

PCNS Minutes for February 22, 2023

The board meeting for February 22, 2023, was called to order via Zoom at 7:16 PM by President Jason Marcario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Past President Dan Hipple, and Governor Ed Treuting. Governors Bob Somers and Mike McDaniel sent regrets that they could not attend the meeting.

The minutes for the January meeting were approved.

Financial report: the January 25-February 21, 2023 report was sent to members prior to the meeting and was discussed.

2023 Papers Contest: submissions are due by the April 26 and Jason will coordinate judges. The 2022 papers will be available on the internet by the April 26, 2023 meeting. Michael W will get to printing those papers at some time in the future.

We still need a speaker for May 24, 2023.

June BBQ: we are waiting to hear back from Federico about details.

New Business: none

Adjournment 7:23 PM

At 7:32 PM, general meeting #1282 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Paul Turner, Charlie Ludvic, Harold Tuchfeld, Jeff Pritchard, Federico Castillo, Dean Ristenpart, Scott Safe, Herb Miles, Robert Jesinger, Dean Neald, and Jeff Fung.

Members were reminded of the 2023 Papers Contest with entries due by the April 26, 2023 meeting.

Speakers are needed for the May 24, 2023 meeting as well as July-November.

Michael W reviewed our PCNS YouTube channel views. The most viewed video was Doug Ward's 1922 Proof Peace Dollar talk, with over 2000 views and 28 likes. #2 is the talk on WW II Ghetto coins by Charlie C with 200 views; #3 Paul's Suez Canal medals talk with 168 views; #4 Federico's talk on counterstrikes with 164 views.

Featured Speaker: Michael Wehner

Chinese American Tokens: a tribute to Jerry Schimmel

Michael gave two talks. The first was about Chinese American tokens. As Michael was the executor of Jerry Schimmel's estate collection, there were more than two double row boxes in his collection to disperse, which was surprisingly easy- there is good a market for these. This was a review of some highlights.

Chinese people first came to California in numbers during the 1849 gold rush. They were greatly discriminated against then, and racism still plagues our society now. Chinese businesses produced tokens mostly from 1900-1940, and mostly on the west coast: Stockton, San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle.

For instance, Michael showed a SF Chinatown token for Wing Lee (in Chinese), translated as "Lush Benefit"- a greeting for customers. Jerry did not speak Chinese but had a friend who translated the symbols

on the tokens and listed that translation with each example. It is difficult to identify Chinese organizations because they were not in English language directories. Old Chinese language directories are exceedingly rare.

Michael showed a Stockton token and explained that store fronts were used as a cover, with gambling often in the back of those establishments. The storefront names changed frequently.

And it gets even more difficult! Jerry's contacts were 1940's token collectors who often got them at the source. He wrote the definitive book on these.

Michael included cancelled Seattle tokens, Hawaiian plantation tokens, and one made in Germany for Bluefields, Zelaya, Nicaragua which had the owner's name in Chinese chop marks!

Claude Bessy, Prima Ballerina

Michael's other short talk was about Claude Bessy and a 1993 medal about her- a 70mm golden bronze medal by the Monnaie de Paris. In 1945 at age 13 she joined the Paris Opera, and by 1956 obtained ballet's highest rank. Gene Kelly wrote a movie for her, and Michael showed a film clip.

The talks were recorded and should become available on the Society's YouTube channel.

Member Exhibits:

Robert J showed an image of a California 1876 silver medal GW-879 that was owned for 100 years by the Garret family and has been offered to him. He asked the club for an opinion on it, and the consensus was that it was a fantastic piece. He intends to purchase it at the upcoming ANA show in Phoenix.

Bill showed three items. 1- 1859 Great Airship City of New York, featuring a 200' balloon which blew up when it was first inflated. 2- a New York Medal Club medal featuring General Lafayette on the obverse with a Masonic reverse. 3- a countermarked Mexican coin stamped "1967 Anguilla declared independent-liberty dollar". Other foreign silver coins received similar countermarks, all produced in the basement of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Jeff Fung showed an eBay token he purchased stating it was a "Panama Pacific China Pavilion medal". Nobody was sure if it really was from the PanPac- more research is needed.

Harold showed his "Grand Coulee Dam Wash" token, a slice of a cement core from the dam construction with a sticker on it, also stating "a Dam quarter good for 25¢"

Charlie L showed the upcoming Maria Tallchief quarter, featuring the 1940s-1960s prima ballerina. She was married to George Ballanchine, and Charlie showed a medal for him too.

Federico showed three items. 1- A Costa Rica ½ onza coin, with a much nicer than usual strike. 2- Three Mexicali tokens from the Chinese Mexican Mercantile Co. Two were from Jerry's collection, and had the printed reference included in each token's envelope. 3- A \$1 token Federico thinks is from a Mexican border town, but Jerry thought might be Philippine. More research is needed.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. The next meeting will be March 22, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS