

## PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2022

March 23, 2022.....Herbert Miles, *U.S. Grant's Farewell Dinner at San Francisco's Palace Hotel*

April 27, 2022 .....*Speaker and Topic TBA\**

April 27, 2022 .....*Deadline for 2022 Papers Contest Submissions*

May 25, 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](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org) to sign up.

### PCNS MEETS IN PERSON AGAIN

In-person meetings of PCNS have resumed as of November, 2021. **In accordance with Fort Mason policy, masks *must* be worn inside the building;** PCNS expects that attendees are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. We will 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.

### 2022 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President .....Jason Macario

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

Bulletin Editor .....Jason Macario Webmaster .....Stephen Huston

### CONTACTING AND PAYING PCNS

Email messages to PCNS.....[webmaster@pcns.org](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org)

PayPal address for PCNS.....[money@pcns.org](mailto:money@pcns.org)

### PCNS WEBSITE

Visit [www.pcns.org](http://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](http://pcns.org)! Use a QR scanner/reader to open [pcns.org](http://pcns.org) via this code.



### Bulletin of the

## PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



### 1271<sup>st</sup> Monthly Meeting

## U.S. Grant's Farewell Dinner at San Francisco's Palace Hotel

*Herbert Miles*

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 7:30 PM

Fort Mason Center, Building C

and

Online

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

## GRANT AT THE PALACE

San Francisco's Palace Hotel has been a local landmark since it opened in October, 1875. Its owner was William C. Ralston, the founder of the Bank of California, who had died under mysterious circumstances just two months earlier. Over the years, the hotel has had its share of notoriety, including the deaths of King David Kalakaua of Hawaii in 1891 and President Warren G. Harding in 1923.

No such drama took place for the visit of former president Ulysses S. Grant on October 25, 1879. San Francisco's high society attended. Gentlemen were given sterling silver place cards like the one of the cover.

Join us on **Wednesday, March 23** when Herb Miles will tell us more about Grant's visit to The Palace. Bring your appropriate items to share. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom, even if you're attending in person..

**Please note:** Last we heard, Fort Mason requires that masks be worn in all indoor spaces, including our meeting room. In addition, we expect that meeting attendees will be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.



## FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Bill Hyder gave a wonderful presentation about the role of The Swiss Hotel in Santa Cruz, California.

Emigrants from Switzerland began arriving in Santa Cruz around 1868, mostly coming from the southern, Italian-speaking region. 30,000 arrived in California, attracted by the potential for vineyards and dairy farming. Some were entrepreneurs, but many were single men who came as laborers. The latter typically had arrangements with women back home to arrive later and become their wives here in California.

In 1868 the Swiss Hotel was built in Santa Cruz, behind Chinatown on Bridge Street (later to become Water Street). A second story was added in 1873. And it was burned down in the Chinatown fire of 1877, and then rebuilt. Bill showed early photos of Santa Cruz with a Flatiron building in the center, business district on the right, and Chinatown on the left. He then showed Rossi and Varozza Swiss Hotel Tokens: Rossi apparently had the bar and Varozza had the hotel. It was a Strahle token, which indicated that there was billiards in the bar. The tokens were also used as part of the house cut in poker games.

In 1890, Santa Cruz flooded- so the hotel was raised two feet. It had new owners in 1901, and in the 1910s was raised again due to more flooding. The

## WRITE NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2022 Papers Contest is the **April 27** meeting. Important: Refer to the publication section of pcns.org for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

Swiss and Italian-Swiss community was very active then (and continues to be important today), with the Swiss Hotel being a center of their activities. Bill showed two more Swiss Hotel tokens. One was octagonal and named owner Borradori. The other was a round 21mm slot machine-sized token. The hotel was raided by police many times from 1918-1926 looking for alcohol, even after it changed ownership.

In 1926 Borradori sold a ranch he owned and bought a building across the street from the Swiss Hotel, naming it Swiss-American Hotel. Bill showed three different 24mm tokens from that hotel. Borradori committed suicide in 1948, and his son took over the business until 1963. It was destroyed that year to widen Water Street..

We invite you to watch Bill's full presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

## FEBRUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

**Stephen** recently moved to Woodland, and proudly showed off a 'Storkman's Woodland Good For 5 cents in Trade' token that he spotted in a local antique shop. He found info on Storkman's (1886-1927), which was a billiard parlor that also sold tobacco and liquor. The location is currently called the Stag Bar in Woodland, and is just down the street from where Stephen lives.

**Herb** showed two large cents and a Mexican silver 2 real piece, all dated prior to 1844, counterstamped with "Vote the Free Land." Initially it was thought that the motto referred to adding Free states to the union. But research by Q. David Bowers revealed it was the motto of the National Reform Association from circa 1844, formed to honor the common man and open land in the Western United States to common people, not capitalists.

**Doug** showed a comparison of the 1922 Matte Proof Peace Dollar with a circulation strike. There were some very minor differences, but the biggest was the high relief of the proof issue.

**Robert J** showed several certificates/vignettes of wine-related items, as well as several medals: Mechanics Institute award medal for wine casks in 1883, and another subject from 1885; and a California Agricultural Society medal to Beaulieu Vineyards from 1935.

**Michael W** showed a big light house medal and a stock certificate with a light house that he got for Ed (to be delivered later). He displayed his Medal Collectors of America club medal for 2021, featuring an octopus on top of a treasure chest full of coins. It was one of fifty made of hand-burnished bronze.