

The SJ CSRA CC now meets at the MieStelle Bakery on the first Thursday of the Month

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



The Stephen James
CSRA Coin Club of Aiken
P.O. Box 5562
Aiken, SC 29804

Web site: www.sjcsracc.org

Programs: Arno Safran
ANA Rep.: Glenn Sanders
Show Chair: Board members
Photos: Steve Kuhl & A. Safran
Publicity: Jim Mullaney
Newsletter: Arno Safran
E-Mail: arnosafran@comcast.net
Auctioneer: Jim Sproull
Web site: Susie Nulty (see above.)

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

July, 2025

**Our next meeting will be held on July 3, 2025 at the MieStelle Bakery in Aiken, SC
Consider bringing in a Numismatic Show & Tell item!**

Why shopping at Coin shops and attending Coin shows are advisable #2

2025 Club Meeting Schedule

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

The 2009 F.U.N. Show

In early January of 2009 my wife, Vilma and I attended the Fun Show held in Orlando, Florida. It would be the sixth Fun show we attended since 2002 which was a seven hour drive from Evans, GA,--a suburb of Augusta--to Orlando, Florida.. Long before our relocation from the central New Jersey Atlantic shore to the Central Savannah River Area (or CSRA), fellow numismatists had raved about the F.U.N. show as being one of very best coin shows in the United States and this appeared to be true since the writer found a lot of interesting obsolete United States coinage at these events with the 2009 show being the best of all. His original intention was to attempt to fill his desire to complete a U.S. 1850 year set (excluding gold) since his re-reading of "the Comprise of 1850" and he still needed the quarter, half-dollar and silver dollar (all major early scarcer U.S. coin dates) to accomplish just that.



An 1850-O Liberty Seated quarter, Briggs 1a, Large 5 graded XF-45
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The 1850-O quarter had a mintage of 412,000 whereas the 1850-P had a mintage of only 190,000 yet is considered slightly more common today. When the author acquired the 1850-O quarter back in January, 2009, it cost him just \$425. Today it retails for \$900 in the same grade with a recent example selling for \$1,020. Several others the author has seen displays an even slightly darker mode than the coin shown above lessening their attractiveness to the eye; and the slogan, "eye appeal is Buy appeal" is essential in a coin's value.



An 1850 Liberty Seated half-dollar, WB 102, R5+ graded AU-58
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The 1850 Liberty Seated half-dollar shown above was an important find at the 2009 FUN Show since not only did it have a low mintage of just 250,000 compared with 2,456,000 produced by the New Orleans Mint that same year but it represented a very rare die variety; WB-102, R-5. The WB in the above title under the coin stands for Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert; authors of "The complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half-Dollars" published back in 1993 by the David Lawrence RC Press which the author had acquired. This was a period when several renowned numismatists wrote books regarding their specialties on various United States coinage. So, the 1850 half-dollar shown directly above is worth a lot more than its current retail figure of \$2,250, possibly as high as \$3,000 to \$4,000 because of its rare die variety. It also appears as a very attractive coin.



An 1850 Liberty Seated dollar graded MS-61 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The 1850 Liberty seated silver dollar is another tough coin to acquire and today it retails for \$10,000, far above what the writer paid for it back at the 2009 FUN Show. This may be another tough coin that can only be only be acquired at a major coin show or on line.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Why attending major Coin Shows are advisable for serious collectors of United States Coins

(Continued from page 1)



An 1850 gold \$1.00 graded MS-62 by PCGS

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

1850 was the second year that the tiny \$1.00 gold coins that were produced and they were struck at all four mints that were in operation at that time; the Philadelphia Mint of course which struck 481,953, by far the most of the three more recent New Orleans, Charlotte and Dahlonega Mints that opened in 1838. The coin shown directly above was only 13mm in diameter but during this period but a gold dollar represented a lot of money back then.

Chief Engraver, **James Barton Longacre** created the tiny Gold dollar in 1849 along with the new \$20.00 gold double eagle denomination which was first struck for circulation the following year in 1850, although not shown in this article except coin specimen was also acquired at the same Fun Show in 2009 and it's a little beauty.

Since the Philadelphia Mint struck the most that year the specimen shown is considered extremely common compared with the much rarer New Orleans Mint output of 14,000 and the even smaller numbers produced at the Dahlonega Mint in Northern Georgia with of just 8,382 produced and a poultry 6,966 made at the Charlotte Mint in North Carolina. All three are scarce to extremely rare today, so acquiring the more available Philadelphia issue of the tiny 1850 gold \$1.00 at the 2009 Fun show was a bargain at \$435 back in 2009. The 1850-P gold \$1.00 is considered the scarcest of the 1849 and 1851 thru 1854 dates that followed. Today it retails for \$650 in the same grade.



An 1875 silver 20¢ piece graded MS-62 PQ by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

It is hard to believe that the writer acquired so many fascinating United States coinage at a single coin show but that's how the 2009 F.U.N. was.

In 1875, the Philadelphia Mint struck only 38,500 silver twenty-cent pieces, the least of the three mints then in operation. The San Francisco Mint which produced the most, 1,155,000 and the Carson City Mint, the second most with 133,290 coins. Folks along the east coast were apparently not interested in the double-dime nor its existence let alone used it.

The 20 cent piece was designed by William Barber who also created the Trade dollar in 1873 and was serving as our fifth Chief engraver at the time. His Heraldic eagle on the reverse of both coins was both original and powerful. The 20 cent piece with a diameter of 22mm appeared too close to the quarter's with had a diameter of 24.3 mm in size, and since both had the same Liberty Seated obverse, many Americans found it confusing, so after being struck once more in 1876. The 1877 and 1878, were struck as proofs only for collectors.

At the 2009 F.U.N. show the writer acquired the coin shown for \$1,100. Today it retails for \$1,400, so it hasn't increased in value very much, but this coin type hardly surfaces even at the major shows, so the writer was glad to have obtained it when he did.

Commoner U.S. date U.S. Coins at the 2009 F.U.N. Show



An 1892 Indian Head cent graded MS-64 Red-Brown by PCGS

Copper coins are divided into three categories, Brown, Red-Brown and Red with a brownish example having the lowest value while one graded full red, being the highest. Most collectors prefer to collect the Red-Brown examples close enough to the full red ones due to their much lower prices and in some instances, the writer has acquired a Red-Brown Indian Head cent that looks almost full red but at a much lower price as a result. That however is not the case regarding the coin shown above since it looks exactly as it is graded, **Red-Brown**.

In 1892, the Philadelphia Mint struck 37,647,087 Indian Head cents; all portions of the amount released ending in sevens. While this was a huge number, it was not a record breaker by any means since it was surrounded by previous and later dates that had much larger mintages. Nevertheless it is still considered a common date. The writer acquired the coin shown above at the 2009 F.U.N. show at a cost of \$180. Today it retails for \$325 ranging in prices realized at auctions from \$264 to \$360 during the past three years. MS-64 graded examples appear to be the most common available in uncirculated grades.



An 1892-O Morgan dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS

The 1892-O Morgan dollar (a New Orleans Mint issue)" had a mintage of 2,744,000 and was the largest mintage of the four U.S. mints that year, yet it is still rather expensive retailing for \$850 today. Not so much however at the 2009 FUN Show when the writer acquired the example shown directly above for just \$310. The coin is especially well struck displaying Morgan's masterpiece at its best although Miss Liberty's hair above her ear appears slightly flattened. The reverse is very sharp and for an example graded just MS-63 it is a gem.



An 1891 Lib. Std. half-dollar, WB-101, R4 graded MS-62 by PCGS

This was the final date of the Liberty Seated coinage and it is a beauty. Only 200 pieces were struck but it was a lot more than the 14,000 or less as a result of the Bland Allison Act. It sold for \$850 at the 2009 Fun Show. Today it retails for \$1,500. (Continued on page 3)

Collecting some gold Coins at the 2009 F.U.N. Show



A 1907 gold \$2.50 Liberty Head graded MS-62 quarter eagle at left and a gold AU-58 graded 1908 Indian Head quarter at right
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

Directly above are two quarter eagle gold coins that the writer also acquired at this amazing 2009 F.U.N. show. While not transitional dates (i.e., two types with the same date), the transition from the 1907 Liberty Head quarter eagle to the 1908 Indian head quarter eagle were the only two gold denomination design changes that weren't done in the same year. Neither coin is scarce and high graded coins such as AU-58 thru MS-62 can appear extremely eye appealing to the viewer even if one is graded AU-58 and the other, MS-62.

In 1907, 336,294 Liberty Head gold quarter eagles were struck at the Philadelphia Mint. A year later, Bella Lyon Platt's new Indian Head quarter eagle design made its entrance with 564,821 coins struck also at the Philadelphia mint, (a \$2.50 value at the time they were issued) so both dates are fairly common and easy to acquire if one is willing to pay the money for the higher grade examples.



A 1908 \$20.00 gold double eagle with motto graded MS-61 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

At the 2008 F.U.N. show the writer's aim was to acquire the 1907 Liberty Head double eagle and its transitional date's partner, the new Saint-Gaudens double eagle with Arabic numerals and was successful. So, in the following year at the 2009 F.U.N. show when he came across another 1908 double eagle but the low released one that displayed the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** which appears at the central bottom of the reverse just above the setting sun, he decided to buy it. With only **156,258** coined later in 1908 compared with **2,271,551** double eagles *without motto* produced earlier in 1908, the coin is much scarcer although not actually considered rare. It cost \$1,300 back then. Today, however, it retails for **\$3,350** due to the tremendous rise in gold during the past two years as this is being written.

The Saint-Gaudens double eagle is one of the most artistic coins ever created and one is not likely to come across the 1908 *with motto* version unless they attend a major coin show, although a specimen can sometimes show up at a local coin shop. Both venues are worth visiting when one can.

Preparing for major Coin Shows

Major Coin Shows are usually held at large conventions halls with fifteen to twenty columns of tables for dealers to spread their numismatic offerings. Sometimes the tables are arranged in sections which represent the more higher graded scarcer coins and paper money towards the front with the lesser expensive items corner rows at a section near the back or one side of the hall. Collectors preparing for such a show must consider beforehand just how much one's current budget allows them to save up based on the quality of the scarcity of the coins they wish to acquire. If you are a serious middle class collector, such a convention usually requires **three to four months** of putting aside the amount of money probably needed in preparation for the event which also includes overnight hotels stays and meals. A serious collector usually prepares a list of the coins or paper money he or she is hoping to acquire.

Prior to 2017 when the writer was in the full swing of collecting, he generally went to four major shows a year along with the local club shows that he also enjoyed attending.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, June 5, 2025

President Kelly Nordeen, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Oh Mie Stelle Bakery on Pine Log Road. There were 25 members in attendance in person and three visitors. Kelly turned the meeting over to Steve Kuhl because he had lost his voice due to a cold.

Randy Clark won the door prize – a 2024 quarter-ounce silver Britannia. Randy auctioned the coin at the end of the night with the proceeds donated to our club.

Steve Kuhl informed members of upcoming coin shows in the region.

A motion was made by Willie Simon 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.

Chuck Goergen reported that our Club account's balance was \$3356.13.

Old Business: Steve Kuhl thanked Jimmy Widener for providing snacks and drinks for June's meeting. David Anderson volunteered to bring them in July.

New Business:

Steve Kuhl informed us that Typhany Nordeen's mother, Phyllis Hutto, had passed away last month. Phyllis was a frequent visitor at our club for the last several years and she will be missed. Please keep Typhany & Kelly's family in your prayers. (Minutes Continue on Page 4, column one)

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB

Regular Meeting Thursday, June 5, 2025

(Continued from page 3, column one)

Randy Clark told the members about SCNA's creation of the SCNA College of Numismatics that will start its offering of 1-day classes at its October Coin Show. Each class is priced at \$100. The first offering includes Introduction to Grading US Coins, Intermediate Grading of US Coins, and Introduction to Grading US Currency. The courses will be on either Friday or Saturday depending on preference of the overall attendees.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be at the Columbus Club held on December 4th.

Show & Tells:

Kelsey Forde shared a Numismatist article on Hobo Nickels. As an officer of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, shared experiences of discussing copyright of coin photos associated with that article. A general discussion of copyrights of numismatic photos followed.

Arno Safran shared a quick overview of our club's most recent monthly newsletter.

The Program:

Arno Safran presented a program on "The US Coinage and the Lifestyle of the 1870's".

Arno did a great job of weaving together his family history, US history, and coins of the era.

The program started by highlighting the record-breaking number of circulating coins minted in 1873 (1¢, 2¢, 3¢ silver, 3¢ nickel, 5¢, half-dime, dime quarter, Half-dollar, Seated Liberty dollar, and Trade dollar).

He reported that the 1870's was a very active decade for coinage changes, with the 2¢, 3¢ silver, and silver half-dime production stopped in 1873 and the short-lived 20¢ denomination only being produced from 1875 thru 1878. He also displayed a different coin denomination from 1870 thru 1879, along with a few year sets during the decade with the finale ending with a 1879 Brilliant Uncirculated year set of U.S. coinage (*excluding gold.*)

We all appreciated Arno's tips on what to look for while coin shopping – including the importance of eye-appeal of a coin in addition to simply the coin's grade.

Mark Heaton won the 50/50 drawing - \$32.00

Steve Kuhl, assisted by Jim Mullaney, conducted the monthly club auction.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

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