

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2020

October 28**Scott Safe** *Gone to Pikes Peak: A Mountain of Numismatic Discovery*
November 25**William Hyder** *Santa Cruz Cigar Token Stories*
December 23Holiday gathering and election
January 27, 2021*Speaker and Topic TBA**

* See "Speak Up!" below

PCNS MEETINGS IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

In-person meetings of PCNS are suspended until further notice. Instead, we will meet online. This has the benefit of enabling those who are unable to be in San Francisco to join us for a meeting **and** to give a presentation!

SPEAK UP!

As can be seen above, there are ample opportunities for **you** to make a presentation in coming months. 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.

2020 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PresidentJason Macario
SecretaryBob Somers
TreasurerStephen Huston
GovernorEd Treuting
GovernorPaul Turner
Past PresidentDaniel Hipple

Meetings of the Board of Governors normally take place 30 minutes before the membership meeting in the same location. Online board meetings may begin at 7:15.

CONTACTING AND PAYING PCNS

Email messages to PCNS.....webmaster@pcns.org
PayPal address for PCNS.....money@pcns.org

PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers* (including the not-yet-printed 2019 *Papers*), get the latest *Bulletin*, or to check our meeting schedule.

New! Beginning with the May, 2020 Meeting, you can also view a recording of the presentation on our YouTube channel, available through links from pcns.org!

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



1254th Monthly Meeting of the PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Gone to Pikes Peak: A Mountain of Numismatic Discovery *Scott Safe*

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 7:30 PM
online**

PCNS + PO BOX 475656 + SAN FRANCISCO CA 94147

TERRITORIAL GOLD

A recurring theme in US history is the discovery of gold in parts of the country that aren't yet official states. Two particularly salient examples are California in 1848 and Pikes Peak in Kansas Territory (now Colorado) in 1858-59.

In the first few years after these gold rushes, the assaying and production functions were handled by private firms rather than the United States government. The resulting ingots, bars, and coins were usable in commerce only insofar as the private firms were trustworthy; despite appearances, the coins were not sanctioned or guaranteed by any government entity.

Amongst the most famous private issues were the Pikes Peak gold pieces, minted in 1860 and 1861 by the Clark, Gruber & Company in Denver. The company was purchased by the U.S. Treasury in 1862, forming the basis for the original United States Branch Mint and Assay Office in Denver.

Join us on October 28 as **Scott Safe** shares his story of numismatic discovery regarding these rare items.



SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

Federico Castillo gave an enlightening presentation on the use of countermarked Spanish coins in the Americas. Following the independence movements in Central and South America in the first quarter of the 19th Century, Cuba was one of the few remaining Spanish colonies in the Americas by 1840.

With independence, much of the gold held in the former colonies was used to pay debts in Europe and the United States. Fearing the loss of his remaining influence in America, the King of Spain required that those traveling to Europe stop in Cuba to exchange their gold coins for silver. However, it was illegal to use regular Spanish-minted coins in the colonies. Lacking its own source of silver to produce coins, Cuba relied upon the coins minted in the former colonies, coins that in the King's eyes could not be guaranteed as to purity or weight.

The solution was to recall existing Spanish coinage in Cuba, apply a countermark that resembled a crosshatch ("lattice"), making it legal to use on the island, sometimes at modified value.

Given Cuba's position on a significant alternative trade route between the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, the countermarked coins spread to Costa Rica, where an additional countermark was added.

REGRET THE ERRORS

In the last issue of the *Bulletin*, the title of Jerry Schimmel's second place Paper should have been "**Mayhem** at an Elko Brothel." Also, despite statements to the contrary, the 2020 Papers are **not yet** available to read online. We apologize for these errors.

GOLDEN CONGRATULATIONS JERRY!

Join us in congratulating **Jerry Schimmel** on achieving the rarefied status of Gold Member of PCNS, having been a member for 50 years! That's right, folks: Jerry has been a member since 1970!

SEPTEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill: Type set collection of elongated US coins from the 1893 Columbian Expo.

Charlie: First coins of the Americas, Charles and Johanna 4 reales.

Michael: Recently acquired art medals.

Paul: 1839 large cent.

Ed: Three Cuban commemoratives.

Stephen: Countermarked 80 reis copper.

Scott: 1876 woody from the US Centennial Exposition.

STEP UP!

As the year (thankfully) comes to an end, it's time to elect officers for 2021. 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).

ZOOMING

Our October meeting will take place online using the Zoom platform. If you're already familiar with Zoom, then you're all set. A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to you separately.

If you're new to the Zoom service, you'll need to do a few things ahead of the meeting. **Don't wait until the last minute to get set up!**

Setup is fairly straightforward, but could be intimidating to those who aren't used to installing software. For detailed instructions, please see the April issue of the *Bulletin*.

Making Yourself Heard: When you join the session, your microphone is automatically muted, so no one will be able to hear you. When you wish to be heard, click the microphone icon at the bottom of the screen. Then, **please re-engage the mute** function. Sometimes a cough or background noise can cause you to pull the focus away from the presenter.

Member Exhibits (a.k.a., "Sharing"): Take pictures of any items you wish to exhibit, upload them to your computer or device, and share the pictures when the time comes. Holding objects up to your computer's camera **does not work**.

See you—virtually, at least—on the 28th!