



# Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

Post Office Box 475656, San Francisco, CA 94147-5656

• Founded 1915 • A Non-profit Educational Corporation •

## Minutes of the PCNS Meetings of April 27, 2016

*Status — Approved as revised at the May 25th meeting*

### Board Meeting

President Bill Hyder called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Officers present: Bill Hyder (President), Mary Lannin (VP), Stephen Huston (Recorder), Governors Jason Macario, Bob Somers, and Herb Miles (Past President), along with members Michael Wehner and Dan Hipple (Curator/Archivist).

The March meeting Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were accepted without change as distributed via email. The Recorder also noted that Steve Album has since paid his 2016 dues, but Jack Free was dropped from the the Active list at the beginning of April.

Papers Contest: this meeting was the deadline (4 papers received).

BBQ: Saturday, June 25th at Dan's place. (Several members paid for tickets.)

The Newman Numismatic Portal has been sent some recent PCNS Bulletins in PDF format, and we are waiting to see how those are handled before deciding what other materials we might submit.

Federico Castillo will speak in May; we need speakers for July and later.

The ANA has invited a PCNS representative to attend their convention banquet on August 12 in recognition of 100 years of ANA Membership. President Hyder asked that those who can attend should plan to represent PCNS as a group for this ceremony.

This unusually short Board Meeting was adjourned after just 10 minutes at 7:16 PM.

### General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Hyder. In addition to those at the Board meeting, attendees included members Mark Wm Clark, Chris Donaldson, and Ken Takahashi. Former member Catz Forsman was present as a guest.

#### Program by Jason Macario:

*The 1906 Earthquake and Fire: how saving the Old Mint saved San Francisco*

Jason was a docent at the Old Mint Museum, and came prepared with a presentation full of fascinating early images of the Mint and the city, along with a wealth of historic detail. He noted that, as the first US state west of Missouri, California, and the boom town of SF were particularly isolated from the rest of the US economy. The town of 1,000 in 1848 swelled to over 20,000 by

1850 due to the discovery of gold. Any form of world precious metal coinage passed as money in area.

The US approved a mint in 1852, and it opened in 1854. During its first 20 years, the SF Mint struck 44% of all gold coinage produced in the US, including all other branch mints. In 1874, the Old Mint at 5th and Mission was opened. It's architect, Alfred B. Mullett, was aware of previous SF fires and some risks of earthquake, so he designed the building to withstand both and to be defensible as a fortress.

When the 7-point earthquake struck in 1906, a small night crew was in the Mint, but another 50 employees and 10 soldiers soon arrived to protect the mint and the \$330,000,000 in gold being held in its vaults.

An artesian well located in the mint's courtyard allowed them to soak the building during the hours of firefighting, and, later, it provided fresh water for residents during the disaster's aftermath.

The days of fire burned nearly everything around the mint structure, and most of the buildings which appear to be standing in contemporary photos were actually completely gutted by fire. The Mint was the only usable government building in town after the disaster, and it served as the city bank and distribution center for food, water, and clothing for some time thereafter. The mint opened accounts without requiring proof of existing accounts in banks, because almost all banking records had been destroyed.

Coinage production at the mint during 1906 was comparable to other years in this period. However, while the 1906-S gold coins can be found in top grade, the silver 50¢ coin is rarely available uncirculated. (It was probably distributed locally and much in demand for circulation during the city's recovery.)

**Member Exhibits, with VP Mary Lannin leading the presentations:**

Jason — 1906-S coinage set in mint state, but missing the 50¢

Mary — 5 tetradrachms of Antiochus the Great showing various stages of his portraiture, including a barbarous imitation

Dan — a souvenir badge for an unidentified SF gathering of August 11–16, 1930, Argentine 1915 PPIE medal, and a Mechanics Institute medal

Bill — a selection of 1906 souvenir medals showing views of the Cliff House, Post Office, and Earthquake ruins, along with a badge of 3 medals, and a 1908/9 New Years/Recovery souvenir

Mike — 1794 Conder Token of the Franklin Press in England

Bob — book: Gold by Matthew Hart (which he donated to the drawing)

Herb — 1708 seige coin: 20 sous from Lille

Ken — 1883 Hawaiian dollar coin and several Hawaiian stamps

**Drawing:**

Winners included: Dan (1891 SF RR booklet), Mary (magnifier donated by Dan), Jason (Royal Mint £5 commemorative and an Aeroflot medal), Chris (gold book donated by Bob), and Bob (1992 Year of the Rooster stamp set and a 1971 40% Silver Ike dollar). The drawing brought in \$31, and Herb Miles submitted a bill for \$25 for drawing prizes, which was approved and paid.

(Recorder's note: there was much discussion about the drawing as a budget item a decade ago, and the consensus at that time was that drawings should be continued as long as they at least broke even on average due to their popularity among attendees. The drawings are tracked as a separate budget item, which so far in 2016 is \$41 ahead in income.)

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.

*Submitted by Stephen Huston, PCNS Recorder*