

PCNS Minutes for November 30, 2022

The board meeting for November 30, 2022, was called to order via Zoom at 7:14 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Secretary Charlie Catlett, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Past President Dan Hipple, Governors Bob Somers, Mike McDaniel and Ed Treuting, Bill Hyder, Michael Wehner, and Paul Turner.

The minutes for the October meeting were approved.

Financial reports: Treasurer's Report for the third quarter of 2022 and Financial Report for October 1-November 30, 2022 were forwarded to the board prior to the meeting, and discussed.

Board of Governors nominations will be mentioned at the general meeting.

We received an application for membership from Jeff Pritchard, who will become a member officially at the next meeting.

We still need for speakers Feb 22, April 26, May 24 2023- talk to Stephen if interested.

New Business: It is up to the board to set dues. As our finances are stable, discussion of any dues change will be tabled for a year (as voted by the board).

Adjournment 7:21 PM.

At 7:42 PM, general meeting #1279 was called to order- after everyone had introduced themselves to our new member applicant Jeff Pritchard. Present, in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Jeff, Scott Safe, and Herb Miles.

Jason announced that anyone interested in an office position on the board should let us know. The Vice President position has been open, and it would be nice to fill it.

Speakers are needed for February, April, and May 2023. Please let Stephen know if interested.

Our next scheduled *in-person* meeting will be the BBQ in June. There is consideration for another in-person meeting, ideas are needed- to be discussed in the future.

Featured Speaker: Paul Turner

Medals Related to the Opening of the Suez Canal

Paul was given a medal commemorating the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and decided to do some research and give this talk. He began with a history of the canal, which runs from Port Said (on the Mediterranean Sea) to Suez, on the Gulf of Suez section of the Red Sea.

Pharaohs in ancient Egypt tried to build a canal to connect to the Nile but failed. Napoleon's engineers said it couldn't be done, because they thought the Red Sea was a higher elevation than the Mediterranean (it isn't). It finally became a reality due in large part to French Diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps (1805-1894) and his political connections.

Construction on the canal started in 1859, but there was a work stoppage in 1864. Arbitration was needed to resume work, and two versions of a medal were issued commemorating that, with Napoleon III on the obverse and a vignette on the reverse. Another medal was issued during the canal construction,

this one in 1865. It honored Lesseps and was from delegates from various nations visiting the construction site. Seventy-nine names were listed from fifteen countries.

Several medals were issued at the completion of the canal in November 1869. A celebration occurred with 6,000 people in attendance with many dignitaries among them. Over one hundred vessels lined up for the inaugural voyage through the canal, which took three days due to multiple celebratory stops.

Other canal inaugural medals:

- one commemorating the presence of Franz Joseph of Austria
- two different ones for Ishmael Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt
- one for Victor Emanuel of Italy
- a medal honoring Lesseps, perhaps the most detailed of the bunch (and the one Paul owns)
- two by Roty for the Universal Canal Company.

Paul showed a token used during the construction, as well as one made later after its completion. Finally, he showed a few other Suez Canal-related medals. The talk was recorded and should be available on-line soon.

Member Exhibits:

Stephen told us all that is known about "Sponsianus- a coin that minted a new emperor. Or- the emperor who never was". It relates to a find in 1713 in the region of Dacia. No such ruler has ever been described, but Stephen came up with a good story- none of which is true. The gold coin does appear to be indeed ancient, which would likely make it a barbaric imitation of Roman gold coins.

Michael W showed several items. First was a pair of "good for 5 cents" tokens from Sutter & Powell Streets, one for Edward Goetz, one for August Goetz- but made a considerable time apart from each other by different people. Then he showed a couple PPIE-related fobs, one rarity made in bakelite, the other metal.

Charlie showed two scale weights from the ancient Near East. First was a unique piece featuring a hybrid of four different beings: head of human, forepart of a lion, body of a bee, tail of a scorpion. Second was a sphynx-shaped scale weight obtained from an auction in Israel a couple years ago. What had not been noticed about that item until it was received and photographed was an inscription, deciphered (the day of the meeting) to state "five (shekels)".

The general meeting adjourned at 9:04PM. The next meeting will be December 28, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS