

PCNS Minutes for July 23, 2025

The board meeting for July 23, 2025, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Mike McDaniel and Bob Somers, Past President Dan Hipple, and member Michael Wehner.

The minutes for the May meeting were approved.

Financial report: the report was sent to board members prior to the meeting and was discussed.

Speakers are needed for September, November, and December

Schimmel book update: photos in the monograph need resolution correction. There was a brief discussion on thoughts about PCNS printing copies for all members, or for possibly just printing on-demand. More discussion to be held once the final page count and cost is in.

PCNS library return: pending

Items to consider over the coming months: Summer BBQ: maybe move it to May to avoid summer conflicts, different venue options; Papers contest: ways to encourage more participation

New Business: none

Adjournment 7:30 PM.

At 7:34 PM general meeting #1311 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Adrián González-Salinas, Henry Goodman, Jeff Pritchard, Charlie Ludvik, Herb Miles, Dean Neald, and Federico Castillo.

Michael W brought up an item: Seth Chandler, owner of Witter Coins (on Lombard Street, SF) and newly elected Governor of the American Numismatic Association, has re-started the San Francisco Coin Club. It was originally founded in 1960 for collectors but eventually closed. The club meets in-person on the first Wednesday of the month at Fort Mason, for anyone interested.

Coinage & Keeping Tabs: from Mesopotamia to Wall Street

By Stephen Huston

We each think of money as a “money 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 Smith 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 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. Please watch his talk, which is available on the Society’s YouTube website, for more complete information and beautiful photographic examples.

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, 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 on-line 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.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM. The next meeting will be on August 27, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS