



*Bulletin of the*  
**PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**  
**AUGUST, 2025**

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**1312<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting**  
**A Visit to the Mint in Mexico City**  
**Michael Wehner & Federico Castillo**  
**Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 7:30 PM PDT**  
**Online**

The title of the oldest mint in the Americas goes to the Casa de Moneda de México in Mexico City (commonly referred to as the Mexico City Mint). Spain established the mint in 1535, nearly 500 years ago. Production moved to San Luis Potosí in 1983.

Join us online on **Wednesday, August 27** when **Michael Wehner** and **Federico Castillo** will give a presentation about the Casa de Moneda de México. Whether it's a virtual tour or a retelling of the history of this venerable institution, is the mystery for this month..

Plan to exhibit your own Mexico City coins or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



### **JULY MEETING RECAP**

We each think of money as a “means of account.” In many countries it is called it a dollar, but that has different values in the US, Canada, and other nations using that monetary denomination name.

The concept of barter being the main means of exchange in ancient times is a myth espoused by a man named Adam Smith (you may have heard of him!) in the late 1700s which mostly persists to this day. Stephen’s well-researched talk about means of exchange from the earliest times busts this myth. Dating back at least 10,000 years, business transactions were mostly a recording of transactions of items in accounts based on fixed weight values of silver and/or grain , and not directly from barter. Hundreds of thousands of ancient cuneiform account transactions survive to confirm this. It wasn’t until ~700 BCE that coins first appeared and became a money of account , first by Greeks with the drachma, then Romans with the libra and denarius, and later replaced in Byzantine times with continually watered-down valuations. Coins were mostly absent in the “Dark Ages”, but silver was the used as the standard value of accounting. From medieval times on, coins again became to be used as “money”. Stephen discussed the progression of ‘money’ to modern times, even including digital currency.

To fully appreciate Stephen’s masterful presentation, you should view a recording of it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

### **JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS**

**Charlie** showed items from his collection that tied in with Stephen’s talk. First was a variety of ancient scale weights, which were used on one side of the balance scale, followed by hacksilber (cut pieces of silver) and ancient crescent shaped jewelry (another means of exchange) on the other side of the balance scale. Next were five cut pieces of coins found in the land of Israel, but originating as far away as Athens each cut into a section and used for its weight in silver rather than as a coin.

**Michael W** went to a seminar at the A.N.A. on French Medals, which discussed and showed medals of Augustin Dupre, Louis-Oscar Roty, Louis-Alexandre Bottee, and others. After retiring he went to Croatia, *(continues...)*

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).

# PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2025

## SPEAK UP!

### JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS (CONT'D)

