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V.P. Pat James
Sec. Jim Mullaney
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Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



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

September, 2014

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 at the Aiken Public Library

Club Annual Show this coming Saturday, September 6

2014 Club Meeting Schedule

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

Annual Club Show, Major fund Raising Event



VP Pat James and member Vilma Safran at welcoming desk at former club coin show

Most coin clubs maintain their yearly budget through membership dues, monthly raffles and most importantly, the annual show. It is this special event, more than any other, that provides the club with a working budget each year. Since 2001, the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club has been holding its annual show on the first Saturday in September. Our current bourse chairman is past President Steve Kuhl who has been running our show for the past five years. This is a major responsibility and we owe Steve our gratitude for the hard work involved in making our shows successful. Our membership also deserves praise since many of the 45 current members have pitched in each year with the set-up, working the Welcoming Desk during show hours and the take down at show's end. On Saturday, Sept. 6 we will be holding another show at the H. Odell Weeks Activity Center. Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is plenty of parking and admission is free.

America 180 Years Ago and the Coins of 1834

By Arno Safran



The famed 1834 King of Siam Presentation Proof Set Including small Andrew Jackson medallion

[Courtesy of Goldberg Coins & Collectibles of Beverly Hills, California]
[Use a 3X magnifying glass or magnify page to 200% to see details.]

Here's a numismatic trivia question for the reader to ponder. In 1796 all ten authorized denominations were coined for the first time in the same year. What would be the next year that all ten circulating denominations would be struck again?

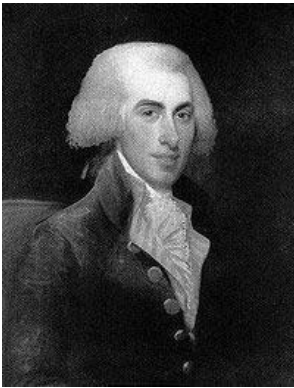
In 1834 President Andrew Jackson decided to make gifts of proof coinage to foreign potentates. While eight of the ten coin denominations were being struck for circulation during the early 1830's, the silver \$1.00 and gold \$10.00 eagle had been suspended since 1804. (*Dollars coined in 1804 bore the 1803 date.*) Since the decision to suspend the silver dollar and gold eagle coinage had never been rescinded by any new legislation, the Mint decided to strike 'replicas' of the Bust dollar but with the 1804 date. A \$10.00 eagle had been originally struck in 1804 but the dies were either destroyed or lost, so a new die was made, also bearing the 1804 date. These were struck in proof together with the regular 1834 denominations. Eight sets were made but only two sets are known to have been presented; one to the Muscat of Oman and the other to the King of Siam. The ten denominations shown in these 1834 Proof Sets however were not struck for circulation.

America 180 Years Ago and the Coins of 1834

(Continued from the previous page)



In 1834, the Capitol Building looked a lot different than it does today. This is an actual photograph taken in 1846.



Charles Bulfinch

Charles Bulfinch, (1763-1844) was our first American born architect and was appointed by President James Monroe in 1818 to implement the revisions on portions of the Capitol building that were burned by the British during the War of 1812. He is credited with completing the wings and central section, built a new western approach and portico; also the wooden dome by 1829. The original cornerstone was laid in 1793. It was in this edifice that Congress censured President Andrew Jackson in 1834.

As for our regular circulating coinage, there were eight denominations produced in 1834. These included two in copper, the Classic Head half cent and Coronet large cent; four in silver, the Capped Bust half dime, dime, quarter and lettered edge Bust half dollar and two in gold; the \$2.50 quarter eagle and \$5.00 half eagle. Of the gold, two different types were struck in 1834; the outgoing large size Capped Head facing left *with motto* (for E PLURIBUS UNUM) and the Classic Head *no motto* styles for the quarter eagle and half eagle. The *with motto* gold pieces are both quite rare and exorbitantly expensive in all grades.



The two types of \$2.50 quarter eagles struck in 1834
[Courtesy of Heritage Auctions Archives]
[Use 3x magnifying glass or magnify page to 200%.]



The two types of \$5.00 quarter eagles struck in 1834
[Courtesy of Heritage Auctions Archives]

As recently as 2005 when gold was still around \$525 an ounce, the Classic Head *no motto* gold coins with much larger mintages were still moderately priced through AU-50 but now with gold hovering around \$1,300 an ounce, they too have become costly and are only on the cusp of affordability.

The Reasonably Priced group of 1834 Coinage

For most collectors, the copper and silver coin mintages for 1834 have large enough mintages to be affordable in grades from VG-8 through XF-45.



An 1834 Classic Head half Cent
The copper denomination was 23.5 mm in diameter
[Use 3x magnifying glass or magnify page to 200%.]

While mint records are spotty for this era, the 2015 *Red Book* lists a reported mintage of 141,000 for the 1834 half cent. A closer look at the coin pictured above indicates little wear and despite a little discoloring due to toning over the years the specimen appears to be original and well struck. Whether one grades the coin XF-45 or AU-50 it is a nice coin for type.



An 1834 Coronet Large Cent
The large cent was roughly 28 to 29 mm in diameter.

According to Mint records, 1,855,100 cents were issued in 1834; around one to one and a half million less than the surrounding years. Still, the date is considered common and many examples grading Fine through AU-50 can be found.



The 1834 Capped Bust half dime, (15.5 mm) and dime, (18.2 mm).
[Use 3x magnifying glass or magnify page to 200%.]

In 1834 the reported output for the half dime was 1,480,000; the dime 635,000. Both mintage figures are considered common despite their miniscule number when compared with the output of the 5¢ nickel and 10¢ dime coinage of today. The pretty little half dime accompanying the dime in the same photo apparently enjoyed a lot less circulation. How would you grade these two coins?

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Coins of 1834 (Continued from the previous page)**An 1834 reduced size Capped Bust Quarter dollar**

In 1831, the diameter was reduced from 27 mm to 24.3, the same as today.

Upon magnification this coin “comes alive”. The author thought it might have been cleaned a long time ago; then gradually toned back to a charcoal gray color. He submitted it for certification anyway at a GNA show where it was graded XF-45 by ICG. The mintage for the 1834 quarter was 286,000 but it is still considered a common date because there are enough survivors in all grades to meet the collector demand.

**An 1834 Bust half dollar, O-111, obv sub-type III
Graded AU-53 by PCGS**

[Use 3x magnifying glass or magnify page to 200%.]

The reported mintage for the half dollar in 1834 was a whopping 6.4 million which included the first modification of the obverse since 1809. All the coins of this period were engraved by William Kneass who became Chief engraver in January, 1824 replacing Robert Scot who had died late in 1823. Kneass modified all the known Capped Bust designs of former Assistant Chief Engraver John Reich (1807-1817) including the half dollar shown above rendering the image a bit smaller and slightly better proportioned.

In actuality, no silver dollars or \$10.00 gold eagles were struck for circulation in 1834. It would not be until 1836 that a new silver dollar coin would be struck and it was a beauty. This magnificent coin featured the beautiful Gobrecht designed Liberty-Seated *no stars*, obverse and the soaring eagle in a sea of stars reverse type that saw very limited circulation. The resumption of the circulation \$10.00 eagle occurred two years later but by then half cent coinage had been suspended. The public would have to wait until 1849 for the Mint to strike the total number of coins authorized for circulation in a single year and by this time there were eleven, which now included the new gold dollar coin inaugurated that year.

In 1834, Andrew Jackson was in the middle of his second term as 7th President of the United States. He was both a hugely popular and highly controversial figure, supported by Senators Thomas Hart Benton and Daniel Webster yet loathed by Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and John Quincy Adams.

Ludendorff-Spende

By Bill Myers

**The face of the Ludendorff fund note**

I believe you should buy the book before the coin but I will admit I violate that policy and buy a numismatic item because it is interesting and cheap and then try to figure out what it is. I enjoy the thrill of the hunt for information and feel this behavior is acceptable if there is not a large monetary investment. I did this recently when I found an unusual note in a junk box for \$1. It was an interesting note with a colorful shield on the face and writing and a hand stamp on the back, though it had some minor tears, stains and a centerfold. I took a gamble and bought it.

I was able to research it on line and found out it is receipt for a contribution to the Ludendorff-Spende or Ludendorff Donation (Fund). Ludendorff was the joint head of the German Army along with Hindenburg during World War I. The fund was to provide support for disabled veterans and it was a receipt for the donation of 1 mark to this fund.

The German text on the face translates to "Holder of this certificate has donated for the Ludendorff-donation for disabled veterans 1 Mark. I thank the donors on behalf of his war-damaged comrades. The honorary chairman Ludendorff" followed by his facsimile signature.

**The back of the Ludendorff fund note**

The German text on the back translates to “Holder of such receipt is the” and has the signature of the owner. I cannot make out the name. Under that on the right is *unterschrift* (signature) with a signature I cannot read.

(Continued on page 4)

Ludendorff-Spende

(Continued from the previous page)

Under that are three words of which the last is *Kompfuhrer* which is a shortened version of *kompagnie furher* or company commander, who issued the receipt. On the left there is a *stampel* (stamp) which translates to "Wurttemberg infantry regiment 473, 2nd Battalion cash management." I assume cash management is what we would call the finance office.

On the top of the back, written in pencil, is "Obtained from the pack of a German soldier in October 1918 Somme Offensive". I am assuming it is contemporary. There was a Somme Offensive in 1916 and 1918. The second Somme Offensive was fought from August to September 1918 but fighting continued in the area until the war ended on 11 November 1918. That is consistent with what is written on the note. Normally graffiti decreases the value of a note but for me the hand written text has added to the history of this note and is a positive, not a negative.

I have searched on line and found there is a certificate like the one I have except the donation is ½ mark. There are also larger certificates for a donation of 3 and 5 marks. I definitely think I got more than a dollars' worth out of this note. I found it a rewarding experience to learn the note's significance.

References

Battle of the Somme at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Somme

Second Battle of the Somme at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Battle_of_the_Somme_\(1918\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Battle_of_the_Somme_(1918))

Erich Ludendorff at tive in Numidsmatics and Exonumia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Ludendorff

William Myers is a former member of the SJ CSRA CC and past President of the Augusta Coin Club. Since m moving to Tucson, AR, he continues to be a regular contributor to this newsletter and the newsletter of the Augusta Club.

Club News

In the absence of President Willie Simon who was attending the funeral of his brother-in-law, Past President Steve Kuhl presided and offered condolences on behalf of the club members to Willie and his wife. Glenn Sanders--pitching in for Sgt, in Arms Jim Sproull who was vacationing--reported on the club attendance, which included five guests and listed the number of regional shows scheduled for the month. Treasurer Chuck Goergen reported a balance of \$1,718.00. There were five Show & Tell presentations. Andrew Goslin brought in a silver 1939 Polish commemorative featuring the great composer and pianist Frederic Chopin. Todd Starbuck described the 2014 Kennedy \$50.00 gold coin struck by the Mint in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy half-dollar, which he submitted to NGC for certification, displaying the box and information enclosed with the coin. John Attaway displayed a 1799 \$1.00 housed in a PCGS VF-20 holder. Dick Smoot brought in a private issue of a 2009 pattern one oz. gold eagle struck in .999 fine silver and Arno Safran displayed am 1804 Draped Bust

\$1.00 replica struck in uncirculated as well as proof by the Gallery Mint in 1999.

The highlight of the evening was the program on the Elongated coins produced for the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 presented by Garry Naples with technical assistance from Secretary Jim Mullaney. The presentation proved that an individual could be in two places at once. Using his cell phone Garry called Jim Mullaney from Orlando, FL and with 21st century technology; Jim rigged the connection to a PowerPoint projector with sufficient amplification and the program displaying many unusual examples of elongated Liberty nickels, Indian Head cents and Liberty Sedated dimes etc. went off without a hitch. Good show, Garry!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 4 at the Aiken Public Library, early arrivals from 6:15 PM, meeting starts At 6:45 PM. The program will be a PP presentation on US Transitional Date Coins of the 18th & 19th centuries by Arno Safran. Please bring in a numismatic item for Show & Tell. An auction will follow the program.

Coin of the Month



**A 1926 Oregon Trail commemorative half-dollar
Graded MS-65 by PCGS**

[Magnify to view details of coin more clearly]

One of the most popular design types of our first series of commemorative coinage (1892-1954) is the Oregon Trail commemorative half-dollar. Laura Gardin Fraser, wife of James Earl Fraser, designer of our Indian Head Buffalo nickel, is credited with fashioning the design of this beautiful coin which depicts a native American brave set against a map of the United States on the reverse and a covered wagon drawn by horses travelling westward towards the setting sun on the obverse. Many collectors prefer to consider the native American figure on the coin as appearing on the obverse which accounts for the coin's image shown above. The coin was first struck in 1926 at both the Philadelphia and San Francisco Mints. It continued to be issued in 1928, 1933, 1934, and finally, 1936 thru 1939. The 1933-D issue was the first commemorative coin to be struck at the Denver Mint. The Oregon Trail half-dollar was conceived as a memorial to all those who participated in the 2,000 mile westward trek in 1804 and 1805. The 1926-S issue is the most common with the '26-P coming in as a close second. Both are easily affordable in mint-state up thru MS-65. Since no Walking Liberty halves were struck in 1926, the Oregon Trail issue represents an attractive alternative for those assembling a year set for that year.

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