



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
MARCH, 2026

1319th Monthly Meeting
The Mysterious Kingdom & Coinage of Abyssinia
Jeff Pritchard

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 PM PDT
Online



Coinage of Emperor Ezanas, 380AD
Aksum Empire
First Appearance of Christian Cross on Coinage

With apologies to the Canadian group
The Four Lads:

Ethiopia was Abyssinia
Now it's Ethiopia not Abyssinia
Been a long time gone
Why did Abyssinia get the works?
That's nobody's business but the
Ethiopians.



Emperor Menelik II
One Birr, 1895

As Abyssinia, the country has a long and storied history. According to legend, it was established by Menelik I, the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

The final ruler of the Solomonic dynasty was Haile Selassie (birth name Lij Tafari Makonnen). Prior to becoming Emperor Haile Selassie in 1930, he had attained the title of Ras (Head or Duke), hence his name Ras Tafari Makonnen, forming the basis of the Rastafarian movement venerating him as the Messiah, primarily in Jamaica.

Join us online on **Wednesday, March 25** when **Jeff Pritchard** will compress 3,000 years of history into a 30-to-45-minute presentation. Bring your own Abyssinian or Ethiopian coin, Rastafarian artifact, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

Last call! We need one additional judge for the 2025 Presentation Contest! (See details in previous *Bulletins*.)

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

WRITE! NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2026 Papers Contest is the **April 22** meeting. **Important:** Refer to the [publication section of pcns.org](#) for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

2026 SUMMER BBQ

Speaking of the annual BBQ, the date has been set as **Saturday, June 27 at 1 PM**. Details will appear in upcoming issues of the *Bulletin*.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Stephen Huston's well-documented interest in Venetian coins began with a 2002 grand tour of three cities in Europe, including Venice. The city museum collection there was fantastic, and he felt he would never be able to collect Venetian coins. Then he found a tiny shop with an example of Venetian currency in the shop window, went inside, and ended up purchasing four denominations of that 1848 series.

That began his saga of learning about Venetian history and collecting some of its coins and currency. He gave a detailed history of Venice from *(continues...)*

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 2026

March 25, 2026**Jeff Pritchard: *The Mysterious Kingdom & Coinage of Abyssinia***
April 22, 2026**Michael Wehner: *Modern Art Medals***
April 22, 2026**Deadline for 2026 Papers Contest Submissions**
May 27, 2026**Speaker and Topic TBA**
Saturday, June 27, 2026, 1:00 PM PDT**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.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

early Roman times until the early 19th century, when it was conquered by Napoleon. The story continued to include an uprising/revolution in 1848 and of Daniele Manin, hailed as a new leader. The currency of 1848 was used as a means of exchange in place of gold and silver needed to help survive a siege.

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

FEBRUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Charlie Catlett a 137 BCE Roman Republic denarius of S. Pomponius Fostlus, depicting Faustulus with the she-wolf nursing Romulus and Remus.

Michael Wehner showed us two Venetian medals. First was a Renaissance medallion featuring Sebastianus Rhenerius, circa 1497. The reverse featured Venice on a globe holding a flag. He discussed the attribution. Second was a massive modern medal by Therese Dufresne featuring scenes from Venice.

Stephen Huston showed us a page from the PCNS archives showing Stephen joining the Society as member # 364 on February 25, 1976- exactly fifty years before the meeting!



Bank of Abyssinia Five Thaler Note, 1925

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

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