



*Bulletin of the*  
**PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**  
**FEBRUARY, 2026**

**1318<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting**  
**Numismatic Denouement – Money of the Fall of Venice**  
***Stephen Huston***

**Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 PM PST**  
**Online**



*Winged Lion Emblem of  
Saint Mark, the Patron Saint of  
Venice*

Venice is one of the most interesting places in Europe. Following the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Byzantine Empire, Venice asserted its independence from outside influence in the 9th century. Over nearly a millennium, Venice became the unrivaled hub of the spice trade with the Middle East, bringing it enormous wealth and political power.

Over time, Venice conquered the fading Byzantine Empire and took control of numerous territories in northern Italy, along the Dalmatian coast, the Peloponnesus, Crete, and Cyprus.

The final centuries of the Venetian Republic were marked by the loss of territory and dominance of the spice trade, a result prolonged conflict with the Ottoman Empire and other adversaries, followed by the eventual capitulation to Napoleon and his allies, the Hapsburg Austrians. Venice remained a territory of various other entities until it was absorbed into Italy in the 19th century.



Join us online on **Wednesday, February 25** when **Stephen Huston** will talk about the turbulent final years of the Venetian Republic as reflected in its numismatics. Bring your own Venetian coin, or one of your recent acquisitions. So that everyone may participate, please take pictures of your exhibits to facilitate viewing on Zoom.

### **JANUARY MEETING RECAP**

**Federico Castillo** collects Central American tokens, and has several from banana plantations. He explained the origin of the term “Banana Republic,” which has become a derogatory term. The first person to use the expression was author O. Henry (William Sidney Potter) while hiding from authorities in Honduras as he wrote *Cabbages and Kings*.

It all began in Costa Rica in the 1840’s through a 1880’s when a railroad was *(continues...)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FEELING JUDGMENTAL?**

As we enter 2026, 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 ten recorded presentations from 2025, rating each one on several criteria. Scores will be required to be submitted by **April 15** so that prizes can be awarded at the annual BBQ.

If you are interested in being a judge for this contest, please contact [webmaster@pcns.org](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org). Note that you cannot be a judge if you gave a presentation in 2025.

### **WRITE! NOW!**

The submission deadline for the 2026 Papers Contest is the **April 22** meeting. **Important:** Refer to the [publication section of pcns.org](#) for the contest rules and our copyright policy.

### **2026 SUMMER BBQ**

Speaking of the annual BBQ, the date has been set as **Saturday, June 28**. Details will appear in upcoming issues of the *Bulletin*.

## PCNS MEETINGS

PCNS meetings take place at 7:30 pm Pacific Time on the fourth Wednesday of most months. 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](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org).

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

## PCNS CALENDAR FOR 2025-26

February 25, 2026 .....	Stephen Huston: <i>Numismatic Denouement — Money of the Fall of Venice</i>
March 25, 2026 .....	Jeff Pritchard: <i>The Mysterious Kingdom &amp; Coinage of Abyssinia</i>
April 22, 2026 .....	Michael Wehner: <i>Modern Art Medals</i>
April 22, 2026 .....	Deadline for 2026 Papers Contest Submissions
May 27, 2026 .....	Speaker and Topic TBA

## 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](mailto:webmaster@pcns.org) to sign up.

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## JANUARY MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)

needed to transport coffee from the central valley to the Atlantic coast to facilitate trade in Europe. Federico outlined the detailed history of attempts to build railroads and the varied means of obtaining financing (legally and through bribery and political manipulation) in Costa Rica and eventually in Honduras and Guatemala as well. Bananas, coffee, and sugar cane became lucrative crops.

Along with the history, Federico shared many medals and tokens related to the railroad builders, politicians, and plantations involved. taken a social role and promoted the royal family- which was no longer desired. They were recalled and destroyed, though other types continued to be made.

To fully appreciate Federico's excellent presentation, view a recording of it on the [PCNS YouTube channel](#).

## JANUARY MEMBER EXHIBITS

**Henry Goodman** shared a large 1929/1930 Juan Gomez pattern medallion by Goetz.

**Bill Hyder** showed his 1836 Central American Republic eight reales coin.

**Charlie Catlett** displayed a Roman gold aureus of Hadrian featuring an image of Janus on the reverse.

**Stephen Huston** showed an exhibit of planned 2026 U.S. Mint coins, celebrating our semiquincentennial (250 year anniversary).

**FedericoCastillo** showed a Masonic badge from Peru, from the Henry Meiggs chapter. Henry was the first builder of the railroad in Costa Rica.

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## PCNS WEBSITE

Visit [www.pcns.org](http://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](http://pcns.org)! Use a QR scanner/reader to open [pcns.org](http://pcns.org) via this code.

