

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

May, 2016

Our next meeting is Thurs. May 5 at the Aiken Public Library, starting time 6:45 PM

Club begins 16th fiscal year on positive note

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

Last three programs presented by club members

Despite a roster of one-third that of the Augusta coin Club, more Stephen James CSRA Coin Club members participate in presenting programs than our sister club to the west. At the February meeting, Howard Hillman presented an excellent program on acquiring Foreign coins “on the cheap” as he described it, displaying over twelve loose-leaf volumes from his collection of inexpensive yet impressive coins from six continents. In March, Arno Safran presented a program on *The Decade of Great Change: The 1830s* featuring the transition from Cap-Bust coinage to Liberty Seated United States coinage. Last month, John Kolmar introduced a numismatic topic involving an important area of collecting we hadn’t seen before by presenting a program on Error Coins, listing over twenty different types of errors that enjoy an increasingly large collector base today. This involvement bodes well for our club.

Report on the Georgia Numismatic Convention



A 1906 Indian Head cent graded MS-64 RB with reverse cud
Acquired at the GNA convention by the author

Your editor recently attended the GNA convention held at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center in Dalton, GA. This was an unusually large event with over 150 dealers present. There were wonderful exhibits, meetings of various collector specialty clubs, a YN session on Saturday and of course, lots of coins, tokens and medals, currency and scrip available to collectors interested in any of these areas. That was the upside. The downside was finding particular dates with eye appeal grading from XF-45 to MS-64 to complete sets that were once thought to be fairly common.

Collecting the he US Coins of 1911 (excluding gold) 105 Years ago By Arno Safran



The obverses of the certified BU US Coins of 1911 (excluding gold)
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]



In 1911, William Howard Taft was in his third year as 27th President of the United States. He served as Secretary of War during Theodore Roosevelt’s presidency and was virtually hand picked by the outgoing popular president to succeed him. In the election of 1908, he defeated third time democratic candidate William Jennings Bryan handily. History has not been especially kind to Taft although during his administration a number of big trusts were dissolved under the influence of Teddy Roosevelt.

Excluding gold, the coinage of 1911 produced no major rarities although the 1911-D quarter is priced well above the P Mint issues in most grades. The really scarce pieces for the year are the 1911-D \$2.50 quarter eagle, \$5.00 half eagle and \$10.00 eagle. Excluding the aforementioned gold coins it is possible for a collector with the available discretionary income to complete a five piece denomination set of 1911 coins from the cent thru the half-dollar grading AU-58 thru MS-64.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the he US Coins of 1911 (excluding gold)

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



The reverses of the certified BU US Coins of 1911 (excluding gold)
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

If the reader is interested in assembling a five piece denominational set of US coins for 1911, the Philadelphia Mint produced the largest mintages, resulting in the most survivors across the grading spectrum and are the least costly.



A 1911 Lincoln Wheat back cent graded MS-64 RB by ICG
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

Over 101 million Lincoln cents were struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1911 compared with just 12.6 million at the Denver Mint with only slightly more than 4 million produced at the San Francisco facility and yet, encountering well circulated survivors from rolls or circulation is becoming less and less frequent. Even an attractive mint state example of the 1911-P is not all that common. The specimen shown above was acquired "raw" in 1989 at a local club meeting in New Jersey and graded MS-62 by the dealer who was noted for his conservative grading and integrity His name was Dave Wilson. Every coin he sold me that I later had certified by PCGS, NGC, ANACS or ICG either came back in the same grade or one or two grades higher. In the author's view, the coin is still an MS-62. In 1911, a cent had the purchasing power of 26¢.



A 1911 Liberty Head nickel graded MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

The Liberty nickel was struck from 1883 thru 1912. All dates but the last were struck solely at the Philadelphia Mint. In 1911, 30.5 million nickels were struck and the coin is priced as a common date across the grading spectrum.

The Liberty Head "V" nickel was designed by Charles E. Barber, the Chief Mint Engraver at the time. For some reason, this type has never been a very popular with collectors which,--except for the key dates, 1885 & 1886 and the 1912-D and S--has kept prices fairly low. In 1911, five cents had the purchasing power of \$1.30.



A 1911-P Barber dime graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

In 1911, 18,870,000 dimes were struck at the Philadelphia Mint and 11,209,000 at the Denver Mint. Both mint issues come well struck and are considered common dates, (*i.e.*, *RI*s), and are priced similarly in all grades. The 1911-S with 3,520,000 struck, while not rare, is more expensive from Fine-12 on up becoming twice as costly in MS-64 than the two other mints. The 1911-P specimen shown was acquired at the South Carolina Numismatic Association (CSNA) Convention held in Greenville, SC in October, 2013. In 1911, a dime had the purchasing power of \$2.57.



A 1911-P Barber quarter graded MS-63 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

For some reason, the quarters struck in 1911 are not as common as some of the surrounding dates. The 1911-D with mintage of 933,000 and the 1911 S with 988,000, while not considered as rare as the three major key dates, the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S, are fairly scarce and still pricey. Even the 1911-P with a mintage of 3,720,543 is considered somewhat scarcer than the other P-Mint dates in mint state, so it is no surprise that it took a while before the author located this specimen, which like the dime was acquired at the SCNA convention in 2013. Both the dealer and the collector wondered why such an original looking well struck coin was only graded MS-63 but if one places a magnifying glass just below Miss Liberty's eye on the obverse you will discover a tiny horizontal gash. Despite this minor blemish, the coin has tremendous eye appeal. In 1911, a quarter had the purchasing power of \$6.43.

With the suspension of dollar coinage after 1904, the half dollar became our largest circulating silver denomination until the silver's dollar's resumption in 1921 and while most dates of the Morgan dollar series are extremely common, these coins seldom entered circulation being stored in mint-sewn bags to support the silver mining interests out west or as specie, (hard money) to back US silver certificates.

Collecting the he US Coins of 1911 (excluding gold)

(Continued from previous page)



A 1911 Barber half-dollar graded MS-63+ by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

The half dollar denomination was a another matter and Charles E. Barber's design-type--despite what contemporary critics may have though of it--is a beauty, especially in mint state as shown immediately above. Unlike today, where virtually none of our multi million half-dollars enter circulation, the Barber half circulated heavily during its 24 year run, (1892 thru 1915). This was primarily due to the miserable wages paid to most US citizens and the many immigrants entering our country during this period. Adding to this misery were the working conditions.

In the larger cities, many of the factories were four to twelve stories high, badly wired, poorly lit, cramped, dingy and moldy. The famous New York City Triangle Building fire in 1911 killed many, many workers. In 1911, a wage earner still worked 10½. hours a day, six days a week. Entry level wages ranged from 5¢ to no more than 8¢ an hour which translates to a maximum weekly wage of \$5.00. The prices for rent and basic goods--while unbelievably low compared to today--were still well above what most bread winners could pay for their family's basic needs, so when a laborer opened his pay envelope, on the odd chance of seeing a brand new Barber half dollar inside, the last thing on his mind was saving it for a coin collection. Every "penny" was needed to get through the week.

In 1911, the Philadelphia Mint struck 1,406,000 Barber' halves. 695,080 were coined at the Denver Mint and 1,272,000 were produced in San Francisco. Due to the much lower mintage and survival rate, the 1911-D is more pricey but even the 1911-P and S Barber half do not surface as frequently as some of the other more common dates. In 1911, 50¢ had the purchasing power of \$13.00 today.



A 1911 certified BU year set in line (excluding gold)

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB

Regular Meeting April 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 23 members present and 1 guest. Jim announced information concerning several upcoming coin shows in the vicinity.

Jim Clapp won the drawing for the members' door prize, a 2016 Silver Britannia.

A motion was made by Arno Safran, seconded by J.J. Engel, and passed to dispense with the reading of the March 2016 minutes. A copy will be on file with the other club records, and a copy will appear in the club newsletter.

Steve Kuhl read a report from Treasurer Chuck Goergen that the Club's bank balance was \$947.51.

Steve Kuhl discussed an upcoming club activity, a Coin/Currency Identification Day that will be held at the Aiken Library on June 11th. This would be an opportunity for available club members to help the public gain information about any coins or currency they have that they would like more information about. No sales would be supported at the event, only information would be provided.

2017 *Red Books* are available from the club for \$10. Most of the available books were bought by members at the April meeting, and only about 5 more remain. They will be offered at May's meeting on a first come-first served basis.

The club's May program will be a presentation by David Cashin on the "Coins of North-East India".

The club's April program was by John Kolmar – "My Error Coins". John did a wonderful job defining the basic types of coin errors and shared examples of most of these error types from his own collection.

Glenn Sanders won \$6 in the 50-50 drawing.

Following the auction, President Kuhl adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

Spence's Odd Fellows ½ Token By Bill Myers



Spence's Odd Fellows ½ Penny Conder Token
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

With the current election campaigns in full swing there is no shortage of mud-slinging amongst the candidates. We are inundated with it on the TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and the internet. Making disparaging comments about a politician is not a new idea and existed over 200 years ago without the benefit of the mass communications we have today.

Coins and tokens have often been used to transmit messages and probably started not long after coins were "invented". In the late 17th century and early 18th century Conder tokens served this purpose in England. Due to shortages of ½ penny and 1 penny coins, tokens were minted as a substitute and carried a variety of messages. They are named after James Conder who originally catalogued them. Helen Barry introduced me to Conder tokens and she can give a more detailed history.

The token I am featuring was minted for Thomas Spence. He operated a book shop in London and was considered a revolutionary and a proponent of individual freedom, freedom of the press and common ownership of land. He closely followed the writings of Thomas Paine. He spent 7 months in prison in 1794 for high treason. After his release he became a coin dealer making and selling tokens, many of which expressed political feelings - especially his. In 1801 he spent 12 months in prison for libel. He died in poverty in 1814.

I have found several interpretations of the meaning of the designs of this token, so I will try to consolidate them. The obverse of the token features the conjoined busts of William Pitt on the left and Charles Fox on the right. William Pitt was the Prime Minister of England and is pictured with a sad expression, as he could not suppress sedition and revolt. Charles Fox was the leader of the opposition against Pitt and King George III and his bust has a gleeful expression. They were enemies and were certainly "odd fellows" to be joined on the same token. Around the bust is ODD FELLOWS QUIS RIDES, the latter meaning who laughs. The reverse has an open hand with a heart in the palm inside an olive wreath. One source states that the heart in the hand denotes Spence's devotion to his cause. I found that the heart in the hand is also the symbol of the Odd Fellows so it may be there as a satire of Pitt and Fox as odd fellows. The olive wreath represents peace and has been interpreted by some to the revolution in France and the fact that Spence felt Britain was preventing peace.

It may also mean Spence wanted peace amongst the politicians. The token shown could be understood even by the illiterate and it certainly expressed Spence's political views. Too bad the current politicians do not release tokens. It would give us something interesting to collect.

References:

Hear me! Ye oppressors! at http://thomas-spence-society.co.uk/1795-SPENCE'S_ODD_FELLOWS-1/2_PENNY_CONDER_TOKEN_MIDDLESEX at

<http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1795-spences-odd-fellows-2-penny-422584721>

Thomas Spence at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Spence

World of Coins at

<http://www.worldofcoins.eu/forum/index.php?topic=3042.0>

Charles James Fox at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_James_Fox

Heart in Hand at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heart_in_Hand

(Col. Bill Myers is completing his tour of duty with the United States Army as an Orthopedic Surgeon in Tucson, Arizona and is a former member of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club (2003-2008) and past President of the Augusta Coin Club (2005-08). He collects tokens and currency related to the military as well as "hands", his orthopedic specialty area. He has won various awards for his many exhibits displayed at a number of major regional shows. ED.)

The Augusta Coin Club will be holding its spring two day show on Fri. & Sat., May 13 and 14 at the Columbia Exposition Center in Grovetown, GA. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM both days. Parking and admission are free. At least 50 tables will be set up by a variety of dealers offering US, Foreign and Ancient coins for sale along with US and foreign currency notes, also military scrip, tokens and medals.

From Aiken, take I-20 west into GA to Grovetown exit, Interchange 190. Make left at end of ramp. Cross over I-20 and make a another left at Gateway B'ld, right-hand lane. Drive past stores and restaurants down to Partnership Drive making a right into the parking lot.

The actual address of the Expo center is
212 Partnership Drive.
Grovetown, GA

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