



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
FEBRUARY, 2023

1282nd Monthly Meeting

**Chinese American Tokens: a tribute to Jerry Schimmel, and
Claude Bessy, prima ballerina, and her medal**

Michael Wehner

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 7:30 PM
Online



Join us online on **Wednesday, February 22** when Michael Wehner will give a double header presentation. First, he will talk about Chinese American tokens, a speciality of late PCNS Fellow Jerry Schimmel. Then, he will discuss ballerina Claude Bessy (not to be confused with the late author of the same name).

Bring your Chinese American tokens, your ballet medals, or your recent acquisitions to share. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Harold's talk was in two parts. The first was about the history of Judea from prior to Roman intervention through the end of the Hasmonean rule in 37 BCE. The second part was all about the coinage during those periods.

Prior to contact with Romans, Judea was part of the Seleucid Empire. Harold reviewed the location, the economy, and religious aspects of the region at the time.

The rule of Antiochus IV was filled with repressive edicts against the Jewish population in Jerusalem. This led to the Maccabean Revolt, resulting in reclaiming Jerusalem and rededicating the Temple and the origin of the Hanukkah story. What followed was the Hasmonean dynasty of Jewish self-rule (more or less) in Judea.

How was that self-rule maintained? With the Roman-Jewish treaty of friendship in 161 BCE. It was described in 1 Maccabees, in Hebrew, around the time of the event. No Hebrew versions remain, but

there are Greek translations of it in the Septuagint—the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible done at a later date.

The Hasmonean Dynasty lasted 103 years and included eight rulers. Over that time the kingdom expanded considerably. The Romans were there to protect against Seleucid incursions, and the Jewish kingdom was an ally. This wasn't a problem until the Romans started conquering the Seleucids.

Harold nicely described the infighting among various Hasmonean rulers late in the dynasty. Two of them fought each other, both appealing to Rome in 63 BCE for support. This was an opening for Pompey to annex all the land for Rome.

In 40 BCE Antigonus became the last of the Hasmonean rulers, and he had to battle with Herod ("the Great") who had been declared king by the Roman senate. Antigonus had help from the Parthians, Herod was backed by the Romans. And in 37 BCE Antigonus was defeated, and was executed shortly after. *(continues...)*

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

February 22, 2023	Michael Wehner, <i>Chinese American Tokens</i> and Claude Bessy, <i>prima ballerina, and her medal</i>
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.

MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

The Herodian dynasty followed, but that is another story for another time. Harold then showed coins related to the various times and rulers, as presented in the first part of his talk.

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

JANUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Charlie showed his example of the "Menorah" coin of Mattataya Antigonus as well as examples from Herod the Great, describing the designs and minting.

Doug showed us his Byzantine solidus featuring Irene and Constantine VI from 793-797 in gold. He also showed a heavily encrusted and patinated Byzantine coin, and Stephen helped in describing recognizable elements on it.

Harold showed a very nice example of a coin of Tigranes V, the grandson of Herod the Great.

Bill showed the most recent medal from the Medal Collectors of America. The obverse featured "Communicating across time through the medal". The reverse depicted a Roman coin partially buried in the earth.

Stephen related Bill's medal to collector Paul Holtzman who did "subject matter collecting": collecting by what coins depicted on them.

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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