

Hillebrand. This school was located on Filbert between Jones and Leavenworth. He also exhibited a rare Panama Pacific International Exposition French Exhibit bronze plaque by Louis Bottee.

*Gordon Donnell* exhibited his Portland ANA Telephone Card set, for which he had just purchased the gold example making his set complete with a bronze, silver and now the gold!

*Mark Wm. Clark* brought two very nice and scarce Philippine coin book references just acquired from the Liberty Numismatic Society Book Auction. Nice finds from the original collection of Ed Fulwider

### Raffle

*Sarah Nordin* won a silver-plated “Snoopy Dollar” commemorating the first manned landing on the moon in 1969.

*Lori Reppeteau* took home a very BU (beaten up) Pioneer Hotel Casino gambling token; silver-plated.

*Mark W. Clark* won a counterfeit 8 reales make of copper or other base metal, purporting to be from the Mexico City mint.

Lucky *Lori Reppeteau* also won a 1768 George III brass Spade Guinea, “In Memory of the Good Old Days”.

Not to be outdone, *Larry Reppeteau* took home a copper “far thing” featuring Robert Orchard, Grocer & Tea Dealer, at #34 Greek Street, corner of Church Street, Soho, London (building pictured on reverse).

Finally, *Steve Huston* won an “L” token from the “Moise K. Company” of San Francisco; in other words, what the “L” is this?

### New Member

Please welcome Michael Whalen of Santa Cruz, California as a new member of the Society.



1063<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the  
**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**  
8:00PM Wednesday November 24, 2004

*Everyone*  
**Extended Show & Tell**

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Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656  
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Please join us Wednesday, November 24 for the 1063<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. This month's program is an extended show and tell. Bring the best parts of your collection and tell us about it!

**1062<sup>nd</sup> Meeting October 27, 2004. GOK's Steve Huston** (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

PCNS Treasurer *Stephen M Huston* presented a program entitled "GOKs," i.e., "God Only Knows." Initially all attending members believed that the program would be about items in their collection or in the collection of others that could not possibly be identified, thus the term *God only knows*. However, as Steve presented the information, it became clear that he was really teaching us how to determine what that unknown token, medal, coin or other numismatic item might be.

In Steve's view, a GOK is something for which you have no clue whatsoever, you don't know what it is, you don't know how to identify it, and you probably do not have a clue as to where to start! Of course, there are books, other collectors, dealers, experts, and numerous sources to help you, but where do you start? It may take a while, but if you exhaust the sources, you will find an answer, but GOKs are rare.

Of course, there are three answers; easy, difficult, (where you have to work at it), and correct (where you determine the identity of the object)! After all, there is only one correct answer. As Steve mentioned, all of us have stated (out loud or in our minds, "it will come to me"), however, it won't! Therefore, you must know where to look for the answer.

Collectors like yourself are probably the wrong people, as they will only reinforce what you think it might be, although many collectors know more than dealers about a particular series due to their specialization. First, determine if the object is a coin, token or medal by inspecting the piece. Are there portraits, figures, heraldry, arms, and abbreviations? Latin inscriptions, other alphabets? Is it of a precious metal such as gold or silver? Is it metal, plastic, fiber, etc?

Inspect the fields, the rims, lettering, edge. Is there reeding, letters, or is the edge plain; you can date some coins by the edge. Second, review the books that might help, standard catalogs, specialty catalogs, read the numismatic press, ask knowledgeable collectors & dealers, check museums and their staff. What one must avoid is speculation as to what the object might be. If you use museum or other knowledgeable sources, send very detailed descriptions, metal composition, size, diameter, weight, appearance; make it as detailed as possible. Send photos showing relative size so the viewer will have an idea of how the object will appear in person.

The questions to ask of anyone you query are: Do you know what it is? If yes, explain. If no, whom should I query next to determine an answer? Steve illustrated his talk with a handout showing various numismatic objects highlighting the point of his talk. A last admonition is if you send an object to someone for investigation; please send a reply envelope and enough postage for the item to be returned to you!

### **2005 Papers Contest**

The submission deadline for the next PCNS papers contest will be the April 2005 regular monthly meeting. That should give all you authors, both experienced and first timers, plenty of time to put your expertise and knowledge to pen and paper.

The publications committee is currently planning the publication of articles from the previous two contests. Contest rules for this solicitation remain unchanged. They will appear again in a future Bulletin as space permits.

### **Exhibits**

*Steve Huston* exhibited a medieval gold piece, probably Islamic which he will show to Steve Album, noted expert in Islamic coinage; a piece that appears to be a English silver penny, perhaps an "esterling", and lastly, a small bronze piece from the Jerusalem area, but with an unknown ruler!

*Michael Wehner* brought a pair of goodies, an 1897 Hancock Grammar School medal given to Katerina