



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 May 24, 2017

Status — Accepted as circulated via email to the Board

Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Bill Hyder. Also present were officers Dan Hipple, Stephen Huston, Herb Miles, Bob Somers, and member Mark Wm. Clark. Jason Macario sent his regrets.

The April Minutes were approved, and the Financial Report sent by email was accepted without discussion.

Papers: Judging is currently underway for the 6 papers received last month. Recorder Huston passed 1 silver and 2 bronze medals to Dan Hipple to be engraved for prizes, which we hope will be announced at the June 24 BBQ, if all judges return their results promptly.

Herb's bills for \$60 to cover raffle prizes for April (\$25) and May (\$35) were approved, and the Recorder issued a check to Herb. (Recorder Huston also passed one of the brass Centennial medals to Herb for delivery to member Michael Turrini, who asked for this delivery option when purchasing it.)

Herb donated one set of silver and bronze medals from the 1000th Meeting issue to be placed in the PCNS archive. The archive had been overlooked when the silvers were sold off several years ago. Though the Board had approved paying Herb, he insisted that this was a donation to the Society. The Board thanked him, and the medals were passed to our Historian, Dan Hipple.

There being no other business, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:06.

Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Hyder. In addition to those present for the Board Meeting, members Chris Donaldson, Michael Wehner, and Federico Castillo were present.

The June 24 BBQ was discussed briefly. [During the meeting, payments were received from Herb (2), Jerry (2), Chris (1), Mark (1), and Bob (1). Jason has indicated his intent to attend the BBQ, and Bill paid last month.] Recorder Huston will send advance purchase reminders to the membership early in June.

The ANA made free membership certificates available to PCNS members who are not already ANA members, but there were no such takers present at this meeting.

Future Meetings: President Hyder agreed to speak at the July meeting. Michael Wehner volunteered to speak in September, on a topic to be announced later. Stephen Huston reminded people that he

will run a Numismatic Book Sale as the November 29 meeting.

Dan Hipple was our speaker for the evening on: *The Circle of Friends of the Medallion*.

The Circle of Friends series is sometimes listed as the first medal series issued in the USA, though Dan noted that an earlier series was struck in the 1800s, making the Circle of Friends the second US series of medals. It was founded in 1909 by Charles DeKay and Robert Hewitt Jr. They brought in the Weil brothers and the Deitsch brothers to assist with production. The Deitsch Bros. produced the first medal, which was sent to paid subscribers, which included several famous people, including other artists and businessmen. These medals were never offered for public sale, just the subscription distribution, so mintages were under 500 on all issues, some possibly significantly less.

The group had internal squabbles, with the minting equipment being sold to the Weils, who thought they would be chosen to produce the series. However, the Circle of Friends group rights were sold to some competitors, the Davisons. After the series ended, the Weils continued their business as the Medallion Art Company.

The series was distributed in book-like cases with a short history of the medal subject and profile of the designer. The series lasted only until 1915, with 1 to 3 medals per year, for a total of 12 medals. Most of the medals were large circular pieces like #1, a 70mm round for the Hudson Fulton Celebration, but #5 was a plaquette honoring Lafayette, and #9 was a 57x76mm oval featuring John C. Fremont.

Dan noted that #7 struck for Abdul Baha is the most difficult to obtain, as these have been systematically sought (and destroyed?) by followers of the Bahai faith due to teachings prohibiting portrait representations. Dan had most of the series on display.

Members' Exhibits included:

- Stephen showed a silver token for the Eagle Hawk Mine in Australia, noting that it quit operations in the late 1800s, and failed in an effort to restart in the 1930s, but was kept open as a tourist attraction until at least the 1960s.
- Herb brought a Centennial medal for the International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs, which he presented to Bill to add to his Fire Dept. collection.
- Mark had medal commemorating the founding of the Mexico City mint, but noted that mint anniversary medals are issued about every 20 years. He also brought a 1948 Centennial medal for the Dunham, Carrigan & Hayden Co. of SF, which probably started off supplies to miners, but was doing "sporting goods" a century later (rifles and knives probably remained in stock). Also a 1947 So-Called Dollar for the US & Mexican presidents visiting each others' countries, a McKinley-Roosevelt 1901 inauguration badge, and a 1930 Uruguayan soccer championship medal which may be the first "world cup" event.
- Federico brought more of his French Medals Collection; this time one French and one Mexican expo award medals from around 1900, both using the same design on one side, probably from a French engraver.
- Michael brought his National Parks quarters collection folder, and made a plea for help from the pocket change of those present. A few more holes were filled.
- Jerry had 8 tokens, all of different sizes, shapes, and denominations from the SF Baldwin Hotel, circa 1897/8. This hotel, one of several establishments founded by "Lucky" Baldwin, used denominations in multiples of 15¢ and 20¢, include 30¢, 40¢, and 60¢ at the "Grill Room."
- Dan had his nearly-complete set of the Circle of Friends of the Medallion bookshelf albums.
- Bill brought a rare 1890 J.C. Irvine store card, a French shell-card using the US Morgan Dollar design, and the Joan of Arc medal from the Circle of Friends of the Medallion set, which was missing from

Dan's set.

The drawing was held with the following prizes: Esperanto token and booklet from 1938 Brussels Kongress, 1961 bronze medal for the 350th anniversary of “The Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas Aquino” in the Philippines, a large bronze medal with the city arms of Horta in the Azores, a Paris mint bronze of Napoleon and Louise for the birth of their son (Napoleon II, King of Rome, March 20, 1811), and a silver proof 1973 Indian 10 Rupee of the “Grow More Food” series. Winners were Bill, Federico, and Chris (3 times!).

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 9 PM.

Submitted by Stephen Huston, *PCNS Recorder*