



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
OCTOBER, 2025

1314th Monthly Meeting
Ludwig Gies: Munich Period Cast Art Medals
Henry Scott Goodman
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 7:30 PM PDT
Online



Ludwig Gies

Readers may be experiencing a touch of *déjà vu* at the moment. I know that I am, but it's the good kind.

Back in May, Henry Scott Goodman gave a memorable presentation on the work of Ludwig Gies. Unfortunately, we were not able to record the program for posterity, due to the fact that it was a work in progress slated for a formal presentation in 2026. That restriction has since been lifted.

Ludwig Gies (1887-1966) was a German sculptor and medallist. He specialized in numerous media, and was perhaps best known for a scandalous carved wood crucifix from 1922 and a large Federal Eagle created for the Bundestag in 1953.



1912 Gewerbeschau München Medal

Join us online on **Wednesday, October 22** when **Henry Scott Goodman** will give an updated encore presentation on Gies' work during the period of 1910 to 1917 when he lived in his native city of Munich. Plan to exhibit your own Gies pieces, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

The topic of our September meeting was the story of aluminum pattern coins struck by the United States Mint in the late 19th Century, presented by Doug Ward.

Doug began his presentation with a review of aluminum. It was known in ancient Egypt from the use of alum, and had other uses in a natural mineral form. The element was isolated in 1825, but was very costly to produce and had properties that made it difficult to use for coinage.

The U.S. Mint struck its first aluminum coin in 1855, producing the unique half dollar. And from then on things got interesting. Mint leaders Archibald Loudon Snowden, Henry Richard Lindeman, and others became involved in minting patterns in aluminum (and other metals). From 1866 and on, the specious striking of patterns began in earnest. Several scandals arose, and Doug carefully outlined the entire history of the saga of U.S. Mint patterns struck in aluminum.

After this portion of his presentation, Doug presented facts on the minting of the 1804 dollars, including a recently 'discovered' sixteenth specimen soon to be auctioned.

To fully appreciate this thoroughly researched presentation, you should view a recording of it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

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

October 22, 2025	Henry Scott Goodman: <i>Ludwig Gies: Munich Period Cast Art Medals</i>
November 19, 2025	Jeff Pritchard: <i>The Medals of Jules Chaplain</i>
December 17, 2025	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2026, Speaker and Topic TBA*
January 28, 2026	Federico Castillo: <i>Topic TBA</i>
February 25, 2026	Stephen Huston: <i>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.

SEPTEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill Hyder shared four items: First, an aluminum token from People's Home Savings Bank in San Francisco, with the Lord's Prayer on the reverse. That bank closed in 1893, dating his token. Second was an aluminum Mardi Gras token that was a "mega piedfort" - about 20 X the thickness of most such tokens! Third was a personal aluminum nugget token made for Bill by R.W. Colbert in 1982. Last, a British medal made of white metal (which is not aluminum), even though the inscription said it was from the "1st lot of British aluminum"

Stephen Huston showed us a 2023 Canadian \$1 "Looney" coin featuring King Charles III, the first year of issue. He recalls going to the Old Mint in San Francisco, where the PCNS library used to be held. In that library was a complete set of Mint Director reports from the 1850s, and he recalls reading some reports in testing aluminum in various alloys. He also mentioned a talk Federico Castillo will be giving at a conference in Mexico City.

Charlie Catlett showed his Tokens and Medals Society David Schenkman Literary Award medal for first place: 75 mm, 191 g

John Duff showed us his well-preserved German Notgeld examples made of aluminum in 500, 100, 50, and 20 Mark denominations.

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 meeting.

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

With 2026 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 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 new contest, please contact webmaster@pcns.org. Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation in 2025.

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