

The SJ CSRA CC now meets at the South Aiken Presbyterian Church at 1711 Whiskey Road

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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

Oct. 2021

Our next will be on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 6:45 PM at the South Aiken Presbyterian church Gymnasium

Due to the Delta Variant, please wear face masks inside

2021 Club "Zoom" Meeting Schedule

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

Collecting Early US Commemoratives #3



A 1900 Washington-La Fayette Commemorative \$1.00 graded AU-55 by PCGS, OGH with CAC sticker [Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

The first three early US commemorative coins were struck on three different silver denominations, the Colombian **half-dollar** in 1892 and '93, the Queen Isabella **quarter-dollar** in 1893 and the Lafayette Memorial **silver dollar** in 1900 showing a dual portrait of our first President, George Washington alongside the French General Lafayette facing right on the obverse and Lafayette astride a horse facing left on the reverse. The design of the coin was said to be created by then, Chief Engraver Charles Barber but according to renowned numismatic scholar Q. David Bowers in his paperback, *A Guide Book of United States Commemorative Coins*, Barber is said to have copied the dies of engraver, Peter L. Krider from portraits that person made of the same two men on the obverse for the Yorktown Centennial medal struck back in 1881.

50,026 of the 1900 Lafayette commemorative dollars were intended to be struck at a price of \$2.00 apiece but the public at the time was not all that interested. Eventually, 14,000 of the left over number of that initial figure were melted but since the 1940s, the coin has become more popular among collectors of early U.S. commemoratives. The author acquired this coin at the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association held at the Dalton, GA Convention Center back in August, 2010. It was graded AU-55 by PCGS and housed in an old Green holder with a CAC sticker (Certified Acceptance Corp.) on it at a time when grading was supposedly more stringent than it is today.

Collecting US Silver three-piece type silver sets thru the ages By Arno Safran



A 1795 Flowing Hair half-disme, half-dollar & dollar silver set [Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

In 1995, the author set out to collect the three silver denominations that the Philadelphia struck that year, the Flowing hair type half-disme, half-dollar and dollar. *Dismes* (as the dime was spelt at the time) and quarters would not appear until 1796 and by that time the US type design had been changed to the Draped Bust type. The three coins shown above were first struck in 1794 but in very low mintages and are extremely expensive today but in 1795, the mintages were much larger and are collectable in grades similar to the three examples shown above with the half-disme later being certified VF-25 and the two larger silver coins, both Fine-15. These three coins display an evenness in their wear with no distracting marks and enough of Engraver Robert's Scot's Flowing Hair and small eagle design to please any collector. Today, all three examples in similar grades have multiplied in value three to four times what they cost prior to the 21st century. This article is intended to take the reader back in time showing three-piece silver denomination groupings of the various major US types.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting US Silver type three-piece silver sets thru the ages (Continued from the previous page.)



An 1805 Draped Bust *disme*, quarter and half-dollar Trio Set
The *disme* is certified AU-58, the quarter and half, each XF-45
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

In 1795 our first Chief Engraver Robert Scot replaced the two year Flowing Hair obverse design with his beautiful Draped Bust design, following it up in 1798 with his majestic eagle replacing the scrawny small eagle on the reverse. This grandiose early silver coinage type were struck from 1798 through 1807 but due to the small mintages recorded by the dime, quarter and half-dollar of that period, it isn't until the 1805 thru 1807 issues that a diehard middle class income collector can afford a set like the one shown directly above.

Creating more obstacles for the collector, the Mint suspended the Draped Bust dollar in 1804. In 1805, the Draped Bust half-*disme* was coined for the last time with a scant of only 15,000 coins produced and—unlike the three larger 1805 denominations shown above—is very scarce and expensive today, although the author managed to acquire one at the 2008 ANA summer convention held in Baltimore Convention Center that year. Since no *dismes* were struck in 1806 the only other trio set of this type is the 1807 in which all three of the same denominations are affordable in the mid circulated grades.



An 1807 Draped Bust half, quarter and *disme* Trio Set
The half was graded XF-45, the quarter, VF-35 & the *disme*, XF-45
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

The CAPPED Bust Coinage Era



An 1825 Capped Bust trio set of silver coinage
The *disme* was graded AU-53, the quarter, XF-40 and the 50c, AU-58
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

In 1825, the *disme* had a reported mintage of 410,000, somewhat common although the denomination did circulate rather heavily, the quarter, 148,000, scarce, although not rare, and the half-dollar, with 2,943,166 struck that year is considered quite common and available across the grading spectrum at reasonable prices today. These coins were all engraved by our second Chief Mint Engraver, William Kneass, whose tenure lasted from 1824 thru 1835. Despite this, the actual design type was first released in 1807 by Asst. Chief Engraver, John Reich after he was hired by President Thomas Jefferson to redesign all the coins that Scot had created during the Washington and Adams administrations. The foregoing said, Reich left the mint ten years later in 1817 after not receiving an increase in pay from \$600 a year, but his design types continued to be struck well into the 1830s even after even his replacement, William Kneass was unable to continue due to a stroke, when by that time, Christian Gobrecht took over his duties.



An 1825 Capped Bust *disme*, JR-3, R3 graded AU-53 by PCGS
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

The 1825 Capped Bust *disme* shown—as part of the trio above—was acquired “raw” during the author’s early teen years in the coin department of the Gimbals Department store, located on 32nd Street and Herald Square in downtown Manhattan. It was housed in a stapled cardboard circular cellophane see-thru holder and graded Extra Fine with “russet toning”. When he told his father that he paid, “\$4.50” for the coin, his father summarily grounded him for spending more than double his weekly allowance. Shortly after the 1976 bicentennial rekindled his interest in coin collecting, he still had that coin. Finally, in 2013, he submitted it to PCGS and it came back in an AU-53 holder where its market value had risen substantially to \$850, but based on a similarly graded weakly struck dull example shown on the internet, he believes his specimen is worth closer to \$1,000 by comparison.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting US Silver type three-piece silver sets thru the ages (Continued from the previous page.)



An 1850 Trio year set showing the scarce Liberty Seated Quarter, Half-dollar and Silver dollar
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

After the discovery of gold in California in 1848, the silver in our silver coinage became more valuable than their face value with the result that soon after, the coins were disappearing from circulation as soon as they left the mint. As a result, the mintage of these coins dropped considerably in 1850 thru early 1853 and are scarce to rare today.

Before each FUN show, usually held in Orlando, Florida in the first or second week of January, the author would save up for the huge numismatic bourse in order to acquire some of the scarcer coins he hoped to add his collection, and at the January, 2009 Fun Show, he came across the three 1850 Liberty Seated denominations that up to then had been fairly elusive. These were the 1850-O quarter, mintage of 396,000, shown, certified XF-45 by Anacs, the scarce 1850-P half-dollar certified AU-58 by NGC with a mintage just 227,000 compared with 2.4 million struck at the New Orleans Mint that same year and finally, the rare majestic 1850 Liberty Seated silver dollar certified MS-61 by PCGS, with just 7,500 coins struck that year.

During this period, there were only two mints in operation that struck silver coins; the Philadelphia Mint and the more recent New Orleans Mint which opened in 1838. One would think that the larger the mintage, the more common would be the coin but that was not necessarily the case, for in 1850, the Philadelphia Mint struck only 190,800 quarters compared with 396,000 struck at New Orleans facility, yet both are priced about the same in XF-45 while in mint-state, there are less survivors of the 1850-O than the 1850-P. With over 2 million 1850 half-dollars struck at the New Orleans Mint compared with just 227,000 at the Philadelphia Mint, the Philadelphia Mint issue is valued at four times higher than the New Orleans Mint across the grading spectrum. As for the 1850 Lib. Std. silver dollar, only 7,500 were struck at the Philadelphia Mint compared with 40,000 at the New Orleans Mint and up thru MS-61, the 1850-P is the more expensive of the two but from MS-62 thru MS-64, the highest grade known, the 1850-O overtakes the 1850-P in price and value.



A trio that includes the 1853 with arrows dime, the 1853, with arrows and rays quarter and 1853-O half-dollar
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

By 1853, our silver coins were disappearing as soon as they left the mint due the silver in our coins being worth more than their face value. Congress passed a law slightly reducing the weight in our Liberty Seated coinage except the dollar denomination. To identify the change, arrows were placed around the date of all our silver coins except the silver dollar. On the reverses of the quarter and half-dollar, rays were inserted emanating upward and outward from the eagle. The trio shown above was acquired by the author as far back 1980 for the quarter, 1987 for the dime and 1991 for the 1853-O half-dollar. Even then, the prices were fairly high due to their popularity with collectors. All three pieces appear well struck with lots of eye appeal within their actual grades; MS-63 for the dime, MS-61 for the quarter and AU-55 for the 1853-O half-dollar.

Christian Gobrecht was the original engraver of the first Liberty Seated dollar type struck in 1836, but due to striking problems, Robert Ball Hughes, who had recently arrived from England, was asked to revise Gobrecht's original obverse design beginning with the quarter in 1838. In 1853, our chief mint engraver was James Barton Longacre--who was responsible for adding the arrows and rays. In 1854, the rays were removed from the reverses of the quarter and half and in 1856, the arrows were removed from the date on the obverse.

The Change-over of the Liberty Seated dime of 1860



An 1860-P with stars dime over 1860-S with Legend dime
Both coins were graded AU-55 by NGC
[Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

In 1860, to improve striking issues on some of our coinage, Chief Engraver James Barton Longacre along with the assistance of Anthony Paquet, a recent émigré from Germany despite the French name, helped redesign both the half-dime and dime that year. The legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA replaced the 13 stars on the obverse and a thickened wreath of four cereal types replaced the simpler Laurel wreath on the new reverse which remained on the dime thru 1916.

Collecting US Silver type three-piece silver sets thru the ages (Continued from the previous page.)



A trio of 1879 Liberty Seated coin denominations with motto intended for circulation that were struck in very small numbers [Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

In 1866, the motto, IN GOD WE TRUST was placed above the eagle on our Liberty Seated coins. Later, in 1878, as a result of the Bland Allison Act, the Mints were required to produce 2 to 4 million silver dollars each month at the expense of the lower silver denominations. As a “bone” to collectors, in addition to the tiny number of **proofs**, the Philadelphia Mint was told to strike a slightly larger number of dimes, quarters and halves as **business strikes** each year but the annual mintages ranged from a low of 4,000 to the high of 14,000. Since the dime was needed in commerce however, the edict ended in 1881 with, large numbers of dimes being coined in 1882. Regrettably, the quarters and half-dollars were produced in the low numbers all the way thru 1890 with two exceptions, In 1888, the San Francisco Mint struck 1,216,000 Liberty Seated quarters and in 1890, the Philadelphia Mint struck a high of 80,000 but many of these circulated and are almost as scarce. The 1879 set is an attractive trio.



A trio of 1892 Barber silver coinage, the dime thru the half-dollar [Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

As the first year of issue, this trio set of uncirculated 1892 Barber silver coinage is not only the most common but the easiest to acquire of the 25 year long series in grades from Fine thru mint-state. Shown, is the dime graded MS-63 by PCGS, the quarter MS-62 by NGC and the half-dollar, also certified MS-62, although it’s eye appeal is a lot closer to a MS-63 or even a MS-64 from the author’s perspective.



A trio of 1920-P BU coin denominations featuring the Mercury dime, Standing Liberty Quarter and Waling Liberty half-dollar [Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

Starting in 1907, our coinage underwent dramatic changes primarily due to the efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt who wanted our coinage to appear more modern in keeping with the major improvements in technology via the harnessing of electricity, the development of the automobile and air travel. As a result, all of our coinage was not only changed over from the more traditional forms of Liberty and the eagle but now appeared artistically fresh and magnificent to behold. None of the new coins were created by the current Chief Engravers of the US mint during this period that began in 1907 with the Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle to the Peace dollar that replaced the Morgan dollar in 1921. In 1920, the Philadelphia Mint produced by far the most coins of the three mints then in operation with the result that during the “Roaring Twenty’s” the 1920-P issues were the most common to acquire across the grading spectrum. of all the dates in the decade. The *Mercury* dime is graded MS-64, the Standing Liberty quarter, MS-64 and the Walking Liberty Half-dollar, MS-64+, all by PCGS.



A trio of 1949 BU silver coins that include the Roosevelt dime, Washington Quarter and Benjamin Franklin half-dollar [Magnify to 150% or to fill monitor screen to better view details.]

This is by far the easiest trio-set for the collector to acquire in mint state condition due to extremely large mintages. By 1949, the new Franklin half, first coined the previous year in 1948--hardly circulated and there were plenty of Roosevelt dimes and Washington quarters still available in bankrolls for collectors to cherry pick.

Collecting one last US type three-piece type set thru the ages

Last but not Least



**A trio grouping from the Special Mint Set of 1965
Featuring the clad Roosevelt dime, Washington Quarter
and 40% silver Kennedy half-dollar**

In 1965 the world of US coin collecting changed dramatically when silver was removed from all our coins intended for circulation. Between 1965 and 1969, the half-dollar--which hardly circulated at all--still retained 40% silver content bonded by 60% copper but starting in 1971, all Kennedy half-dollars were clad as well, struck with the same base metal ingredients as the Roosevelt dime and Washington quarter which represents "scrap" having no real metal value. As a result, virtually all our US clad coins struck for circulation remain extremely common up thru MS-63 with most at face value regardless of the grade and those graded MS-63. From MS-64 and higher some are worth more. Today, none of our clad coins can buy anything except perhaps quarters which are primarily used in laundry-mats and parking meters.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, September 2, 2021

President J.J. Engel, called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:55 p.m. The Club members again enjoyed attending the new meeting site at the gym at the South Aiken Presbyterian Church (SAPC). There were 12 members and 1 guest in attendance, and two members attended via Zoom.

Sonia Hillman won the member door prize drawing, a 2017 ¼ oz silver Mexican Libertad.

Sgt. at Arms Jim Sproull reported the upcoming area coin shows include the following:

- September 18, Camden Coin Show, Camden, SC
- October 9, Pee Dee Area Coin Club Show,
Florence Darlington Technical College, Florence, SC
- October 16, Midlands Coin Club Show,
Columbia International University, Columbia, SC
- October 23, Sumter Coin Club Show,
Bethesda Church of God Fellowship Hall, Sumter, SC

October 29–31, South Carolina Numismatic Association's 49th Convention & Show, Greenville, SC,

A motion was made by Willie Simon, and seconded by Glenn Sanders, to dispense with the reading of Minutes of the August 2021 meeting. A copy of the August 2021 Meeting Minutes will be on file with the other club records, and a copy appears in the Club newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Goergen reported the Club's September 2021 bank balance was \$1,084.39. He also mentioned that a lifetime membership in the **South Carolina Numismatic Association** for the our coin club would be **\$150**, and that the club's by-laws require membership in the SCNA. **He made a motion, seconded by Kelsey Forde that the we pay the \$150 for the lifetime membership next year when the annual dues comes due for payment, since we have already paid the SCNA membership dues for this year.** His motion was approved by the membership.

Old Business :

President JJ Engel reported there was no change with the situation with the Aiken County Library's Meeting Room becoming available to the coin club again in the foreseeable future. JJ also reported that it looks like the cost of dinners at the Knights of Columbus hall would be \$30 or \$32 for the club's holiday party in December. The menu choices would be steak or chicken and crab cake.

New Business:

Although our meeting will be held at the church, President Engel reported that the October meeting's program would be presented via Zoom by Rod Gillis, ANA Education Director, his topic, **"Managing and Settling a Numismatic Estate"**.

SCNA Vice President Steve Kuhl has available the \$10.00 raffle tickets for the \$20 Saint-Gaudens gold coin to be raffled at the SCNA Convention held October 29-31, 2021, in Greenville, SC.

Show & Tells:

Jim Mullaney brought his beautiful 2021 American Eagle coins: the 1 oz gold and the 1 oz silver.

Kelsey Forde shared a picture of the Hobo Nickel sculpted by "Bert" Wiegand of his friend Elizabeth that sold for \$31,800 in the Heritage Auction in January, 2021. Kelsey also discussed the price of the plentiful Hobo nickels to be found on the eBay internet site at this time.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB
Regular Meeting Thursday, September 2, 2021
 (Continued from page 5, column 2)

The Program:

The September program was "Brookgreen Gardens Medals" given by Jim Mullaney. In October of 2019, Jim had previously given a program "Brookgreen Gardens – SC Trove of Sculpture with Numismatic Ties" which awakened his interest in the Brookgreen medals.

Jim explained that Brookgreen Gardens, a 9,100 acre property located south of Murrells Inlet, on U.S. Highway 17 near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, is a sculpture garden and wildlife preserve. It was founded in 1932 by Archer Milton Huntington, a wealthy Northerner, and his wife, Anna Hyatt Huntington, as a home for sculptures by Anna and other American sculptors, numerous of whom also turned out to be engravers or designers for the U. S. Mint. It was opened to the public in 1937.

Brookgreen Gardens was built on four former rice plantations and was named after the former Brookgreen Plantation. There are several themed gardens with American figurative sculptures, as well as the Low country Zoo and trails through several ecosystems in its nature reserves. Jim related that the Brookgreen Gardens Medals were an annual series of medals begun in 1973 and issued each year for members of the President's Council and other officials.

Prior to that in 1945, there had been a Brookgreen Gardens medal designed by Gertrude Lathrop. The annual program of medals was started by Brookgreen Gardens President Joseph Veitch Noble, who was also the Director of the Society of Medalists, and at that time, each member paid a hefty membership price and got a medal as a patron appreciation gift. Now 1,000 medals are produced each year. The 1973 medal was by Carl Paul Jennewien of the heads of Archer and Anna Huntington in profile with the Fighting Stallions sculpture on the reverse. The original Fighting Stallions sculpture was done by Anna Huntington and stands at the entrance to Brookgreen Gardens. Jim presented pictures by a power point program of the beautiful medals produced since 1973.

The medals were typically done with high relief and had tremendous detail. They were approximately the size of a two-ounce coin and round, although a few were rectangular, square or of an irregular shape. There were three themes: nature,

noted persons or events, and mythological figures. Jim noted that the medals are traded on various internet sites at reasonable prices, although they are not cheap, and one can be bought at the gift shop at Brookgreen Gardens for \$200.00.

President Engel thanked Jim for his most enjoyable and informative presentation.

Pat James won \$6.00 in the 50-50 drawing. President Engel reminded the members that the next meeting would be on October 7, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

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