



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
DECEMBER, 2025

1316th Monthly Meeting
Collecting French Jettons
William D. Hyder

and

Election of Officers and Governors for 2026

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 7:30 PM PST
Online



Jettons (or jetons) are typically small, round, metallic counting pieces used in medieval times. In conjunction with counting boards, jettons functioned much like the beads on an abacus. The eternal question is: Are jettons coins? Are they tokens? Are they their own category of exnumia?

Join us online on **Wednesday, December 17** when PCNS Vice President ~~Santa Claus~~ **Bill Hyder** may very well resolve that conundrum. Plan to exhibit your own jettons, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Jeff Pritchard gave a very interesting talk on the life and works of France's premier medalist, Jules-Clement Chaplain (1839-1909). M. Clement was venerated during his lifetime for his artistry and for being a major force in the Art Nouveau Movement, now he is largely overlooked.

Born in 1839, Chaplain enrolled in the *Ecole de Beaux Arts* as a sculptor. By 1863 he won the *Prix de Rome*, leading to formal studies in Italy. He became the official medalist of France in 1877, designing presidential medals along with the French 5-franc and 10-franc gold coins in 1895. He created a medal commemorating a visit by Tsar Nicholas and Tsarina Alexandria in 1896, widely considered his finest work.

Chaplain's period of greatest productivity coincided with loosening government control of medal production. Advancements in technology fostered greater creativity and artistic expression, while increased discretionary income fostered interest in them. Thus, more and more institutions and individuals could commission medals, and museums and medal societies were able to collect medals.

Chaplain was one of the progenitors of the Art Nouveau movement, which replaced classical

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

We have received a new member application from **Trevor Hartsell** of San Francisco, CA. Per PCNS bylaws, Trevor will become an Active Member at the **January 28** meeting.

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

As 2025 comes to an end, 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 ten recorded presentations from 2025, rating each one on several criteria. Scores will be required to be submitted by April 15 so that prizes can be awarded at the annual BBQ.

If you are interested in being a judge for this contest, please contact webmaster@pcns.org. Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation in 2025.

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm Pacific Time on the fourth Wednesday of most months. 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 2025-26

December 17, 2025 **Annual Meeting** and **Election of Officers** for 2026, **Bill Hyder**: *Collecting French Jettons*
January 28, 2026 **Federico Castillo**: *Topic TBA*
February 25, 2026 **Stephen Huston**: *Topic TBA*
March 25, 2026 *Speaker and Topic TBA*
April 22, 2026 *Speaker and Topic TBA*

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.

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

themes with more naturalistic, organic forms. Motifs included plants and insects, and the focus extended to the natural flow of such things as women's hair, clothing, and drapery. Thus, the hallmark of Chaplain's work was its simplicity, truthful portraits, and exquisite ability to capture the subject's mood, often reflected in the model's hair and clothing.

Approximately 250 examples of Chaplain medals and plaquettes are known. Jeff showed fine examples of six different phases of his work.

To fully appreciate Jeff's excellent presentation, view a recording of it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

NOVEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill Hyder showed and talked about two medals that he is researching. We will learn more in due course.


Michael Wehner showed a selection of 6 Chaplain medals in his collection. Two of them were presidential medals and one was a rare porcelain medal.

Charlie Ludwig showed a FIDEM medal that was 100mm diameter and 22 mm thick. It was a grand prix medal and had a unique bust of an engraver with the shapes of coins emerging from the top of his head.

Doug Ward showed two religious medals from 1922, products of the Kissing Co., Germany. One commemorated the 300th anniversary of the canonization of St. Theresa. The other celebrated Pope Pius XI.

Stephen Huston shared a very touching WWI remembrance medal. It was created by Josue Dupon, a Belgian sculptor, and commemorated the halting of the German Army in WWI and the preservation of Western Civilization.

LAST CALL: 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 17th meeting. You can nominate yourself at any time before the vote takes place at the meeting.

2025 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President Jason Macario
Vice President William Hyder
Secretary Charlie Catlett
Treasurer Stephen Huston
Governors Mike McDaniel, Bob Somers, Ed Treuting
Past President Daniel Hipple
Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 15 minutes before the membership meeting.
Bulletin Editor Jason Macario
Webmaster Stephen Huston

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PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers*, get the latest *Bulletin*, or to check our meeting schedule.

You can also view a recording of most recent presentations on our [YouTube channel](#), available through links from pcns.org! Use a QR scanner/reader to open pcns.org via this code.

