



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
AUGUST, 2024

1300th Monthly Meeting

Cal Bears

Bill Hyder

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 7:30 PM PDT
Online

The submitted title of this month's program stirred an uncontrollable urge in your editor to break into the "offensive" version of the Cal Fight Song he learned at a rival Bay Area university.

Anyway.

The California Grizzly has been a symbol of the state ever since American settlement. There is a bear sitting next to Minerva on the Great Seal. A California Grizzly features prominently on the state flag. William Randolph Hearst kept a grizzly named Monarch in captivity from 1889 to 1911, on display at the San Francisco Zoo, in Golden Gate Park, and more while his brethren were hunted to extinction by 1922.



Great Seal of the State of California

Despite extinction, versions of the California Grizzly continue to show up on California-related tokens and commemoratives.

Join us online on **Wednesday, August 28** when **Bill Hyder** will present variations on the bear as it relates to California-themed coins and exnumia. Plan to exhibit your bear coins, your bare coins, or your recent acquisition. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



California State Flag



Monarch, the California Grizzly (D. 1911)
(California Academy of Sciences Collection)

JULY MEETING RECAP

Since Roman times, the pileus (Phrygian style) has represented Liberty in dozens of countries. There is one exception: the Netherlands chose the capotain to represent the "Freedom Hat." Why?

Jeff outlined the history of the region, and the symbolism of the Dutch Maiden, Netherlands' Liberty Goddess. Change occurred in the region in 1568-1648, the Eighty Years' War. This is when seven northern Dutch provinces fought for independence from Catholic Spanish Rule. The Freedom Hat became an important symbol at the time. The capotain—a brimmed, slightly conical 'sugarloaf hat' that resembles the Protestant/Calvinist Pilgrim hat—helped show that the Eighty Years' War was a fight for religious freedom.



Capotain

(continues...)

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of most months. Currently, meetings are held online using the Zoom platform, thereby allowing members, presenters, and guests to attend no matter where they are located. Everyone with an interest in numismatics is welcome to attend. A meeting code/invitation link will be emailed to all members separately the day before the meeting; non-members can request a link by emailing webmaster@pcns.org.

Special occasions, such as the annual BBQ, will continue to occur in person.

PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2024

August 28, 2024	Bill Hyder, <i>Cal Bears</i>
September 25, 2024.....	<i>Speaker and Topic TBA*</i>
October 23, 2024	<i>Speaker and Topic TBA*</i>
November 27, 2024	<i>Speaker and Topic TBA*</i>

SPEAK UP!

There are always opportunities for **you** to make a presentation. Thanks to Zoom, you don't even need to be in San Francisco. Your topic can even be something about which you have submitted or plan to submit a *Paper*. Please email webmaster@pcns.org to sign up. **Don't delay! We need you!**

JULY MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

The Freedom Hat was represented on coins, medals, and paintings.

The Maid of Holland design was used from 1681 to about 1800. She wears a war bonnet, and the Freedom Hat is held up by a lance. It became the Netherlands national emblem in 1795 and was last depicted on a statue in 1874.

Jeff provided many images of the hat during his discussion. And he added two bonus items at the end:

- One is how John Adams, who became our 2nd President, essentially had his reputation restored when he convinced The Netherlands to be the first to recognize the United States' independence.
- Second, there is a 1787 Connecticut token featuring a Phrygian cap on a staff, which was counterfeited at the time to include a crude image of a Dutch Freedom Cap!

You can view Jeff's presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

JULY MEMBER EXHIBITS

Bill showed us a 1941 bronze Bronx Coin Club medal. It featured Jonas Bronck wearing a Dutch Freedom Hat!

Michael shared two French medals relating to his profession. Both had the same obverse featuring Marianne, the French female allegory of Liberty. First was a 1909 award medal from the Minister of Public Instruction Bureau of Central Meteorology. The second was for the Society of Statistics in Lille.

Stephen talked about items associated with the Olympics, since they begin in Paris this month. He showed an ancient coin with a bust wearing a Phrygian cap. Then he showed the 2024 Olympic Mascot- a fuzzy cloth imitation of the Phrygian cap with big eyes. Hmmmm. He also showed what the Olympic and Paralympic medals will look like. The central portion of the Olympic medals will all have a cast remnant of the Eiffel Tower.

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