

Exhibits

Ken Takahashi brought two recent purchases from the San Jose Coin Show, both slabbed, a 1943 S Jefferson Nickel and a 1949 S Roosevelt dime. These add to Ken's ongoing 20th Century high grade Type Set. He also brought a photo badge from the Golden Gate International Exposition showing his mother on one side and the GGIE fairgrounds on the other!

Michael Wehner exhibited an unlisted San Francisco Pool Table/Saloon token, an SF Central Salt Water Baths token, and a SF "good for 1 beer or sandwich" token. He requested help on identifying 3 aluminum rectangular pieces with Chinese inscriptions. Jerry expected them to be similar to the bamboo tally sticks well known to Chinese collectors, but...

Gordon Donnell brought his Numismatic Association of Southern California 50th Anniversary paperweight (a prize for entering their raffle), a 1995 ANA low serial number \$20, and an elongated cent celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Jerry Schimmel brought some very nice San Francisco military related items, 2 Post Exchange tokens both featuring a pictorial of Fort Point along with a postcard showing the Fort, tokens from the military garrison on Alcatraz, a token from Letterman Hospital at the Presidio, and a tool check from "Goat Island," the island through which the Bay Bridge passes to get to San Francisco.

Mark Wm. Clark exhibited a nice possibly AU \$2 note from 1929 and a Cuban "Radar" \$3 note; a note whose serial number reads the same backwards or forwards, i.e., 12322321.

Federico Castillo exhibited one of Wayne Raymond's Central America catalogues, one of a number published by this author and several counter-stamped tokens from Costa Rica, and new Baby pictures! Congratulations!

Rick Webster brought a recent eBay win; a fob perhaps, inscribed "San Francisco Admission Day, 1915, with pictorials of local landmarks; maybe from the PPIE, but unknown at this time and a 1909 Portola Festival postcard.

Welcome Back!

Former member, *O.L. Wallis*, has rejoined the Society.

Papers Contest

Reminder: Papers for 2005 are due by the April meeting.

Speakers needed

Tell us what you know! Volunteers contact Rick Webster.

Venue note

Most of the time we meet in Room 370, if we are not there we are in Room 372. Check for the note that Fort Mason puts next to the door.



1066th meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Fort Mason, Building C, Room 370
San Francisco, California

Australia's Hay Camp POW Internment Tokens

Herb Miles



Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday, February 23, 2005 to hear *Herb Miles* continue the military numismatic theme by telling us about "Australia's Hay Camp POW Internment Tokens."

1065th Meeting January 26, 2005. Post-MPC Military Currencies
Elliot Wehner (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Our current youngest member, Elliot Wehner, presented a program on current money substitutes being used in foreign military installations, round cardboard objects called "Pogs." This program was a sequel to his prior talk on Military Payment Certificates, money substitutes used after World War II through the Vietnam War.

Elliot noted that although authorization for Military Payment Certificates was not withdrawn until recently, they had not been issued since 1973. Two unissued series were kept available just in case there was a new need.

There have been five series of Pogs since they were issued. The first series consisted of 5 cents, 10 cents, and 25 cents, very plain, with no date and few other markings. To distinguish these round pieces from MPC and from regular U.S. currency, they are labeled "gift certificates", not coins or currency. Military personnel receive these fragile items in change for regular currency in the various overseas locations.

The military has advocated the use of these chits because it is easier to transport since they are much lighter than metal coins. Such is true, however, another hidden reason is the military does not have to purchase coins or real money for use overseas, merely print and issue valueless paper! Any pieces unredeemed, lost, stolen, or misplaced is a net gain for military command. Naturally, there is some attrition and collecting meaning that someone somewhere is earning a nice return on this investment.

After the first series which only consisted of 3 different denominations and designs, later series became much more involved, with 12 designs for each denomination (i.e., 36 different pieces), some with military oriented photos used. Some enterprising souls in the war zones and other areas where the pieces are issued have made a good bit of income shipping to stateside collectors and dealers.

This is an interesting area of numismatics, and likely to continue for the near future because of the U.S. presence in a number of foreign lands, and since it is such a great deal for the military, there may be series after series issued similar in fashion to the history of MPC.



1876 California Medal *Michael Wehner*

Obverse: GEORGE WASHINGTON GREAT FOUNDER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . JULY 4, 1776 / (bust of GW in wreath, crossed California and US flags, early SF bay scene with sailing ship stage coach and pony express) / C.F. MOHRIG / A. KUNER. F

Reverse: PROGRESS OF TIME AND FREEDOM TO ALL MANKIND / JULY 4, 1876 / CALIFORNIA / (State seal, contemporary SF bay scene with steamship, railroad, miners, Fort Point, Alcatraz lighthouse) / (circle of stars)

Silver, 40.3 mm, looped for suspension, cataloged as Baker-410.

This rare California medal, celebrating the centennial of the United States, is a collaboration between two important pioneer California engravers. A number of fractional gold pieces are attributed to C.F. Mohrig. However, it was Albert Kuner who was the most prolific of early San Francisco diesinkers having engraved many of the early private gold issues. The capital letter "F" after his name on this piece likely stands for "fecit", Latin for "made it". One might speculate that Mohrig engraved the dies while the very successful Kuner manufactured it in his shop. Further research is warranted to determine the relationship between these two men.

Raffle (with new Raffle Coordinator Elliot Wehner)

Two military brass tokens, NCOOM Ft. Hood, Texas/25 cents & hexagonal "good for 5 cents in trade" from Lowry Air Force Base to *Herb Miles*.

A set of the first series of "Pogs" went to *Gordon Donnell*.

A neat cancelled stock certificate from the Anglo California Bank went to *Mark Wm. Clark*.

Another stock certificate of the Pyramid Oil Company with nice vignettes of oil derricks, etc went to *Federico Castillo*.