

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2022

May 25, 2022.....Stephen Huston, *Tales from the Crypt*
June 18, 2022.....Summer BBQ
July 27, 2022 (online only)Speaker and Topic TBA*
August 23, 2022 (online only)Speaker and Topic TBA*
* See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

There are several opportunities for **you** to make a presentation in the second half of the 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.

FUTURE PCNS MEETINGS

The May meeting will be the our final In-person meeting for 2022. **In accordance with Fort Mason policy, masks are encouraged inside the building;** PCNS expects that attendees are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. We will continue using the Zoom platform; a meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting. Special occasions, such as the annual BBQ and holiday party, will continue to occur in person.

2022 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PresidentJason Macario
Secretary.....Charlie Catlett
Treasurer.....Stephen Huston
Governors.....Mike McDaniel, Bob Somers, Ed Treuting
Past President.....Daniel Hipple

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

Bulletin EditorJason Macario WebmasterStephen 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*, 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



1273rd Monthly Meeting

Tales from the Crypt

Stephen Huston

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 7:30 PM

Fort Mason Center, Building C

and
Online

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

PCNS ODDITIES

Late last year, the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society made the difficult decision to liquidate our physical archive. PCNS Fellow **Stephen Huston** agreed to take charge of the process of sorting through materials and disposing of them as he sees fit. He began the job in January, and has been making progress ever since.

On **Wednesday, May 25**, Stephen will share some of the more interesting items he has uncovered. Bring your PCNS items or your recent acquisitions 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: *Fort Mason strongly recommends 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.*

APRIL MEETING RECAP

Michael found a bag of 21mm tokens on his desk and remembers how he got them long ago.

Over twenty years ago, an eBay seller contacted Michael offering to sell a bag of twelve tokens from his great uncle. Of course, he met the man and bought them. He described each of the tokens he bought, all likely collected after the 1906 earthquake (though at least one dated prior to the quake).

- One token had the initials **HFM**. If he had not known the source of the tokens, it would have been difficult finding who produced it. It was a liquor token from the seller's great uncle, Henry F. Muller. And although there were four Henry Mullers listed in the San Francisco liquor business, there was only one Henry F Muller on Howard Street. So, Michael has a firm ID on the token's origin.
- **Herberts**. After the 1906 earthquake, liquor sales were banned. In July 1906 there were 200 merchants who were granted liquor licenses, and this was one. The citizens of San Francisco were very happy about that.
- **Seal Rock House**. This is where the great boxer Jack Johnson trained- Michael showed photos.
- **Jeremiah Carroll**. Sold cigars in the Mission district.
- **Pioneer Saloon**, on Fillmore. It was outside of the area that burned in the 1906 quake.
- **Chas HJ Truman**. An undertaker on Mission Street. There were a number of SF undertaker tokens made, but this was the only one that was a slot machine token. Did they have a slot machine?
- **Lynch Bros**. A maverick, likely from Stockton but unknown at present.
- **The New Idea**. Supporters of the anti-saloon league, a temperance group prior to prohibition. Coffee houses opened up in several cities in the western states, but it was not popular in SF. Michael was not sure where the token was from.

Michael then talked about tokens. They are used to establish relationships of commerce and trade. This pertains not only to ancient times but to this small hoard as well. He used arcade tokens as an example. They were all either 23 or 25 mm, and if

TIME TO AIR OUT YOUR HAWAIIAN SHIRT!

Our 2022 Summer BBQ will take place on **Saturday, June 18**. The fun begins at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$10 per person, using PayPal (check for a link in the email accompanying this *Bulletin*. Please reserve as soon as possible to allow for adequate preparation.

one fit in an arcade game, it would be used. People would hang on to arcade tokens they obtained at one venue and would use them at other venues as well. "If it fit in the machine, it was played". Michael told how he went to one arcade which had switched to quarters only, since the business was losing money from people bringing in tokens from the outside and using them (and not buying tokens on-site). Michael got to look through buckets of various arcade tokens and buy handfuls at 25 cents a token—a great way to start a collection.

With slot machine tokens, it was the same thing. These "nickel in the slot" tokens were the same size as nickels. Slot machines were invented in San Francisco, and initially paid out nickels. When that was outlawed, the machines would pay out tokens, which could be played just like nickels in the machines. The Henry F Muller hoard was most likely a collection of various tokens played in the slot machine at Henry Muller's liquor business.

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

APRIL MEMBER EXHIBITS

Doug showed a civil war store card token from a grocer in Kenosha, Wisconsin- where a cousin lives. There was a discussion of Civil War patriotic and store card tokens. He also showed a token for the Detroit Masonic Temple Corner Stone Laying in 1922- which could potentially have a 1922 Peace dollar in it.

Charlie showed a token for the Isle of Man Races, an 1870 pass into the horse races on the island.

Scott his 1964 Westchester County (New York) Coin Club 30th Anniversary medal. He had been looking for it for a long time, because it was issued in conjunction with the NY World's Fair in 1964. And Michael W was at that fair!

Dean showed a photo of a token he saw at a coin show. It featured the Panama California Expo and East Side Beer Gold Medal on one side, and the Panama Pacific Expo on the other. It was a facsimile of the 3" medal which was won at both expos by that company.

Stephen gave a talk on "GOKs"- God Only Knows coins and tokens. He described how to start identifying unknown tokens. His example was clearly from a hand-cut die used to make the tokens. The one he showed, of unknown origin for many years, was easily identified by Michael as a Minneapolis pinball token from the 1950s, when there was a big pinball craze.

Federico showed his two Costa Rica coffee plantation tokens of Salvador Jimenez Blanco, who traveled to California late in life and died (about age 48) in Napa. Federico described the efforts he went through to finally find info on Blanco.

Paul, inspired by Charlie's exhibit, showed an 1758 Isle of Man half penny.