

PCNS Minutes for December 17, 2025

The board meeting for December 17, 2025, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by Vice President Bill Hyder. In attendance were Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Mike McDaniel, Ed Treuting, and Bob Somers, Past President Dan Hipple, Jeff Pritchard, and Adrian Gonzalez Salinas. President Jason Macario sent his regrets for not being able to attend.

The minutes for the November meeting were approved.

There was a brief discussion of the financial situation for December- it is essentially unchanged. A 2025 Annual Report will be sent to the board.

PCNS Monograph #2 (Schimmel Book) has been published and is available through the Lulu Bookstore or the link on pcns.org. Member free copies must be requested by December 31

Speakers are needed for March and thereafter

Election at General Meeting. The slate: President: Jason Macario, Vice President: Bill Hyder, Treasurer: Stephen Huston, Secretary: Charlie Catlett, Governor: Mike McDaniel, Governor: Jeff Pritchard, Governor: Ed Treuting. Bob Sommers was thanked for his years of service on the Board.

Lingering questions to be resolved in January:

Moving the 2026 Summer BBQ to May (there are lots of graduations on Saturdays in May)?
July? If we move BBQ to May, should we move papers contest deadline to March 25?
Nothing was resolved at the present meeting, it will be brought up again in January.

New Business: none.

Adjournment 7:25 PM.

At 7:30 PM general meeting #1316 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Charlie Ludvik, Doug Ward, Scott Safe, Paul Turner, and John Duff.

Speakers are needed for March and thereafter in 2026.

It was announced to the members that the Schimmel Book was available, with the ability to order it (print-on-demand) from the PCNS Website. A free copy is available to members who notify Stephen by December 31.

Elections: there were no new candidates for election to the PCNS Board. Those listed above were nominated and elected unanimously.

Collecting Royal French Jetons
By Bill Hyder

Bill spoke on the topic of French jetons, specifically royal jetons authorized by various French rulers. These date to the beginning use of counting boards circa 1200, and date from 1200-1800. There are over 13,000 known, mostly in copper and brass. Silver ones are known but were presentation pieces. Most originate from Nurenburg, a major minting center, though later dates were produced by the French Mint. These were produced at time when most people in Europe were using counting boards at home and businesses for basic addition and subtraction, since mathematics was not usually known by the population. A counting board works on the same principal as an abacus, and millions of counting pieces (jetons) were produced for this use.

The jetons can be collected by various topics: by the ruler, by reverse images (which were often allegorical), or even by the city. The French Revolution brought about the end of royal jetons as they had 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.

Bill showed us many of his royal jetons and discussed the significance of each variety. The talk was recorded and will be available to view on the Society's webpage.

Member Exhibits

Charlie showed four French jetons he has dating to around the time of Napoleon I. They all feature the same janiform obverse of Heur/Malheur (fortune/misfortune), but there were twenty-one different reverses used with the same obverse. It is not clear what they were made for, more research is being done.

Stephen showed us a French jeton from 1700 featuring the Altar of Lugdunum (Lyon), from the Academy of Science, Literature, and Art.

Jeff showed his 1575 jeton from the Netherlands featuring the Resumption of Hostilities, with a Dutch freedom hat on the obverse and Belgic lion in a walled garden on the reverse; and a 1782 Treaty of Amity medal from a recent Kunker auction (of which he is patiently waiting for delivery)

John mentions that jetons are precursors to toy coins, to help children learn about money. He showed one in the Rogers book that has the term 'jeton' in the motto of the spielmark.

Doug showed a 1744 Hamburg trade coin featuring the Great Comet of 1744, discussing how that comet rarely appears but has been depicted back to Roman times.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM. The next meeting will be on January 28, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS