

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2021

June 23, 2021Donald Kagin, *Storming The Capitol*
July 28, 2021Charlie Catlett, *Title TBA*
August 25, 2021.....Federico Castillo, *Title TBA*
September, 2021**Summer BBQ, Date TBA**
October 27, 2021.....*Speaker and Topic TBA**

* See "Speak Up!" below

PCNS MEETINGS IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

In-person meetings of PCNS are suspended until late 2021. In the meantime, we will meet online. This has the benefit of enabling those who are unable to be in San Francisco to join us for a meeting **and** to give a presentation!

SPEAK UP!

There are ample opportunities for **you** to make a presentation later this year. 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.

2021 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 30 minutes before the membership meeting in the same location. Online board meetings may begin at 7:15.

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 not-yet-printed 2019 *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.



1262nd Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Storming The Capitol: The Birth of our Nation's First Official Currency Donald H. Kagin, Ph.D.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 7:30 PM
online

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL IN PERIL

Join us on **Wednesday, June 23**, as **Donald H. Kagin, Ph.D.** presents *Storming the Capitol: The Birth of Our Nation's First Official Currency*.

Despite the provocative title, this talk includes no political ramifications which might upset your politics. This storming of the Capitol happened more than two centuries ago!

Take a photo of something from your collection related to the topic, or your latest acquisition, for sharing! See you online!



MAY PRESENTATION RECAP

Joining us from Chicago, Devin Kane gave a fascinating presentation entitled, “Women Personified as the Nation or as Liberty on Coins.”

Devin began with a mention of the well-known coins of ancient Athens, featuring Athena. She was an Olympian deity and not necessarily a personification of just the city of Athens. The rest of his talk was on more specific examples. Coins of the ancient world more often personified women, such as Roma for Rome, and Italia for Italy (when the city states were fighting Rome during the Social War). Hadrian travelled all over his empire, and his ‘travel series’ of coins depicted representations of the areas he visited: Hispania, Germania, Asia, etc. Most were women, but two male depictions were of Nilus (one of three Egyptian types) and Mauritania. Occasionally an animal personified a region, as with a crocodile for Egypt. The Judea Capta coins Rome minted to commemorate the victory in Judea in 70 AD featured a mourning Jewess and also sometimes a standing male Jew who is bound- both representing the region that was captured.

An early depiction of Liberty was an issue of ancient Mysia featuring Eleutheria as the personification for the region, ‘liberated’ by Alexander the Great. The Roman Republic used Libertas to personify Liberty. And after the death of Nero, the “Year of Four Emperors”, each succeeding ruler portrayed Libertas on his coins, wanting to be thought of as a liberator. As Rome became more of a dictatorship, Libertas became more of a farce. And around 300-400 AD the female deity died out due to Christianity taking over as the dominant religion.

The United States has used personifications of Liberty from the very beginning. The

earliest U.S. coins featured Liberty and a cap. While often called a Phrygian cap (one with a floppy point on top), the first cap was actually a pileus—a simple smooth rounded cap without a point. The French chose to use a Phrygian cap for depictions of Liberty on Marianne since the French Revolution. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity were all depicted together on French coins, and it was French Liberty depiction on coins that went to Asia, South America, and elsewhere. Britannia was depicted on British coins, an image first personified with coins of Hadrian and updated over the years. Likewise, Spain used the depiction of Hispania also first seen with Hadrian and also updated periodically.

Deven’s presentation featured a large variety of coin images and generated a good discussion afterwards. This summary cannot do justice to his full presentation, so we invite you to watch it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

MAY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Stephen: An ancient Greek coin from Kyme, with a portrait of an Amazon (historical/mythical?) named Kyme, after whom the city was named; A Libertas coin of Galba, one of the rulers in the Year of Four Emperors; and a Urbs Romana coin featuring Roma representing Rome, with Remus and Romulus suckling the she-wolf on the reverse- and Constantinople being named on the inscription (having been minted there as well as Rome).

Charlie: A tetradrachm of Athens with Athena/Owl, as well as a worn example with a test cut and a halved example; tetradrachm and drachm Athenian imitations from Philistia also with Athena/Owl; and an English 1790 pattern sixpence of George III featuring Britannia.

Jeff: A 1904 St. Louis Exposition Award designed by Adolph Weinman. The allegorical figures are Columbia (=America) draping an American flag over a Native American maiden (=Louisiana Territory) who had shed some of her French clothing.

Michael: Several medals with women personifying nations, including one from the Mexican Centenary (produced by Tiffany); a French-minted medal for the Centennial of Chile (produced by Lalique); Independence of Congo; Liberty & Commerce token, and others.

Herb: A recently acquired medal featuring George Floyd, which was the winner of the American Medal of the Year award from the American Medallist Sculptors Association. It was designed by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman. Here George Floyd represents Liberty in this cast bronze 95mm, 463gm medal. Herb also showed the second-place design for Medal of the Year with a pressed/bonded bronze medal featuring John Lewis around the neck.

ZOOMING

Our June meeting will take place online using the Zoom platform. If you’re already familiar with Zoom, then you’re all set. A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to you separately.

If you’re new to the Zoom service, you’ll need to do a few things ahead of the meeting. **Don’t wait until the last minute to get set up!** For those of you reading this *Bulletin* in hard copy, a sheet with instructions is enclosed. Otherwise, please check the PCNS website for more information.