



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER, 2025

1313th Monthly Meeting
The Paradigm in Aluminum Patterns
Douglas Ward
Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 7:30 PM PDT
Online

Aluminum is a fascinating metal. In its natural, compound forms (e.g., alum and bauxite), it's been known for centuries. However, it's only been about 200 years that refined pure aluminum has been available for use. At first it was more expensive than gold or silver due to the difficulty in refining the ore. Advances in the smelting process have made it much less expensive. Aluminum has been a candidate for U.S. coinage several times, most notably in the 1860s and 1870s.



1974-D Aluminum Cent

Join us online on **Wednesday, September 24** when **Douglas Ward** will give a presentation about aluminum patterns in the late 18th century. Plan to exhibit your own aluminum pieces, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



1885 Aluminum Eagle

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

Last November, Federico Castillo and Michael Wehner were in Mexico City on business. During non-work hours they paid visits to the Museo Numismático Nacional, on the site of the historic Casa de Moneda de México, the first mint in the Americas (1535).

The talk highlighted the beautiful proclamation medals housed in the mint museum and was divided into Colonial and Post-War for Independence periods and the engravers, and rulers throughout Mexico's colorful political history.

Proclamation medals have a long history in Spain and Mexico. They weren't always struck by rulers, rather often struck by wealthy people, societies, and others in order to curry favor with the ruler.

The talk discussed several famous Spanish and Mexican engravers. Jeronimo Antonio Gil (1731-1798), the most talented of those discussed, was chief engraver and then administrator of Mexico City (Mo) Mint. He also founded Academia de San Carlos (Mex. Academy of Art) in 1781. Additional engravers include Pedro Juan Maria de Guerrero and F. Gordillo.

The presentation was illustrated with photos of the medals from the museum. The medals were in gloriously uncirculated condition, often with lustrous patinas that caused your Acting-Secretary to momentarily put down his fountain pen in order to pause in appreciation and avarice.

The term 'consulate' seen on many of the medals referred to mercantile guilds, not a diplomatic entity

A logical dividing line in understanding the devices found on the medals is the Mexican War for Independence (WFI, 1810-1821). Federico pointed out that those struck prior to the WFI featured European and Classical devices (cherubs, angels, etc.) and allegorical vignettes. Those struck post-WFI featured more indigenous devices, like the snake being devoured by the eagle on the nopal or historical vignettes from the WFI.

Slide after slide displayed images of beautiful proclamation medals with rulers, bishops, miners, horses, and the ill-fated Mexican emperors Agustin de Iturbide (1822-23) and Maximilian (1864-67), that illustrated the pageantry and tumultuous history of our southern neighbor.

To fully appreciate this informative presentation, you should view a recording of it 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 the annual BBQ, will continue to occur in person.

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2025-26

September 24, 2025	Douglas Ward: <i>The Paradigm in Aluminum Patterns</i>
October 22, 2025	Henry Goodman: <i>Ludwig Gies: The Munich Years 1910-1917</i>
November 19, 2025	Jeff Pritchard: <i>The Medals of Jules Chaplain</i>
December 17, 2025	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2026, <i>Speaker and Topic TBA*</i>
January 28, 2026	Federico Castillo: <i>Topic TBA*</i>

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.

AUGUST MEMBER EXHIBITS

Mike McDaniel gave a brief talk on the Profile Eagle or Hookneck Mexican 8 Reales (1823-25). He contrasted the eagles on the obverse of these coins with those on the more common full breasted 8 Reales struck from 1824-1890. He showed an eagle illustration from the first folio of the *Codex Mendoza* (1541), that is believed to be the inspiration for the Profile Eagle device. The standard reference for this series was identified as *Hookneck El Aguila de Perfil*, by Clyde Hubbard and David O'Harrow. It classifies the series' varieties by serpent type (Folded, Submissive, and Defiant) and Libertad Cap (Small, Medium, and Large). Mike shared images of two pieces in his collection, including an AU 1824 Do 8R with Defiant Serpent and Small Cap and an XF 1824 Mo 8R with Folded Serpent and Large Cap. Don Adrian commented that this series is very challenging to collect and that one must be a masochist to pursue the Hooknecks. He also noted that a supplement to the original book was published that added more varieties and information.

Stephen Huston shared news about the US Mint. The mint will begin using a new laser engraving technology. To commemorate this a new 1-oz silver Eagle has been struck. It has a special privy mark on the obverse to denote the laser technology employed in engraving the dies. The mint is asserting that this technology will help to prevent counterfeiting, but Stephen is dubious of this claim by the mint.

Bill Hyder shared three of his new medallic purchases: Joseph Mickley - Numismatic and Antiquarian Society; Centennial of the Storming of the Bastille (1889), and Dahlia Society of CA (1928), by Larson & Co.

Bill also shared the wonderful news that he has received the ANA President Award for his contributions to the field of numismatics (Congratulations and well-deserved, Bill)

Michael Wehner shared TAMS pieces: Larson Medal, CA Agriculture, Larson Medal, 1926. In addition, Michael received 3rd Place honors for the 2025 TAMS Literary Achievement. Since he published 3 TAMS articles in 2025, not certain which one earned him the nod in the awards selection.

John Duff shared a story of sleuthing to properly attribute a token that he acquired. It was a trade token that said, "El Centro, Good for \$1, 5707 N. Central." He assumed that it was from El Centro, CA. His initial research reached a dead-end in that town. Later, a friend pointed out that a restaurant (Colletti's) in Chicago, IL, was located at that address, and that the token was not from CA after all.

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