



*1025<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the*  
**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

**Wednesday, August 22, 2001**

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**Phil Nordin: Numismatic Photography**

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Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
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## 1024<sup>th</sup> PCNS Meeting

Secretary Herb Miles called the 1024th Meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society to order on May 25, 2001 at approximately 7:35 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval Street, San Francisco, California. Officers and governors present were Governors, Mark Wm. Clark, Sarah Nordin, Phil Nordin, Larry Reppeteau, ex officio Gordon Donnell, and Treasurer Steve Huston.

Regular Members present were Frank Strazzarino, Rick Webster, Ron Johnson, Lori Reppeteau, Ken Takahashi, Jerry Schimmel, Paul Holtzman, and Cal Rogers. Guests included Ken Barr, our Speaker for the evening and guest and now new member Vince Battaglia.

### BOARD MEETING

The Board discussed final preparations for the PCNS sponsored CSNA Northern California Educational Symposium. All speakers have confirmed which means that William Metcalf will speak on "The Mint at Rome", Duane Feisel will talk on "California Saloon Tokens", David Lange's topic will be on Philippine Coins, and Joe Boling will probably cover a topic related to currency. Final arrangements on travel and accommodations will be made as the time for the event nears although we still need some frequent flyer miles for Dave who is coming from New Jersey.

Sarah Nordin volunteered to research box lunches for the attendees as she is familiar with restaurants near Fort Mason. Steve Huston will prepare a flyer to be included in our monthly Bulletin mailings for publicity purposes, and we will be contacting local coin clubs, CSNA, former Speakers, and local numismatists to generate a good crowd.

Other amenities for which we need preparation are; securing a coffee pot, projector, Speakers' medals (Steve mentioned that

CSNA may have access to such and he will inquire about them), and the need to have extra time in the room for a social gathering after the speakers have finished.

Treasurer Steve Huston reported that he is having trouble with the Vanguard Account because it does not recognize his attempts to change signers. He is able to put money into the account and write checks against it but cannot do any other business since he is not recognized as a signatory. Steve wants the Board to direct him to find a solution to the problem and make a report at a subsequent meeting. After a round table discussion by many of the members with several solutions proposed, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to direct the treasurer to determine a simple but efficient solution and notify the Board as to his actions.

Herb threw open for discussion a possible move from our current location because of an unwanted visitor earlier this year, but the consensus of the Board was to table such a discussion for another time.

## **PPIE AUCTION**

No items were auctioned during July.

## **SPEAKER**

Ken Barr, dealer in Souvenir Cards, exnumia, and MPC presented us with a brief history of Military Payment Certificates during our July meeting. MPC are banknote substitutes which were produced after World War II for military personnel in war zones.

The first issue appeared in late 1946 and they were periodically issued until 1973, when the Vietnam War neared its end. There were 13 regular issues in all, with issue numbers corresponding to the year and order in which they appeared, i.e., #461 was the first issue in 1946, 471, & 472 were the first and second issues in 1947.



Many MPC collectors gather the boxes and other ephemera related to MPC as well as the notes! For a collection of regularly issued notes, there are 90 total. Several series were never issued (691 & 701) but have surfaced in recent years having been liberated from storage by person or persons unknown and command substantial premiums on the market. With the “liberated” notes, 102 make up a complete collection.



Many of the 90 notes making up a complete collection are inexpensive and very colorful, some featuring vignettes of beautiful if unnamed movie actresses, Indian Chiefs, representations of liberty, historic figures, and the later ones show military vehicles such as tanks and airplanes and the like.

The notes are plentiful because they were routinely demonetized on "conversion day" where all notes of the current design were called in and military personnel had a short amount of time to redeem their holdings for the next series. If notes were not redeemed, the old ones became worthless. Special rules were in effect for those on missions or otherwise away from base or camp, so these individuals became very popular on conversion day.



The most expensive notes besides the high value \$10.00 & \$20.00 bills are the "replacement notes", which have no second letter in the serial number. These command significant premiums and very few are known for some of the series.



*This letter is missing on replacement notes.*



## SHOW & TELL

- *Cal Rogers* brought a Republic of Mexico 8 Reales with numerous chops, noting that there are essentially 4 types of chops, including punches and edge cuts, and that this coin has an Indian chop (thanks Larry).
- *Gordon Donnell* exhibited a number of items, a “Frank Gasparro Commemorative set put together by Bowers & Merena several years ago, his newly acquired 2001 Mint Set, a broadstrike silver round baseball token celebrating the 1989 earthquake, and some food stamp wooden “nickels” courtesy of Jerry Schimmel.
- *Ron Johnson* shared his story of acquiring the new Buffalo Dollars, and how they are escalating in price from the issue costs of \$30 & \$33 to more than \$100 per coin from most dealers.
- *Lori Reppeteau* exhibited a cased Los Angeles Transit Token set featuring the 23 Olympic sports at the 1984 games along with a 24<sup>th</sup> token with the Olympic logo.
- *Larry Reppeteau* has a new collectible interest garnered after the June Banquet, small (19 & 20 mm) medalllets honoring America’s Forgotten Wars, specifically the Mexican Border War and the Philippine Insurrection.
- *Phil Nordin* brought his found collectibles, 8 Slovenian coins with the Slovenian Barn Swallow pictured; Phil’s question was how they came to be placed in a rental car’s ashtray in California?!
- *Stephen M. Huston* exhibited a Commodus denarius, Commodus being the Caesar portrayed in the recent movie *Gladiator*. Steve noted that the movie got the history almost entirely wrong, but that Commodus did actually fight as a gladiator in the arena in Rome, probably due to his mental illness as he thought of himself as Hercules, and had this denarius minted with himself pictured as Hercules.
- *Jerry Schimmel* brought along some wonderful San Francisco military tokens picturing Fort Point, and some others related to the Presidio and Alcatraz.
- *Herb Miles* showed off his San Francisco good for 10 cents bar token from Herbert’s on Fillmore.

- *Ken Barr* brought along his Crescent City Good for 10 Cents Clamshell Depression scrip!

## RAFFLE

Three prizes went to:

- 1) A Whitman Classic Coin Album of (2) Sacagawea Dollars to Jerry Schimmel.
- 2) A State of Nevada Controller's Warrant for the State Prison Fund to Larry Reppeteau who promptly surrendered it to Sarah Nordin.
- 3) Krause's 1998 Standard Catalog of World Paper Money (Vol 3), Modern Issues from 1961-1998 to Lori Reppeteau.

With no further business to transact, our meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM. Herbert Miles, *PCNS Secretary*

## Slovenian Swallows Invade San Francisco

By Phil Nordin

Sometimes, coins turn up in odd places. Case in point is a group of eight Slovenian 2-tolarias which I found in the ashtray of a rental in San Francisco. All eight carry the date 2000, and all are uncirculated. Appropriately enough, the design on the reverse of the coin features a barn swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, a bird found in both Europe and the United States.

It's intriguing to speculate how a flock of these coins turned up so far from home. The fact that they were all found together in a more-or-less protected place implies that they were being saved. But they would not be usable for purchases in America. A Slovenian tourist would be unlikely to leave a cache of his or her own currency in an American rental car, any more that we would leave a handful of cents in a car overseas.

If it's odd that these coins would be carried here by a Slovenian national, it's also not likely that they were put there by an American tourist. The Slovenian tolar trades at roughly 490 T to the dollar, so these pieces were probably not pocket change. The high grade of these pieces, their attractive design, and their low face value would make them great souvenirs. If so, then they would have been tucked away someplace safe before leaving for America, rather than thrown into an ashtray upon arrival in San Francisco.

Whatever the explanation for these coins' arrival, they are attractive ambassadors from a far-away land. What a long way for a little bird to fly!

