

## PCNS Minutes for April 24, 2024

The board meeting for April 24, 2024, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Bob Somers, Ed Treuting, and Mike McDaniel, and past president Dan Hipple.

The minutes for the March meeting were approved.

Financial reports: the reports were sent to board members prior to the meeting and were discussed.

A new member application was received from Devin Jennings of Martinez, CA.

The summer BBQ will be Saturday, June 22 in Berkeley. The cost of \$15 was agreed to by the board. Ticket purchase information from our website will be sent in May.

We need speakers for July and thereafter.

Papers Contest – the deadline will be at the end of this General Meeting.

Presentations Contest: Jason will serve as a third judge.

New business: none.

Adjournment 7:21 PM.

At 7:33 PM, general meeting #1296 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Charlie Ludvic, Doug Ward, Herb Miles, and Dean Neald.

A new member application was received from Devin Jennings of Martinez, CA.

The summer BBQ meeting has been finalized: it will be Saturday June 22 in Berkeley, with a cost of \$15. Ticket purchase information from our website will be sent in May.

Speakers are still needed for July through December.

The deadline for our annual Papers Contest is by the end of this meeting.

### Featured Speaker: Doug Ward Omaha Coincidental — focusing on the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Expo

As Doug's son is in the Marines training to be a pilot, he planned a trip to visit him in Omaha, Nebraska. By chance he saw an official 1898 Trans-Mississippi International Exposition medal, so-called dollar SH 10-1. He described how the obverse image was obtained from a composite photo of the most beautiful women of the region (determined from various competitions). The reverse was designed by the expo's chief architect, depicting a Native American hunting bison. A date on the reverse of 1848 was for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the westward rush for gold.

Doug then went on to describe his search for the origins of the expo, showing maps and photos and determining the exact site where it existed. Nothing remains of the fair today. He did show some bronze and gilt awards medals from the fair. He also found an image of an 1857 Western Exchange bank

note with an image very similar to the expo medal- it probably served as the basis for the medal's reverse design. Doug also showed some other so-called dollars from the expo.

The next coincidence with the visit to Omaha was the Durham Museum there, which houses the Byron Reed collection. Byron Reed moved to the area in 1855 and became one of Omaha's most prominent citizens. He collected books, documents, and coins, and he bequeathed his fabulous huge coin collection to the city. The collection includes the 1877 \$50 half union, an 1804 dollar, and a 1792 half disme.

The final coincidence of Doug's Omaha trip was a visit to the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum nearby. One exhibit there was of the 1922 silver dollar poison pin. It was a Peace Dollar in a bezel that contained a pin coated in curare, offered to pilots before missions and to be used in case of enemy capture. Francis Gary Powers was piloting a U-2 spy plane which was shot down, but because of his beliefs against suicide he threw away the dollar before he landed with his parachute.

The presentation was recorded and will be available for viewing on the Society's Videos webpage.

#### Member Exhibits

Charlie C showed a bronze Trans-Mississippi souvenir medal. It is a 24mm medal encased in an ornate bronze laurel wreath with a loop and was probably a less expensive souvenir than the large official medal.

Bill showed us four recent purchases: a Fredericksburg Lodge medal by Isaac Ward; a 1986 medal designed by Marika Somogy for the Society of Medalists, "What is on the Other Side of the Mirror"; and two galvanos- one by Joseph K. Davison's Sons in Philadelphia and one by Chester Beach for the Hudson Fulton Celebration in New York, with the corresponding medals made from the galvanos.

Mike M showed us his Mexican Revolution finds during a family vacation in Arizona, from a coin dealer in Carefree, Az. They were three different varieties of rare and unusual lead one centavo coins from Estado de Durango, 1915. They did circulate and had nice details for being made of lead. They had come from the collection of Jonathan Bowman.

As a final exhibit, Bill pulled up a photo of a Santa Barbara token of his: a French Colonies piece counterstamped as a personal token and made by Jonathan Bowman, the same collector who originally owned Mike's new pieces!

The general meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM. The next meeting will be May 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS