



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
AUGUST, 2025

1312th Monthly Meeting
A Visit to the Mint in Mexico City
Michael Wehner & Federico Castillo
Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 7:30 PM PDT
Online

The title of the oldest mint in the Americas goes to the Casa de Moneda de México in Mexico City (commonly referred to as the Mexico City Mint). Spain established the mint in 1535, nearly 500 years ago. Production moved to San Luis Potosí in 1983.

Join us online on **Wednesday, August 27** when **Michael Wehner** and **Federico Castillo** will give a presentation about the Casa de Moneda de México. Whether it's a virtual tour or a retelling of the history of this venerable institution, is the mystery for this month..

Plan to exhibit your own Mexico City coins or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



JULY MEETING RECAP

We each think of money as a “means of account.” In many countries it is called it a dollar, but that has different values in the US, Canada, and other nations using that monetary denomination name.

The concept of barter being the main means of exchange in ancient times is a myth espoused by a man named Adam Smith (you may have heard of him!) in the late 1700s which mostly persists to this day. Stephen’s well-researched talk about means of exchange from the earliest times busts this myth. Dating back at least 10,000 years, business transactions were mostly a recording of transactions of items in accounts based on fixed weight values of silver and/or grain, and not directly from barter. Hundreds of thousands of ancient cuneiform account transactions survive to confirm this. It wasn’t until ~700 BCE that coins first appeared and became a money of account, first by Greeks with the drachma, then Romans with the libra and denarius, and later replaced in Byzantine times with continually watered-down valuations. Coins were mostly absent in the “Dark Ages”, but silver was the used as the standard value of accounting. From medieval times on, coins again became to be used as “money”. Stephen discussed the progression of ‘money’ to modern times, even including digital currency.

To fully appreciate Stephen’s masterful presentation, you should view a recording of it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Charlie showed items from his collection that tied in with Stephen’s talk. First was a variety of ancient scale weights, which were used on one side of the balance scale, followed by hacksilber (cut pieces of silver) and ancient crescent shaped jewelry (another means of exchange) on the other side of the balance scale. Next were five cut pieces of coins found in the land of Israel, but originating as far away as Athens each cut into a section and used for its weight in silver rather than as a coin.

Michael W went to a seminar at the A.N.A. on French Medals, which discussed and showed medals of Augustin Dupre, Louis-Oscar Roty, Louis-Alexandre Bottee, and others. After retiring he went to Croatia, *(continues...)*

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

August 27, 2025 **Michael Wehner & Federico Castillo:** *A Visit to the Mint in Mexico City*
September 24, 2025 **Douglas Ward:** *The Paradigm in Aluminum Patterns*
October 22, 2025 **Henry Goodman:** *Ludwig Gies: The Munich Years 1910-1917*
November 19, 2025 **Jeff Pritchard:** *The Medals of Jules Chaplain*
December 17, 2025 **Annual Meeting** and **Election of Officers** for 2026, *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.

JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS (CONT'D)

where the patron saint is St. Blaise. He talked about coins with his image. Finally, he showed a Sonoma Saloon (Santucci) token, and mentioned the building still stands in a corner of the Sonoma Town Square.

Charlie L showed four Wells Fargo souvenir medals from ~ 1980, each a different shape. They were obtained at the San Francisco Wells Fargo Museum on the last day it was open—apparently they were being given away. Prior to that it was very difficult to obtain them (as mentioned by Michael W).

Bill showed us his great grandfather's account book, where purchases and sales were tallied on account; he raised strawberries.

Federico will be giving a talk at an upcoming online Union of American Numismatics conference, as will Adrián González-Salinas. Federico also showed tokens from Guatemala and Colombia.

Adrián González-Salinas will talk on the Holey Dollar from New South Wales. He discussed the reference book "World of the Holey Dollar", wondering if anyone knew of other copies or its value, having only seen one on eBay for \$600!

Mike M talked about a recently purchased Mexico 8 reales coin in beautiful condition, and talked about its origin.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

We have received a new member application from **Christina Lee** of Bakersfield, CA. Per PCNS bylaws, Christina will become an Active Member at the **September 24** meeting.

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