



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
DECEMBER, 2024

1304th Monthly Meeting
Error Coins: We Love When Things Go Wrong
Greg Bennick
and
2024 General Business Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 7:30 PM PST
Online

The process of designing and preparing for the producing of a coin is, relatively speaking, an art. Last month, we learned one way that process could go wrong. Turning to the manufacturing process, errors are much more fascinating, usually resulting from mechanical issues rather than artistic ones. Examples include coins struck off-center, or “mules,” where dies from different issues are struck on a single piece.

December’s meeting on **Wednesday, December 18** will feature a presentation by new member **Greg Bennick** on our fascination with error coins. Plan to exhibit your own error coins or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.



A Famous Mule

Greg’s presentation will follow PCNS’ annual business meeting, when we will elect officers for 2025. We’re always looking for fresh faces to get involved in the leadership of PCNS. Nominations are open until voting begins at the December 18th meeting, so feel free to nominate yourself!



Eccentric Half Dollar

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Stephen Huston introduced his talk on “ugly coins” with two modern U.S. coins that people often complain about as having bad portraits: the Susan B. Anthony and Eisenhower dollars. But, in fact, those two coins have very good and accurate likenesses of the actual subjects. How people were portrayed in the past is a different story.

Ptolemy I of ancient Egypt is often credited of producing the first portrait coins, both of Alexander the Great (after his death in 322 BC) as well as of himself. But there were several portraits on coins of real rulers preceding those of Ptolemy by over a century. Subsequently, Roman emperors had reasonably good portraits. Heading towards the Byzantine era, portraits worsened to the point that the crown and inscription was needed to identify the subject. “Dark Ages” and medieval portraiture devolved into mere line drawings.

A resurgence of portraiture in coinage came from Renaissance painters and sculptors in Florence, who learned medallion art and led a resurgence in decent portraiture.

With this quick background of the history of coin portraiture, Stephen presented a clear, well-illustrated and very detailed history of how people were represented on coins in the time frame mentioned above. He ultimately showed us his choice for the worst portrait ever produced. To find out which coin it is, watch the full presentation on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

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 2024-25

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|-------------------------|---|
| December 18, 2024 | Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2025; Greg Bennick , <i>Error Coins: We Love When Things Go Wrong</i> |
| January 22, 2025 | Jeff Pritchard , <i>The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition</i> |
| February 26, 2025 | Michael Wehner , <i>Topic TBA</i> |
| March 26, 2025..... | <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!**

NOVEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Charlie showed two "ugly coins." In reality, the coins are nice, the portraits are accurate, but the subjects themselves not particularly attractive. First was Leopold "The Hogmouth," Holy Roman Emperor from the late 1600s. He was a Habsburg- a royal family known reportedly for inbreeding- which explains a very prominent lower lip and chin. He also had a huge mole on his lower lip. Next was a 1658 sixpence of England's Oliver Cromwell, also with a big mole.

Bill showed us Circle of Friends of the Medallion #7, featuring Abdul Baha (by Louis Potter). It is rare, as the Bahai usually tried to buy all the medals to get them out of circulation.

Michael shared three items. First, his entry for ugly coins: a renaissance medal of Alexander Pagagnotis. Next was a June 1902 San Francisco Shriners medal featuring a man riding a bear. Finally, he showed a recent auction page for a gem 1921 Farran Zerbe proof Morgan Dollar.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

We have received two new member applications:

- **Greg Bennick** of Seattle, WA, and
- **James Perkins** of Lafayette, LA.

Per PCNS bylaws, Greg and James will become Active Members at the **December 18** meeting.

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

With 2025 approaching, it's time to start work on the next Presentation Competition. Prizes will be awarded for the best presentation of the preceding calendar year. We will need three volunteers to serve as judges for the contest.

Judges will be expected to review the videos of all eleven presentations from 2024, rating each one on several criteria. Scores will be required to be submitted by April 30 so that prizes can be awarded at the annual BBQ in June.

If you are interested in being a judge for this new contest, please contact webmaster@pcns.org. Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation in 2024.

2024 PCNS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Email messages to PCNSwebmaster@pcns.org

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PCNS WEBSITE

Visit www.pcns.org to read our *Papers*, get the latest *Bulletin*, or to check our meeting schedule.

You can also view a recording of most recent presentations on our [YouTube channel](#), available through links from pcns.org! Use a QR scanner/reader to open pcns.org via this code.

