



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
APRIL, 2024

1296th Monthly Meeting

Omaha Coincidental (featuring the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Expo)

Douglas Ward

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 7:30 PM PDT
Online**

In 1898, the bustling city of Omaha, Nebraska played host to the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Un-trigger alert: “trans” in this context refers to the lands on the western side of the Mississippi River. The Expo was held to celebrate the tremendous progress in the U.S. territory between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean over the preceding half-century.

Join us online on **Wednesday, April 24** when **Douglas Ward** gives a presentation on the Expo. Personally, I’m hoping he will deliver on the pun in the title of his talk. Plan to exhibit your own favorite Exposition tokens, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



MARCH MEETING (SHARE-A-PALOOZA) RECAP

Stephen began the talks with several items. First was his main interest in collecting- ancient coins of the Ptolemies. A nice 2-ounce bronze he showed was reportedly used in the first coin-operated vending machine, which would have dispensed a small amount of ritual holy water. The trouble was the report of this ‘machine’ was from 300 years later, when that large denomination was not around anymore- but a smaller denomination would have likely worked. Stephen also talked a bit about the gold ‘Sponsianus’ coin that was much written about in the last year, as well as want lists from past customers for coins that did not exist: a non-existent Constantine die combination, and a coin “touched” by Joan of Arc!

Charlie C started his talk with a Roman Republican denarius he does not own (yet), using it to explain an obverse brockage of that coin he does have. Several other ancient brockages were also shown.

John showed us an English Old Price Riot Token, all about John Philip Kembal- manager of the Covent Garden Theater (one of two main London theaters). After that theater burned down (along with the other one), the costly rebuilt theater had proposed higher costs, causing riots in 1809 that lasted three months. One of the legends on John’s token was “This is the Jew, Which Shakespeare drew” a reference to Shylock and the mask with mule ears the token’s portrait displayed.

Bill told how he spent his March vacation in Colorado. He managed to drive with Jeff Shevlin to Colorado Springs for the show despite surrounding snow, and he showed a copper-plated lead Dickerson trial cent (a later produced version) which he could not pass up purchasing. He met with the So-Called Guys and got a VIP tour of the Denver Mint (no photos allowed). He was fortunate enough to meet the U.S. Mint director there (photo allowed for that).

Charlie L showed us three New York University Hall of Fame medals and told of their history. One was a “keystone” medal from 1960, 82mm. The other two were 44mm silver and bronze John Philip Sousa medals.

Doug went to the A.N.A. show and appreciated the gathering. He talked about three Columbus and pilgrim medals. First, the 1892 Columbian Expo half dollar in MS 66 PL bought at a very reasonable price. The others were the 1892 Landing and Return of Columbus and the 1870 Pilgrim Jubilee medals.

Ed showed us the first coin he bought, an 1800 large cent in AG condition, still in its original holder marked 30¢, from around age 14. He showed us how he figured which variety it was. He also showed an 1802 large cent his father *found* under the floorboard of a New Jersey house long ago and was also able to identify the variety of the cent (which was also in ~AG condition). *(continues...)*

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.

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

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2024

April 24, 2024Doug Ward, *Omaha Coincidental (featuring the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Expo)*

April 24, 2024**Deadline for 2024 Papers Contest Submissions**

May 22, 2024Michael Wehner, *Medals of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute*

June 22, 2024**PCNS Summer BBQ**

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 to sign up.

Federico showed us three denominations of bronze tokens from Costa Rica, two having countermarks of the token's maker. He also had two of the three denominations in copper, with evidence they were specimens (but not listed in the catalog by Rulau). He recently purchased all three *copper* denominations at auction. They were encapsulated but listing the bronze Rulau number even though they are un-numbered copper specimen examples. His dilemma: keep them in the erroneous slabs, re-submit and risk lower/incorrect labels, etc. He then showed us coins with Cuba lattice, Costa Rica, and J T Jones countermarks- explaining the journey the coins made to get the marks.

Jeff talked about two Dutch medals. He noted that most countries have depicted the Liberty Cap in the same way except for Holland, where it is depicted somewhat like a fedora. It was seen on his 1782 medal of Friesland Recognizing the United States and his 1785 Treaty of Fontainebleau medal.

Henry told us about his medal storage solutions. He began collecting with Goetz medals, then added others. Storage went from a simple wood cabinet to a large geology cabinet to the personal cabinet of Carl Goetz purchased from his grandson and shipped to the U.S.

Mike M talked about his Mexican acquisitions which bracketed the 1910-1920 period of the Mexican Revolution. The first was a medallion commemorating the 1909 meeting of US President Taft and the Mexican President Diaz at Juarez, Mexico. Diaz was in exile in Paris within 18 months of this meeting. The second piece was a 1926 rebel medallion used in the Cristero Rebellion that tore Mexico apart for several years.

Finally, **Jason** told three stories related to his years from 2003-2015 at the San Francisco Historical Society and trying to turn the Old (2nd) San Francisco mint into a museum. His 1875-S \$20 coin was from the Saddle Ridge hoard found in California. That was the first full year the second SF mint was in full operation. Next was an 1870-S \$10 coin. That year the cornerstone was laid for the mint, and coins of every denomination (plus a few unique denominations) were included in a casket. Nobody knows where that was placed. Finally, he showed a 1901-S \$20 coin, from the year 1500 gold pieces were stolen and never recovered. He *could* claim this was one of them...

Each installment of the sharing is presented separately on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

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