

## **Pacific Coast Numismatic Society July 2018 Minutes**

The board meeting for July 25, 2018 was called to order at 6:48pm at Mechanics Institute by President Dan Hipple. Vice President Jason Macario, Treasurer Stephen Huston and Secretary Bob Somers were in attendance.

The financial report for period July 1 through July 24, 2018 was accepted, as were the June minutes. Dan presented the often discussed Zerbe die and submitted his receipt for reimbursement which had been previously approved. Upcoming membership anniversaries were discussed and it was confirmed by Stephen that the Treasurer keeps track of the milestone anniversaries. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

The general meeting was called to order at 7:21pm. Also present were Mark William Clark and Charley Catlett. Announcements included past PCNS President, Bill Hyder, was the recipient of the 2017 Medal of Merit from The Token and Medal Society. The Zerbe die was shown before being placed in the PCNS archives. The fifth annual Cal Numismatist Seminar will be held on September 15 by the Northern California Numismatic Association. We are looking for someone to facilitate the club drawings. Bill Hyder and Jeff Shevlin's new book, So-Called Dollars from the Pacific Coast Expositions will be released soon. Membership was reinstated for Stephen Album and a new member application for Daniel Denhart-Lillard of San Francisco was received.

For the July presentation, Stephen Huston spoke on "A Brief History of Dates on Coins: why'd it take so long?"

Starting with George Washington's birthdate being changed during his lifetime, and other dating issues due to resistance to the Gregorian Calendar, he explained that world-wide adoption took roughly 400 years from the original Papal Bull.

Stephen then went back to Greek and Roman times, when the common dating systems were by the regnal year of the rulers, or the founding date of the city or Olympic Games. He made a brief stop among the Ptolemies of Egypt to show how to identify Cleopatra's coins from her father's. Then, noting how regnal years continued to be used with varying degrees of reliability clear through the Middle Ages, he went on to describe the establishment of the AD/BC dating system in the 500s. AD dates, though used for dating Easter among Church scholars remained relatively unknown to others until the 8th Century, when The Venerable Bede adopted this system when writing his histories.

Roman numerals remained the method of writing dates until a transition in the 15th Century, when Arabic numerals came into use in the West. This coincided with the expansion of knowledge via the printing press and the influx of Eastern scholars around the Fall of Constantinople, just a few years before the Gregorian Calendar was introduced. Thus, 4-digit AD dates took so long to appear on coins after the beginning of the AD dating system in the 6th Century, because the methods of calculating and writing them simply were largely unknown until the system had been around for nearly 1,000 years.

### Member exhibits:

Mark – BK: Philippine token/medal 1870-2015, Tahiti spinner token and news of his great grandfather Jake Smith, aka Major Smith

Dan – 1689 one crown James II gun money, Roman silver Gordian III, AD 238-244

Stephen – The cover "coin" from his presentation, XIX BC

Jason – PCNS 800<sup>th</sup> meeting medal – Nov. 14, 1982

Bob – Undated Franklin firefighters medal (1992 or 1993), 2018 Air Services Medal

Charlie – Mary & Philip sixpence 1554, Netherlands 1589 "Lion Thaler" and Bohemia Thaler undated but the first Thaler, c. 1517

There was no drawing and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm