

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
April 22, 2015

Board Meeting

President Miles called the meeting to order at about 7:10pm.

Board members present included: Stephen Huston, Herb Miles, Jerry Schimmel, and Dan Hipple.

Members present included Mary Lannin, Michael Wehner, Federico Castillo, Mark William Clark, Ken Takahashi, Bob Somers and Chris Donaldson.

The secretary's report was approved without changes and the treasurer's report showed a balance of \$16,849.07 after expenses and receipt of dues from Shevlin, Huston, Neald, Turrini, Carrigan, and Album plus medal orders from Turrini, Carrigan, and Hyder. There are now 24 Silver and 21 Copper medals ordered.

Dan discussed the status of the current round of papers; 4 judges have been tasked, Bill McIvor, Jeff Shevlin, Greg Burns and Lawrence Goldberg (?). The time frame for judging and results from the judges are due back by the 22nd of May.

Herb noted that we have given inscribed medals to speakers at our meetings in the past and should give one to David McCarthy who has agreed to speak at the Banquet. After a brief discussion, it was Michael moved and Ed seconded a proposal to give an inscribed medal to our Banquet speaker. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve noted that the PCNS website is now usable for medal orders through PayPal and we should determine if there are other items we can market through the website such as Jerry Schimmel's "Streets of San Francisco," leftover 100th meeting medals, or other materials. He noted that we should consider these uses in a more advanced discussion at a later date.

The Board then discussed the upcoming Banquet and the proposed venue, the Hotel Argonaut at Fisherman's Wharf. Herb, Michael and Jerry visited the site earlier in April and determined that it was the best option, being the least expensive and located at an historic site, co-located with the San Francisco Maritime Museum.

We had a lengthy discussion on the proposed contract and how to price the event. Steve noted that the contract did not have a per person price that was easily determined, but the minimum quoted meant a per person cost of approximately \$75 without considering any of the fundraising monies. Herb agreed and will query the hotel about any potential increases in costs and other questions that the contract did not answer.

Dan passed around a potential design of celebratory booklet of the event and received comments on changes, additions and deletions to make it better. Jerry wanted to see a larger version than the 8½ by 5½ inch example. Dan mentioned that he needed pictures of several former PCNS presidents, including Gordon and Whalen, among others. Several members suggested alternative sources for some of the missing photographs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned around 8:15pm.

General Meeting

President Herb Miles called the general meeting to order at 8:25 pm and summarized the Board meeting.

Members at the general meeting included Stephen Huston, Herb Miles, Jerry Schimmel, Dan Hipple, Mary Lannin, Michael Wehner, Federico Castillo, Mark William Clark, and Chris Donaldson, Bob Somers, and Ken Takahashi.

Federico then gave a very enjoyable talk on “Minor Cooper Keith, How to build a fortune through Railroads, Bananas, and Coffee” illustrating his presentation with various coffee plantation tokens.

Minor Keith was the nephew of Henry Meiggs, businessman from San Francisco who escaped to South America from the city a little before he was to be thrown in jail for swindling.

Meiggs began building railroads in South America and recouped his fortune by these endeavors. He was contracted to build a railroad in Costa Rica from San Jose in the center of the country to the Atlantic coast; after our very own John C Fremont defaulted on a contract to do the building. A railroad would greatly reduce the time and transportation costs of exporting Costa Rican coffee to Europe by eliminating the need for ships to sail around the bottom tip of South America.

Meiggs then enlisted his nephew to finish building the railroad, but needless to say, financial setbacks, disease, and misfortune dogged the project from start to finish. Keith through refinancing and determination finally completed the task and was rewarded by the Costa Rican government with leases on land along either side of the railroad line. He began growing bananas and other crops on this land making a lucrative business of exporting the yellow fruit, basically securing a monopoly on the South American banana export business.

After his own financial troubles Keith combined with the West Indies banana monopoly, the Boston Fruit Company, forming the United Fruit Company which then controlled the entire banana export industry.

Keith invested in other industries in Central and South America and became a very wealthy man, eventually returning to his birthplace in New York where he died in the early 1920's.

Exhibits:

Dan Hipple shared his Culebra Cut Panama Canal medal, copyright 1912.

Michael Wehner exhibited his outstanding Lucas, Private Eye San Francisco token showing a hound dog pictorial.

Mary Lannin shared a Demetrius I tetradrahm of uncertain issue, from Cilicia or Northern Syria

Chris Donaldson exhibited his Brandenburg ¼ Taler from 1622 which he had acquired from a recent Santa Clara coin show.

Raffle:

Federico Castillo won a boxed sterling silver medal inscribed "Nummus Memoriae" on one side and "Industriae Pro Integritate Naturae" on the reverse.

Bob won twice, a 1998 Kentucky Derby 3 medal set of bronze, antiqued bronze and plated bronze, plus a book donated by Ken Takahashi, "Certified Barber Coinage."

Mary won three (3) times; 2 books (also donated by Ken) including "Standing Liberty Quarters" and "Liberty Seated Dollars" and an Improvement Bond from Healdsburg, California containing six redeemed coupons.

Mark took home 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, and 1 dollar Military Payment Certificates.

Dan absconded with another donated book, "U.S. Type Coins."

Lastly, Chris won a grouping of ancient coins, some fake and some real, meaning Chris has work to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.