



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
JUNE, 2024

1298th Monthly Meeting
2024 PCNS Summer Barbecue
Saturday, June 22, 2024, 1:00 PM PDT
Berkeley, CA



In lieu of our regular June meeting, the annual PCNS BBQ will take place on Saturday afternoon, June 22 in Berkeley. This is a rare opportunity for us to gather in person, and will include the presentation of awards for the 2024 Papers Contest and the inaugural Presentation Contest.

The cost is \$15 per person, payable in advance online by PayPal. Simply go to pcns.org and follow the PayPal link on the Meetings page. Please RSVP by **Friday, June 14** to allow our hosts to

plan accordingly. Also, if you have special dietary requirements, please forward them to webmaster@pcns.org by the same date.

Directions will be provided to those who RSVP.

Per PCNS tradition Hawaiian shirts are encouraged, but **not** required.

Remember, there is no meeting in June.



MAY MEETING RECAP

Michael Wehner has been collecting medals of the Mechanics' Institute for a long time. The PCNS has held some meetings at the Mechanics' Institute building in San Francisco, and Michael discussed the origins of the Institute and the medals it produced.

Mechanics' Institutes first appeared in Great Britain and then developed in the U.S. They were broadly aimed at helping people learn skills but also offered cultural activities- a library, a place to play board games, and more. They were open to all people regardless of race, etc.- (supposedly). The San Francisco Mechanics' Institute was formed in 1854, as unskilled miners were "coming out of the woods". As easy pickings from early in the gold rush were gone, miners returned to civilization in San Francisco where business still mostly revolved around selling gold. The institute's intent was to transform those workers with skills needed for a developing city.

The San Francisco Mechanics' Institute sponsored thirty-one fairs from 1857 to 1899 for fundraising purposes and to show off San Francisco. Michael described the progression of the various fair building designs, all meant as temporary buildings. He also talked about the four types of medals produced and their dates and designs, with mintage numbers when available. In 1913 local businessmen invested to revive the fair but didn't last beyond that one attempt.

You can view Michael's presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm Pacific Time 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 this month's annual BBQ, will continue to occur in person.

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2024

June 22, 2024.....	PCNS Summer BBQ
July 24, 2024	Jeff Pritchard, <i>Mystery of the Maiden of Holland's Freedom Hat</i>
August 28, 2024	Speaker and Topic TBA*
September 2, 2024.....	Speaker and Topic TBA*

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. Your topic can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up.

MAY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill H. started the exhibits with his 1871 Mechanics' Institute medal in its original box.

Stephen showed us the first expo medal he owned, an 1878 Paris Expo medal by Oudine, known for his medals and also his French coin design. Stephen talked about the Paris Expo, and how he learned more about the medal in a day preparing for this talk than he had known in the decades he owned it!

Doug showed a recent purchase from Heritage of an 1863 Civil War Token with a beehive/Industry on the obverse, Not One Cent on the reverse.

Federico showed a Golden Gate International Exposition medal from the Peruvian Pavilion (39mm) that recently arrived. He ordered it from Colombia, but it took two months to arrive from South America. He purchased it for a very reasonable price- well worth the wait.

Michael mentioned his talk on Piccolomini which he presented at a PCNS meeting at the Mechanics' Institute Building in San Francisco. His article on the subject has now been published. He showed a square token from Terrace Garden, a 1904 establishment, good for a domestic beer. It is a maverick token, likely found in a dumpster after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. It is possible to date the apparently fire-damaged token by the manufacturer's name on the token (which was changed after 1906 to a different engraving).

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