



*Bulletin of the*  
**PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**  
**JANUARY, 2024**

**1293<sup>rd</sup> Monthly Meeting**

**America's Golden Era: Private and Pioneer Gold Coins**

**Donald Kagin & David McCarthy**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 7:30 PM PST  
Online**



What happens when there's insufficient circulating coinage to meet the demands of commerce? Often, the private sector will step up and issue private coins to fill the gap. This situation has happened repeatedly in the history of the United States, most notably during various gold rushes (Southern Appalachia in the 1830s, California in 1848-54, Colorado in 1860, to name just a few). Private and Territorial (a.k.a. Pioneer) coinage is a vibrant area of collecting.



Join us online on **Wednesday, January 24** when **Don Kagin and David McCarthy** give a presentation based on their recently-published book, *America's Golden Era: Private & Pioneer Gold Coins 1768—1862*. Plan to exhibit your own favorite Private or Pioneer gold, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

**DECEMBER MEETING RECAP**

**Federico Castillo** collects several different topical kinds of tokens, mostly from Costa Rica and often related to businesses like coffee and bananas. And he collects tokens from the California lumber industry. He briefly described the main types of forest trees and gave a Northern California logging timeline beginning in 1851 with Henry Meiggs and his logging camp.

Most California lumber companies were financed from the East Coast or the American South. There were two main sectors of logging: Coastal/Northern, which included some counties on the coast; and Interior Northern which did not have any coastal counties. But there were similarities with the two sectors. To transport lumber, they used railroads, inclines, water, and plumes, as well as some horse/mule drawn teams. The companies were the most important or sole owner of the logging town, owning the company store, churches, recreation halls, etc. This was important for keeping the workers in place as sometimes labor supply became a big issue.

Federico stated that lumber tokens shared the same elements as tokens of other industries like mining, sugar cane, bananas, and coffee. He then showed us a nice selection of his collection. Some of the lumber companies were huge, like the 600,000-acre McCloud River Lumber Company. Other notable companies in his collection were Hutchinson, Weed, Anderson, and Red River Lumber.

In conclusion, Federico discussed some reasons for the decline of the lumber industry. There were several questions at the end of this excellent presentation. We encourage you to watch Federico's talk on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS**

As announced at the December meeting, we have received new member applications from **Toti Paliza** of San Francisco and his sister **Miralyn Sarino** of the Philippines. Per PCNS bylaws, Toti and Miralyn will become Active Members at the **January 24** meeting.

## 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](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org).

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

## PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2024

**January 24, 2024** .....**Donald Kagin and David McCarthy, *America's Golden Era: Private and Pioneer Gold Coins***  
**February 28, 2024** .....**John Duff, *Tokens of the ABW Clubs of Mexicali, BC and Imperial County***  
**March 27, 2024** .....**Speaker and Topic TBA\***  
**April 24, 2024** .....**Speaker and Topic TBA\***  
**April 24, 2024** .....**Deadline for 2024 Papers Contest Submissions**

## 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](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org) to sign up.

## DECEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

**Charlie C** showed two items. First was a tiny 6mm silver coin from Cilicia, 4th century BC, with a Janiform head (conjoined heads, facing opposite directions), and nice detail for such a small coin. Next was a medal being produced for the Redwood Empire Coin Club's 75th Anniversary in March, featuring a bear on the obverse and a giant redwood tree in a grove on the reverse.

**Bill** showed us an 1880 Oregon souvenir logging medal. His grandfather was a logger, and he described details of growing up around small logging towns.

**Michael** showed two art medals with forests. The first depicted a French castle with a wooded pathway. The other French medal depicted trees forming a hollow path/tunnel.

## WRITE! NOW!

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

## 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](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org). Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation last year.

**Doug** showed his 1882 California Gold charm depicting the Man in the Moon and a star. It is a "Period 2 charm" not used as fractional currency. But it was a beautiful design which several members commented on, and more is to be learned about the origin of the design.

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