

## **PCNS Minutes for August 28, 2025**

The board (Zoom) meeting for August 28, 2025, was called to order at 7:13 PM by President Jason Macario.

In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Governors Mike McDaniel and Bob Somers, Past President Dan Hipple, and members Federico Castillo and Michael Wehner.

*Mike McDaniel acted as Secretary while Charlie Catlett was on travel and took meeting minutes.*

- The minutes for the June and July meetings were approved.
- Financial report: the report was sent to board members prior to the meeting and was discussed.
- Speakers are needed for December, March, and beyond. Federico volunteered for Jan 2026.
- Schimmel book update: Jason reported that he is still editing the photos in the monograph.
- PCNS library return: pending (Herb updated later that he has received all 28 containers)
- New Business: We have received a new member application from Christina Lee from Bakersfield, CA

Board Meeting Adjournment 7:22 PM.



At 7:30 PM general meeting #1312 was called to order. Present, in addition to the members from the board meeting, via Zoom were John Duff, Adrián González-Salinas, Herb Miles, Paul Turner, and Doug Ward.

### ***A Visit to the Mexico City Mint***

By Federico Castillo and Michael Wehner

Background: In November 2024, Federico and Michael were in Mexico City and stayed in the Casa de Universitat de California, an historic building owned by the UC. During non-work hours they went on numismatic pursuits including visiting the two numismatic museums in Mexico City

- Museo Banco de Mexico (very strong in counter stamped material from haciendas, etc.)
- Museo Numismatico Nacional (Old Mint and focus of the presentation)
- The talk highlighted the beautiful proclamation medals housed in the mint museum and was divided into Colonial and Post-War for Independence periods and the engravers, and rulers throughout Mexican's colorful political history

The old mint is a gorgeous building that is imbued with historical gravitas since it is the first mint in the Americas (1535). It was built on the Aztec ruler Moctezuma's Casa Denegrida, as was often the practice in Mexico, viz Spanish construction over older indigenous sites.

Proclamation medals have a long history in Spain and Mexico. Not always struck by rulers, rather often struck by wealthy people, societies, and others in order to curry favor with the ruler.

The talk discussed several famous Spanish and Mexican engravers

- Jeronimo Antonio Gil (1731-1798), the most talented of those discussed
  - Was chief engraver and then administrator of Mexico City (Mo) Mint
  - Founded Academia de San Carlos (Mex. Academy of Art) in 1781
- Pedro Juan Maria de Guerrero
- F. Gordillo

The presentation was illustrated with photos of the medals from the museum. The medals were in gloriously uncirculated condition, often with lustrous patinas that caused your Acting-Secretary to momentarily put down his fountain pen in order to pause in appreciation and avarice.

The term "consulate" seen on many of the medals referred to mercantile guilds not a diplomatic entity

A logical dividing line in understanding the devices found on the medals is the Mexican War for Independence (1810-1821). Federico pointed out that those struck prior to the WFI featured European and Classical devices

(cherubs, angels, etc.) and allegorical vignettes. Those struck post-WFI featured more indigenous devices, like the snake being devoured by the eagle on the nopal or historical vignettes from the WFI.

Slide after slide displayed images of beautiful proclamation medals with rulers, bishops, miners, horses, and the ill-fated Mexican emperors Agustin de Iturbide (1822-23) and Maximilian (1864-67), that illustrated the pageantry and tumultuous history of our southern neighbor.

Summation of this educational talk:

- Mexican medals are of high quality
- Some symbols, such as the eagle, persist
- The medals reflect political and socio-economic power, even if only briefly for Emperors Iturbide and Maximilian
- The medals show how quickly new rulers/political class were able to establish themselves
- The engravers' careers could rise and fall according to the fate of their patrons
- They are rare but collectable.

### Member Exhibits

- Mike McDaniel gave a brief talk on the Profile Eagle or Hookneck Mexican 8 Reales (1823-25). He contrasted the eagles on the obverse of these coins with those on the more common full breasted 8 Reales struck from 1824-1890. He showed an eagle illustration from the first folio of the *Codex Mendoza* (1541), that is believed to be the inspiration for the Profile Eagle device. The standard reference for this series was identified as *Hookneck El Aguila de Perfil*, by Clyde Hubbard and David O'Harrow. It classifies the series' varieties by serpent type (Folded, Submissive, and Defiant) and Libertad Cap (Small, Medium, and Large). Mike shared images of two pieces in his collection, including an AU 1824 Do 8R with Defiant Serpent and Small Cap and an XF 1824 Mo 8R with Folded Serpent and Large Cap. Don Adrian commented that this series is very challenging to collect and that one must be a masochist to pursue the Hooknecks. He also noted that a supplement to the original book was published that added more varieties and information.
- Stephen Huston shared news about the US Mint. The mint will begin using a new laser engraving technology. To commemorate this a new 1-oz silver piece has been struck (mintage of 100,000) at the West Point (W) mint. It will have a special symbol on the obverse to denote the laser technology employed in engraving the dies. The price from the mint is \$105 and there is a limit of 1 piece per customer. Stephen says that the mint is asserting that this technology will help to prevent counterfeiting. He is dubious of this claim by the mint.
- Bill Hyder shared three of his new medallic purchases
  - Joseph Mickley-Numismatic and Antiquarian Society
  - Centennial of the Storming of the Bastille (1889)
  - Dahlia Society of CA (1928), by Larson & Co.
- Bill also shared the wonderful news that he has received the ANA President Award for his contributions to the field of numismatics (Congratulations and well-deserved, Bill)
- Michael Wehner shared TAM pieces and TAMS news
  - Larson Medal, CA Agriculture
  - Larson Medal, 1926
  - Michael received 3<sup>rd</sup> Place honors for the 2025 TAMS Literary Achievement, he published 3 TAMS articles in 2025, not certain which one earned him the nod in the awards selection
- John Duff shared a story of sleuthing to properly attribute a token that he acquired. It was a trade token that said, "El Centro, Good for \$1, 5707 N. Central." He assumed that it was from El Centro, CA. His initial research reached a dead-end in that town. Later, a friend pointed out that a restaurant (Colletti's) in Chicago, IL, was located at that address, and that the token was not from CA after all.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM. The next meeting will be on September 24, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDaniel, Acting-Secretary PCNS