

## PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2020

- February 26 .....Paul Turner, *Foreign Coins Minted in San Francisco*  
March 25.....*Speaker & Topic TBA\**  
April 22.....Jerry Schimmel, *Topic TBA*  
**April 22** .....**Deadline for 2020 Papers Content Submissions**  
May 27.....*Speaker & Topic TBA\**  
June .....**Summer BBQ, Date TBA**

\* See "Speak Up!" below

### SPEAK UP!

The new year brings new opportunities for you to make a presentation. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Email [webmaster@pcns.org](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org) to sign up.

### 2020 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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

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Visit [www.pcns.org](http://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](http://pcns.org) via this code.



## 1246<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



### Foreign Coins Minted in San Francisco *Paul V. Turner*

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 7:30 PM  
Fort Mason Center, Building C

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

## A 1907-S FIFTY CENTAVOS COIN?

Many people don't realize it, but for many years the United States Mint used its excess production capacity to mint coins for other countries. Officially authorized in 1874, virtually every branch mint produced foreign coins until 1984, when the excess minting capacity was rededicated to the production of commemorative coins.

Many of the issues did not have mint marks, so it's difficult to know how many of each were produced at a given facility. Some varieties with S mint marks appear below.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 26** at Fort Mason when Paul V. Turner presents on the topic "Foreign Coins Minted in San Francisco." Bring your foreign coins minted in a US facility. We'll also pick up the sharing that we missed at the January meeting.



1907-S 50 Centavos Filipinas



1944-S Australian Florin



1928-S El Salvador 1 Centavo

## JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Despite the lack of a video cable, David McCarthy gave a fascinating and detailed account of his theory about the origins of the venerable "Continental Dollar," allegedly the first coin minted by the authority of the United States, intended as a replacement for paper Continental Currency. That claim is the result of several papers published by a renowned numismatist beginning in the 1940s. It is still the official



position of organized numismatics, as reflected in the latest edition of *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (a.k.a. "The Red Book"). As such, it remains one of the most desirable issues in American numismatics.

As discussed in his presentation from October, 2019, David has extensively researched the Nova Constellatio patterns from 1783. In the course of this research, David discovered that the legend of the Continental Dollar is based on a series of discrepancies, leaps of logic, and omissions of fact that undermine the Continental dollar's status as the original American coin.

First, there are no records in the archives of the Continental Congress pertaining the authorization or production of the pieces. This would constitute a notable omission, given that the records of the Continental Congress are extensive and exist in multiple copies.

Second, most surviving Continental Dollars appear to have never circulated. This is particularly interesting since the majority were struck in pewter, a metal that is generally not conducive to coinage. A few were made in copper, and a small number in silver.

Finally, there is considerable contemporary evidence that these pieces were in fact struck in Europe as medals and sold as souvenirs, not issued by the financially strapped Continental Congress to prop up a vastly devalued paper currency.

David will have an article on this topic later this year in *The Numismatist*.

David's presentation ran a bit long, especially given the long question-and-answer period, so there was no time for member exhibits or the monthly drawing.

## WRITE NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2020 Papers Contest is the **April 22** meeting. **Important:** Refer to the publication section of pcns.org for the contest rules and our copyright policy.