

PCNS EVENTS

April 27 . . . **Papers Deadline** & speaker: Jason Macario

May 25 Meeting speaker: Federico Castillo

June 25 BBQ Luncheon — \$10.00/person in advance

July–Dec . . We still need speakers for the last half of 2016.

Please email webmaster@pcns.org if you can present a program. Your topic can even be something about which you are submitting a *Paper* (see April, above).

PCNS OFFICERS

President . . . William Hyder

Vice-pres. . . Mary Lannin

Recorder . . . Stephen Huston

Governors . . Jason Macario, Bob Somers, Ed Treuting

Past-pres . . . Herb Miles

CONTACTING & PAYING PCNS

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PayPal address for payments money@pcns.org

Emails regarding money can also be sent directly to this address.



The British Pound gets a makeover this year — bimetallic, 12-sided, and new security edge — first new anti-counterfeit features in decades.



1200TH Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



The 1906 Earthquake and Fire: How saving the Old Mint saved San Francisco

by Jason Macario

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 7:30 PM

at Fort Mason Center, Building C, San Francisco

PAPERS DEADLINE THIS MONTH!

Yes, this month's meeting is the deadline for submitting 2016 papers. See *PCNS.org* for rules, copyright, and submission information.

JUNE IS THE BBQ LUNCHEON

The date is Saturday, June 25th, and it's only \$10.⁰⁰ each — a bargain price for all-you-can-eat BBQ! Order your tickets now by making payment to PCNS by mail, at our meeting, or via PayPal.

MARCH PROGRAM REPORT

National Commemorative Medals (NCMs)

Bob Somers presented an illustrated talk introducing us to this little-known series of official medals. NCMs are viewed as a kind of successor to the commemorative coinage of the 1890s to 1950s. Some now consider this series to start in the late 1800s, ranging in size from 21.5 mm to 76.3 mm.

Howard L. Turner wrote a series of articles in *The Numismatist* (July 1968, Sept 1977, Nov 1985, Nov 1989) cataloging the NCM series, in which he included 49 issues struck in multiple metals.

Two other authors wrote books on the series in 2008, expanding on Turner's list. *John T. Dean* catalogued 69 medals in date order, while *William Swoger* published a massive tome — over 3X as many pages as Dean — which arranges 71 medals using his own categories.

Bob noted that, while Swoger goes into more detail on some issues, one is forced to use Swoger's index to find anything in his book due to his nonintuitive arrangement.

The basic criteria for NCMs are that they are

- (1) struck by the US Mint,
- (2) issued with Congressional approval, and
- (3) sold by nonprofits to raise funds.

Bob noted that at times each of these three criteria has been ignored.

By the early 1970s, there were questions in Congress about the NCM program — similar to the complaints which doomed the old commemorative half-dollar series — urging that NCMs be limited to subjects which were truly of national significance. It was also pointed out that the US Mint should not simply be in competition with private minting businesses to produce private medals for public sale.

MARCH MEMBER EXHIBITS

Mark — from his latest trip to Mexico, a 500 Peso note of 1832, the earliest Masonic token recorded for Mexico, and a 1909 Great White Fleet medal for its arrival in Guatemala.

Mary — Seleucid coins, two nice bronzes and a silver hemidrachm bearing a lifelike portrait of Antiochus IX.

Federico — token of the Eel River Valley Lumber Co. struck by Patrick C^o of SF, and a 1789 Guatemalan proclamation medal.

Bob — Dartmouth College Bicentennial NCM, and a 1971 NCM for Ohio Northern University.

Ken — 1¢ and 50¢ Hawaiian coins, along with several WWII Hawaii *overprint notes* which had been saved from circulation.

Ed — Finland mints sets with lighthouse designs.

Bill — 1886 New York Fire Department badge from the “Liberty Statue” dedication event, and a book on Audrey Munson, a model used by A.A.Weinman and other artists of the PPIE era.

Herb — China Freedom Dollar, privately struck in support of demonstrators in China, using a 1920s Chinese silver dollar as the planchette, with the under-type still visible.

Dan — 1948 Gold Discovery centennial medal, *SS San Francisco* lifesaving medal, Golden Gate Bridge 25th anniversary medal, and an early 1920s book titled *Money*, which identifies PCNS with the author Francis Amasa Walker. (Stephen saw an earlier printing and suspects the PCNS reference may be how the author chose to present his credentials as a numismatist if he was a member.)

MARCH DRAWING WINNERS

Bob — Pony Express medal, and new Houses of Parliament token

Mark — numismatic book lot, and Calif Admission Day medal

Bill — 1968 US Proof Set

Ed — Cable Car commemorative medal

Dan — box of misc. foreign coins

The March drawing raised \$50 for the Society.