

Minutes of the Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:18PM via Zoom by President Jason Macario with Treasurer Stephen Huston and Governors Ed Treuting and Paul V. Turner present. Also in attendance were our Zoom Host and member Michael Wehner and members Federico Castillo, Bill Hyder, and Herb Miles. Secretary Bob Somers and Past President Dan Hipple sent regrets in advance for being unable to attend.

The June Minutes were approved as distributed with the corrections noted via email.

The Treasurer's reports were accepted, noting that there has been very little activity in recent months.

The annual BBQ which had been rescheduled for Saturday August 29th was officially cancelled for 2020, noting that we continue to hope for a holiday gathering in December and a resumption of our traditional BBQ schedule in 2021. Much depends on when the Fort Mason Center and health authorities can authorize future group gatherings.

Instead, our next monthly meeting will be held online, Wednesday, August 26th.

There has been no further action on plans to move our library materials (currently housed at the Sutro Library), nor regarding the print publications begun last year.

The 2020 Papers Contest has been judged, and Dan Hipple is trying to have the award medals engraved for presentation or announcement in the near future.

Jason noted that we are in need of speakers for the rest of this year. Herb Miles volunteered to speak in August, with Federico Castillo offering to speak in September.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:28PM.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

BUSINESS

President Jason Macario called the monthly Membership Meeting to order on Zoom at 7:32PM with these additional members arriving to join those from the Board Meeting: Mark Benvenuto, Greg Burns, Charlie Catlett, Mark Clark, Jeff Fung, Robert Jessinger, Chris Rivers, with several more arriving during the meeting.

The actions of the Board were reviewed without objection.

Honorary Memberships were reviewed. Honorary Members are annual, and the full membership approved continuing the Honorary status of Becky Cieniewicz and Ruth Phillips, who have been granted this status repeatedly based on their past service to the Society.

PROGRAM

Paul Turner gave a presentation on the architecture of the Second Mint at San Francisco, a.k.a. The Granite Lady. Using images from previously unpublished drawings by the Architect, Alfred Bult Mullett, Paul described and showed the plans for the exterior in a somewhat austere classical revival style, and the much more ornate interiors, especially in the public rooms.

It would appear that both budget and supplies constrained some of Mullett's intended touches, but his flourishes in making the smokestacks more ornate and in decorating the public areas were included in the final construction.

Mullett's plans for a new foundation structure were incorporated and proved fruitful in the 1906 earthquake. Mullett had not survived to see that outcome, having committed suicide in 1890.

Paul discussed the known mintages of the San Francisco mint for both 1874 and 1875. The SF new or second mint opened in November of 1874, so there is no way to verify if coins dated 1874 were struck at the first or second mints. The significantly larger output in 1875 was all from the Second Mint, and reflects the greater capacity of the new facility.

(Paul's program is now available on the PCNS YouTube channel, with links from the pcns.org homepage.)

EXHIBITS

Charlie Catlett displayed an 1878-S Trade Dollar, possibly chopped or test punched, and a pair of souvenir SF Earthquake & Fire medals which were silvered bronze. It was noted that only silvered-bronze have been verified, though full-silver and unplated bronzes have been reported, probably in error.

Jeff Fung showed a 2006 commemorative dollar for the SF Mint, showing a facade of the second mint building.

Robert Jessinger had a photo of the clocktower depicted on the earthquake souvenir medal brought by Charlie, which Robert had taken on a history walking tour. He also had a 1873 So-Called Dollar (H&K 1003) for Morgan & Orr, who provided the new coinage presses for the new SF mint then under construction. A Denver 1905 gold-plated souvenir piece for the opening of the Denver mint rounded out his offerings.

Stephen Huston had a new acquisition, an unofficial British Farthing advertising piece struck for Wm. Webster of 7 Great Russell Street in Covent Garden, London. Webster was a coin dealer at that location from about 1848–56. Later in 1871, he was instrumental in organizing the Bank of England's collection for public display, after convincing them to dispose of almost all non-British material — a mistake later lamented by collectors.

Michael Wehner brought a San Francisco Coin Club medal showing the Granite Lady from an unusual angle. Michael designed the medal from a photo he took, but he had been hesitant to step out into downtown traffic to get a more traditional camera-angle on his shot. He also had two large world bronze medals relating to climate change: one for meteorologists, and the other for the coal industry.

Bill Hyder showed a French Jetton of Louis XIV relating to the architecture of The Louvre, a 100th Anniversary commemorative medal of the Chicago Coin Club showing the old water tower which survived the Great Chicago Fire, and both a token and the actual dies for that token from Larson's Cigar Store in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Jason showed his 1875-S coins. He also showed images of several old PCNS documents recently donated by member Donald Barsi, which eventually will be added to the Society's Archives.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned a few minutes after 9PM by the president.

Submitted by Stephen Huston, Treasurer
Standing in for Bob Somers, Secretary