

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
May 27, 2015

### Board Meeting

President Miles called the meeting to order at about 7:00pm.

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

Members present included Michael Wehner, Ken Takahashi, and Jason Macario.

The secretary's report was approved as distributed and the treasurer's report showed a balance of \$16,798.94 after expenses. An additional \$296.23 was in the PayPal account. There are now 28 Silver and 25 Copper medals ordered.

Jeff Shevlin formally became a member and Robert Jessinger applied to be a member.

The board discussed the draft 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet to be distributed at the banquet. The printing estimate is approximately \$600 for 100 copies. The group proof read the document and offered suggestions for changes.

The board approved ordering a blank die to strike award medals from the new logo die.

The final order numbers for medals will be determined in early July by an email vote of the board.

The Recorder was asked to send an invitation to the June 20 bbq at Dan Hipple's with a request for a \$10 contribution from those attending. Side dishes or desserts are welcome.

The board set the banquet price at \$45 with the rest being paid by the Society from donations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned around 7:55.

### General Meeting

President Herb Miles called the general meeting to order at 8:00 pm and summarized the Board meeting.

Members at the general meeting included Stephen Huston, Herb Miles, Jerry Schimmel, Dan Hipple, Michael Wehner, Ed Treuting, Jason Macario, and Ken Takahashi.

Michael Wehner presented his talk, **The Folsom Asparagus Gin Company**.

The appearance of an unlisted token for Asparagus Gin raised a question as to whether it was genuine and what exactly it was advertising. The appearance of a second token on eBay sparked the quest to discover its history. The names Asparagus Gin, Folsom Brand, and Rothenberg Co. offered clues.

A number of Rothenbergs were involved in liquor businesses in San Francisco, but one became the Rothenberg Co. in 1901. The company moved to the address on the token in 1910.

In 1901, Norman Folsom was a winemaker at St. George Vineyard in San Francisco. In 1908, he is listed as a rectifier, cutting or infusing distilled spirits to create a new product. Business news reported that 50,000 pounds of asparagus was used in making distilled spirits in the city and a patent is granted to the Folsom Asparagus Gin Co. in 1917 for their process.

Given the onset of Prohibition not long after, the token likely dates to the 1917-1918 period.

Exhibits:

Bill Hyder shared Dan Carr medals recently produced including three he struck at the Moonlight Mint.

Herb Miles shared an unusual Afro American medal and an altered 1914 – D cent (added D).

Ed Treuting shared a United Way medal with the Brewster Island lighthouse in Massachusetts.

Dan Hipple shared a sample PCGS slab with a 1964 Roosevelt dime.

Michael Wehner shared the Asparagus Gin token.

Raffle:

Bill Hyder won the new book, San Francisco's Jewel City.

Jason Macario won a leather postcard of the San Francisco mint from 1908 and North American Aviation stocks with tokens.

Ed Treuting won a 1986 San Francisco Proof Statue of Liberty half dollar.

Dan Hipple won a print of Roman medallions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.