

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2018

May 23.....Federico Castillo, *National Irrigation Congresses*
Jun 23.....Saturday BBQ
Jul 25*Speaker & Topic TBA* at the Mechanics' Institute*
Aug 22*Speaker & Topic TBA* at the Mechanics' Institute*
Sep 26.....Jeff Shevlin, *So-called Dollars from the Pacific Coast*
Expositions at Fort Mason Center
Oct 24.....*Speaker & Topic TBA* at Fort Mason Center*
Nov 28*Speaker & Topic TBA* at the Mechanics' Institute*
Dec 27Holiday gathering and elections **at the Mechanics' Institute**

* See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

A quick look at the 2018 Calendar above reveals that there is ample opportunity for **you** to make a presentation in the coming months: July, August, October, and November are all open. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

MEETING LOCATION AND TIME CHANGES

Due to scheduled construction at Fort Mason Center, PCNS meetings for July, August, November, December and January 2019 will take place at the Mechanics' Institute in downtown San Francisco. Meetings at the Mechanics Institute will start at 7:15pm.

2018 PCNS OFFICERS

President.....Daniel Hipple
Vice PresidentJason Macario
SecretaryBob Somers
TreasurerStephen Huston
GovernorsHerb Miles, Ed Treuting
Past President.....William Hyder

CONTACTING AND PAYING PCNS

Email messages to PCNSwebmaster@pcns.org
PayPal address for PCNSmoney@pcns.org

PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers*, get the latest Bulletin, or to check our meeting schedule.

Use a QR scanner/reader to open pcns.org via this code.



1225th Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



National Irrigation Congresses: Water and Development in the American Southwest *Federico Castillo*

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 7:30 PM

Fort Mason Center, Building C, San Francisco

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

WATER, WATER...NOT QUITE EVERYWHERE

Thanks to the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War in 1848, the United States came into possession of approximately 525,000 square miles of territory, comprising all or part of present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.

The common denominator for this vast landscape is the essential element for life: water. A few parts of

the territory have significant sources of it, while most does not. Thus, mankind's unquenchable desire to improve on nature, combined with American determination (and hubris), led to the goal of turning the West into a "garden basket of the nation."

The National Irrigation Congress first convened in 1891. By 1916, it was rechristened the International Irrigation Congress. It was a powerful special-interest group whose positions and decisions, captured in the motto of the

1910 congress ("Science bids the desert, 'drink'"), are still apparent in water rights and water use policies in the region to this day.

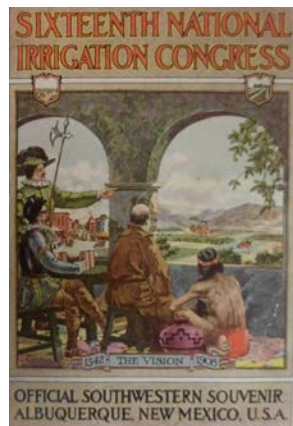
Federico Castillo will examine the legacy of the National Irrigation Congress in light of population growth and climate change that are pushing the West's already strained water resources to the breaking point.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

Vice President Jason Macario informed the membership that the board had approved the purchase of the PCNS 1000th Meeting obverse die as part of the liquidation of the Northwest Territorial Mint's assets. Michael Carolan's membership became effective. And, members had the pleasure of greeting Joseph Friedrich, who had become a member at the February meeting.

Herb Miles gave a fascinating presentation on the development and periodic resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan. Featuring extensive examples from his own collection, Herb covered the tokens and other artifacts from the three major periods of the Klan: 1865-1915, 1915-1954, and 1954 to date.

The KKK originated as a secret fraternal organization of former Confederate Army officers. It quickly became a violent vigilante and anti-Reconstruction organization. The federal government suppressed the KKK in the 1870s. All



APRIL MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

tokens claiming to be from the first era are fantasy pieces, as no authentic examples are known.

D.W. Griffith's 1915 film, *The Birth of a Nation*, sparked a revival of the KKK with an expressly racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, and anti-immigrant agenda. It was during this second era that membership in the Klan reached an all-time peak of an estimated 5 million members. The tokens of the time are rife with evocative imagery, including burning crosses, Bibles, flags, and fasces, along with acronyms promoting their America-first agenda. SYMWA ("Spend Your Money With Americans Only") and MIAFA ("My Interests Are For America") are just two examples.

Klan membership in the modern era has dropped due to federal intervention. Token manufacturers removed their names from the pieces to avoid any connection with the organization.

APRIL MEMBER EXHIBITS

Charlie: 2006 Paris Mint restrike of 1906 San Francisco Earthquake medal.

Federico: A South American token, a sheep shearing token, and a Josefa DeHerrarte token.

Mark: San Francisco ad agency Emil Brisacher and Staff token dated 1939.

Joseph: 1881-S Morgan dollar.

Ken: Three Chinese silver ingots.

Michael: French meteorological medal.

Jason: 1925 Stone Mountain commemorative half dollar.

APRIL RAFFLE RESULTS

Jason: 1939 GGIE Guide Book, ticket book, and elongated nickel; 1940 GGIE Guide book, ticket book, and bronze token

Joseph: Official Miniature Guide Book for the PPIE and a bronze PPIE token; Morgan dollar bolo tie.

Federico: Official California American Revolution Bicentennial Medallion.

ANNUAL JUNE BBQ LUNCHEON

In lieu of our regular June meeting, the annual PCNS BBQ will take place on Saturday afternoon, June 23 at President Dan Hipple's home in Tiburon. The cost is \$10 per person, payable in advance by mail (check) or in person at the May 23 meeting (cash or check), or online by PayPal. Good company, great food, and a perfect location make for a delightful afternoon. Leftovers are all but guaranteed. If you wish to bring food to share, please plan on dessert.