



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
NOVEMBER, 2024

1303rd Monthly Meeting
The Worst Coin Portraits in History
Stephen Huston

Wednesday, November 27, 2024, 7:30 PM PDT
Online

Since (at least) the time of Alexander The Great, coins have frequently featured images of important figures. For example, British coins have featured an portrait of the current monarch for centuries. Circulating United States coins only began featuring portraits in 1909; previous representations were of Lady Liberty.



Some of these portraits have been, shall we say, unflattering images of their subjects. Whether produced by untalented engravers, poor striking techniques, or subtle defiance, there are ample examples throughout history.

Join us online on **Wednesday, November 27** when **Stephen Huston** will reveal his picks of the worst coin portraits ever, including the coin shown at the left. Plan to exhibit your unflattering portrait coins, or your latest acquisition. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

Speaker Ricardo De León Tallavas talked about the most famous coin of the Mexican Revolution, the “MUERA HUERTA” silver pesos. He reviewed a history of the revolution beginning in 1910. In 1913 Victoriano Huerta became president after a coup that imprisoned and executed the current president Madero and his vice president. He was aided by Mexican military generals and the U.S. Ambassador and was hated by most Mexicans because of his treacherous assassination of Madero.

This led to the minting of a peso coin with the motto “MUERA HUERTA” (“Death to Huerta”). Fascinating details about the crude design, who minted it and where it was minted, gold fantasy pieces made later, and legends about the coin were discussed. For a hundred years, the legend about the origin of the coin was that Pancho Villa had ordered the pesos to be minted.

An amazing discovery of a primary document tucked into a book previously owned by a Los Angeles dentist (and Father of Mexican Numismatics) Dr. Alberto F. Pradeau allowed Ricardo to make important determinations about these coins. The document proved conclusively that Pancho Villa did not order the MUERA HUERTA pesos to be minted, rather the pesos had been initiated by a different revolutionary warlord. There was an interesting discussion after his talk about various details of the coins and events..

You can view Ricardo’s presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm 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 2024-25

November 27, 2024	Stephen Huston: <i>The Worst Coin Portraits in History</i>
December 18, 2024	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2025; Greg Bennick: <i>Error Coins: We Love When Things Go Wrong</i>
January 22, 2025	Jeff Pritchard: <i>The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition</i>
February 26, 2025	<i>Speaker and Topic TBA*</i>

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. **Don't delay! We need you!**

OCTOBER MEMBER EXHIBITS


Michael W started off the exhibits with a 1910 Mexican Independence Centennial Medal in silver, made by Tiffany & Co. He also showed a Mexican War New York Volunteer medal that had been engraved.

Bill showed us a 1944 anti-Hitler pinback. It was mechanical: pull down on a small lever and see Hitler rise hanging from a noose. It is likely a later reproduction of the original, but still an interesting item.

John showed us some new unlisted tokens from Holtville and Imperial, CA.

Ed showed the 230th Anniversary of the Flowing Hair

ADD YOUR NAME HERE!

 Add your name to this list by joining the PCNS Board of Governors! Thanks to Zoom, you don't even need to be in San Francisco. Nominations are open until the December 18th meeting. You can nominate yourself at any time before the meeting.

design medal, silver dollar sized. He just received it and was only able to order a single piece. The mint sold out of that one quickly. He also showed us a Hull Gala Day/ Boston Light House medal with a ribbon.

Mike M showed us a few Mexican silver proof one ounce bullion coins with Aztec designs, and Ricardo was able to help describe the design figures.

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

With 2025 approaching, it's time to start work on the next Presentation Competition. Prizes will be awarded for the best presentation of the preceding calendar year. We will need three volunteers to serve as judges for the contest.

Judges will be expected to review the videos of all eleven presentations from 2024, rating each one on several criteria. 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. Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation in 2024.

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Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 15 minutes before the membership meeting.

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