

PCNS Minutes for March 25, 2026

The board meeting for March 25, 2026, 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 Jeff Pritchard, Past President Dan Hipple, Michael Wehner, and Dean Neald.

The minutes for the February meeting were approved.

The February-March financial report had been sent prior to the meeting and was briefly discussed. Included in the discussion were the costs of shipping crates for sending PCNS material to the Newman Numismatic Portal. To date there were five members who had not paid annual dues.

The papers contest deadline is April 22.

We need a judge for the Presentation Contest.

We need speakers for July through December.

Summer BBQ: It will be on Saturday June 27, 2026 at 1pm, with a cost of \$15. Information on registration and the location will be sent in April.

New Business:

Adjournment 7:37 PM.

At 7:37 PM general meeting #1319 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were John Duff, Herb Miles, Adrian Gonzalez-Salinas, Charlie Ludvik, Doug Ward, Henry Goodman, and Scott Safe.

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The Mysterious Kingdom & Coinage of Abyssinia

By Jeff Pritchard

Before the early 20th century, Ethiopia was known as Abyssinia. It was in a very strategic location in Africa for trade, and thus of importance on and off for millennia. Jeff's presentation was divided into five sections with numismatic significance:

- The legend of Queen Sheba visiting King Solomon and returning home to bear his son Menalik I. The Kingdom of Saba in current southwest Yemen was her legendary home, and minted coins circa 400-150 BCE.
- The Aksum (also spelled Axum) Empire from 100 to 900 CE was a common trade route. Axumite coins are occasionally found, with bronze coins being relatively affordable and gold versions quite pricy.
- Amoles are Ethiopian salt money bricks cut from rock salt and used as a means of exchange for over three thousand years.

- Maria Theresa thalers became an official coinage during the 18th and 19th centuries due to trade surpluses from Europe and from the Arab slave trade. Menalik II, King of Ethiopia from 1889-1913, and the Italian colonizers trying to introduce their own coinage are part of this story.
- Haile Selassie and his historical/numismatic legacy were the final topic.

Some discussion followed the presentation. Please see the Society's YouTube webpage for all the details of Jeff's excellent presentation.

Member Exhibits:

Michael W showed us his University of Paris medal by J.C. Chaplain

Bill showed us three Haverford College medals struck for Isaac F. Woods by Lovett. The same die was used for all three medals by just changing/adding text. His were minted in copper, white metal, and silver.

Charlie C showed early means of exchange (arrowheads) and the earliest forms of coinage from the northern Greek colony of Olbia in Skythia (north edge of Black Sea): cast arrowheads, cast dolphin shapes, and very large cast coins. Also shown was a 2021 Austria New Year 5-euro coin featuring Janus, with the younger head looking forward to an improved future (after a year of Covid), and an ancient Cilician coin featuring a winged being with the head of Janus, a unique design.

John was very proud to show his token from Ogilby in Imperial County. There were three other denominations listed in the token reference, but his \$5 token is unlisted. All varieties have slightly different shapes and metal, likely for an illiterate population to tell the difference in value.

Scott showed us a fascinating 1899 medal from the Festival of Mountain and Plain in Denver, from September 1899. It is the first one he has seen in over ten years of searching.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be on April 22, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS