

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2018

Aug 22Michael Wehner, *Moses Gunst has went at the Mechanics' Institute*
Sep 26.....Jeff Shevlin, *So-called Dollars from the Pacific Coast Expositions at Fort Mason Center*
Oct 31.....*Speaker & Topic TBA* at Fort Mason Center*
Nov 28*Speaker & Topic TBA* at the Mechanics' Institute*
Dec 27Holiday gathering and elections **at the Mechanics' Institute**

* See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

A quick look at the 2018 Calendar above reveals that there is ample opportunity for **you** to make a presentation in the coming months: October and November are still open. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

MEETING LOCATION AND TIME CHANGES

Due to scheduled construction at Fort Mason Center, PCNS meetings for August, November, December 2018 and January 2019 will take place at the Mechanics' Institute in downtown San Francisco. Meetings at the Mechanics Institute will start at 7:15pm. See enclosed flyer for information.

2018 PCNS OFFICERS

President.....Daniel Hipple
Vice PresidentJason Macario
SecretaryBob Somers
TreasurerStephen Huston
GovernorsHerb Miles, Ed Treuting
Past President.....William Hyder

CONTACTING AND PAYING PCNS

Email messages to PCNSwebmaster@pcns.org
PayPal address for PCNSmoney@pcns.org

PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers*, get the latest Bulletin, or to check our meeting schedule.

Use a QR scanner/reader to open pcns.org via this code.



1228th Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



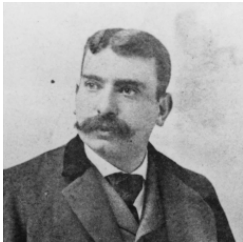
Moses Gunst has went
Michael Wehner

Wednesday, August 22, 2018, 7:15 PM
Mechanics' Institute Board Room
57 Post Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

CLOSE, BUT NO...

Each month, your editor strives to provide some background information about the upcoming program. The title provided for this month, "Moses Gunst has went," was a real head-scratcher. So he did what any good researcher does, and that's head to the Internet research machine, a.k.a. Google.



Moses Gunst (1853-1928) came to San Francisco in 1871 from his native New York City. He worked in a cigar store earning a princely \$5.00 per week. By 1873, he opened his own cigar stand, thus setting himself on the path to becoming a millionaire by the age of 45.

The M. A. Gunst company became the leading purveyor of cigars on the Pacific Coast, eventually merging with its rival, United Cigar Stores. Gunst was an early proponent of mass advertising, to great effect.

Moses Gunst was one of a long list of "San Francisco characters," known for his practical jokes and his willingness to bet on anything. His philanthropic pursuits included Mount Zion Hospital and the Jewish Federation. He also served on the Police Commission beginning in 1890.

Join us on August 22 as Michael Wehner explains the cryptic title of his presentation.

Remember: The meeting is at the Mechanics' Institute and will start at 7:15pm.



JULY MEETING RECAP

First, announcements:

- Congratulations are in order to Past President William Hyder, recipient of the 2017 Medal of Merit from The Token and Medal Society (TAMS).
- The fifth annual California Numismatist Seminar will be held on September 15, hosted by the Northern California Numismatic Association.
- Bill Hyder and Jeff Shevlin's new book, *So-Called Dollars from the Pacific Coast Expositions*, will be released soon.
- We are actively looking for someone to facilitate club drawings.

For the July presentation, Stephen Huston spoke on "A Brief History of Dates on Coins: Why'd It Take So Long?"

Starting with George Washington's birthdate being changed during his lifetime, and other dating issues due to resistance to the Gregorian Calendar,

JULY MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

he explained that world-wide adoption took roughly 400 years from the original Papal Bull.

Stephen then went back to Greek and Roman times, when the common dating systems were by the regnal year of the rulers, or the founding date of the city or Olympic Games. He made a brief stop among the Ptolemies of Egypt to show how to identify Cleopatra's coins from her father's. Then, noting how regnal years continued to be used with varying degrees of reliability clear through the Middle Ages, he went on to describe the establishment of the AD/BC dating system in the 500s. AD dates, though used for dating Easter among Church scholars remained relatively unknown to others until the 8th Century, when The Venerable Bede adopted this system when writing his histories.

Roman numerals remained the method of writing dates until a transition in the 15th Century, when Arabic numerals came into use in the West. This coincided with the expansion of knowledge via the printing press and the influx of Eastern scholars around the Fall of Constantinople, just a few years before the Gregorian Calendar was introduced. Thus, 4-digit AD dates took so long to appear on coins after the beginning of the AD dating system in the 6th Century, because the methods of calculating and writing them simply were largely unknown until the system had been around for nearly 1,000 years.

JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Mark: Book about Philippine Tokens & Medals 1870-2015, Tahiti spinner token and news of his great grandfather Jake Smith, aka Major Smith.

Dan: 1689 one crown James II gun money, Roman silver Gordian III, AD 238-244.

Stephen: The cover "coin" from his presentation, Augustus XIX BC.

Jason: PCNS 800th meeting medal, November 14, 1982.

Bob: Undated Franklin firefighters medal (1992 or 1993), 2018 Air Services Medal.

Charlie: Mary & Philip sixpence 1554, Netherlands 1589 "Lion Thaler" and Bohemia Thaler undated but the first Thaler, c. 1517.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

- **Daniel Denhart-Lillard** of San Francisco, CA

Per PCNS Bylaws, Mr. Denhart-Lillard will become an Active Member at the August 22 meeting.