



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
FEBRUARY, 2024

1294th Monthly Meeting

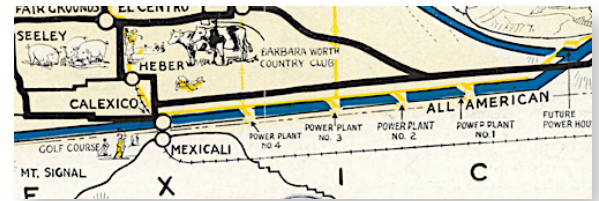
Tokens of the ABW Clubs of Mexicali, BC and Imperial County

John Duff

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 7:30 PM PST
Online

The twin cities of Calexico (Imperial County, California) and Mexicali (Baja California, Mexico) straddle the US/Mexico border. So it's not surprising that when Prohibition began in the United States (1920), drinking establishments across the border experienced a burst of

popularity. One such club was the A.B. & W. Club (The Owl) in Mexicali. The club was a combination saloon, dining room, and, it is rumored, brothel and gambling casino.



Join us online on Wednesday, February 28 when John Duff will discuss the tokens relating to this notorious club. Plan to exhibit your own favorite bar or brothel tokens, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



JANUARY MEETING RECAP

David McCarthy and Don Kagin have recently published the definitive guide to private and pioneer gold, America's Golden Era: Private & Pioneer Gold Coins 1768—1862. Don explained part of the fascination in pioneer gold coins: every one is different. He talked about his early family interests in pioneer gold. He did a PhD dissertation on the subject and published a book on it in 1981, which remains a standard reference today.

After forty years there were many new discoveries and many corrections needed. David joined Kagin's in 2003 and helped with diagnostic studies to make many of the discoveries. This all prompted them to jointly write a new book. It's not a second edition of the first book, but rather a new work based on chronological—not geographical—order.

It was shortened to have broader appeal, yet it includes population reports and many minting details. (continues...)

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm Pacific Time on the fourth Wednesday of most months. Currently, meetings are held online using the Zoom platform, thereby allowing members, presenters, and guests to attend no matter where they are located. Everyone with an interest in numismatics is welcome to attend. A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting; non-members can request a link by emailing webmaster@pcns.org.

Special occasions, such as the annual BBQ, will continue to occur in person.

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2024

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| February 28, 2024 | John Duff, <i>Tokens of the ABW Clubs of Mexicali, BC and Imperial County</i> |
| March 27, 2024..... | Speaker and Topic TBA* |
| April 24, 2024 | Speaker and Topic TBA* |
| April 24, 2024..... | Deadline for 2024 Papers Contest Submissions |
| May 22, 2024..... | Speaker and Topic TBA* |

SPEAK UP!

There are always opportunities for **you** to make a presentation. Thanks to Zoom, you don't even need to be in San Francisco. Your topic can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

JANUARY MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

From this introduction Don and David alternated talking about the complete chronologic order of pioneer gold. They began with Ephraim Brasher and his countermarked gold coins, followed by the Georgia gold rush, Carolina gold, Mormon gold, and finally gold coins from California, Oregon, and Colorado.

The excellent presentation was thorough, with more details than we can fit here. We encourage you to view this talk on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#) for more complete details.

JANUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Michael showed us photos of Bechtler's house in North Carolina, which is now a museum. He also shared a Miner's Bank \$10 pattern in copper.

Scott talked about Dan Carr's Moonlight Mint production of pioneer coin replicas. He mentioned an article discussing P & RR Smith vs. Conway dies.

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

PCNS will inaugurate a new competition in 2024. Following the general format of the annual Papers Competition, prizes will be awarded for the best presentation of the preceding calendar year. We will need two or three volunteers to serve as judges for the contest.

Judges will be expected to review the videos of all eleven presentations from the prior year, rating each one on several criteria to be finalized soon. Scores will be required to be submitted by April 30 so that prizes can be awarded at the annual BBQ in June.

If you are interested in being a judge for this new contest, please contact webmaster@pcns.org. Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation last year.

WRITE! NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2024 Papers Contest is the April 24 meeting. Important: Refer to the publication section of pcns.org for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

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