

To commemorate the final abolishment of bridge tolls, a London tobacconist issued the following 22 ½ mm, 5.24 gram advertising medallet:

Obverse: Facing left, the bust of the Prince. Around H.R.H.
PRINCE OF WALES

Reverse: PRESENTED BY H.O. HAMBORG WHOLESALE 7
RETAIL TOBACCONIST 30 GT. SMITH ST. WESTMINSTER
OPENED BY H.R.H. PRINCE OF WALES IN COMM OF
FREEING THE THAMES BRIDGES BY THE M.B.W. MAY 24,
1879

Now if only our legislature could free our bridges and do so in only two years. What does it mean?

H.R.H = His Royal Highness

COMM = A shortening of the word COMMEMORATE

M.B.W. = Metropolitan Bureau of Works

Prince of Wales = Prince Edward (later King Edward VII)

PCNS Sponsors

Many thanks to the following Sponsors of the Society for their generous financial support:

Paul Holtzman, Jerry Schimmel, Frank Strazzarino, Peter Barchuk and Robert Johnson

Late Breaking news: CSNA Symposium

The CSNA board has approved the PCNS proposal to host a third CSNA educational symposium in Northern California. The board expressed its gratitude to the Society and noted the high quality of the speakers. It also moved to change the funding level of the established Southern California to be similar to ours. With this move to a more standard financial picture, it appears that the future of the northern event is becoming secure. However, now is not the time to rest on our laurels, so come prepared to the next several meetings to contribute to this now well-respected affair.

On a personal note, many thanks to the PCNS members who supported me at the CSNA board meeting (MFW).



1031st meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38th Ave. San Francisco

Paul Holtzman

“Thomas Jefferson”

**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 194271 San Francisco, CA 94119-4271
www.pcns.org**

Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us this month to hear *Paul Holtzman* speak about Thomas Jefferson.

1030th Meeting – January 23, 2002

Arizona Trade Tokens - Phil Nordin (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)



Phil Nordin, half of the fabulous numismatic duo of Nordin and Nordin gave a splendid computerized slide presentation on Arizona trade tokens. Phil explained that Arizona became a state on February 14, 1912, so its citizens have a special regard for Valentine's Day, having been born on that lovely day!

Its capital is Phoenix, the state flower is the Saguaro Cactus, the state bird is the Cactus Wren, and its most plentiful natural resource is copper. As a matter of fact, when changing the mostly copper cent to mostly zinc was being debated in the late 1970s due to copper's increasing price, Arizona was vitally interested and tremendously upset when the composition changed.

Phil named numerous ways to collect the state's trade tokens; 1) by cities or towns, 2) the territorial period (1863-1912), 3) saloons, clubs, or pool halls, 4) private merchants, 5) military forts, 6) mining camps, 7) ghost towns, 8) celebrations or fiestas, and 9) by souvenirs and fantasy pieces.

A rarity scale was developed by Hal Birt, author of one of the trade token books. Ratings vary from R-1 (common, over 126 pieces) through R-10 (unique or nearly so).

One of the most popular fields is the "Indian Trader" tokens, such as one from the Hubbell Trading Post (Navajo Country) or one from the Tees-To Trading Company, or the Salina Springs Trade Coupon.

Another popular topic is the "Good For" piece, such as the Post Office Cigar Store, G/F 5C (a territorial piece), or the Arizona Automatic (vending), or the New Modern Dairy (milk), the AZ Pool Hall, G/F 5C, or perhaps the Buckeye School (lunch token).

And, of course, the military tokens are extremely popular with collectors, especially those from territorial days such as the piece relating to General Custer's 7th Cavalry, which apparently bivouacked in Arizona at Fort Grant with one lone token, a G/F 5C from Troop I proving their presence in the "Grand Canyon State."

Some of the most interesting pieces revolved around the Valentine's Day theme, tokens which are heart-shaped or have a cutout which is heart-shaped. Phil showed a number of these interesting pieces and noted that Arizonans are quite proud of this relationship and have celebrations and events where this theme is highlighted.

Freedom from Toll *Larry Reppeteau*



Until the late 1870's most of London's bridges spanning the English Thames River had been built as private enterprises and as such charged tolls for crossing. With the mid-nineteenth century explosive growth and industrialization of London, these tolls became a heavy burden on the working classes, many of whom lived on one side of the river and employed on the other. In fact, the London newspaper, "The Times" on May 24, 1879 estimated that for the average workman this amounted to an expenditure of 24 shillings per year.

In 1877 a bill was introduced and passed in Parliament to permit the London Metropolitan Board of Works to purchase these privately owned bridges. By late 1878, London's Wandsworth Bridge, Putney Bridge and the Hammersmith suspension bridge had been declared toll free. The Albert and Battersea bridges were then purchased to £170,000 and declared toll free early in 1879. On May 26, 1878, the Prince of Wales officiated at the official suspension of tolls ceremony.