

The SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Aiken Public Library

Pres. Steve Kuhl
V.P. Pat James
Sec. Jim Mullaney
Treas. Chuck Goergen
Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



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the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club, Founded in 2001
Monthly Newsletter

January, 2016

Our next meeting is Thurs. Feb. 4 at the Aiken Public Library, starting time 6:45 PM

Club Shines with many fine programs and Show & Tells

2016 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 7	Apr. 7	July 7	Oct. 6
Feb. 4	May 5	Aug. 4	Nov. 3
Mar. 3	June 2	Sept. 1	Dec. 1

Club begins 2016 on the back of two highly successful meetings

The December 10 dinner meeting of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club had an record attendance of over 40 members and guests. Held for the third consecutive year at the Aiken Knights of Columbus Hall, members enjoyed the food and drink and the number of prizes won along with the wonderful camaraderie. President Steve Kuhl officiated along with help from VP Pat James, past President Willie Simon along with Treasurer Chuck Goergen and member J.J. Engel who engineered the arrangements for the dinner site.

The November 4 meeting featured a record number of show & tell exhibitors and thanks to the efforts of President Steve Kuhl and Secretary Jim Mullaney, all the Show & tell numismatic examples were displayed along with their exhibitors in the December, 2015 issue of the club newsletter.

History of the club Newsletter

The Stephen James CSRA Coin Club begins its fiscal year in April having held its first public meeting in April 2001. The newsletter began publication eight months later with Vol. 1, No. 1 in January, 2002, so as of this issue, we begin its fifteenth year of continuous publication.

The first five years the newsletter was produced only as hardcopy in black and white. All the coin pics used in specific articles were cut out from glossy black and white photos from auction catalogs and pasted on to the master copy which was later taken to one of the major stationery stores to be run off on their printers before being snail-mailed to each member. In 2006, the newsletter went digital. It was published in full color and e-mailed to all but six members who receive color hard copies by snail mail. The editor still produces most of the articles and would welcome contributions from other club members.

Collecting the US Coins of 1908 and a Report on the 2016 FUN Show By Arno Safran



A 1908 Indian Head cent graded MS-64 Red-Brown by PCGS

Since moving to the CSRA, in December of 2000, the editor has attended the FUN show 14 out of the past 15 years. It is usually held in Orlando, FL but on occasion, elsewhere in the sunshine state. Sponsored by the Florida United Numismatists the show boasts not only the largest bourse in the United States but also serves as the bellwether for the numismatic marketplace for the year,

This year, the show was moved from Orlando to Tampa which added an hour more to the usual seven hour drive from Augusta, but from this collector's overall impression of the show was well worth the minor inconvenience. The bourse was one of the largest I have ever seen and the attendance was strong and continuous throughout the four day event held from Thursday, Jan. 7 thru Sun., Jan. 10, 2016. Two of the major hotels sponsored by the organizers were within a short walking distance to the Tampa Convention Center. It is said that if you cannot find a particular coin you are looking for at FUN, it probably is either temporarily out of circulation for collectors or it no longer exists,

The writer, having acquired the 1908 Barber quarter several years ago at the Augusta Coin Club show (*along with the gold issues well before gold peaked in 2011*), figured it would be fairly easy to locate the 1908-P Indian Head cent, Liberty nickel, Barber dime and Barber half thereby completing the years set since all of the dates are considered common. On the first day of the show, he found four examples of the 1908-P Indian Head cent, all certified MS-64 RB ranging from surfaces that were spotted or grainy to finally finding one that had the most red color with the smoothest surfaces as shown above.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Findings and a Report on the 2016 FUN Show

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



A 1908 \$5.00 Liberty V nickel graded PF-66 by NGC
[Use 3x glass or increase page size to fill monitor screen]

Locating a mint-state 1908 “V” nickel turned out to be more of a challenge. The mintage for the date was 22,684,557, quite common yet the only business strike example grading AU-58 thru MS-65 he encountered was a certified MS-62 piece that had a number of small but noticeable chatter marks in the fields on the obverse. Finally, he came across an attractive proof specimen. Compared with the business strike issues the mintage for the 1908 Proof nickel was only 1,620, scant by comparison, but unlike coins primarily produced for circulation, proofs were made primarily for collectors or souvenir hunters with most specimens seldom entering commerce. As a result, there could be as many as 75% of the total population of 1908 Liberty proofs still around. Because of their availability, dealers have been buying up a lot of these low mintage proof cents, nickels and dimes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries because many certified business strikes of that period grading AU-55 thru MS-63 are no longer easy to find.



A 1908 Barber dime graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Use 3x glass or increase page size to fill monitor screen]

In 1908, the Barber dime was struck at four different US Mints, in Philadelphia, 10,600,000, at the Denver Mint, 7,490,000, in New Orleans, 1,789,000 and San Francisco, 3,220,000. Despite having the largest mintage of the four and most probably the greatest number of survivors across the grading spectrum, the writer only came across one desirable example of the 1908-P. That is one of the beauties of the FUN show. With so large a bourse, the collector is bound to find at least one.



A 1908 Barber quarter graded MS-64 by PCGS

As mentioned, the 1908 quarter was acquired at the Augusta Coin Club show in 2008. The obverse is virtually a MS-65 while the reverse displays some darkish toning in the upper left-hand quadrant of the coin. The mintage of the 1908-P

quarter was 4,232,000, actually lower than Denver's, with 5,788,000 struck and New Orleans with 6,244,000 produced. The 1908-S quarter with only 784,000 is the scarcest issue of the four and far more costly.



A 1908-O Barber half-dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS
[Use 3x glass or increase page size to fill monitor screen]

The example of the 1908-O Barber half shown above is lustrous and exceptionally well struck for a New Orleans Mint specimen, a date which usually appears somewhat “mushy” compared with Philadelphia Mint examples. With a mintage of 5,360,000, the 1908-O is the second most common of date of the 73 piece Barber half series. It was also the only certified specimen of the date the collector found on the bourse. Encountering even one acceptable example of a common date is better than none, which is still another reason why collectors should attend a regional show, especially as large as FUN.



The 1908 certified BU year set (excluding gold)
[Use 3x glass or increase page size to fill monitor screen]

The gold portion of the 1908 year set will appear in another article. More on the 2016 FUN Show continues on page 3, column 1

Report on the 2016 FUN Show

(Continued from previous page)

While there were many other desirable numismatic items available to the collector at the FUN show, one of the more important aspects of the event were the wonderful displays attendees could examine in the exhibit area. You did not have to be a collector of ancients to appreciate the exhibit on *the 12 Caesars of Rome* highlighted by the outstanding examples of the large copper coin known as the *sestertius* representing each emperor. The balance between numismatic information, images of each emperor and the coin representing them was perfect. The obsolete paper money exhibits were also outstanding but the one that probably caught most observers' eye was the one showing the HO gauge train track maneuvering its way through the obsolete southern bank notes, some that were extremely rare. Of the US coins group, two stood out for this observer, the one on the 2¢ piece, (1864-1873)--which like the previously mentioned "12 Caesars"--was perfectly balanced between outstanding numismatic examples of the denomination, numismatic and historic information along with magnified close-up lenses above the more unusual varieties. The other US exhibit that caught this collector's attention was the one on US transitional dates going back to the first year of the large cent, 1793 and extending thru 1938, the year the Jefferson nickel replaced the Buffalo nickel. The writer has also been enamored of this category, because it provides variety through the acquisition of two, sometimes three design types or sub-types displaying the same date.



Obverses of the 1916 Barber and Mercury dimes,
One of the more common transitional date couplings



Obverses of the 1916 Barber and Standing Liberty quarters,
One of the scarcest transitional date couplings

Attending a large regional coin affords the serious collector a bounty of numismatic options. If you need a specific denomination to complete a year set, such as 1908 Liberty nickel, despite being considered a common date, you may come across a few certified specimens ranging from AU-58 to MS-63 or none at all except perhaps a proof. Depending on your discretionary income, one can choose the nicest example that you can afford or pass on all of them if they do not meet your criteria. The best part of the FUN show is not only adding to your collection but viewing the wonderful exhibits and seeing many numismatic colleagues from around the country.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB

Regular Meeting January 7, 2016, Aiken County Library

President Steve Kuhl called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:45 p.m.

Jim Sproull reported that there were 21 members present and 2 guests. Jim announced information concerning several upcoming coin shows in the vicinity.

Garry Naples won the drawing for the members' door prize, a 2016 Silver Britannia.

Any motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the November meeting was deferred until their publication in the club's newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Goergen stated that the Club's bank balance was \$1963.64.

Steve Kuhl thanked Pat James, Chuck Goergen, Jim Sproull, Jim Mullaney, and Crissy Waller for helping to make the club's Christmas party a success.

Jim Mullaney apologized for the late notification of the cancellation of the club's meeting on December 3rd. We had anticipated we would not need the library on that date, but when the Christmas party was moved to the 10th and we decided to have a regular club meeting on the 3rd, another organization had already reserved our meeting room for that date before we contacted the library.

Steve Kuhl indicated that he was considering several ideas for upcoming events, and that we would need volunteers from the club to make any we choose to pursue successful. Steve is currently considering a Boy Scout/Girl Scout outreach, a coin/currency road show, and possibly a swap meet with another area coin club.

Steve Kuhl reminded all members that officer election for the club would be held at the March meeting. Any interested club members are encouraged to consider serving as an officer and all officer positions should be considered open.

Garry Naples reported that "Curry's Chronicle", the periodical that the club had been receiving due to its membership in the Carson City Collectors Club of America, was publishing its last edition. Garry had a letter published in this edition.

Steve Kuhl reported that the February program would be determined later, and Howard Hillman offered to make a presentation of "World Coins on the Cheap".

Minutes of the Jan. 7, 2016 Meeting

Several members of the club presented Show & Tells. Howard Hillman shared a porcelain coin typical of those issued in the Weimar Republic (Hamburg Germany) 1919-1932. The usage of these coins was similar to that of our civil war tokens. Howard's example was undated, but it was minted in 1929. Glenn Sanders shared two 1935A Silver Certificate experimental notes. Garry Naples showed an uncut sheet of eighteen SC fractional currency notes with denominations of 5, 10, 15, 25, 50 and 75 cents. Jim Mullaney shared a 2016 Silver Britannia that the club will be giving as a door prize throughout 2016.

The club's January program was a video by Bill Fivaz on "Numismatic Terminology", including descriptions of "full bands" and "split bands" on Mercury dimes, "full steps" on Jefferson nickels, "full head" on Standing Liberty quarters, and "full bells" on Franklin half dollars.

Thomas Misiag won \$10 in the 50-50 drawing.

Following the auction, President Kuhl adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

WINNERS OF PRIZES AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY - 2015

2015 Silver Eagle: Margaret Sproull
2015 quarters set: Sally Lipsky
Club shirts: Kathleen Wallis & Glenn Sanders
2015 mint set: Vilma Safran
1.25 oz. Canadian silver coin: Roger Seitz
Mohawk Ironworkers commemorate dollar: Dick Smoot
2015 Presidential proof set: John Kolmar
1 oz. silver Canadian Maple Leaf: Jerry Lipsky
Tony Chibbaro book on SC Tokens: Chuck Goergen
50-50 drawing: Marion Engel - \$72
2015 Proof set: Ann Smith
Nickel Jar: JJ Engel

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