

PCNS Minutes for September 25, 2024

The board meeting for September 25, 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 Mike McDaniel and Bob Somers, and members Michael Wehner and John Duff. Governor Ed Treuting and past president Dan Hipple (belatedly) sent their regrets in not being able to attend.

The minutes for the August meeting were approved.

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

Speakers are needed for October 23, November 27, and beyond.

PCNS Monograph #2 (Jerry Schimmel book) update: Jason is reviewing all the pieces and will present an update at the next meeting. The cost of printing will also be investigated.

New business: none

Adjournment 7:24 PM.

At 7:33 PM, general meeting #1301 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Herb Miles, Paul Turner, Jeff Pritchard, Scott Safe, and Federico Castillo.

Speakers are needed for the October and November meetings, and beyond. Let Jason or Stephen know.

The Tokens of Thomas Spence & Thomas Paine and Their Connection to Native American Culture By John Duff

John has been an avid collector of Conder Tokens for a long time, especially tokens of Thomas Spence. His talk began with the early influences of Thomas Spence and his first published speech on property rights. Spence is considered the “original voice in the history of radicalization”. John also talked about Thomas Paine, with his booklet called Common Sense and sixteen additional papers called The American Crisis. Paine and Spence were similar in many ways, but Paine was famous, and Spence was not. Spence sold both Paine’s more practical writings as well as his own radical musing.

How did Native American culture influence Paine and Spence? John discussed the ideas of everyone having an equal share of the land, and how both men perceived the Native American views- without direct evidence of either having had direct contact with the indigenous.

Numerous tokens were shown, and then further history on what happened with the movements these two men started. Many things Paine promoted have come to fruition.

There was much discussion after the presentation, which will be made available for viewing on the Society’s YouTube page.

Member Exhibits

Charlie showed six Pence tokens. One featured a depiction of a Native American on the reverse and an image of British “Liberty” Displayed- the feared press gang. Next was the first Spence token- proclaiming his plan- which was also counterstamped with more exclamations; Minerva, with a shield having a tiny

Liberty holding her scales; a Turk; a Spaniard. And finally, a farthing from Newcastle featuring Coaly Tyne, a coal-hauling keel boat on the River Tyne. But the die for that obverse was produced by John Skidmore and muled onto a Spence die he had purchased.

Bill showed some of his 70mm galvanos produced by Sawyer. He had seven of them, and recently purchased two more. They feature idealized portraits of real Native Americans, to capture the features of various tribes.

Michael W proudly showed his example of a Newcastle Coaly Tyne halfpenny. Both dies used to make it were from Spence, but the one with the image of the boat broke after 17 or 18 strikes. The die continued to be used, and most examples of the token feature a large cud where the missing die was. He then played a bit of the song "Coaly Tyne. Next, he showed a token featuring D.I. Eaton, who was one of many people acquitted of sedition during the times of Spence. Another token featured images of indigenous people, and finally a humorous token by Denton poking fun at coin collectors.

Stephen talked about the book America's Golden Age, on private pioneer gold by Donald Kagin and David McCarthy. It won the David Lange Memorial Book of the Year Award, and there was reminiscing about David.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next meeting will be on October 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS