportunities for **you** to make a presentation in the coming months. You don't need to be in San Francisco to present. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

PCNS MEETS IN PERSON AGAIN

In-person meetings of PCNS will resume in November, 2021. We expect to continue using the Zoom platform to enable those who are unable to be in San Francisco to join us for a meeting **and** to give a presentation! A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting.

2021 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PresidentJason Macario
Secretary.....Charlie Catlett
Treasurer.....Stephen Huston
Governors.....Bob Somers, Ed Treuting, Paul Turner
Past PresidentDaniel Hipple

Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 30 minutes before the membership meeting in the same location.

Bulletin EditorJason Macario *Webmaster*Stephen Huston

CONTACTING AND PAYING PCNS

Email messages to PCNS.....webmaster@pcns.org
PayPal address for PCNS.....money@pcns.org

PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers* (including the about-to-be-printed 2019 - 2021 *Papers*), get the latest *Bulletin*, or to check our meeting schedule.

Miss a meeting? Beginning with the May, 2020 Meeting, you can also view a recording of the presentation on our [YouTube channel](#), available through links from pcns.org! Use a QR scanner/reader to open pcns.org via this code.



Bulletin of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



1267th Monthly Meeting "Hunting for Hidden Gold"

Jason Macario

Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 7:30 PM
Fort Mason Center, Building C

and

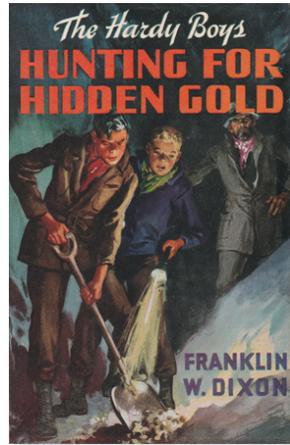
Online (hopefully)

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

THE INSIDE JOB

On June 29, 1901, the semi-annual inventory of the coinage at the United States Mint at San Francisco was underway. Concerns were raised when the physical inventory did not match the amounts on the books. We're not talking about nickels and dimes here (particularly since nickels weren't minted in San Francisco until 1912). No, this discrepancy involved a shocking quantity of a San Francisco Mint specialty: Double Eagles!

Join us on **Wednesday, November 24** as **Jason Macario** reprises "Hunting for Hidden Gold" (part of his "Secrets of the Old Mint" trilogy) focusing on the most notorious theft in the history of the Second San Francisco Mint. Prepare to share your relevant holdings or your latest acquisitions, stolen or not. We hope to see you, either in person or via Zoom.



OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

Michael began his talk, "Generals of the Mexican War" by describing how the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 was proximally provoked by the U.S. annexation of Texas. There were other factors contributing to the war, including the U.S. "Manifest Destiny" and the expansion of slavery. It seems like a relatively obscure event glossed over in U.S. schools, but is an important historical event to Mexicans. Tens of thousands of soldiers were involved on both sides. Ultimately, Mexico lost 51% of its land mass in defeat (it was sparsely inhabited, so not nearly as many citizens). The U.S. gained California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and parts of several other states.

There were two generals on the U.S. side. Major General Zachary Taylor was presented with three Congressional Gold Medals for battles he won in the Mexican War. Michael showed all three medals and discussed the Battle of Buena Vista in detail, as it was the last one in northern Mexico and its celebration helped elect Taylor president in 1848.

The Battle of Buena Vista featured Taylor's army stationed above the surrounding plain, and Mexican General Santa Anna's army marching through tough desert and flatlands to get to the Americans. The first day was rather brutal, with lots of casualties, but no victor. The next day Santa Anna declared victory and withdrew his depleted army. Taylor, with his depleted forces, also declared victory. Had Santa Anna known how weak Taylor's forces were and attacked a second day, the outcome could have been far different.

The reverse of the 89.5mm Congressional Medal for the Battle of Buena Vista is incredibly detailed. It shows the mountains in the distance, what appears to

STEP UP!

As another year comes to an end, it's time to elect officers for 2022. We're always looking for fresh faces to get involved in the leadership of PCNS. Note that "fresh faces" can include well-rested veterans as well as well as relative newcomers.

Nominations are now open, so feel free to talk about your potential candidacy with a current or former officer (see the back page for a list of current officers). The election will take place at the December 22nd meeting.

be thousands of soldiers on the plains, and an image of Taylor on horseback.

Major General Winfield Scott led the other army in the war, crossing through the middle of Mexico and capturing Mexico City, which forced Mexico to concede defeat. He was an older soldier, having won a Congressional Gold Medal for the War of 1812. He was given an 89.5mm Congressional Medal for his Mexican campaign. The reverse listed many battles of that campaign.

Michael went on to discuss the various known engravers of these medals. He also described Taylor's Louisiana medal, made before the Buena Vista medal, and Scott's Virginia medal. Finally, he showed some political campaign tokens of both men, Taylor winning in 1848 (and dying after 16 months in office) and Scott losing in 1852, signaling the end of the Whig party.

General Santa Anna had two different medals struck, both rarer than the Taylor or Scott medals. And one battle from the war is celebrated as a national holiday in Mexico. Dia de los Niños Héroes celebrates the six young valiant cadets who fought and died for their country as martyrs (rather than celebrating the questionable generals who lost the war).

This summary cannot do justice to Michael's full presentation, so we invite you to watch it on the [PCNS YouTube](#) channel.

OCTOBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill: A shell card, featuring a bust of George Washington on the metal obverse. The cardboard reverse was for John Lotka with Munn & Co, NY. Munn & Co was the publisher of *Scientific American* until 1940, as well as a business of attorneys. John Lotka was one of the attorneys, and this was a form of a business card for him.

Mike: A 55mm bronze medal from Buenos Aires celebrating the opening of La Plata Port in 1890.

Michael: A ~60mm Art Deco style Medallion Art Company medal marking its 50th Anniversary. The image on the reverse was a seated figure holding the same medal.