

PCNS Minutes for February 24, 2021

The board meeting for February 24, 2021 was called to order via Zoom at 7:14pm by President Jason Macario. Remote attendance included Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, past president Dan Hipple, Governors Ed Treuting and Paul Turner, as well as Michael Wehner, Bill Hyder, Robert Jesinger, and Herb Miles. Governor Bob Somers sent his regrets for being unable to attend.

The minutes for the January meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report for reporting period January 27 through February 23, 2021 was accepted.

Status reports: no new news

Speakers: we have a speaker for the March 2021 meeting. Speakers are still needed for April and May. Please let Jason or Stephen know if you are interested or have a speaker in mind.

New Business:

-Nomination for ANA Presidential Candidate. Don Kagin, who will become a member as of the regular meeting, has spoken to one or more club members about seeking the PCNS support in nominating him as a presidential candidate for the ANA. Michael spoke about this. There was no consensus from the board, though there were no strong objections to the possibility. It was decided to leave it to the regular meeting, when he (Don) could bring up the request to the club membership, and leave it up to the club to decide

-Backup presentations: with the February presenter almost being unable to attend due to the weather emergency in Texas, there is a request for volunteers to be able to give a presentation at the last minute, if needed. Please let Jason or Stephen know if you do have a backup presentation available, but do not want to put it on the calendar.

-BBQ delay: due to uncertainty as to when it may even be conceivable to hold a PCNS BBQ, setting a date has been tabled for now with hope that we can anticipate planning a tentative September BBQ.

Adjournment 7:25

At 7:35pm, general meeting #1258 was called to order via Zoom. In attendance along with those from the board meeting were Greg Burns, Scott Safe, Dean Neald, Michael Carolan, Erik Frankenfield, Barbara Miller, and Mike McDaniel.

Financials remain in good order.

We have a speaker for March, but speakers are still needed for April and May. Please let Stephen or Jason know about any.

New Business:

-Backup speakers are needed just in case the main speaker is unable to attend (as almost happened tonight). Please let Jason or Stephen know if you have one.

BBQ- the date of the summer BBQ has been delayed due to uncertainty as to when it will even be feasible. We are hopeful that it can be in September, but more to come as we get more information.

Featured speaker:

Ricardo de León Tallavas is the foremost expert on Mexican Numismatics in the world. He presented a talk on "A Lie in a Medal: Monte de las Cruces". There were only two historic Mexican medals made depicting local events, and he presented information on one— the most controversial medal of Mexican/Spanish history, which depicts a lie. Thanks to a chance find in a 2014 Subasta auction, he was the winning bidder of a document listing the minting of medals in the early 1800s. The medal in question is for the Battle of Monte de las Cruces (Mount of Crosses) in 1810.

The story goes back to Napoleon conquering Spain, placing his brother Alphonso in charge there, and then Spain sending a Viceroy to govern Mexico (which no longer belonged to Spain, but was now technically French). Mexicans did not necessarily accept this and started minting their own municipal tokens. A growing rebellion army headed to Mexico City and various other towns, guided by Hidalgo. Mexico City sent loyalist troops to Monte de las Cruces to defend the way. The insurgency took the hill, after an unthinkable act of one side firing a cannon into troops carrying a white flag to negotiate. Yet after two days, rather than proceed to Mexico City, the insurgents retreated.

It took six days for a military report to get back to Mexico City. The Viceroy's troops actually lost, but it was to be kept quiet to prevent pandemonium, and the report stated the Spanish had won. This is the lie presented in the medal. The city of Vera Cruz (located in a different state than the battle site!) made the medal to raise funds to be given to people who had served in the battle. A lawyer in Mexico City got permission to make the medal. About forty pounds of silver coins were donated by citizens daily for twenty days to fund the medals. The obverse featured Ferdinand VII portrayed with the rays of the sun, flanked by the Lion of Spain and a Cherub (innocence of the future). The reverse featured a battle scene with Venegas standing, and crosses are seen on the hill. The crosses were where thieves were hung, as a warning to future thieves. There is a Mexico City mint mark.

All the specific details of the origin of the medal, who minted it, who donated to the fund the minting, and the mintage numbers were found in the archive Ricardo was able to obtain at auction. He wrote an article documenting this, published in The Numismatist.

His talk was recorded and will be available on our website, and a link to the article will be sent to members.

Member Exhibits:

Charlie showed an 1863 Civil War Store Card Token from the Felix Dining Saloon in New York, the only variety of Civil War tokens to have Hebrew writing (the word 'Kosher').

Bill showed us some of his So-Called Dollars of Expositions, these from the Cotton States Expo. His HK-268 token was fairly common, but there were several others that are quite rare and hard to come by. Bill was happy to purchase them from the estate of a good friend and to show them to us.

Dean displayed \$2 Canadian commemorative coins minted in 2020 for the 75th Anniversary of the End of WW2, which had the dual dates 1940-2020. Some of them are tri-colored, and he showed two varieties with a shift in the placement of the color.

Robert showed us a medal commemorating the return of the Liberty Bell to Philadelphia after being lent to the Cotton States Expo in New Orleans. He also gave us a preview of next month's talk with an 1889 George Washington Centennial Inauguration medal from New York. The initials EAK (Edward A. Kretschman, the medal designer)) were on Washington's shoulder on the reverse.

Michael showed us two U.S. Mint medals commemorating the Mexican-American War in 1846. One was for Major General Zachary Taylor (later our president) for Victory at the Battle of Buena Vista. The 89mm medal was very detailed. One was minted in gold and presented to Taylor, and recently sold at auction for over \$400,000. The other 89mm medal was for Major general Winfield Scott.

The general meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS