



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
DECEMBER, 2023

1292nd Monthly Meeting
California's Lumber Industry Through Its Tokens

Federico Castillo

and

2023 General Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 27, 2023, 7:30 PM PST
Online

The lumber industry is one of many whose employees frequently lived in “company towns,” particularly during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Company towns typically operated on a system of scrip and tokens for routine commerce. As such, employers exerted a great deal of control over their employees lives.

December's meeting on **Wednesday, December 27** will feature a presentation by **Federico Castillo** on the history of lumber companies in California as reflected by their tokens. Plan to exhibit your own favorite lumber company tokens, wooden nickels, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



Federico's presentation will follow PCNS' annual business meeting, when we will elect officers for 2024. We're always looking for fresh faces to get involved in the leadership of PCNS. Nominations are open until voting begins at the December 27th meeting, so feel free to nominate yourself!

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Matt Ruttle presented a detailed talk on the life and work of J.B. Frener, the subject of his recently-published biography. Frener was born December 1821 in Switzerland, and his artistic talent was recognized early. It led to study in Paris and Florence, before returning to Lucerne.

A visiting commission from Guatemala noted the quality of his work and offered him a job at their mint. While mourning the loss of his first of several wives, he took a chance on that position and moved to Central America in the 1850s. There he went on to produce many coins and medals for several Central American countries. Some of the medals are very rare, and many of the coins he designed are extremely valuable.

Matt presented many details about specific numismatic items created by Frener. A complete listing of these works can be found in *Johann-Baptist Frener, Life & Works 1821-92*. We encourage you to watch Matt's talk on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#), in which you may learn about ordering a copy for yourself.

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm Pacific Time 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.

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

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2023-24

December 27, 2023	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2024 and Federico Castillo, California's Lumber Industry Through Its Tokens
January 24, 2024	Speaker and Topic TBA*
February 28, 2024	Speaker and Topic TBA*
March 27, 2024	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. Your topic can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

NOVEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill shared an 1836 Central American Republic 8 reales coin.

Federico shared several Fermer medals from his collection.

Michael had three items. First was a link to his article in the TAMS Journal about the Point Bonita Lighthouse. He testified before the U.S. Senate in the past month, and 'collected' a coaster that was used there. And he showed a Count Piccolomini medal from 1836, mentioning California. The 'California' territory mentioned on the medal was actually part of Mexico at the time.

Doug showed us 70mm silver and bronze Landing and Return of Columbus medals.



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