



# Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

Post Office Box 475656, San Francisco, CA 94147-5656

• Founded 1915 • A Non-profit Educational Corporation •

## Minutes of the PCNS Meetings of March 23, 2016

*Status — Approved as submitted at the April 27th meeting*

### Board Meeting

President Bill Hyder called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

All officers were present: Bill Hyder (President), Mary Lannin (VP), Stephen Huston (Recorder), Governors Jason Macario, Bob Somers, Ed Treuting, and Herb Miles (Past President), along with members Mark Wm Clark and Dan Hipple (Curator/Archivist).

The February meeting Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were accepted as distributed via email with one name change in the minutes.

Papers Contest: Dan has contacted last year's judges, and some have already responded. The April PCNS meeting is the deadline for papers submissions.

Banquet/BBQ: Saturday, June 25th at Dan's place. The Board approved a \$10/person preregistration ticket to raise funds and facilitate counting expected attendees.

The Numismatic Portal project has been sent a sample PCNS Bulletin in PDF format, but we are still awaiting more details.

Speakers are still needed for the rest of the year's meetings; Jason volunteered to speak on the 110th anniversary of the SF Earthquake and Fire and the Old Mint's role in the recovery.

Recorder Huston was directed to prepare a letter of thanks to William Harmon for his donation of numismatic materials to PCNS, and confirming our California Nonprofit status.

Dan and Stephen will prepare and distribute the approved medals and materials to our corporate donors and the centennial supporters which were previously approved. The Board approved paying a \$56.45 invoice for presentation holders/cases for the award medals.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

### General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 by President Hyder. In addition to those at the Board meeting, attendees included members Federico Castillo and Ken Takahashi. (There were no guests this month.)

In keeping with our Bylaws, the Recorder announced that members Steve Album and Jack Free would be dropped at the end of March if their dues for 2016 still had not been received at that time. The Recorder already has sent unpaid members at least 3 reminders prior to this meeting.

## **Program by Bob Somers: National Commemorative Medals**

The National Commemorative Medals can be viewed as a continuation of the fundraising programs for special organizations started with the Commemorative half-dollar program, which had been discontinued in the early 1950s due to abuses of that program. However, according to the various cataloguers and collectors of the medals, there are many earlier items which should be included in lists of NCMs.

The basic criteria are that the medals are struck by the US Mint with Congressional approval, and are sold by nonprofits. Bob reported that each of these 3 criteria have been ignored in some instances.

Turner wrote a series of articles cataloging the NCM series, starting with the Nevada Centennial medal. By his last article, he had included 49 issues, most struck in multiple metals.

Two other authors have attempted books on the series both expanding on Turner's issues. Dean catalogues them in date order, starting in the 1940s, while Swoger published a massive tome which arranges them by his own categories. Bob noted that, while Swoger includes much more detail about the issues, including even some photos of their packaging and advertising ephemera, one must use Swoger's index to find anything due to the nonintuitive arrangement he chose for presenting the content.

Some now consider this series to start in the late 1800s and ranging in size from 21.5mm to 76.3mm.

By 1970, there were complaints in Congress about the medals program, similar to some of the half-dollar commemorative complaints, asking that the program be limited to topics which were truly of national significance, and noting that the US Mint should not simply be in competition with private minting businesses for producing special medals for the public.

### **Member Exhibits, with VP Mary Lannin leading the presentations:**

Mark — finds from his latest trip to Mexico, including the 500 Peso note of 1832, the earliest Masonic token recorded for Mexico, and a 1909 Great White Fleet medal for its arrival in Guatemala.

Mary — three Seleucid coins, including a very lifelike portrait of Antiochus IX on a silver hemidrachm.

Federico — California lumber token from the Eel River Valley Lumber Co. struck by Patrick Co of SF, and a 1789 Guatemalan proclamation medal. (Federico offered to speak at the May meeting, possibly on lumber tokens.)

Bob — Dartmouth College bicentennial National Commemorative Medal, and a 1971 National Commemorative Medal for Ohio Northern Univ.

Ken — 1¢ and 50¢ Hawaiian coins, along with several Hawaiian WWII overprint notes which had been found in circulation.

Ed — Finland mints sets which include lighthouse designs both on some coins and the packaging.

Bill — an 1886 NY Fire Department badge from the dedication of the "Liberty" statue, and a book on Audrey Munson, the model used by A.A. Weinman and other artists and medalists around the time of PPIE, and a new book on gold and silver US coinages.

Herb — China Freedom Dollar, privately struck in support of demonstrators in China, using a 1920s Chinese silver dollar as the planchette, with the under-type still visible.

Dan — 1948 Gold Discovery centennial medal, SS San Francisco lifesaving medal, Golden Gate Bridge 25th anniversary medal, and an early 1920s book titled "Money" which identifies PCNS with the author's name as the source of the publication. It's not in our archives, and Dan has not yet confirmed the membership of author Francis Amasa Walker. (Stephen has seen an earlier printing of this work and suspects that the PCNS reference may simply be how the author chose to present his credentials as a numismatist if he was a member of our Society at the time of publication.)

## **Drawing**

Winners included Bob (Pony Express medal, new Houses of Parliament token), Mark (several numismatic books, Calif Admission Day medal), Bill (1968 proof set), Ed (Cable Car medal), and Dan (large lot of foreign coins). The drawing raised \$50 for the Society.

Herb Miles submitted a request for \$25 to cover his costs for the drawing prizes, which was approved.

The meeting was adjourned around 9pm.

*Submitted by Stephen Huston, PCNS Recorder*