

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2022

- February 23, 2022 William D. Hyder, *The Swiss Hotel: Hospitality for Swiss Immigrants in Santa Cruz, California*
March 23, 2022 Speaker and Topic TBA*
April 27, 2022 Speaker and Topic TBA*
April 27, 2022 Deadline for 2022 Papers Contest Submissions

* See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

There are several opportunities for **you** to make a presentation in the coming months. You don't need to be in San Francisco to present. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

PCNS MEETS IN PERSON AGAIN

In-person meetings of PCNS have resumed as of November, 2021. In accordance with Fort Mason policy, masks must be worn inside the building; PCNS expects that attendees are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. We will continue using the Zoom platform to enable those who are unable to be in San Francisco to join us for a meeting *and* to give a presentation! A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting.

2022 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- President Jason Macario
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Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 30 minutes before the membership meeting in the same location.

Bulletin Editor Jason Macario Webmaster Stephen Huston

CONTACTING AND PAYING PCNS

- Email messages to PCNS webmaster@pcns.org
PayPal address for PCNS money@pcns.org

PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers* (including the about-to-be-printed 2019 - 2021 *Papers*), get the latest *Bulletin*, or to check our meeting schedule.

Miss a meeting? Beginning with the May, 2020 Meeting, you can also view a recording of the presentation on our [YouTube channel](#), available through links from pcns.org! Use a QR scanner/reader to open pcns.org via this code.



Bulletin of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



1270th Monthly Meeting

The Swiss Hotel: Hospitality for Swiss Immigrants in Santa Cruz, California

William D. Hyder

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 7:30 PM

Fort Mason Center, Building C

and

Online

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

CHOCOLATE? SAINT BERNARDS?

Sometimes, your beleaguered editor is only given the title and one or two images of an upcoming presentation. Such is the case this month.

So, we punt. Cursory research reveals a business in Santa Cruz, California called The Swiss Hotel in the late 19th and early 20th century.

One article from June 30, 1885 *Santa Cruz Surf* reports that The Swiss Hotel's proprietor, John Folletta, had been missing since June 23rd. His friends presumed that he was the victim of foul play and offered a \$25 reward for the recovery of his body. Interestingly, it took until April 30, 1887 for a notice that interest in the venture had been transferred from Folletta & Co to a new firm.

Then there's the story of a young Swiss immigrant who, quite dramatically, committed suicide on the street outside of the hotel's bar in December of that same year. Like a good American, he used his Winchester rifle.

At that point, said editor very nearly fell into the rabbit-hole of internet research, so research was halted. After all, there was a *Bulletin* to put together!

Join us on **Wednesday, February 23** when Bill Hyder will clarify how The Swiss Hotel provided hospitality for Swiss immigrants. Did Saint Bernards bring them chocolate? (Note: The dogs did not carry brandy in casks around their necks while on rescue missions, since alcohol is not an appropriate cure for hypothermia.). Bring your appropriate items to share. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

Please note: Fort Mason requires that masks be worn in all indoor spaces, including our meeting room. In addition, we expect that meeting attendees will be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Doug Ward gave a well-researched presentation of his research on the origins of the 1922 High Relief Matte Proof Peace Dollar. Nobody knows for sure how they were "liberated" from the mint, but he has a good idea. Doug mostly talked about the first three known specimens.

Per Q. David Bowers, the Wayte Raymond specimen was "found" in the collection of the Connecticut/NYC dealer. We do not know why he did not reveal it to Walter Breen (as of Breen's 1961 article). Don Taxay did not mention it either. It was first revealed by a 1970's NYC dealer twenty years



WRITE NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2022 Papers Contest is the **April 27** meeting. **Important:** Refer to the publication section of pcns.org for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

after Raymond passed away.

Doug then proceeded to document various sales and auctions the piece was in, starting in a 1974 Bowers and Merena auction. There were several other offerings, apparently not selling. It wasn't until a 2015 Goldberg's sale that it did sell for \$250,000. But the coin had been dipped/cleaned, as revealed by comparison photos from before and after which matched the coin. The cleaning process resulted in a huge increase in value. But that would never have happened with something like an 1804 dollar (which is more common than the 1922 Proof Peace Dollar)!

Doug then discussed the Zerbe Specimen, likely acquired in 1922 directly from Chief Engraver George T. Morgan. Being labeled a "pattern", it was legal to own (as of a 1910 court ruling). Doug also mentioned the Rhodes specimen and went on to show the eleven currently known examples. Interestingly, almost every example entered as a single item and not from a large collection. This helps with Doug's theory that Farran Zerbe gave them to individuals. We know he gave special strikes of the 1921-S Morgan Dollar to PCNS members.

Hopefully more digging will find out where the 1922 Matte Proof Peace Dollars really originated.

We invite you to watch Doug's full presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

JANUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Michael: A City Steam Bakery token, good for 1 loaf of bread. It is one of two known, both of which were found in Nevada (as San Francisco tokens often are). As there is no identification on the token as to origin, Michael documented his search, starting with an 1896 San Francisco Call mention of a bakery by that name- but aluminum was not used as tokens back then due to its relative rarity at the time. He eventually traced the likely bakery location to one in the Mission District at 24th and Alabama Streets.

Doug displayed an encased peace dollar. It was a 1940 advertising piece for Red Curtice Buick Dealers. Curtice was the president of GM at the time.

Scott talked about the Christian Brothers Mont La Salle retreat in Napa. He showed their 1958 California State Fair Award Medal for dry vermouth. Michael added that Scott's medal was the last in the series of State Fair Medals produced.