

CALENDAR FOR 2019

October 30David McCarthy, *Losing (and finding) the First Coin Struck by the United States*

November 27Speaker & Topic TBA*

December 18Holiday gathering and elections

* See "Speak Up!" below

SPEAK UP!

There is one remaining opportunity for **you** to make a presentation in 2019. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

STEP UP!

As the year comes to an end, it's time to elect officers for 2020. We're always looking for fresh faces to get involved in the leadership of PCNS. Note that "fresh faces" can include well-rested veterans as well as well as relative newcomers.

Nominations are now open, so feel free to talk about your potential candidacy with a current or former officer (see the back page for a list of current officers).

2019 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PresidentDaniel Hipple

Vice PresidentJason Macario

SecretaryBob Somers

TreasurerStephen Huston

GovernorEd Treuting

Past PresidentWilliam Hyder

Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 30 minutes before the membership meeting in the same location.

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.



1242nd Monthly Meeting of the

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Losing (and finding) the First Coin Struck by the United States

David McCarthy

Wednesday, October 30, 2019, 7:30 PM

Fort Mason Center, Building C

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

THE FIRST UNITED STATES COIN

The United States Mint was established by an act of Congress in 1792, sixteen years after the Declaration of Independence and four years after the Constitution was ratified. While the Coinage Act of 1792 authorized the production of ten different denominations of coins, the Mint struggled to keep up with demand. In fact, Spanish milled dollars were legal tender in the United States until 1857.

The first coins struck at the Mint and released into circulation, in early 1793, were 11,178 in copper cents. These ugly, unpopular coins were not the first coins actually produced by the United States under the Coinage Act; that distinction falls to the 1,500 silver half dismes produced while the Mint was under construction.

The half disme is the subject of controversy as to the distinction between a patterns and regular issues; not to mention carrying a bit of mythology involving George and Martha Washington and their silver.

It is estimated that about 100 examples of the 1792 half disme survive. Join us on **October 30** when David McCarthy will tell the tale of one such example of the first coin struck by the United States, its loss, and rediscovery. Bring old U.S. coins for show-and-tell, or any tricks or treats you may have.



The 1793 Flowing Hair Chain Cent

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

After a few A/V problems were sorted out, Michael Wehner gave a fascinating presentation on the history of French Medals in California. One of the first medals struck in San Francisco was a 1855 Crimean War Medal, signed "V & G," created by Achille Vachon and Marc Giron. The medal celebrated the 1855 victory of British and French forces over Russia in the Crimean Peninsula after a long siege at the port city of Sevastopol. Unfortunately, both Vachon and Giron drowned in British Columbia in 1859.



Victory in Crimea

Michael continued with several more French medals relating to San Francisco. The first was an 1859 French Hospital medal, commemorating the construction of their new building on Bryant Street. Next was an 1889 medal commemorating the centennial of the

seige of the Bastille, created for a celebration that was held on San Francisco's South Park.

A previously-seen 1900 Phoebe Hearst silver plaquette was a graceful Art Nouveau addition to the collection. Continuing the theme, Michael concluded his presentation with the well-known Louis Bottée plaque of San Francisco in 1906 and the French Pavilion for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition.



Phoebe Hearst



Storming the Bastille

SEPTEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Ken: Five ancient coins from biblical times.

Stephen: French art medal of Arles 1961.

Jeff: 1976 silver Libertas Americana.

Paul: 1792 medal commemorating the birth of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette's first child, the Dauphin.

Bill: 1872 San Francisco French war medal, 1885 San Francisco Standard Theater souvenir and a hard rubber Moise-Klinkner store card circa 1900.

Dan: Set of French Castorland coins.

Charlie: 2006 restrike by the French Mint of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake medal and a Dossier medal – English kings and queens series – of William I.

Mark: Proof 2019-W cent.

SEPTEMBER DRAWING RESULTS

Ed: Medal.

Jason: B. Max Mehl book.

Paul: Market Street Railway stock certificate.

Federico: Depression era scrip and a book.