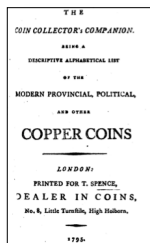




Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
MARCH, 2023

1283rd Monthly Meeting
The Conder Tokens of Thomas Spence
Charlie Catlett
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 7:30 PM PDT
Online



Join us online on **Wednesday, March 22** when Charlie Catlett will tell us about 18th Century English radical (and sometime coin dealer) Thomas Spence and privately-issued tokens that flourished in his lifetime.

Plan to exhibit your Conder tokens or your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Part 1 - Chinese American Tokens: A Tribute to Jerry Schimmel

As Michael was the executor of Jerry Schimmel's estate collection, there were more than two double row boxes in his collection to disperse, which was surprisingly easy- there is good a market for these. This was a review of some highlights.

Chinese people first came to California in numbers during the 1849 gold rush. They were greatly discriminated against then, and racism still plagues our society now. Chinese businesses produced tokens mostly from 1900-1940, and mostly on the west coast: Stockton, San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle.

For instance, Michael showed a SF Chinatown token for Wing Lee (in Chinese), translated as "Lush Benefit"- a greeting for customers. Jerry did not speak Chinese but had a friend who translated the symbols on the tokens and listed that translation with each example. It is difficult to identify Chinese organizations because they were not in English language directories. Old Chinese language directories are exceedingly rare.

Michael showed a Stockton token and explained that store fronts were used as a cover, with gambling often in the back of those establishments. The storefront names changed frequently.

And it gets even more difficult! Jerry's contacts were 1940's token collectors who often got them at the source. He wrote the definitive book on these.

Michael included cancelled Seattle tokens, Hawaiian plantation tokens, and one made in Germany for Bluefields, Zelaya, Nicaragua which had the owner's name in Chinese chop marks!.

Part 2 - Claude Bessy, Prima Ballerina, and her Medal

Michael's other short talk was about Claude Bessy and a 1993 medal about her- a 70mm golden bronze medal by the Monnaie de Paris. In 1945 at age 13 she joined the Paris Opera, and by 1956 obtained ballet's highest rank. Gene Kelly wrote a movie for her (*Invitation to the Dance*). Michael showed a film clip.

We invite you to watch Michael's full presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of most months. Currently, meetings are held online using the Zoom platform, thereby allowing members, presenters, and guests to attend no matter where they are located. Everyone with an interest in numismatics is welcome to attend. A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting; non-members can request a link by emailing webmaster@pcns.org.

Special occasions, such as the annual BBQ, will continue to occur in person.

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2023

March 22, 2023	Charlie Catlett, <i>The Conder Tokens of Thomas Spence</i>
April 26, 2023	Deadline for 2023 Papers Contest Submissions
April 26, 2023	Jeff Pritchard, <i>Your Collection's Future - (You can't take it with you!)</i>
May 24, 2023	Speaker and Topic TBA*
June, 2023 (exact date to be announced)	Summer BBQ

SPEAK UP!

There are always opportunities for **you** to make a presentation. Thanks to Zoom, you don't even need to be in San Francisco to present. Your presentation can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

FEBRUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Robert J. showed an image of a California 1876 silver medal GW-879 that was owned for 100 years by the Garret family and has been offered to him. He asked the club for an opinion on it, and the consensus was that it was a fantastic piece. He intends to purchase it at the upcoming ANA show in Phoenix.

Bill showed three items. First, a 1859 Great Airship City of New York, featuring a 200' balloon which blew up when it was first inflated. Second, a New York Medal Club medal featuring General Lafayette on the obverse with a Masonic reverse. Finally, a countermarked Mexican coin stamped "1967 Anguilla declared independent — liberty dollar". Other foreign silver coins received similar countermarks, all produced in the basement of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Jeff Fung showed a token he purchased on eBay, purported

to be a "Panama Pacific China Pavilion medal". Nobody was sure if it really was from the PPIC; more research is needed.

Harold showed his "Grand Coulee Dam Wash" token, a slice of a cement core from the dam construction with a sticker on it, also stating "a Dam quarter good for 25¢."

Charlie L showed the upcoming Maria Tallchief quarter, featuring the 1940s-1960s prima ballerina. She was married to George Ballanchine, and Charlie showed a medal for him as well.

Federico showed three items. First, a Costa Rica ½ onza coin, with a much nicer than usual strike. Second, three Mexicali tokens from the Chinese Mexican Mercantile Co. Two were from Jerry Schimmel's collection, and had the printed reference included in each token's envelope. Finally, a \$1 token Federico thinks is from a Mexican border town, but Jerry thought might be Philippine. More research is needed.

WRITE! NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2023 Papers Contest is the **April 26** meeting. Important: Refer to the publication section of pcns.org for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

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