



Bulletin of the
PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
JANUARY, 2025

1305th Monthly Meeting
The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition
(From Alaska Purchase to So-Called Dollars)

Jeff Pritchard

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 7:30 PM PST
Online



In 1867, U.S. Secretary Of State William Seward achieved his decade-old dream of purchasing Russian America (known as "Alaska") from the Russian Empire. At the time, and for years afterward, the purchase was ridiculed as "Seward's Folly" or "Seward's Icebox," while those in the know understood that Alaska was rich in natural resources. The world would learn more about that 30 years later when gold was discovered in Yukon and, a few years later, Alaska. This would be followed by black gold discoveries in 1902, and most consequentially, 1968.



As was the habit at the time, an exhibition (The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition) was held in Seattle in 1909, marking the tenth anniversary of the gold discoveries in Alaska proper (the Yukon/Klondike mania had faded

by that time). Join us online on **Wednesday, January 22** when **Jeff Pritchard** will give a presentation on the Exhibition, including its history and exonomia. Plan to exhibit your own favorite Exhibition exonomia or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

Freshly minted PCNS member **Greg Bennick** gave a presentation on the always-interesting topic of error coinage.

Greg carefully described the process of modern coin minting, from production of rolls of metal for producing blanks/planchets to the minting itself, including inspection for and elimination of defective strikes. He then gave a very nicely detailed and illustrated presentation of examples of errors which occurred at various stages of the minting process. He described how each error occurred- and showed some great rarities. One example: A mated pair of what was originally thought to be two shield nickels which turned out to be something else altogether thanks to Greg's clever examination of the two coins.

To fully appreciate Greg's excellent presentation, you can find a recording it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

DECEMBER MEMBER EXHIBITS

Jeff talked about his *Inimica Tyrannis Americana* (America, hostile to tyrants) medal attributed as a reproduction of John Bolen. Thomas Jefferson was once considered the designer of the original, but that has been disputed.

Bob showed us a 1989-D Congress 200th anniversary commemorative dollar struck with 180-degree rotated dies.

Charlie showed four ancient error coins, and the 'normal' coin that corresponded for comparison: a flip-over double struck prutah of Judah Aristobulus (104 BCE); an 8 prutah double struck coin of Herod the Great (ca 37 BCE); and two Roman Republic denarius brockage coins (~119 BCE and 114 BCE) featuring Roma on one and Janus on the other- with corresponding incuse impressions on the reverses.

(continues...)

PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm Pacific Time 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 2025

January 22, 2025 **Jeff Pritchard**, *The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition*
February 26, 2025 **Michael Wehner**, *Topic TBA*
March 26, 2025 *Speaker and Topic TBA**
April 23, 2025 **Charlie Catlett**, *Two Heads Are Better Than One*
April 23, 2025 **Deadline for 2025 Papers Contest Submissions**

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.

DECEMBER EXHIBITS (CONT'D)

Michael showed: a 2005 ANA Summer Seminar medal struck on a screw press there by students with an intentional clip and doubled die; a Schimmel wood with intentional "Rooks and Becords" (instead of books and records)- so not an error; a San Francisco slot machine token that should have a blank reverse but did have an impression likely from a flip-over strike; and several others.

Bill proudly showed the 1913 Edward Sawyer galvanos of Native Americans which he recently purchased at a Heritage auction- from what was the largest known collection (18 items in the auction). Bill already had nine of the thirty-one types of medals and obtained ten new ones for his collection- now the largest collection he knows of.

FEELING JUDGMENTAL?

Now that 2025 has begun, 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.

WRITE! NOW!

The submission deadline for the 2025 Papers Contest is the **April 23** meeting. Important: Refer to the publication section of pcns.org for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

Stephen spoke of communication he had in 1979 with an error specialist, and how he was able to get a private tour inside the San Francisco Mint. He described the things he saw, including a bin of amazing errors.

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