

The SJ CSRA CC now meets at the MieStelle Bakery in Aiken on the first Thursday of the month

Pres. Kelly Nordeen
V.P. Garry Naples
Sec. Jim Mullaney
Treas. Chuck Goergen
Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



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Volume 23, No. 7

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

July, 2024

Our next meeting will be held at the MieStelle Bakery on July 11, 2024
Consider bringing in a numismatic item for Show & Tell!

Collecting the U.S. Coinage of 1914 (110 years ago)

2024 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 4 Apr. 4 **July 11** Oct. 3
Feb. 1 May 2 Aug. 1 Nov. 7
Mar. 7 June 6 Sept. 5 Dec. 5

A Lovely Little silver Coin



An 1851-O Type 1 silver three-cent piece certified NGC-62 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

In 1851 the U.S. Mint was suffering a sort of panic since silver coinage was now worth more than its numerical value as a result of the discovery of gold in Sutters Mill, California and its effect on our regular silver coinage, especially quarters and half-dollars. By 1850, most quarters and halves were being either melted or shipped to Europe for their higher value than their denomination causing a massive coin shortage. On March 3, 1851, Congress authorized the striking of a new small silver coin which would later be called a "Trime". The first three years the coin was struck in .750 silver and .250 copper and was only 14 mm in diameter. The very first year, the tiny silver coin was struck at two mints; 5,447,400 at the Philadelphia Mint and 720,000 at the New Orleans Mint. The 1851-O would be the only time the coin was struck at a branch mint.

The author acquired the coin shown above away back in Feb. 1995 at a small monthly coin show in Trevoze, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia. The coin shown cost him \$170 back then. Today it retails for \$1,250.00 with recent auction prices ranging from \$600 to \$1,063 going back to 2017.

During the early years of collecting the author never considered bidding at an auction, live or on line. Instead, he acquired coins of interest by attending a number of con shows with his wife, Vilma presumably paying retail without realizing he might have acquired the coin for far less as a auction bidder. It wasn't until 2018 that he tried bidding at auctions held on line and was amazed at how much lower the coin cost him.

Collecting the U.S., Coins of 1914 (excluding gold)

By Arno Safran



The obverses of the 1914 year set from left to right.
The Half-dollar quarter and dime over the nickel and cent
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

By 1914, the Morgan dollar was long gone, having been produced for the last time in 1904. At the time, no one knew that the popular \$1.00 denomination would be struck again in 1921. This left the half-dollar as the highest silver denomination--at least thru 1920--similar to 1804 thru 1835.

Two of the five coins show above display an artistic change which indicates that the allegorical figure of Miss Liberty has been replaced by two male figures, a Native American Indian head on the obverse of the nickel and for the first time in American coinage, a former president, Abraham Lincoln, replacing a female Indian feathered headdress on the cent denomination.



Woodrow Wilson

In 1914, Woodrow Wilson was serving his first term as our 28th President having become the first democrat to be elected in 18 years since Grover Cleveland left office on March 4, 1896. Wilson was southern born yet served as Governor of New Jersey and before that, the President of Princeton University and proved to be very popular during his first term.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the U.S., Coins of 1914 (excluding gold)

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



The reverses of the 1914 year set from left to right.
The Half-dollar quarter and dime over the nickel and cent
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The first two decades of the 20th century were full of excitement due to a plethora of inventions, modern art along with modern music as well as our coinage that included Saint Gaudens' magnificent double eagle in 1907, Victor David Brenner's Lincoln cent in 1909 and James Earle Fraser's Native American nickel with a combination of three different chiefs merged into one on the obverse and a Bison on the reverse first struck in 1913.

In the early months of 1914 nobody knew that on July 18th of that year, a four year world war would erupt in Europe destroying hundreds of thousands of lives followed by a Flu epidemic that took the lives of millions across the globe.



A 1914 Lincoln Cent graded MS-64 Red-Brown
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

In 1914, the Lincoln cent was struck at all three mints with 75,238,432 coined in Philadelphia, 4,137,000 in San Francisco but only 1,193,000 in the Denver Mint which as a date has become quite rare and is very expensive today. The 1914-P is the least costly due to its huge output and in the **2025 Red Book** retails for just \$80 grading MS-63 compared with the 1914-S--which while still affordable is priced at \$105 in the same grade. An 1914-D Lincoln cent is priced at \$3,750 in the same grade and is considered the scarcest of the set.

Copper cents are graded Brown, Red-Brown and full Red, the first being the lowest in price while the latter, the most expensive of the three. The 1914 cent shown above was graded Red-Brown and is still quite attractive. Like most Philadelphia Mint issues--which usually had the highest mintages--even one grading Red-Brown is fairly inexpensive in today's numismatic market. The coin displayed above was acquired by the author away back in 1988. It cost him just \$45.00 back then. Today it retails for \$185 with most averaging around \$140. Of the three, the Red-Brown is usually considered a "Best buy".



A 1914-P Buffalo nickel graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The last official year that the Liberty Head "V" nickel was struck was in 1912 and in that very year, the five cent piece was produced at all three mints for the first time, so by 1914--as a rule--the nickel denomination would usually be struck at the Philadelphia Mint in far greater number with 20,664,463 followed by 3,912,000 at the Denver Mint and 3,470,000 at the San Francisco facility all dated 1914 with the mintmarks D and S appearing on the bottom of the reverse under the bison only at the Denver and San Francisco Branch mints.

In more recent years an **1814/3** Philadelphia Mint issue was discovered but it is extremely rare and "priced off the charts", so for collectors merely interested in completing a year set, the author recommends just going after the 1914-P nickel because it is by far and away, the most affordable. The author acquired the specimen shown above back in 1993. It cost him only \$85. Today, an MS-64 graded specimen retails for \$300 with one having recently sold for \$264.00 at an on line Heritage auction looking very similar to the coin displayed above.



A 1914-P Barber dime graded MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

By the time the author added the 1914-P dime to his collection, he and his wife Vilma had retired to the warm and friendly southern state of Georgia. In April of 2010, they both drove the four hours drive from Augusta to Dalton located in the northwestern part of Georgia just 27 miles south of Chattanooga. TN to attend the Georgia Numismatic Association annual show held at the Dalton Convention Center. From our readers in Aiken, SC, tack on another 45 minutes to an hour.

While moving around the large bourse area, the author came across what appeared to be a charming well struck, mark-free example of a 1914-P Liberty Head dime once more displaying Chief Mint engraver Charles Barber's talent despite the 20th century critics' revulsion to what they believed was an "old hat" design while still denying the engraver's beautiful coin design.

It is imperative--in the author's opinion--that the reader should attempt to magnify the photo shown above to 200% if possible in order to better view the coin's eye appeal. Despite being graded only MS-64, it has the artistic quality of an MS-65 with clarity on both the obverse and reverse. Back in 2010, the coin cost the author \$240. Today an MS-64 currently retails for \$350 according to PCGS' COINFACTS with a recent Heritage auction specimen selling for \$336.00.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting the U.S., Coins of 1914 (excluding gold)

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



A 1914 Barber quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Like the Barber dime, this example of the Barber Liberty Head quarter also appears far more attractive than the MS-63 grade specified and even when magnified to 200%, the coin shows no blemishes. It is only when magnified up to 500%, that two tiny nicks appear slightly below the chin downwards towards the right between the 11th and 12th stars and two smaller nicks above the 1 in the date and higher up. The reverse shows no blemishes whatsoever. So, why wasn't the coin graded MS-64?

The author acquired the 1914-P quarter from a major national dealer off the internet in October, 2017 at a cost of \$359.00. The current retail price for the date is listed at \$480 according to PCGS COINFACTS with the most recent auction realized prices being \$360 and \$400.

While the quarter looks similar to the dime, it is different in two respects. Unlike the dime which displays the legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the obverse, the quarter as well as the half-dollar displays the thirteen stars. In the reverse, the dime displays a wreath while the quarter and the half-dollar displays the shielded eagle with the 13 stars above. The value, QUARTER DOLLAR appears at the bottom of the reverse. If the coin was a branch mint, the D for Denver or the S for San Francisco would appear just above the letter R in quarter. Both the 1914-P and D are priced similarly despite the fact that the 1914-D had only one-half the mintage of the 1914-P. It's the **1914-S with only 264,000 coined that is extremely expensive** and beyond the means of most collectors.



A magnificent 1914-P Barber Half-dollar graded MS-64 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Of the five denominations, the Barber Half-dollar shown directly above appears as the crowning glory when compared to the other four denominations and deservedly so. As a rule, the Barber half-dollar coinage struck at the Philadelphia Mint usually were produced in very large numbers and were the least expensive of the three mints, but in 1913, '14 and '15, the numbers released were amazingly small, with 188,000 coined in 1913, just 124,230 in 2014 and 138,000 in 1915, so the coin didn't come cheap, especially in the uncirculated grade shown.

The author acquired the 1914 half-dollar on line back in 2014 on the coin's 100th anniversary from a dealership called *Eye Appealing Coins*. They specialize in lovely toned coins as well s coins with eye appeal within their grades.

During the late 19th century and first half of the 20th, the half-dollar circulated heavily despite its size but shortly after **WW II** ended, the fifty-cent silver denomination began to be used less and less in commerce. The author recalls as a boy seeing heavily used examples of the Barber Half and early Walking Liberty halves in grades as low as About Good to VG-10 on occasion, but by 1941, the denomination began to fade.

Apparently, **like the large cents of the 1850s**, the half-dollars as part of our change were considered too weighty along with the fact that the slot machine didn't include a hole for the coin to fit in.

In 1914, the Barber half-dollar was struck at only the Philadelphia and San Francisco Mints; the latter having a mintage of 993,000 compared with only 124,230 struck in Philadelphia with the result that a San Francisco Mint specimen grading MS-64, although still expensive, retails for far less than the Philadelphia mint issue.. In observing a number of 1914-P halves graded MS-64 on line, none of the examples he saw looked as attractive as the coin shown on the lower portion of column one of this page on the complete set displayed below.



An Uncirculated set of 1914 U.S. Coins (excluding gold)

This is a hobby that requires the numismatist to spend some extra money--but if carefully planned and done with research and patience--each coin can increase in value, especially if they display eye appeal.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, June 6, 2024

President Kelly Nordeen, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Oh MieStelle Bakery on Pine Log Road. There were seventeen members in attendance in person and six visitors.

George Zachmann won the door prize – a BU commemorative half dollar for Statue of Liberty (1986).

J.J. Sproull informed members of upcoming coin shows in the region.

A motion was made by Steve Kuhl and seconded by Sharon Smoot to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May meeting. A copy of the May Meeting Minutes will be on file with the other club records and the Minutes are also reported in the Club newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Goergen reported that the club's balance is \$1700.40.

Old Business:
None !

New Business:

Steve Kuhl announced that this year's SCNA show will include several new features, including a joint in-person/online coin auction. Individuals can submit their coins for the auction. More information is available on the SCNA website or contact Steve Kuhl.

Show & Tells:

Several Show & Tells were shared before the members.

Arno Safran displayed an 1908 Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 double eagle **with motto**, explaining that unlike the 1908 \$20.00 **without motto** which had a huge mintage of over 4 million, the **with motto** coin's output was 27 times less, yet is only slightly more costly and could be considered a "sleeper".

Chuck Goergen displayed a set of three silver rounds on the 20th anniversary of their first issuance. One was a regular proof, another, a reverse proof and the third, a burnished proof which he preferred over the other two mint options.

Garry Naples shared an interesting token from Waterbury Connecticut ,

Jim Mullaney displayed a Peace Dollar dated 1923.

The Program:

David Cashin presented a program on "The Coinage of Kachar". Kachar was a small kingdom in the current state of Bihar in northeastern India. David became interested in the coinage of that region while he was a missionary in a nearby area years ago and discovered that ancient local coins were present in the mix of silver coins and bullion routinely melted down in the workshops of jewelry stores. David described how Indian coinage is relied on to document historic rulers and events, and also how few coins exist from kingdoms like Kachar, even though they were routinely produced over several centuries. The point was made that these coins are so scarce there is not much of a market for them, and therefore the coins are not that much in demand and auction prices are surprisingly low – even for coins where fewer than 10 examples are known to exist.

As usual, all the members enjoyed David Cashin's very knowledgeable presentation and appreciated his inclusion of the photos of very interesting coins.

After the program David received a certificate of appreciation from President Kelly Nordeen.

Member Sharon Smoot won the 50-50 drawing, \$25.

Jim Sproull, assisted by Jim Mullaney, conducted the monthly club auction.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary*

With the extra space on this page, the Newsletter Editor would like to thank Secretary, James Mullaney for his many years of service in publishing the SJ CSRA Coin Club's monthly meeting minutes. He helps those members who were unable to attend the meeting feel like they were there. Thank you, Jim for your assistance all these years!

Arno Safran

Happy Independence Day



A set of 1976 Bicentennial clad obverses averaging MS-60 to MS 63



A set of 1976 Bicentennial clad reverses averaging MS-60 to MS 63

1976 was an important year for numismatics in America. The proposed two-year Bicentennial coinage issued in 1975 and 1976 as part of the upcoming Independence Day celebrations scheduled for July 4, 1976 had become a reality. Like the statehood quarter program--initiated almost a quarter of a century later--these special bicentennial reverses seen on the quarter, half dollar and dollar helped to stimulate greater interest in coin collecting. As with many an entry-level collector, some newcomers began trying to assemble Mint sets or Proof sets from the present going back to their youth.

In 1975, the San Francisco Mint stopped issuing Lincoln memorial cents for circulation. If one wanted to continue to keep the S portion of the cent series going you had to acquire the 1975 *clad* proof set. Prices began to rise and by July, 1976, the 1975 proof set--which originally sold for \$7.00--was retailing for \$28 and rising. Neophyte collectors--unsure of their grading skills--preferred buying modern US government issues. At least one would be receiving a coin that was uncirculated. The unseasoned collector knew nothing about the finer points of grading such as the difference between a MS-60, 63 or 65; but as the two larger coins shown above display bag marks, a week strike with little luster and would probably not grade higher than MS-63, if that. Nevertheless, the coins shown are attractive enough to help stimulate future numismatists.

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