

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
April 23, 2014

### Board Meeting

Vice President Dan Hipple called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Board members present: Stephen Huston, Bill Hyder, Jerry Schimmel, Bill Hyder, and Dan Hipple. Late arrival, Herb Miles.

Members present included: David Somers, Mark William Clark, Federico Castillo, and Chris Donaldson.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were approved via email.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$11,960.57 on April 23, 2014.

The Board agreed to delay the papers contest until the end of June.

The board favored holding another afternoon banquet at Herb's in lieu of a restaurant banquet as we did last year. The date was set for June 28 at a cost of \$25 per person after President Miles arrived having been delayed by heavy traffic.

Discussion also continued on a White Elephant auction to raise funds at the meeting and later via email. The general consensus was to simplify the process.

The membership review noted those about to be dropped for non-renewal and some members were to be contacted to be sure that was their decision. A review of 25 year medals showed the last medal awarded was for 1986 members. Members yet to receive 25 year medals include: Dean Neald, Calvin Rogers, and Kerry Wetterstrom from 1987 and Philip Carrigan from 1988.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

### General Meeting

President Miles called the meeting to order at 7:50.

Members present included: Stephen Huston, Bill Hyder, Jerry Schimmel, Chris Donaldson, Michael Wehner, Herb Miles, David Somers, Dan Hipple, Mark William Clark, and Federico Castillo.

Members present discussed the White Elephant sale. Board members later determined that consensus was not reached and further agreed to simplify the event.

Bill Hyder presented his review of the book, *John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard"* written by Karl V. Moulton.

An intriguing look inside the coin business through the archives of John J. Ford, Jr. Ford had been accused of selling improperly described and counterfeit early California U.S.A.O.G. proof \$20 gold bars slug in a 1966 Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG) arbitration hearing. Eric P. Newman questioned the authenticity of the pieces from what Ford had dubbed, "The Franklin Hoard," after Gerow Paul Franklin who purportedly discovered the pieces. The arbitration ended with a particular piece being declared not a proof, but no determination as to whether the pieces were actually genuine. The surviving pieces have since been determined to be counterfeit and the others have disappeared from the public eye.

In time, a great many territorial and early California gold bars and slugs found by Franklin and authenticated and sold by Ford have been found to be counterfeits or fantasies if you prefer. Many of the pieces were sold to the Bank of California for their collection and some of these are still displayed here in San Francisco. Was Ford a knowing participant? Was he duped by Franklin and others? Or, did Ford scam our entire hobby and contribute to the publication of many falsehoods as fact? Moulton allows Ford's archives to speak for themselves and leaves conclusions to the reader. One of the most interesting parts of the book are the images of genuine pieces documented in literature and sales prior to 1952 and the many pieces that appeared after 1952. Further comparisons can be made with genuine items recovered from the S.S. Central America.

Moulton's book is an important contribution to the history of American numismatics and a behind the curtain look at our hobby.

Exhibits:

Chris Donaldson shared a 1990 five piece Spanish proof set, sterling silver in a wood presentation box.

Bill Hyder shared a genuine 1915 PPIE Alabama state fund dollar. Most pieces are restrikes from the early 1960s.

Stephen Huston shared examples of fakes and fantasies. Fakes were really meant to deceive based on real examples, counterfeits. Fantasies were made-up with no authenticate counterpart—meant to deceive, but no real counterpart.

Mark Wm. Clark exhibited another unlisted Mexican token that he had tracked down on a blog from the ancestors of the person issuing the token in Chiapas. He also shared a Cuban 100 Peso note with Braille, an X or Z on the serial number indicating a replacement note.

Federico Castillo exhibited a Costa Rican 1850 ¼ Peso, ANACS AU 55. The denomination is difficult to find this nice.

Dan Hipple brought two uniface 4 inch “test strikes” of the ANS Hudson Fulton medal with NGC photo certificates.

David Somers brought coins with Braille legends and assorted coins related to collecting and coin shows.

Jerry Schimmel brought assort lots for the upcoming white elephant auction.

Herb Miles displayed a French medal struck to commemorate the 1906 San Francisco earthquake at the PPIE.

Raffle:

Dan Hipple won Columbus 4 piece Bronze set celebrating 400 years of discovery.

Federico Castillo won a Greek short-snorter.

Jerry Schimmel won a Silver Polish commemorative honoring Solidarity patriot priest.

Dan Hipple won Propaganda banknotes.

Chris Donaldson won Singapore modern coins sets (courtesy of Jerry), a Mint bag, and miscellaneous other items.

The general membership meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.