



*Bulletin of the*  
**PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**  
APRIL, 2023

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**1284<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting**

**Your Collection's Future: You can't take it with you!**

*Jeff Pritchard*

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 7:30 PM PDT**  
**Online**

Sooner or later, each of us will head off to the Great Coin Show in the Sky, leaving our collections behind. As with most things, planning ahead for this eventuality is a very good idea, particularly when it comes to matters of valuation, disposition, and taxation.

Join us online on **Wednesday, April 26** when retired financial planner and philanthropic advisor **Jeff Pritchard** will offer some tips for ensuring that your collection is handled appropriately when the time comes.

Plan to exhibit either your detailed disposition instructions (no, not really) or your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



**MARCH MEETING RECAP**

Speaker Charlie Catlett related his early interest in old coins, including a Conder Token he purchased at the coin department inside a major department store in Los Angeles 50 years ago. He acquired a few more over the years, but it was one obtained more recently with the image of a snail that piqued his interest. The token also featured advertising for coin dealer Thomas Spence (1750-1814) leading to research on the token's meaning and on Spence himself.

Spence's spent his formative years in Newcastle, England, eventually moving to London. He printed and sold radical literature (and hot beverages!), landing him in and out of prison many times for seditious libel and treason. He also latched onto the new craze of collecting merchant tokens by producing numbers of them, with thanks to his fabulous die engraver Charles James. His tokens almost always had a strong political message, which seem hard to decipher. After consulting with a Conder token specialist and several other resources, Charlie amassed enough information to become something of an expert himself. He went on to share two dozen Spence tokens and their meanings: sometimes obvious, sometimes very obscure.

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

**MARCH MEMBER EXHIBITS**

Using Charlie as a proxy, **Michael** shared three tokens engraved by John Henry Hancock, Jr. a child prodigy (his father John Sr. was a known engraver). The first "Sir Original" was high relief but somewhat crude, a second "W. Shake Spear" more refined, and third "Diva Britanniae", which Michael considers a masterpiece. No one knows of Hancock Jr.'s later efforts, if any. Interestingly, the first two token inscriptions state he was aged 7 in 1800 when he engraved them; the Diva token states he was age 9 in 1800..

**Stephen** showed five tokens. 1) Lutwyche's Manufactory Birmingham, a different variety of the token producer from what was shown in the talk. 2) Birmingham Coining and Copper Company, in going with Stephen's collection of tokens produced by coin merchants. 3) a Kempson token featuring a lion inside a cave. 4) a Wyon penny token with unclear meaning, featuring an obelisk covered with ivy on the reverse. 5) a penny token from 1811, when there was also a shortage of small change. This featured a bear.

**Bill** went to the ANA show in Phoenix, and also traveled to the Basha Art Gallery in nearby Chandler, Arizona. He talked with one of the two employees of the gallery/museum, letting her know of his extensive collection. As they had extras of some of the medals, *(continues...)*

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**HAWAIIAN SHIRT TIME!**

Plans are underway for our 2023 Summer BBQ on **Saturday, June 24** in Berkeley. Look for details in the next *Bulletin*.

## PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of most months. Currently, meetings are held online using the Zoom platform, thereby allowing members, presenters, and guests to attend no matter where they are located. Everyone with an interest in numismatics is welcome to attend. A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting; non-members can request a link by emailing [webmaster@pcns.org](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org).

Special occasions, such as the annual BBQ, will continue to occur in person.

## PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2023

April 26, 2023	Jeff Pritchard, <i>Your Collection's Future: You can't take it with you!</i>
April 26, 2023	Deadline for 2023 Papers Contest Submissions
May 24, 2023	Speaker and Topic TBA*
June 24, 2023	Summer BBQ
July 26, 2023	Speaker and Topic TBA*

## SPEAK UP!

There are always opportunities for **you** to make a presentation. Thanks to Zoom, you don't even 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.

## EXHIBITS (CONT'D)

Bill was able to obtain all but one variety he had been missing in bronze. He also saw a rubber mold used for casting the medals. The cost of his new medals? Nothing! They were *given* to him; they are never sold!

**Dean** showed us a 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire token which was given to him by a local dealer and asked for information on it. It appeared to be silver plated. Bill filled him in on details of the token. Although some are listed as being silver, in fact only silver-plated varieties are known.

**Ed** showed us three lighthouse tokens. First was an 1806-1906 centennial of the Geneva lighthouse on Lake Seneca. He is not if sure that specific lighthouse still exists or if it has been replaced- and is looking into it. Second was a pendant with a possibly enameled lighthouse on the front, with a cityscape in the background. It is slightly concave and has no inscription, so there isn't more info on it. The reverse is a convex scallop shell. Ironically, Bill has the die used for

that reverse! He will give it to Ed the next time they get together (hopefully the June BBQ). And finally, Ed shared a 2008 token for the Peninsula Coin Club featuring the Pigeon Point Lighthouse. The reverse featured their logo, which included an octagon with an eagle inside it.

Guest (and prospective member) **John Duff** showed two items. First, a Robert Orchard Conder token, with a large die break and a muled reverse. Second was a token for Goodman Fields Brewhouse in London featuring a bear on the obverse, the reverse denomination was three pence. He gave a history of Goodman Fields and plans to visit the area on a trip to London.

## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

We have received a new member application from **John S. Duff, Jr.** of Santa Clarita, CA. His interests include, among other things, Conder tokens and US and Mexican type coins. Per PCNS bylaws, John will become an Active Member at the **May 24** meeting.

## WRITE! NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2023 Papers Contest is the **April 26** meeting. Important: Refer to the publication section of [pcns.org](http://pcns.org) for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

## 2023 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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You can also view a recording of most recent presentations 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.

