

PCNS Minutes for July 24, 2024

The board meeting for July 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, Governor Ed Treuting, past president Dan Hipple, and member Michael Wehner. Governors Bob Somers and Mike McDaniel sent their regrets in not being able to attend.

The minutes for the May meeting and June BBQ were approved.

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

We need speakers for August and thereafter. Bill offered to possibly present in August if there are no other volunteers.

New business: The status of the Jerry Schimmel Tribute Book was queried. Michael will be working on it.

Adjournment 7:24 PM.

At 7:30 PM, general meeting #1299 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Charlie Ludvic, Doug Ward, Herb Miles, Greg Burns, Paul Turner, Jeff Pritchard, and John Duff.

Speakers are still needed for August through December.

“Mystery of the Maiden of Holland’s Hat”

Or

“What Happened in Holland?”

By Jeff Pritchard

Since Roman times, the pileus (Phrygian style) has represented Liberty in dozens of countries. There is one exception: the Netherlands chose the capotain to represent the “Freedom Hat”. Why?

Jeff outlined the history of the region, and the symbolism of the Dutch Maiden, Netherlands’ Liberty Goddess. Change occurred in the region in 1568-1648- the Eighty Years’ War. This is when seven northern Dutch provinces fought for independence from Catholic Spanish Rule. The Freedom Hat became an important symbol at the time. The capotain- a brimmed, slightly conical ‘sugarloaf hat’ that resembles the Protestant/Calvinist Pilgrim hat- helped show that the Eighty Years’ War was fighting for religious freedom. The Freedom Hat was represented on coins, medals, and paintings.

The Maiden of Holland design was used from 1681 to about 1800. She wears a war bonnet, and the Freedom Hat is held up by a lance. It became the Netherlands national emblem in 1795 and was last depicted on a statue in 1874.

Jeff provided many images of the hat during his discussion. And he added two bonus items at the end. One is how John Adams, who became our 2nd President, essentially had his reputation restored while in The Netherlands- when they first recognized the United States government. And he discussed the 1787 Connecticut token featuring a Phrygian cap on a staff, with a contemporary counterfeit that changed it to a crude image of a Dutch Freedom Cap!

To get all the details from his talk, Jeff’s presentation was recorded and will be available on the Society’s ‘Videos’ section on the home page menu tab.

## Member Exhibits

Bill showed us a 1941 bronze Bronx Coin Club medal. It featured Jonas Bronck wearing a Dutch Freedom Hat!

Michael had two French medals to show, related to his profession. Both had the same obverse featuring Marianne, the French female allegory of Liberty. First was a 1909 award medal from the Minister of Public Instruction Bureau of Central Meteorology. The second was for the Society of Statistics in Lille.

Stephen talked about items associated with the Olympics, since they begin in Paris this month. He showed an ancient coin with a bust wearing a Phrygian cap. Then he showed the 2024 Olympic Mascot- a fuzzy cloth imitation of the Phrygian cap with big eyes. He also showed what the Olympic and Paralympic medals will look like. The central portion of the Olympic medals will all have a cast remnant of the Eiffel Tower.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be on August 28, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS