



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
APRIL, 2026

1320th Monthly Meeting

Modern Art Medals

Michael Wehner

**Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 PM PDT
Online**



Michael Wehner, this month's speaker, is well-known as a collector of art medals. He writes,

"It is often said that art is in the eye of the beholder. In this talk, we explore art of contemporary medals. Numismatic art serves many purposes from the practical to the sublime. In some cases, the purpose of art is simply beauty. However, beauty cannot be quantified and is a highly subjective topic. Viewers are invited to draw their opinions on the beauty or its absence in a selection of modern art medals."

Join us online on **Wednesday, April 22** when Michael will show us examples of modern art medals, discussing what does—or does not—qualify them as "beautiful." Be prepared to exhibit your own art medals (beautiful or not), or your latest acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

MARCH MEETING RECAP

Before the early 20th century, Ethiopia was known as Abyssinia. It was in a very strategic location in Africa for trade, and thus of importance on and off for millennia. Jeff's presentation was divided into five sections with numismatic significance:

- The legend of Queen Sheba visiting King Solomon and returning home to bear his son Menalik I. The Kingdom of Saba in current southwest Yemen was her legendary home, and minted coins circa 400-150 BCE.
- The Aksum (also spelled Axum) Empire from 100 to 900 CE was a common trade route. Axumite coins are occasionally found, with bronze coins being relatively affordable and gold versions quite pricy.
- Amoles are Ethiopian salt money bricks cut from rock salt and used as a means of exchange for *(continues...)*

2026 SUMMER BBQ

This year's summer BBQ, will take place on **Saturday, June 27 at 1 PM**. The cost is \$15 per person, payable in advance. The payment link will be sent to all members via email in May.

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

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| April 22, 2026 | Michael Wehner: <i>Modern Art Medals</i> |
| April 22, 2026 | Deadline for 2026 Papers Contest Submissions |
| May 27, 2026 | Bill Hyder: <i>Topic TBA</i> |
| Saturday, June 27, 2026, 1:00 PM PDT | Summer BBQ |
| July 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.

MARCH MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

over three thousand years.

- Maria Theresa thalers became an official coinage during the 18th and 19th centuries due to trade surpluses from Europe and from the Arab slave trade. Menalik II, King of Ethiopia from 1889-1913, and the Italian colonizers trying to introduce their own coinage are part of this story.
- Haile Selassie and his historical/numismatic legacy were the final topic.

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

MARCH MEMBER EXHIBITS

Michael Wehner showed us his University of Paris medal by J.C. Chaplain.

Bill Hyder showed us three Haverford College medals struck for Isaac F. Woods by Lovett. The same die was used for all three medals by just changing/adding text. His were minted in copper, white metal, and silver.

Charlie Catlett showed early means of exchange (arrowheads) and the earliest forms of coinage from the northern Greek colony of Olbia in Skythia (north edge of Black Sea): cast arrowheads, cast dolphin shapes, and very large cast coins. Also shown was a 2021 Austria New Year 5-euro coin featuring Janus, with the younger head looking forward to an improved future (after a year of Covid), and an ancient Cilician coin featuring a winged being with the head of Janus, a unique design.

John Duff was very proud to show his token from Ogilby in Imperial County. There were three other denominations listed in the token reference, but his \$5 token is unlisted. All varieties have slightly different shapes and metal, likely for an illiterate population to tell the difference in value.

Scott Safe showed us a fascinating 1899 medal from the Festival of Mountain and Plain in Denver, from September 1899. It is the first one he has seen in over ten years of searching.

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

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