

PCNS Minutes for May 26, 2021

The board meeting for May 26, 2021 was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. Remote attendance included Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, past president Dan Hipple, Governors Paul Turner, Ed Treuting, and Bob Somers, as well as Michael Wehner, Bill Hyder, and Robert Jesinger.

The minutes for the May meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report for reporting period April 28-May 25, 2021 was approved.

2019-2020 Papers printing layout PDF by Michael is being completed. He is acquiring new higher quality images. Once completed, the board will discuss printing options, including possibly including the six papers for the 2021 contest.

Fall 2021 BBQ: Federico was nominated (and communicated his acceptance) of hosting the BBQ in September. The date is still to be determined.

Vacancies coming in 2022: Dan is planning on moving and downsizing his home, stepping away from the positions of Curator, Papers Project Manager, and Raffle Coordinator. The curatorial job includes storing dozens and dozens of bank boxes filled with items. This will be brought up to the membership in the future to get the positions filled.

Medals update: they are being worked on.

Adjournment 7:28 PM

At 7:31 PM, general meeting #1261 was called to order via Zoom. In attendance along with those from the board meeting were Herb Miles, Scott Safe, Dean Neald, Doug Ward, Don Kagin, Erik Frankenfeld, Harold Tuchman, Donald Hill, Greg Burns, Deven Kane, and Jeff Fung.

Financials remain in good order.

Our BBQ will be in September, exact date to be determined.

Back-up speakers for meetings are still needed- let Jason and Stephen know if you have one. We do have speakers set for June-August, and September will be the BBQ.

Featured speaker: Deven Kane from Chicago presented "Women Personified as the Nation or as Liberty on Coins"

Devin began with a mention of the well-known coins of ancient Athens, featuring Athena. She was an Olympian deity and not necessarily a personification just of the city of Athens. The rest of his talk was on more specific examples. Coins of the ancient world more often personified women, such as Roma for Rome, and Italia for Italy (when the city states were fighting Rome during the Social War). Hadrian travelled all over his empire, and his 'travel series' of coins depicted representations of the areas he visited: Hispania, Germania, Asia, etc. Most were women, but two male depictions were of Nilus (one of three Egyptian types) and Mauritania.

Occasionally an animal personified a region, as with a crocodile for Egypt. The Judea Capta coins Rome minted to commemorate the victory in Judea in 70 AD featured a mourning Jewess and also sometimes a standing male Jew who is bound- both representing the region that was captured.

An early depiction of Liberty was an issue of ancient Mysia featuring Eleutheria as the personification for the region, 'liberated' by Alexander the Great. The Roman Republic used Libertas to personify Liberty. And after the death of Nero, the "Year of Four Emperors", each succeeding ruler portrayed Libertas on his coins, wanting to be thought of as a liberator. As Rome became more of a dictatorship, Libertas became more of a farce. And around 300-400 AD the female deity died out due to Christianity taking over as the dominant religion.

The U.S. used personifications of Liberty from the very beginning. An interesting note about the image on the St Gaudens \$20 gold is that the model for the image was likely Hettie Anderson (1873-1938), an African American. The Sherman Monument in New York was the original St Gaudens depiction with Liberty, modelled after the Winged Victory (Nike) Greek sculpture in the Louvre.

The earliest U.S. coins featured Liberty and a cap. While often called a Phrygian cap (one with a floppy point on top), the first cap was actually a pileus- a simple smooth rounded cap without a point. The French chose to use a Phrygian cap for depictions of Liberty on Marianne since the French Revolution. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity were all depicted together on French coins, and it was French Liberty depiction on coins that went to Asia, South America, and elsewhere. Britannia was depicted on British coins, an image first personified with coins of Hadrian and updated over the years. Likewise, Spain used the depiction of Hispania also first seen with Hadrian and also updated periodically.

Deven's presentation featured a large variety of coin images and generated a good discussion afterwards. The talk was recorded for future viewing.

Member Exhibits:

Stephen showed an ancient Greek coin from Kyme, with a portrait of an Amazon (historical/mythical?) named Kyme, after whom the city was named; A Libertas coin of Galba, one of the rulers in the Year of Four Emperors; and a Urbs Roma coin featuring Roma representing Rome, with Remus and Romulus suckling the she-wolf on the reverse- and Constantinople being named on the inscription (having been minted there as well as Rome)

Charlie showed a tetradrachm of Athens with Athena/Owl, as well as a worn example with a test cut and a halved example; tetradrachm and drachm Athenian imitations from Philistia also with Athena/Owl; and an English 1790 pattern sixpence of George III featuring Britannia

Jeff showed us a 1904 St. Louis Exposition Award designed by Adolph Weinman. The allegorical figures are of Columbia (=America) draping an American flag over a Native American maiden (=Louisiana Territory) who had shed some of her French clothing

Michael showed several medals with women personifying nations, including one from the Mexican Centenary (produced by Tiffany); a French-minted medal for the Centennial of Chile (produced by Lalique); Independence of Congo; Liberty & Commerce token, and others

Herb showed us a recently acquired medal featuring George Floyd, which was the winner of the American Medal of the Year award from the American Medallist Sculptors Association. It was designed by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman. Here George Floyd represents Liberty in this cast bronze 95mm, 463gm medal. Herb also showed the second-place design for Medal of the Year with a pressed/bonded bronze medal featuring John Lewis.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS