

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. 10

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

October, 2024

Our next meeting will be held at the *MieStelle Bakery* on **October 3, 2024**  
Consider bringing in a numismatic item for **Show & Tell!**

## Collecting the U.S. Coinage ending in 4, Part One, Coppers

### 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

### Early U.S. Coppers Half-cents from 1804 through 1854



An 1804 Draped Bust half-cent, C-10. R1 graded XF-40

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

The early U.S. copper half cents were struck from 1793 thru 1811 with three different design types; the Liberty Cap first facing right in 1793, then left in 1794 thru 1797 followed by the Draped Bust type in 1800 and the Classic Head in 1809 thru 1811 before being suspended for 24 years. The 1793 and 1794 half-cents had extremely low mintages and are very scarce and expensive today but in 1804, unlike the large cent which is a very scarce key date, the 1804 half-cent that date is the most common of that series and affordable for most middle income collectors. in grades from VF thru AU-50. If one enlarges the page to as much as 200%, the specimen shown above grading XF-40 appears clear and grand showing all its major details as a coin.

In 1804, the half-cent had a reported mintage of 1,055,312. The painter Gilbert Stewart was the original designer which our first chief Engraver, Robert Scot used as the portrait which would appear on many of our early U.S. coins. The obverse is simply balanced with the portrait of Miss Liberty facing right appearing in the center of the coin directly under the word LIBERTY and above the date, 1804. The reverse is more complex with the legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounding the with the fraction 1/200 centered at the bottom with a wreath centered in the middle with the words HALF over Cent in the middle.



An 1834 Classic Head half-cent, C-10. R1 graded XF-40

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

The 1834 Classic Head half-cent had a reported mintage of only 141,000 but the coin is fairly common despite its moderate mintage. By 1834, the half-cent coin was hardly used except for the few items that cost a half cent up to two and a half cents such as books etc. but otherwise the coin hardly circulated compared with the large cent which was the workhorse of the economy back then. The author acquired the coin shown above from a member of the Ocean County Coin Club at a meeting held back in January of 15, 1989. It cost only \$40.00 back then. Today it retails for \$200 although one can obtain a similar coin at a lower price. An example in the same grade recently sold for just \$140.00 at a Heritage auction that looks a lot like the coin shown above.



An 1854 Braided Hair-Mature Head Half-cent, C1, R2+ graded AU-58

The 1854 Mature Head design type of both the half cent and large cent was the created by Christian Gobrecht, our third Chief Engraver around 1843 although the proof half-cents showing this type were first dated from 1840 thru 1849. Gobrecht died in 1844 and was replaced by James Barton Longacre later in the year. The 1854 Half-cent shown above was engraved by Longacre and is well struck and nearly uncirculated. In 1992, it cost \$125. Today it retails for \$250 with Prices realized at auction ranging from \$176 to \$660.

### Collecting the U.S. Large Cents ending in 4



**A 1794 Liberty Cap Large Cent, S31, R1 graded VF-30 by PCGS**

In 1793, our first large cents were struck but all examples are quite rare and expensive. In the following year, 918,521 Liberty Cap large cents were struck with over 60 die varieties, the most of any other date. Those die varieties that lasted longer before having to be replaced like the S-31 coin shown above were easier to locate and less expensive for the collector; the S-31 shown above being a good example. The S stands for Dr. William Sheldon who wrote the famous book "Penny Whimsy" back in the 1940s thru early '50s regarding the Large cents produced by the Philadelphia Mint from 1793 thru 1814. The numeral 31 means the 31<sup>st</sup> die variety. The R means die rarity and the numbers 1 thru 8 represents Common thru Extremely rare, so R1 means the coin shown above represented a common die variety. Despite the foregoing, the coin displayed above did not come cheap to the author when he acquired the coin "raw"; meaning "not certified" for \$1,200 from local dealer John Attaway back in 2004. who graded the coin VF-20. Nevertheless, even that turned out to be a positive event because several years after the author bought the coin he decided to have it graded by PCGS and it came back certified VF-30. Today it retails for \$2,750 with some examples ranging from auctioned off for a low of just \$1,680 to as much as \$5400.



**An 1804 Draped Bust Large cent graded Good-6**

In 1804, The Philadelphia Mint produced only 96,500 large cents and this date along with the 1799 represent the two key dates of the series which ran from 1796 thru 1807. The figures in this low grade coin are barely noticeable but upon enlargement still retains the figure of Miss Liberty, the word, LIBERTY atop with the date, 1804 at the bottom. The author was vacationing in the summer of 2012 with his wife Vilma when the American Numismatic Association (ANA) held its annual convention, this time in Philadelphia and saw the coin at one of the major dealers tables who specialized in early American Coppers (or EAC). He recognized the coin was a low graded specimen but decided to acquire it because it was virtually the only chance he would come across one. It cost him plenty but he had saved up for it. The coin retails for slightly more than he

paid for it today but it was his only chance if completing the entire large cent series which ran thru 1857.



**An 1814 Crosslet 4 Classic Head Large cent-S-294, R1 graded AU-50**

This is one of the author's favorite coins of his entire collection and it too cost plenty when he acquired the specimen shown above away back in 1992 but it is a beautiful specimen and worth every penny the author spent. It cost \$1,900 then but a recent specimen not as attractive sold for \$3,290, CAC stickered at a major coin show held in the Baltimore Convention Center in 2017. The coin was struck during James Madison's second term as our fourth president during latter years of the War of 1812. It was struck in two minor sub-types, one with the plain 4 in the date, not shown and the other with the Crosslet 4 shown above. During this period, our workers at the Philadelphia Mint were concerned that they wouldn't receive their pay checks and the striking of these coins during the latter months of the War could not have come at a better time.



**An 1824/2 Coronet (Matron Head\_ Large cent, N-1, R2 AU-50**

In 1816, a new coinage designed copper cent named the Coronet type was released shortly before a fire broke out at the Philadelphia Mint. As a result no other coins were produced that year with the 1816 date. It is not sure whether the new coin type was designed by Asst Chief Engraver John Reich or our first Chief Engraver, Robert Scot. Until recently it was believed that it was John Reich who designed not only this coin but now, more recent research is suggesting that Reich may not designed any new coins from 1807 thru 1807 thru 1817 but merely assisted Robert Scot. The Jury is still out on this one but regardless who created the Coronet type cent, it became unpopular with many of that generation and was later nicknamed the *Matron Head*. The author acquired the 1824/2 coin shown directly above back in January, 2007 at the annual FUN Show held in Orlando, Florida from a dealer who specialized in Early American copper coinage. The coin was graded AU-50 by PCGS. It cost \$1,850 back then but when one attends a major show you save up for such events. Today it retails for \$2,650 with none showing up in major auctions since 2017. Large cents of the distant past are expensive but examples graded XF-45 to MS-62 will be costly due to their rarity.

## Collecting the U.S. Large Cents ending in 4



Another 1824 Large cent, N-3, R2 graded just VF-35

Above, is just another example of an 1824 large cent in a lower grade. The **N** stands for **Harold Newcomb**, a numismatist and coin dealer who wrote a book on the various Coronet cent types. In the title under the coin above, the **3** represents the particular die variety of the coin and the **R2**, the more common variety on the rarity scale which runs from **1, very common to 8, very rare**. If the reader enlarges the page to 150% he or she can see the coin's overall quality. The hair on the Miss Liberty's head is much weaker than on the coin on column 2 on the previous page, the stars, flatter. The reverse appears slightly stronger regarding the wreath and the lettering is clear.



An 1834 Coronet Large cent, N-1, graded AU-50

The 1834 Coronet Large cent would be the next to last time Miss Liberty's neck would appear this wide. In the following year, there would be two minor sub-types, the outgoing large neck being replaced by a smaller neck by engraver Christian Gobrecht who was assisting chief Engraver William Kneass during this period.



The two 1835 Coronet Large Cent sub-types with the large neck at left and the smaller neck at right



The two final sub-types of the Large Cent coinage occurred in 1843

In 1843, Christian Gobrecht, now our third Chief Engraver made one final change to the large cent. The coin above at the left was called the Petite Head and was slightly tipped downward. The coin shown at the right was called the "Mature Head", a much more clear arrangement of the Braided Hair design type.



An 1844 Mature Head Braided Hair Large cent, Ne, R2 graded XF-40

The 1844 Large cent shown directly above was obtained by the author away back in March, 1992 at the Metropolitan Show held in New York City. Back then, New York half a number of major shows but only the Foreign Coins annual show is held there today. When magnified, the reader will notice that while the coin still appears pleasant to the eye in the XF-40 grade, the various aspects of the coin is somewhat weak in appearance and therefore less attractive.



An 1854 Mature Head Braided Hair Large cent graded AU-58

By the 1850s, the public was tiring of the large size cent and within a few years would welcome the small Flying Eagle cent in 1857. **(End of part One!)**

**STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB****Minutes from Regular Meeting Thursday, September 5, 2024**

President Kelly Nordeen, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:48 p.m. in the Oh Mie Stelle Bakery on Pine Log Road. There were eighteen members in attendance in person and no visitors.

Jim Sproull won the door prize – a 2024 one-quarter ounce silver Britannia..

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

A motion was made by Steve Kuhl and seconded by Typhany Nordeen to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the August meeting. A copy of the August 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 \$1483.40.

**Old Business:**

Steve Kuhl also reminded the club about the upcoming SCNA show in late October. Seminars will be held Thursday and Friday, including one on counterfeit detection. The auction will be held on Saturday at 1:00.

Chuck Goergen reminded any member who is not current on dues need to pay for the current year.

**New Business:**

J.J. Engel reported that he'd reserved the Columbus Club hall for our Christmas dinner on December 5.

Chuck Goergen reported that he'd re-established our Post Office Box address. The new address has been slightly changed from PO Box 5562 Aiken, SC 29804 to **29802**.

**Show & Tells:**

A Show & Tell was presented by Garry Naples. Garry collects Chicago exonomia, and shared a medal from the C.D. Peacock Jewelry Co. The company was formed in the same year that Chicago was incorporated, 1837. The medal had the two founders of the company on the obverse, and the reverse showed the Ferris-wheel from the Columbia Exposition, Fort Dearborn, and a Peacock. The medal also contained a piece of the company's vault, which was the only part of the store that survived the Great Chicago Fire.

Jim Mullaney displayed a quarter-ounce silver Britannia, which he'd recently procured for the door prizes for club meetings.

He also presented an impromptu program utilizing information displayed on public websites without converting it to a PowerPoint program. The website contained a wealth of information on the silver bullion coins produced by Great Britain starting in 1998. The British actually changed the design of reverses for the bullion coins annually for the early years of this series, then somewhat standardized the design since 2016.

**The Program:**

Jim Mullaney also presented a Currency Trivia Quiz that Pat James had put together back in 2017. Members

enjoyed the quiz as much the second time through as they did seven years ago.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

**Hurricane Helene and its Effects on the newsletter**

On September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene crisscrossed from moving northwest to northeast creating extensive damage to the Augusta, GA area into South Carolina. The Newsletter Editor awoke around six o'clock and turning back to glance at his clock noticing that it appeared to be stopped around 3:00 AM in the mounting. It was already light outside and perhaps out of curiosity he decided to look into his backyard and was shocked to observe that the huge Elm Tree in his backyard was lying directly across the entire second portion over into his next door neighbor's fence with two other smaller trees bending slightly downward as if they were next.

He checked one of the sockets which verified his worst fears that the power had gone off. He the decided tom open his door to the front of his house which is on a cull de sac and found no major damage, only thousands of leaves on the street with a number of smaller trees bending a bit but no serious further damage. There was no power or electric connections to radio or Television available for eight days. All Gasoline stations were closed. The only positive aspect of this disaster was that besides the author, the families in the four other homes of the cull de sac all helped each other; two of whom owned generators attached to their refrigerators. Towards the end of the week, Jim Mullaney drove all the way down from Aiken to the author's home in Evans GA to install his generator.

Eight days after the storm hit, around 11:00 PM, the writer, still in the dark except for his flash light noticed what he thought was a street light turned on outside. He opened his front door and noticed two street lights were on. He immediately went back inside and turned on the light switch and it came on.

On the following Monday at exactly 12 noon, the TV froze and all on-line email went off. The writer could complete his portion of the newsletter but would be unable to send it in time for the meeting. The month of October moved quicker than any month of hey year but the October issue of the newsletter lay barren. Then Jim Mullaney, our club Secretary who sends me his minutes every month ran into trouble with his computer, so the author decided to start the November, 2024 issue of our club newsletter forthwith. Today, November 23rd as this is being written, that has already been done.

### An Interesting Odd denomination acquisition



**An 1875-cc Twenty-cent piece graded MS-62 by NGC**  
**[Enlarge page to 200% to fill the monitor screen to better view the details]**

Due to a shortage in silver coinage in the far western states in the early 1870s, a Nevada senator, John P. Jones suggested the striking of a 20¢ silver coin which was eventually passed by congress. At that time, westerners preferred silver coins to nickel ones, and what they were looking for was a double-dime denomination struck in silver instead of the using four Shield nickels that circulated in the central and eastern states. The Mint Director at the time was Dr. Henry Linderman and he preferred the same Liberty Seated obverse as on the other silver denominations, so Chief Engraver William Barber only had to create a different reverse which is attractive in its own right as shown above.

The new denomination was first struck in 1875 at the Philadelphia, San Francisco and Carson City Mint, the latter having been recently opened in 1870. The San Francisco Mint struck 1,155,000, the Carson City Mint, 131,290 while the Philadelphia Mint produced only 38,500 along with 1,200 proofs. The new double-dime was 22 mm in diameter and was close in size to the Lib. Std. quarter with a diameter of 24.3 mm and people began to become confused as to whether they held a quarter or a twenty-cent piece in their hand. In 1876, the coin was struck again at the Philadelphia Mint with just 14,750 and 1,150 proofs and at Carson City with just 10,000, with almost all melted. Just 510 proofs were struck in 1877 and 600 in 1878 before the coin was retired for good.

The author obtained the 1875 cc example shown above away back in 1982. It was graded AU-58 by the dealer. In 2013, he submitted the coin to NGC and it was certified MS-62.



**An 1875-S 20c piece and Liberty Seated quarter side by side**

Seen this way with a darkish 20c piece due to aging struck at the San Francisco Mint and a bright Brilliant Uncirculated 1875 quarter, the reader might think, "Hey"! I could never confuse the two, but used by people back in 1875 and 1876, their attitudes would be quite different.

If one looks carefully at the reverses of both coins; despite each being eagles, they are subtly quite different as the twenty-cent piece shown on the left displays an eagle whose spreads wings turn towards the right to the viewer while the eagle in the quarter at the right, displays the feathers towards the left.

Both coins were acquired at different times. One must remember that back then, a quarter had a lot of purchasing power and these coins circulated heavily but when new, the 20 cent piece appeared quite similar in appeared to the quarter.

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