

## Exhibits

*Gordon Donnell* brought an almost “repeater note,” ie, 12344322 and an ANA souvenir card recently received in the mail.

*Ken Takahashi* exhibited his Central American Republic 8 reales, a very nice 1826 with 6 over a 5!!

*Elliot Wehner* brought an example of a first Gulf War propaganda leaflet resembling a 25 dinar note featuring Saddam Hussein.

*Larry Reppeteau* exhibited a 1797 Cartwheel 2 pence and a commemorative of Admiral Nelson featuring the phrase “England expects every man to do his duty,” the quintessential British stiff upper lip conduct.

*Jack Free* brought a 1916 Denver dime, an 1894 Midwinter Exposition Medal, a CSNA wood, and a Cable Car Silver Bar medal (but from Cleveland!).

*David Spieler* exhibited his 2005 American Legacy Collection Proof Set, a John Marshall commemorative, a U.S. Marines Commemorative, and set of proof silver quarters.

*Steve Huston* brought a Jetton of 1647 from Belgium, rampant lion, shields, made of copper.

*Mark Wm Clark* exhibited a very nice 1831 G Central American Republic silver ¼ real.

*Whalen* shared an early Proof set from the U.S. and compared it with one from the UK showing the differences in packaging and preservation, the UK set was better preserved than its U.S. counterpart.

*Jerry Schimmel*, working on his next project of cataloguing Chinese-American tokens, exhibited a raft of pieces from Stockton, California and his recent writing award from TAMS (Token & Medal Society).

*Herb Miles* brought a Cable Car bronze medal celebrating the Independent Insurance Agents who met in San Francisco in 1981 and some school lunch chits from Susan Dorsey High School of Los Angeles.



## 1074<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Fort Mason, Building C, Room 370  
San Francisco, California



## California Gold Rush “Bills of Exchange” *Michael Wehner*

---

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656  
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

---

Many a gold miner left a sweetheart, wife or parents back East when he came to California to seek his fortune. To send some of that new found fortune to them was a risky proposition. However, for a small fee, an individual could purchase a "Bill of Exchange" from various banking companies to guarantee that the money would get to its destination. These notes were usually issued in triplicate with one sent overland and one sent by sea. The third might be kept as a receipt or sent via a tertiary route. Generally made out to a specific individual, the first of the three copies presented to the Eastern bank would be redeemed. Please join us Wednesday, October 26, 2005 to hear *Michael Wehner* describe banking in Gold Rush San Francisco and the notes issued by a variety of local Exchange and Express companies in the early 1850s.

1073<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: **Central American Mints: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow.** An Historical Perspective on the Establishment of Central American Mints *Federico Castillo*. (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Federico Castillo presented another of his detailed and interesting programs on Central American coins, this talk entitled, "Central American Mints: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow." Federico discussed the difficulty that Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador had in producing coins for circulation because of the lack of minting expertise and the curious events that prevented establishment of a regular mint in any of the Central American countries during the period from 1824 to 1900.

For Central America before the Spanish and other explorers came, there was probably barter using cocoa beans and other foodstuffs in trade. The explorers brought the quest for gold and silver, which was plentiful in many parts of the new world, but bars and bullion were not useful in daily commerce, so assayers, diesinkers and other knowledgeable officials were sought to coin the precious metal. Despite seeking individuals who had the expertise in die making and minting, neither Nicaragua, El Salvador nor Honduras was ever able to establish a permanent mint in Central America. There were probable

transitory mints because certain unexplained coins have appeared over the years, such as the 1528 piece from El Viejo.

In addition to being unable to find those who knew the minting craft, war, political instability and factionalism created too many obstacles to establish permanent facilities. Dies were ordered from various persons and locations, Philadelphia for one, but circumstances conspired to prevent establishment of any mint in Central America and to this day, there are no mints in Nicaragua, El Salvador or Honduras!

### **New Members**

Please welcome Steve Graham of Reno, Nevada as a new member to the society.

### **September Raffle** (*Elliot Wehner*, raffle coordinator)

A San Francisco Check from 1899 went to one of our New Members (Not identified by Secretary)

An Encased Cent also went to a new member (Ditto as above)

An Indian War Campaign medal went to *Sandra Whalen*.

A Philippines commemorative from 1988 was won by *Federico Castillo*.

Donations to the raffle are always welcome.

### **Papers Contest**

Numismatic papers for the 2006 contest are actively solicited.

The submission deadline is the April 2006 meeting so you have plenty of time to write about your collecting passions!