

CSNA symposium news

After a thoughtful discussion, the Board decided that the Society will no longer act as host for the CSNA symposium. After five years and 19 different speakers (one spoke twice), the Board agreed that PCNS accomplished what it had intended to do. The board further agreed that the Society's attention should now be focused on literary efforts including the annual papers' contest. It is hoped that another Northern California numismatic organization sees it in their interest to continue the CSNA symposium. Thanks to all the speakers and PCNS members who worked so hard to make this function a success!



1064th meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, December 22, 2004

Fort Mason, Building C, Room 370
San Francisco, California

Holiday Party



Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

PCNS Papers Contest Judging Guidelines

The submittal deadline is the April 2005 meeting.

1. Originality (0-12 points)

Was the information presented new? Was the subject presented in a new light? Did the author interpret existing facts in an independent, individual, fresh way?

2. Research (0-8 points)

Did the article contain new facts uncovered by the author? Did the author include data obtained from an appropriate number of sources? Did the author uncover previously unused or seldom-used sources of information?

3. Numismatic information (0-8 points)

Was the material presented interesting and useful to numismatists?

4. Scope and coverage (0-6 points)

Was the subject matter covered adequately?

5. Reader appeal (0-6 points)

Is the article interesting? Was the information well organized and clearly presented? Were illustrations provided where needed? Were references to other works adequate?

Please come to the annual potluck Holiday party on December 22, 2004.

The members of the San Francisco Coin Club are special invited guests.

1063rd Meeting November 24, 2004 “Expanded Show & Tell”

As often happens this time of year, the regular meeting occurred the day before Thanksgiving. This year an expanded show and tell session was held rather than having a speaker.

The end of year raffle is always fun with many prizes

This will be Herb Miles’ swan song as raffle director. Elliot Wehner has been appointed by President Nordin to coordinate the raffle in the new year. Donations to the raffle of numismatic material are always appreciated.

PCNS Elections

Nominations for Officers of the Society are:

- President Sarah Nordin
- Vice President Rick Webster
- Treasurer..... Stephen Huston
- Secretary Herb Miles
- Governors Mark W. Clark, Phil Nordin, Federico Castillo

The election and installation of your officers will take place at the December meeting. Please remember to thank these people for their generous service to the Society.

Monthly Speakers

Vice President Webster, the speaker coordinator, has asked for volunteers to speak at the regular monthly meeting. So far, only January 2005 is scheduled (Elliot Wehner, “Post-MPC alternatives”). Don’t be shy, it can be fun and rewarding to prepare and give a talk about your numismatic specialties.

The speakers for 2004 were:

- January** Elliot Wehner, “Military Payment Certificates”
- February** Rick Webster, “Medieval Pilgrim Tokens & Badges”
- March** Ken Takahashi, “A Geographical Journey Through the Provinces of China”
- April** Larry Reppeteau, “The Granite Lady and her Survival during the 1906 Earthquake and Fire”
- May** Herb Miles, “Paper Ephemera of the Office of Price Administration”
- July** Rick Webster, “The 1894 San Francisco Midwinter Fair”
- August** Michael Wehner, “Facsimile Slugs”, a program inspired by and dedicated to the late Bill Weber.
- September** Federico Castillo, “Coins of Costa Rica”
- October** Stephen Huston, “A Numismatic Field Guide to GOKs! (God Only Knows!)”

FRENCH SOUVENIR TOKENS

Rick Webster

On a recent week long bus tour of Paris, Normandy and the Loire Valley, I was happy to discover that the French Mint had my need to have coins or tokens as a souvenir all taken care of. On the first day in Paris I found some tokens in the tourist spots. The Eiffel Tower, Versailles and Louvre museum serve as examples.

I was pleasantly surprised to find a token in the small seaside town of Honfleur. This port, used by many of the French explorers of the 1600s, still retains many of the buildings from previous centuries and is a lovely spot. Inside the old wooden Church of Saint Catherine, glowing with candles lit to speed prayers to heaven, the glow of the Mint of Paris token machine made me realize that I was likely to encounter tokens at every tourist stop on the trip. This proved to be true.

The tokens cost two Euros which is about \$2.50. They have a common reverse that says *Monnaie De Paris Collection Nationale Medaille Officielle*. There is a representation of the mint in the center. The obverse shows the site the token is issued for. The tokens are either sold in a machine or in the gift shop if the site is big enough to warrant one. They even are dated to entice you come back for a return visit.

Most of the tokens are easy to find. The exception is at Mont Saint Michel. This is the famous island site that used to be cut off by the tidal flow. To get to the cathedral on the top of the granite rock that makes up the island you must go up 290 steps separated by inclined cobblestone streets. Once you get to the top and take the self guided tour through the building which means even more steps you come to the gift shop and the token machine. It was worth every step just for the view and history let alone the token. Imagine my horror of meeting Martee — who did not go to the top — at a gift shop on the lower level of the island and hearing her say, “look they have a token machine here.” I was almost ready to weep. But the tokens were different. The machine on the lower level was selling the 2003 token. If you wanted the 2004 token you had to go to the top!



So if you are going to France watch for the token machines. In the week we were there I found fifteen different tokens. They are for me a wonderful reminder of the trip.

If you visit the website for the Paris mint, www.monnaiedeparis.fr, click on the section that says Medailles Souvenir (they sell a book to hold the tokens) and then Accueil Jetons. You will see the seven page list of sites that have tokens. Bring a pocket full of Euros when you go. □