

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society August 2018 Minutes

The brief board meeting for August 22, 2018 was called to order at 6:50pm at Mechanics Institute by President Dan Hipple. Vice President Jason Macario, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Bob Somers, Governor Ed Treuting were in attendance as were members Mark Wm Clark and Michael Wehner.

The Treasurer's report for period 07/25/18 through 08/21/18 was accepted, as well as minutes from the July meeting. New business: the next two meetings will be held at Fort Mason, upcoming local coin shows including the Livermore show 09/09, Santa Clara 09/21-09/23 and Long Beach 09/06-09/08. The board meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

The general meeting was called to order at 7:15pm. Also present were Ken Takahashi, Federico Castillo, Charlie Catlett and Joseph Friedrich.

General meeting announcements included the above mentions shows in addition to the 5th Annual Northern California Numismatic Seminar to be held on 09/15 at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum. This is a free all-day event with registration beginning at 9:00am.

The September speaker will be Jeff Shevlin and an October speaker is needed.

Dan Hipple presented Michael Wehner with a second-place medal the 2018 papers contest.

Michael's prize-winning paper from 2017 about a fascinating San Francisco character was the topic of his presentation, "Moses Gunst Has Went".

Moses Gunst was born in New York in 1853 and moved to San Francisco in 1871. He opened his own cigar store by 1873 and eventually his own firm, M.A. Gunst & Co. The firm specialized in wholesale cigar store supplies and included a chain of retail cigar stands throughout the country. This business made Moses a wealthy and influential man and he was appointed to a position as one of the San Francisco Police Commissioners. In the late 19th century, San Francisco politics were incredibly corrupt. Although gambling was technically illegal in San Francisco, Moses ran his own slot machine and gaming operations and used his influence as a Police Commissioner to suppress his competition. Local newspapers often wrote unflattering articles about his gambling operations as well as his frequent long trips out of town. He was also involved in a nose tweaking involving a local attorney. "Moses Gunst has went" would be announced in the newspaper to call attention to his travels out of town. On one trip to Europe, Moses was treated to a banquet during a stop in New York City. Michael exhibited a medal that that was likely a souvenir of that dinner. The obverse of the engraved silver medal states Complementary Dinner to Police Commissioner Moses A. Gunst of San Francisco by Deputy Chief W.W. McLaughlin and Chief of Detectives George A. McClusky Sept. 26, '99. The reverse includes a list of other guests most of which could be found in the New York City Directories of 1899 and 1890. One guest listed, J. Henry Rothschild was a milliner and father of writer Dorothy Parker. For the most part, Moses ended his involvement in politics at the end of his term in 1899. In 1913 he sold controlling interest in M.A. Gunst & Co. Inc and remained on as a Director. Gunst died on 1928 but left a few other items to his numismatic legacy including an M. A. G. & Co. slot machine tokens, a five cent trade token from M. A. Gunst & Co. - The House of Staples as well as paper cigar coupons from the same.

Member exhibits:

Mark – United Cigar store coupons, a tobacco revenue stamp, post card of First National Bank, San Francisco

Dan – 1908 Consular Corp ribbon medal

Joseph – Gambling chips from the Oaks Card Club

Ken – 2018 silver proof set, 2019 American Legion centennial medal

Federico – 1908 Central America restrike medal, Ecuador FOB, Mexico FOB and Argentina FOB

Charlie – Ancients of Edom, Philistine, Samaritan, Phoenician and Judea

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.