

1895 Venetian Water Carnival Santa Cruz So-Called Dollar

By *Whalen* (with notes by *Michael Wehner*)



(California State seal, similar die to HK245a) // SOUVENIR / VENETIAN WATER CARNIVAL / JUNE 11, TO 15TH / 1895 / SANTA CRUZ / L.H. MOISE, S.F. // copper

Frank Norris, the muckraking journalist/novelist, was sent to Santa Cruz (really Capitola) to the precursor of the Capitola Begonia Festival, the Venetian Water Carnival (there was/is a motel at the end of the Soquel Creek, where the Begonia Festival floats end up, called the Venetian Court, for which the event was first named.) He was to cover the event in 1895, the date on this piece, and wrote an article about it for one of the daily rags in San Francisco.

I am from Saratoga, California, in the Santa Cruz Mountains on the Eastern slope at around five hundred feet elevation. This area was, in the nineteenth century, a resort town, where people went "to take the WATERS!" Sandra and I belong to and work for The Saratoga Historical Foundation.

After Frank Norris, the successful brother, died young (I think it was appendicitis or meat poisoning.), his writer brother Charles and his wife, the very successful writer Kathleen Norris, moved to Saratoga during the summers and held literary "salons" at their creekside home. That home is now a Jewish summer camp, Camp Swig (formerly known as Camp Saratoga.) This camp is funded by the Swig hotel fortune of Ben Swig, the late owner of the Fairmont Hotel.

The obverse, size and material of this rare and unlisted so-called dollar is extremely similar to HK245a, the common 1894 California Midwinter Fair piece by Moise of San Francisco. Although that piece is known with several variants of the Eureka obverse die, the similarity with the state seal on this piece suggests that one of the dies was used again.



**1079th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
8:00PM Wednesday March 22, 2006
Room 370, Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California**



**1000 years of Polish Coin History
*Sebastian Zurek***

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

Please join us Wednesday March 22, 2006 to hear new member *Sebastian Zurek* speak about the fascinating coinage of Poland.

1078th meeting. February 22, 2006: “Minerva's Owl: The Commemorative Coins of the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915” *David Goya*

(reviewed by *Herb Miles*) Our guest speaker, *David Goya*, presented a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on the PPIE (Panama Pacific International Exposition), showing many of the buildings and the grounds, and gave us an historical perspective on the San Francisco of 1915. The fair was held to showcase the rebirth of San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire. His presentation included a short film of the fair complete with ragtime music!

David also presented slides of the coins minted in conjunction with the fair, the half dollar, the two fifty dollar gold pieces, (one round and one octagonal) and the two and one half dollar gold piece. In the end he had us drooling over his extraordinary set of PPIE commemoratives!

Exhibits.

Lew Robinson brought two receipts with some San Francisco history behind them, one signed November 22, 1886 from the Sutro Tunnel Company and the other, from the Bank of California to the V&T Railroad, signed July 12, 1875 by James Fair of Fairmont Hotel fame!

Cal Rogers exhibited another of his chopped coins, 2 from Mexico, and an Alberto Santos Dumont coin of Brazil, an early aviation pioneer.

Mark Wm. Clark brought a North American Aviation Medal of 1953 featuring an F-86 jet fighter, and a stock certificate for 15 shares of the California Street Cable Railroad Company.

Phil Nordin brought yet another Philippine misspelling variety, this one on a 100 Peso note and announcing President Gloria Arroyo! A political hatchet job if I have ever seen one!

Whalen exhibited a 1945 dated telephone nail, (personally retrieved!) and a rare unlisted so-called dollar from Santa Cruz.

Gordon Donnell brought his latest acquisitions from the Cupertino show, an East Bay Coin Club token, 1969

Muskegeon centennial wood, and two elongated cents from the Madonna Inn of San Luis Obispo.

Herb Miles exhibited his Big Souvenir Penny of the PPIE.

Michael Wehner brought a collection of PPIE award medals cast in lead and plated. They are imitations of the official award of merit medals by Flanagan and differ only in that they carry the name of the award winning firm.

Don Kagin exhibited some magnificent PPIE items, an Admission Badge, a Closing Badge, a pan or skillet (of which there are 7 or 8 varieties), a fob featuring Eureka, a medal from the Board of Education, an octagonal medal, a letter mentioning the coins that were to be minted, 2 Copper Frames for the entire series of commemoratives, and a wonder copper frame housing the rare state gold tokens of M.E. Hart!

Raffle (*Elliot Wehner*, raffle chairman)

1) A J. Audubon large Bronze Medal celebrating the Hall of Fame of Great Americans was won by *Gordon Donnell*.

2) A Philippines silver 1 Peso commemorating the Jose Rizal centennial, 1861-1961 in nice condition went home with *Whalen*.

3) A Canadian ½ penny token of 1837 from the province of Bas Canada found a new home with *Gordon* (again)!

4) A Hungarian note of 1945 went to *Gordon Donnell*!

5) And, last but certainly not least, a Chinese overprinted note was given to *David Feldman* (because he is such a supporter of the Raffle)!

Tentative 2006 future programs

Desperately need a speaker for April!

May: Elliot Wehner “National Bank Notes”

Please contact Michael Wehner if you would like to speak in 2006 at (415) 928-4469 or mf_wehner@yahoo.com

Papers Contest

Numismatic papers for the 2006 contest are actively solicited. The submission deadline is the April 2006 and is next month!