

PCNS Minutes for November 27, 2024

The board meeting for November 27, 2024, was called to order via Zoom at 7:17 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Mike McDaniel, Bob Somers, and Ed Treuting, and member Michael Wehner.

The minutes for the October meeting were approved.

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

There are applications from two people to join PCNS: Greg Bennick and James Perkins. They will become members as of the December meeting.

Schimmel book update: there is nothing to report. An update is deferred until the December meeting.

2025 Presentation competition: Jason is seeking judges for the 2025 presentation competition, from members who did not give a presentation in 2024. Michael suggested that the judges should include constructive comments along with their judging scores.

New business: The PCNS Board will keep dues for 2025 at the same level as 2024.

Adjournment 7:27 PM.

At 7:33 PM, general meeting #1303 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Herb Miles, Charlie Ludvic, Greg Burns, Harold Tuchfeld, and Dean Neald.

Elections for the Board of Governors are to be held at the upcoming December meeting. If any members are interested in running for a position on the board, they should contact either Jason or Stephen.

We are seeking judges for the 2025 presentation competition, among members who did not give a presentation in 2024. Please let Jason know if interested.

There are applications for membership from Greg Bennick and James Perkins. They will officially become members as of the December meeting.

The Worst Coin Portraits in History By Stephen Huston

Stephen began his talk with two modern U.S. coins that people often complain about as having bad portraits: the Susan B. Anthony and Eisenhower dollars. But those two coins have very good and accurate likenesses of the actual people. How people were portrayed in the past is a different story.

Ptolemy I of ancient Egypt is often credited of producing the first portrait coins, both of Alexander the Great (after his death in 322 BC) as well as of himself. But there were several portraits on coins of real rulers preceding those of Ptolemy by over a century. Roman emperors had reasonably good portraits. Heading towards the Byzantine era, portraits worsened to the point that the crown and inscription was needed to identify the subject. "Dark Ages" and medieval portraiture devolved into mere line drawings.

A resurgence of portraiture in coinage came from Renaissance painters and sculptors in Florence, who learned medallic art and led a resurgence in decent portraiture.

With this quick background of the history of coin portraiture, Stephen presented a clear, well-illustrated and very detailed history of how people were represented on coins in the time frame mentioned

above. He ultimately showed us his choice for the worst portrait ever produced. There is far too much detail to summarize this any further, and it is well worth watching his presentation- which is now available on the Society's YouTube page.

Member Exhibits

Charlie C showed two "ugly coins". In reality, the coins are nice, the portraits are accurate- but the subjects themselves not particularly attractive. First was Leopold "The Hogmouth", Holy Roman Emperor from the late 1600s. He was a Habsburg- a royal family known reportedly for inbreeding- which explains a very prominent lower lip and chin. He also had a huge mole on his lower lip. Next was a 1658 sixpence of England's Oliver Cromwell, also with a big mole.

Bill showed us Circle of Friends of the Medallion #7, featuring Abdul Baha (by Louis Potter). It is rare, as the Bahai usually tried to buy all the medals to get them out of circulation.

Michael showed three items. First, his entry for ugly coins: a renaissance medal of Alexander Pagagnotis. Next was a June 1902 San Francisco Shriners medal featuring a man riding a bear. Finally, he showed a recent auction page for a gem 1921 Farran Zerbe proof Morgan Dollar.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM. The next meeting will be on December 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS