

**Dues:** It is time to think about paying your dues for 2012. Dues are \$20 to help support the oldest numismatic organization in the West! Cash or checks are welcome at the November or December meeting. Or, you can mail your check to:

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ENJOY YOUR  
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(Have a favorite coin, medal, or story to share? Submit your material to [bill.hyder@gmail.com](mailto:bill.hyder@gmail.com) and see it appear on the bulletin back cover.)

**First Dues Notice!**



**1147<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**  
7:30PM Wednesday November 23, 2011  
Building C, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California

**The Double Florin  
1887-1890  
“The Barmaid’s Grief”**

Dan Hipple

## *1146th meeting, October 23, 2011*

Stephen Huston presented a talk entitled:

### *“Big Money”*

Stephen focused on coins sizes and why they changed through time. The story began with the familiar Athenian owl tetradrachms that became a standard throughout the ancient world. As wars depleted the Athenian treasury, they began striking copper coins wrapped in a silver foil. They maintained the same weight, but they were smaller than the previous silver issues. In the course of losing the war, the city lost its right to coin money. When that right was reinstated, they issued larger Athenian owls of the previous weight (i.e. the flans were much thinner).

In Egypt, Ptolemy sought to appear to be Alexander's successor in the international arena. With no domestic supplies of silver, his tetradrachms were reserved for external trade. That led to the creation of a massive copper coin for internal use. In Roman, economic problems led Diocletian to introduce the larger folis to replace the debased coins meant to represent the denarius. He restored the integrity of gold and silver coinage, but the larger bronze coinage became the standard for commerce as a result of earlier troubled times.

During the Medieval period, the silver penny or denier was a standard throughout much of Europe. In 1350, the shortage of labor due to the Black Plague led to an increase in the costs of labor and the decline of the feudal system as populations moved to cities. The penny or denier was replaced by the large silver groat worth four denier. The groat gave way to the still larger thaler that accompanied the opening of new silver mines in Europe. The discovery of silver in the New World brought about the Pillar dollar that eventually became a standard in world trade.

### *Member exhibits:*

Herb continued the theme of big money with a Russian 6 kopecks bronze coin from 1796 and an English George III two pence “Cart-wheel” from 1797.

Catz shared hand tinted reproductions of the royal seals of the early English monarchs.

Bill shared Society of Medallists issue 2, Hail to Dionysus by Paul Manship. The medal was struck in the 73 mm size that endured for sixty years. In 1990, SOM issued Marcel Jovine's Creation at 102 mm, a much larger format as the society was falling into entropy.

Dan shared Panama's largest coins, the silver 20 Balboa's from 1971 and 1974.

Whalen shared a medley of Eisenhower dollars, commemorative dollars, and a gold medal.

Federico shared the smallest coin, an essay of the couterstamp that Costa Rica used to monetize Columbian coins for use in Costa Rica.

David brought a set of the last national European coins issued before the Euro replaced the national currencies. He also brought a large Russian 100 rouble note and a Victory Liberty Award medal.

Ed brought a selection of Bust and Liberty Seated U.S. coins that he purchased from the estate of a recently deceased friend. He shared the significance of the coins not only for their numismatic interest but for their ties to the memory of his friend.

Stephen brought a “Big Money” aluminum reproduction of a denarius of Roman Emperor Trajan.

Mark shared a 1984 Mexico 50 peso struck on a 20 peso planchet that he recently found in the market place in Lagunilla, Mexico.

### *Raffle:*

Bill won a booklet, Introduction to Money from the Bank of Japan – 1948, a 1986 “passport” from the Vancouver, Canada World Exposition, and box to display coins.

Dave won a 1961 Proof Franklin half dollar.

Whalen won a 1915 PPIE sticker and a Frankenhuis art medal struck by the Medallist Art Co.

Catz won a hanging badge with ribbon from the 1922 meeting of the League of California Municipalities held in Palo Alto.

Ed won an Edgar Allen Poe medal from the Hall of Great Americans in New York City.