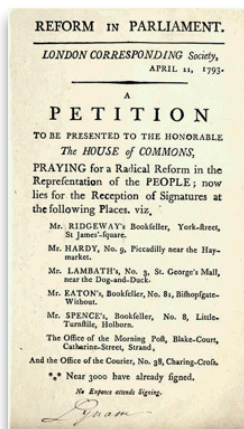




Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 2026

1325th Monthly Meeting
London Corresponding Society & Member Tokens
John Duff

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 7:30 PM PDT
Online



The London Corresponding Society was organized in the aftermath of the French Revolution (1789). It was comprised of local reading and debating clubs from throughout the British Isles, and had a membership of primarily working men, such as artisans, tradesmen, and shopkeepers. Their cause was democratic reforms to Parliament to make it more representative of the population.



That purpose, especially in the context of the series of wars between Britain and its allied European monarchies against the French Republic, was viewed as subversive, and led to a series of crackdowns against the Corresponding Society throughout the 1790s.

Along with other means, the Corresponding Society advertised itself was through handbills and tokens, such as those shown above.

Amongst the more familiar names affiliated with the Society were Thomas Paine (author of *The Rights of Man*) and Thomas Spence (purveyor of Conder tokens), both of whom have been discussed in previous presentations.

Join us online on **Wednesday, September 23** when **John Duff** will tell us more about recent developments in understanding of the designs of ancient coins. Be prepared to exhibit your own ancients, or your latest acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

Charlie Catlett discussed different methods used to reinterpret designs on two different ancient coins.

The first involved a tiny coin from Samaria with a unique design and no other numismatic comparisons, so the investigation relied on artwork and discussions of material contemporary to its minting. A new interpretation is of a seated woman, holding a bird, possibly giving birth, which would be a first in numismatics.

The second coin, from Cilicia, had many design features on the obverse similar to coins throughout the ancient Greek and Persian world, but with no explanation of their significance. It required in-depth numismatic and cultural literature research.

To fully appreciate Charlie's excellent and thorough presentation as well as the discussion that followed, 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. 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 2026-27

September 23, 2026.....	John Duff: <i>London Corresponding Society & Member Tokens</i>
October 28, 2026.....	Jeff Pritchard: <i>The Flag & Early U.S. Coinage</i>
November 25, 2026	Speaker and Topic TBA
December 23, 2026.....	Annual Meeting and Election of Directors for 2027 Speaker and Topic TBA
January 27, 2027	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.

AUGUST MEMBER EXHIBITS

Stephen Huston showed two items. First, going along with the theme of new interpretations, was the 2023 U.S. quarter dollar featuring Jovita Idar. The background field was blank, with all required inscriptions cleverly put within the folds of her clothing. He also mentioned a 2019 PCNS article of his that he submitted to the *California Numismatist*, where it won 1st Prize in exnumia literature! He showed and described the medal he was given for the prize.

John Duff showed us a 1984 MACO squared quarter. He talked about the difficulties of minting a square coin, and how it was the first time a computer was used to help with a coin design.

Mike McDaniel showed a nice 1862 Mexican 1st Republic eight reales coin. It had the much sought after mintmark from Oaxaca. What looks like scratches across the coin are adjustment marks, showing the planchet was purposely filed to the correct weight. The coin was slabbed with that information to prevent it being graded as damaged.

Michael Wehner shared his recent acquisition of a Conder Token featuring Joseph Priestley. Now he has one in both copper and in silver. Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen in 1774, and his interesting biography was reviewed. (Editor's note: Priestley was also a member of The Revolution Society, a forerunner of the London Corresponding Society.)

Russ (guest) showed a 1961 NCNA 10th Anniversary token featuring a cable car, asking questions about it.

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