

CALENDAR FOR 2019

- August 28.....Federico Castillo, *A Tale of Penicillin and Snake Antivenom: The Story of Clodomiro Picado Twilight* at **Ortega Branch Library**
- September 25Michael Wehner, *Topic TBA* at **Fort Mason Center***
- October 30.....*Speaker & Topic TBA* at **Fort Mason Center***
- November 27*Speaker & Topic TBA* at **Fort Mason Center***
- December 18Holiday gathering and elections at **Fort Mason Center**
- * See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

There is ample opportunity for **you** to make a presentation in the second half of 2019. 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 UPDATE

Due to renovations at Fort Mason, our August meeting will take place at the **Ortega Branch Library** 3223 Ortega Street at 39th Avenue in San Francisco's Sunset District. Due to library scheduling, meetings will begin at **7:15 PM**. Look for more information inside.

We will return to our regular time and location in September.

2019 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- President**Daniel Hipple
- Vice President**.....Jason Macario
- Secretary**.....Bob Somers
- Treasurer**Stephen Huston
- Governor**Ed Treuting
- Past President**William Hyder

Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 30 minutes before the membership meeting in the same location.

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.



1240th Monthly Meeting of the

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



A Tale of Penicillin and Snake Antivenom: The story of Clodomiro Picado Twilight *Federico Castillo*

Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 7:15 PM
Ortega Branch, San Francisco Public Library
3223 Ortega St at 39th Ave

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

LIFE SAVING MEDICINE

(Because there's nothing funny about snakebites or bacterial infections.)

Codomiro Picado Twilight (sometimes called "Clorito Picado") may not be a familiar name to many readers, but his contributions to several important 20th century developments in the biological sciences cannot be overstated.

Picado was born in Nicaragua to Costa Rican parents in 1887, returning to Costa Rica in 1890. Because of his excellent grades, he was given a scholarship to study in France, where he specialized in Zoology and Botany, and was admitted to the Pasteur Institute.



Picado was a prolific researcher, publishing over 115 papers in his lifetime. He developed a

number of important antivenoms. The first step in the process is to "milk" snakes as shown above. In addition, between 1915 and 1927, he noted how fungi of the genus *Penicillium* inhibited the growth of several common bacteria. Thus, Picado's work is widely considered to have contributed to the development of penicillin.

Join us on August 28 as Federico Castillo presents the exciting story of his famous fellow countryman. Please do not bring live snakes as show-and-tell items. Antivenom and/or penicillin are acceptable.

Note special location and time information below.

AUGUST MEETING LOCATION

The August PCNS meeting will be held at the Ortega Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, 3223 Ortega Street at 39th Avenue in the Outer Sunset district of San Francisco. The library is located in a complex that includes West Sunset Playground, Sunset Elementary School and A.P. Giannini Middle School.

Due to the schedule of the library, we need to start these meetings at 7:15 pm, meaning that the Board meeting will take place at 6:45 pm.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

- Paul V. Turner, of San Francisco

Per our bylaws, Mr. Turner will become an Active Member of PCNS at the August 28 meeting.

JULY MEETING RECAP

Charlie Catlett gave a fascinating presentation entitled *Hand Made: Ancient, Error and Oddities*. He began by reviewing how ancient planchets were made and struck into coins. The primitive process often resulted in errors, generally categorized based on the production error that created them. A **brockage** occurs when a struck coin sticks to the die and then strikes another planchet leaving a mirror image on one side of the coin and a normal strike on the other. **Double strikes**, as the name implies, occur when a planchet is struck twice, sometimes flipping in the process. **Die breaks** occur when over-used dies crack, leaving distinctive marks on struck coins.

In the "oddities" category Charlie discussed **overstruck** coins, where a new design was struck over an old coin; it was a common method of recycling ancient coinage. Charlie also showed examples of **countermarks** and **counter stamps** which are not limited to ancients. The practice was used for many purposes including attesting to the value of the coin. Finally, Charlie showed examples of **hacksilver** and **hackgold**. These were fragments of silver and gold which passed as currency based on their weight before coinage was struck or when coinage was not available.

JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Mark: Two San Francisco tokens/medals and a Great Britain half penny (of 1784?).

Paul: 1877 S trade dollar and a 1936 S Bay Bridge Commemorative half.

Federico: Two Nicaraguan medals, one Texas token and possible contemporary fake 1789 Guatemalan medal.

Michael: San Francisco Mechanics Institute medals (in new plastic holders).

Ken: The 2019 American Legion coin and medal set and two of the special 2019 W, one proof and one reverse proof.



2019 Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Papers Contest Results

First, I want to thank all of the participants in this year's contest. It was, by all accounts, exceptionally good work for all of the papers submitted. I also want to thank those that are not always seen, but do most of the work to make the actual publication happen.

Treasurer **Stephen Huston** has, for more years than I have been a member of the PCNS, been the person behind the scenes that has done all the formatting for both the print and online versions of the publication, and much of the photography. His contributions have been invaluable to the publication for many years.

Stephen will continue to handle the formatting for the online publication this year, but the work of formatting for print will be managed by members **Michael Wehner** and **Federico Castillo**.

Governor **Ed Trueting** has for years been our master printer, having worked at our preferred printing company. Now in retirement, he is our source of knowledge for printing details.

Past President **William Hyder** is a source of editing and photography expertise that is an asset to the entire group.

It is truly a group effort.

I also want to thank our annual Papers Judges. They take the time out of their schedules to read and evaluate these works each year. Each are known within the Numismatic world and each brings a knowledgeable view of what they are reading.

Our judges this year were:

Greg Burns. Editor of the California Numismatist.

William McKiver. Author, and a retired newspaper editor, known as "The Copperman".

Jeff Shevlin. Author, best known as "The So Called Guy".

Lawrence D. Goldberg. Author of "What Color are Your Assets"

All their work is greatly appreciated. We could not have a contest without their input.

The results of the 2019 PCNS Contest are as follows.

*1st Place: **Stephen Huston**: "COIN AGES".

*2nd Place: **Jerry Schimmel**: "FRISCO'S OLD EAST STREET: SAILORS SALOONS AND LITTLE BRASS CHECKS WITH SIDE TRIPS TO JACKSON STREET AND THE CLIFF HOUSE"

*3rd Place: **William Hyder**: "SAN FRANCISCO REMEMBERS THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR"

4th Place: **Mark Benvenuto**: "WHAT WE OWE ROME. MODERN COINAGE FEATURES ANCIENT IDEAS"

5th Place: **Michael Wehner**: "ROMA PACIFICA: THE PHEOBE HEARST MEDAL"

6th Place: **Jerry Schimmel**: "KASHU HOTEL"

7th Place: **Jerry Schimmel**: "THE MONARCH CARD MACHINE COMPANY"

*1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers receive Medals

A very grateful "Thank You" to everyone for your help and participation!

Dan Hipple

President

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society (PCNS)