

PCNS Minutes for July 26, 2023

The board meeting for June 26, 2023, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Governors Bob Somers, Mike McDaniel and Ed Treuting, and members Michael Wehner and John Duff.

The minutes for the May and June meetings were approved.

Financial report: the report was sent to board members prior to the meeting and was discussed.

We still need speakers for October-November-December.

New Business: 1. Publication of 2022-2023 papers was discussed. There are six articles, and it was voted to table publishing papers for one year. There is hope that there will be more articles (and more than just two) to add to the list next year for consideration of publishing.

2. In-person December meeting: Jason started looking into a venue for a possible in-person meeting in December. A room in the Hall of Flowers at 9th and Lincoln is available at a very reasonable rate for December 27. Jason will investigate it further and may even put down a refundable reservation fee. This will be discussed again in August.

Adjournment 7:32 PM

At 7:32 PM, general meeting #1287 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Charlie Ludvic, Dean Neald, Federico Castillo, Herb Miles, Scott Safe, Paul Turner, and Doug Ward.

The only meeting business was an announcement asking for speakers for the October, November, and December meetings.

Featured Speaker: John Duff

"Early Toy Coins"

John began his talk with a short discussion of the best reference book on Toy Coins, published in 1990 by David Rogers. David had collected them since 1955 and collaborated with other authors on a very detailed book. Although John himself focuses mostly on collecting toy coins of the Victorian era, he reviewed all sections of the book: Precursor and English Issues (86 sections); Foreign (non-English) Issues (83 sections); and Toy Coin Boxes (21 sections).

There is a distinction in the development of toy coins. Prior to 1870, precursor coins were *not* made for children, but children did play with them. After 1870, they were made specifically for children.

John also discussed the rarity scale and values listed in the book. Even the rarest of the coins (often unique) were listed at £30 (33 years ago). Few were available, but there were also few collectors. Several items listed in the book had a rarity of RRR*, with the star meaning there was a reliable *report* of someone seeing the coin but no further proof at the time of one existing. John showed his examples of some starred rarities now in his collection.

He got started collecting these with the purchase of a Lauer toy coin box from 1880. It featured a reproduction bank note on the box and had 13 coins in it (the original would have had 14- he was able to identify all of them). The box and coins were purchased from the late Bill McKivor in Seattle, a well-known and well-liked expert in Conder Tokens.

John discussed the compositions of the known examples throughout his talk. He discussed jetons and precursors. Counters were used, along with counting boards and cloths (which are very rare) to help with the mathematics of Roman numerals, which became obsolete due to the gradual acceptance of Arabic numerals. They were made for adults, but children also used them for learning.

He went through items in his collection based on the sections of the reference book. Subjects included:

- Hanover Jacks (with 134 known varieties), which were political tokens used in gaming.
- Spiele Marke and Rechen Pfennig coins, the first toy coins starting 1750.
- Joseph Moore's bimetallic models of 1845-1851, an alternative to heavier circulating coins, as well as his tiny fractions
- British true toy coins, advertising pieces
- Foreign toy coins- his latest is a 1925 Weimar Republic type; the book lists them through 1980.
- Coin boxes, often made for special events and coronations.

The detailed talk was recorded and is available on the Society's Videos webpage.

Member Exhibits:

Bill H showed his 1850 California Gold Mines gaming counter made by Lauer.

Stephen showed us: spiele marks, counters, and jetons- mostly acquired "by accident" as a dealer from the 'things' customers would bring into his coin shop. A unicorn, an owl, a lion/eagle, and several others.

Federico also showed likely Lauer tokens, mostly game counters made by wealthy coffee growers in Costa Rica, Venezuela, etc.

Michael W showed some of his counters/toy coins. He also showed an intriguing art medal from the British Art Medal Society that had been cast and had a special finish applied.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM. The next meeting will be August 23, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS