

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

Pres. J.J. Engel  
V.P. Pat James  
Sec. Jim Mullaney  
Treas. Chuck Goergen  
Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



The Stephen James  
CSRA Coin Club of Aiken  
P.O. Box 11  
New Ellenton, SC 29809  
Web site: [www.sjcsracc.org](http://www.sjcsracc.org)

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

Volume 20, No. 11

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

Nov. 2021

Our next will be on Thursday, Nov 4 at 6:45 PM at the South Aiken Presbyterian church Gymnasium

## 70 Year old US BU coins still affordable for most Collectors

### 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

### One of our Lovely Early US Commemoratives



A 1938 New Rochelle Commemorative 50c graded MS-66 by PCGS  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

After 18 of our early US commemoratives series (1892-1954) were struck with the 1936 date, only two new commemoratives followed in 1937, and a single one in 1938 commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the city of New Rochelle in Westchester County, a suburb of New York City "just 45 minutes from Broadway", the name of a "Musical" about the suburban town. New Rochelle was founded by Huguenots who escaped from France in order to practice their newly adopted Protestant religion which was outlawed by King Louie XIV. Upon arriving in the new world, John Pell sold the land to the newcomers who had emigrated from the French hamlet of *La Rochelle* which explains the name of what has since become a prosperous small city which extends east to Long Island Sound.

When the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Rochelle approached in 1936, the New Rochelle Coin Club started to make plans to strike a commemorative half-dollar to be released in 1938. In 1937, the club asked sculptress, Gertrude K. Lathrop to design the coin based on the success of her 1936 half-dollar commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Albany, NY, the state's capitol. The obverse on the new coin displays John Pell steering a fatted calf while the reverse portrays a stunning Fleur-de-lis. The net distribution of the piece came to 15,266 and the coin, priced--set at \$2.00--sold well. The editor knew little of this until he viewed member, Jim Mullaney's PowerPoint program held at our Nov. 2019 meeting titled, "SC Sculpture Trove with Numismatic Ties" which featured sculptures located in "Brookgreen Gardens", one of them being by Gertrude K. Lathrop.

### Collecting the US Coins of 1951, 70 years ago

By Arno Safran



The obverses of a Uncirculated Set of 1951-D coinage  
The silver Franklin half, Washington Quarter and Roosevelt dime  
over the Jefferson nickel and Lincoln cent  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1976, our nation's bicentennial year, the author's interest in numismatics was rekindled. Soon afterwards, he joined a coin club and recalls being awed when a seasoned collector displayed a gorgeous 70 year old 1906 Barber half-dollar grading MS-63 that cost \$400 at the time while a 1951-D MS-63 Franklin half was priced at just \$23.



A 1906 Barber half-dollar graded MS-63 by NGC  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

Today, that MS-63 1906 half is worth \$900 while the 70 year old 1951-D Franklin half in the same grade is priced at only \$50.00.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

## Collecting the US Coins of 1951, 70 years ago

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



**The reverses of an Uncirculated Set of 1951-D coinage**  
The silver Franklin half, Washington Quarter and Roosevelt dime  
over the Jefferson nickel and Lincoln cent  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

The 1951-D year set displayed above is not only Brilliant Uncirculated, grading as high as MS 65 since the surfaces seem to be free of blemishes, but upon magnification, the bell lines on the reverse of the Franklin half-dollar appear to be fully struck. The Roosevelt dime may lack the full torch bands on the reverse and the steps of Monticello on the Jefferson nickel are not fully struck but all five coins have strong eye appeal considering that they were coined during the decade of the 1950s and early 1960s which wasn't always the case.



**A 1951-P BU year-set showing the half-dollar down to the cent**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

Prior to 1986, the year third party grading and slabbing began, dealers and collectors relied on numismatic books that included photos displaying the gradations of a perfect uncirculated coin down to a heavily worn one. Special sets were made for the collector to insert a proof or year or a complete type set for display purposes, some with screws or less expensive snap-on enclosures like the 1951-P set shown directly above. Technically, that set has the overall eye appeal of a MS-63 to 64 and would be worth anywhere from \$75.00 to \$110.00 today. In the years preceding slabbing, both dealer and collector enjoyed holding a coin by its edge between their fingers, so as not to disturb the surfaces before putting them back in their holders or see-thru flips.

## Choosing the nicest examples from the three Mints of 1951



**A 1951-D Lincoln Wheat-back cent graded MS-65 Red**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

Starting in 1951, the Denver Mint began striking the most cents of the three mints. In that year, it struck over 625 million Lincoln cents compared with 294 million at Philadelphia and 136 million at San Francisco. While BU grades are easily available, the strike at the Denver facility appeared to the sharpest of the three as shown above. Graded, MS-65 RD, the coin is currently retailing for around \$25.00 but if it were certified MS-66 Red, today it would be valued at a lot more, \$54.00.



**A 1951-S Jefferson nickel grading MS-64 with not quite full steps**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1951, the San Francisco Mint struck 7,776,600 Jefferson nickels, far lower than either the Philadelphia Mint with 28,552,00 and at the Denver facility with 20,460,00 coined. Despite the lower mintage than the 1951-P and D, the 1951-S nickel is currently retailing only slightly higher and is very inexpensive in the condition shown above.



**A 1951-S Roosevelt dime grading MS-64 FB**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1951, 102 million Roosevelt dimes were struck at the Philadelphia Mint compared with just 56.5 million at the Denver and just 31.6 million at San Francisco. Today, a 1951-S specimen grading MS-65 is worth only \$26.00 and that is with fully struck torch bands on the reverse of the dime, so there are apparently plenty of high-end dimes at all three mints still available at affordable prices.



**A 1951-D Washington quarter graded MS-65**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

This is a particularly attractive example of a 1951-D Washington quarter that is well struck and pleasant to view. That year, the Denver Mint coined 35 million, slightly less than the Philadelphia Mint's 43 million, with the 1951-S receiving slightly more than 9 million coined. A 1951-D quarter graded MS-65 is valued at around \$32.00 today.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

## Collecting the US Coins of 1951, 70 years ago

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



**A 1951-D Franklin half-dollar graded MS-65 with Full Bell Lines**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

When the beautiful Walking Liberty half-dollar was terminated after 1947 and replaced by the Benjamin Franklin Bust type in 1948, the response was considerably negative from the numismatic community. At the time, Adolf Weinman's Walking Liberty half-dollar was considered the second most beautiful US coin after the Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 gold Double Eagle, but, over the several decades since the Franklin half gave way to the Kennedy half-dollar back in 1964, many more collectors today actually like the overall design almost as much as the Barber half-dollar and since the coin hardly circulated both during and after its tenure, it has become increasingly popular with collectors. John R. Sinnock was the engraver of both the Roosevelt dime and the Franklin half-dollar and upon contemplating the photo of the half-dollar atop the page, it is a well balanced and handsome coin.

Today, PCGS' *COINFACT* lists a MS-64 1951-D Franklin half-dollar at \$60 and a MS-65 for \$165 whereas one with full bell lines on the reverse is valued at \$95 to \$250 respectively; nothing comparable to the 1906 MS-63 Barber half-dollar since it is far scarcer. Most Unc. Franklin halves grade MS-61 to 63. **Beware of the MS-66 to 66+ specimens now on line** that are on sale for \$450 to \$900 as a number of them lack eye appeal due to pale hues or mottled toning.



**A 1951-D BU year set from the half-dollar down to the cent**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

Seventy years ago, our change was far more functional than it is today because most basic items cost a lot less. By 1951, prices had risen a bit since carfare that used to be a nickel was now a dime. A quarter still had lots of purchasing power and a half-dollar--while it didn't circulate very much--had far more. The five-cent nickel was the workhorse of the country from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid 20<sup>th</sup>. The quarter became the workhorse during the 1960s, and by the time of our bicentennial, the year he author re-entered the numismatic scene, it was the a half-dollar's turn, although more likely, two quarters

took on that role. Today, none of our coins intended for circulation can buy anything except the quarter which is primarily used in laundry-mats and parking meters. So, back when the 1951 mint sets were released, a dime still had sufficient spending power. This still doesn't explain why a BU set of 1951 uncirculated coins have increased so little in value over the past 70 years since they were coined.

Beginning in 1947 and continuing thru 1958, the Mint sold uncirculated year sets containing two of each denomination. The latest *Red Book* lists them at very high prices, with the 1951 set priced at \$950.00, well above the coins that the author acquired individually by going through rolls at various dealer's shops many years ago. The original Govt. Mint sets of that era were crudely packaged in cardboard containers which due to the sulfur in the cardboard produced horrid mottled to rusty toning although a minority were blessed with gorgeous rainbow toning and sell for extraordinary prices today. Still, the coins in most of the original mint sets that remained relatively problem-free do not appear as attractive as those seen in this article yet they are priced a lot higher. Persons interested in obtaining any or all of the 1951 year sets on line are advised to stay away from the circulated examples that have little to no eye appeal at much too high a cost.

As far as these three 1951 sets are concerned, surprisingly, the 1951-P set pictured in the lower portion of page 2, column 1 is not as well struck as either the 1951-D which is considered "the key" because of its better strike and smaller survival rate, nor the 1951-S which usually strikes up the weakest yet in this case is fairly attractive although a challenge to find in problem-free condition today.



**A 1951-S BU year set from the half-dollar down to the cent**  
[Enlarge page to 150% or fill monitor screen to view details.]

## STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, October 7, 2021

Past President Steve Kuhl, sitting in for the absent current coin club President J.J. Engel, called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:45 p.m. The Club members enjoyed attending the new meeting site at the gym at the South Aiken Presbyterian Church (SAPC). There were 12 members and 2 guests in attendance, and five members and Program presenter, Rod Gillis, joined the meeting via Zoom.

### Prize Winners:

Kelsey Forde won the member door prize drawing, a 2017 ¼ oz silver Mexican Libertad and Jim Sproull won \$13.00 in the 50-50 raffle drawing.

### Upcoming Coin Shows:

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

**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 Sonia Hillman, to dispense with the reading of Minutes of the October 7, 2021 meeting since a copy appears in each newsletter.** A copy of the October 2021 Meeting Minutes will be kept on file with the other club records..

**Treasurer Chuck Goergen** reported the Club's October 2021 bank balance was \$1,069.39, and that he was sending a \$30 check to Newsletter Editor Arno Safran for his costs.

### Old Business :

Past President Kuhl passed along a reminder from President JJ Engel that the Board is planning to resume the annual Holiday party to be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The cost of the dinners will be \$30 or \$32, with the menu choices steak or chicken and crab cake. Reservation forms will be emailed and members are requested to RSVP by November 4, 2021, to Pat James at P.O. Box 1739, Aiken, SC 29802. Reservations or information can be obtained from Pat at 803-979-3150, or contacting any Board Member.

Steve Kuhl, wearing his hat as SCNA Second Vice President, reminded the members of the South Carolina Numismatic Association's 49<sup>th</sup> Convention & Show, to be held on October 29 – 31, 2021, at the Convention Center in Greenville, SC. The speakers at the SCNA Convention will include Augusta, GA, coin dealer Wayne Damron and Steve, himself, both of whom

have also given excellent presentations to both the Aiken and Augusta coin clubs.

### New Business:

Steve Kuhl reported that the November program will be given by Arno Safran on **"Our Beautiful Early U.S. Gold Coins from 1795 to 1839."**

Jim Mullaney mentioned there was some discussion about changing the time of the starting of the meeting from 6:45 P.M. back to 7:00 P.M. The starting time was changed some years ago when the meetings were held at the Aiken County Library and the Library staff required the club to vacate the Meeting Room by 8:45 P.M. The earlier time sometimes made getting to the meeting on time challenging for members working and getting in a bite to eat before the meeting. With the meetings now held at the gym at the South Aiken Presbyterian Church (SAPC), there is no time constraint on vacating the premises at a certain time. Anyone wishing to contribute to the discussion should contact Jim Mullaney or any of the Club's Board Members, and his/her opinion will be passed along.

### Show & Tells:

Two young guests of Chuck Goergen from Texas shared their beautiful new acquisition, a one oz. silver coin commemorating the Alamo in Austin, Texas. The coin was patterned after the Texas Centennial half dollar commemorative minted to honor the Centennial of Texas' Independence from Mexico in 1836. The obverse depicts the Angel of Victory spreading her wings as she rests one hand upon the Alamo Mission depicted in the background with the motto Remember the Alamo on the bottom. The reverse displays an eagle perched on an oak branch with a large lone star filling the background with a motto on either side, "E Pluribus Unum" on the left and "In God We Trust" on the right. The coin was obtained in an eBay auction.

### The Program:

The October meeting's program was given via Zoom by Rod Gillis, ANA Education Director, on Managing and Settling a Numismatic Estate Rod Gillis along with David S. Lande, Bill Fivaz, Beth Deisher co-authored the forty-page booklet, **"Managing and Settling a Numismatic Estate"**.

Mr. Gillis related that their goal was to answer the questions the ANA education staff, as well as experienced numismatists everywhere, often heard asked by multitudes of coin collectors or their non-collector family or heirs on how best to preserve and/or dispose of a coin collection. Mr. Gillis suggested the first step was for the collector to organize the collection and make an inventory. He noted it was, of course, easier to do as items were collected and to note pertinent information about the acquisition. The ANA has a website where forms may be downloaded. The booklet gives guidance on what to do when no information is available about the collection and

**STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB**  
**Regular Meeting Thursday, October 7, 2021**

(Continued from the previous page)

when the person receiving it has little numismatic knowledge. Mr. Gillis related various means of selling a coin collection wisely, safely, quickly, to a dealer or in a private sale, and he listed the advantages and disadvantages of each. He also touched on some tax issues to include how an heir to a collection might determine a tax value, the basis, when selling an inherited collection; although, he noted the value of the net assets of the deceased's estate would need to be \$11.7 million at this time to trigger the Federal Estate Tax statutes, and a spouse would be exempt from any inheritance tax.

Mr. Gillis also mentioned that many chose to donate collections or items to a registered charitable organization and get a tax deduction; however, since the charity provides a receipt but cannot appraise the donated items, the donator would need to furnish an appraisal.

Acting President Kuhl thanked Mr. Gillis for his excellent and informative presentation.

Mr. Gillis recently published a book, *Past Tense*, presenting his columns which appeared in the ANA's monthly publication, *The Numismatist* 55 from 2011 to 2020. The entertaining and informative columns related historical information on U.S. coinage.

Steve Kuhl reminded the members that the next meeting would be on November 4, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Jim Mullaney, Secretary*

**If it's November, it's time for another Coin and Currency Show by the Augusta Coin Club**

Twice a year, the Augusta Coin Club holds a show at the Columbia County Convention Center located just off the Grovetown, GA exit, 190 of major highway I-20. Bourse Chairman Steven Nix expects another sell-out of 75 tables which has been the standard for the past four shows occurring prior to and more recently since the concerns over Covid-19 have declined due to the increase in vaccinations by the public. The show is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days.

If you have never attended one of these events and are interested in adding some numismatic items to your collection, the drive from Aiken is around 50 minutes along I-20 with both parking and entrance to the show, free. The hall is large and the entire area, very attractive and pleasant. There are also a large number of restaurants in the shopping center where you can enjoy a nice lunch at very reasonable prices.

For those of you who would like to have some of your coins appraised, Burls Johnson, a representative from **Anacs** will appraise your coins and if they are genuine without problems you can get them certified for a small charge.

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB**  
**2021 FALL SHOW**

**GOLD ★ SILVER ★ CURRENCY ★ TOKENS ★ MEDALS**  
**EXONUMIA ★ JEWELRY ★ COLLECTIBLES ★ SUPPLIES**

**FREE**  
**ADMISSION**  
**FREE PARKING**  
**PUBLIC INVITED**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH &**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH**  
**9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER**  
**212 Partnership Drive – Grovetown, Georgia**

Exit 190 on I-20, go south one block, turn left and drive straight into Exhibition Center.

**RAFFLE DRAWING**  
 Saturday at 4:00 p.m.  
 Purchase tickets from Club  
 Members or at Registration.

Sponsored by:  
**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB**

**Kindly Patronize our advertisers**

**Coins Stamps & Currency.**  
 Buy & Sell Gold - Silver

**AIKEN**  
**COIN SHOP**

1643 Whiskey Road  
 Aiken, SC 29803

tel. (803) 643-9957  
 cel. (803) 420-2949  
 cel. (602) 432-0920

Rocio E. Talj  
 Managing Partner

coinsstampsurrency@gmail.com

Since 1941

**Clein's Rare Coins**

3830 Washington Rd., Ste. 32 Martinez, GA 30907  
 Buying & Selling U.S. Coins, Currency & Confederate  
 - ALL GOLD & SILVER BULLION -  
 (Eagles, K-Rands, Maple Leafs & Pandas)  
 COIN APPRAISALS

**STEVE DAMRON**  
 Ph: (706) 755-2249  
 Fax: (706) 755-2461  
 Tue-Fri 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
 Sat. 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**ANA**  
 LIFE MEMBER

*Respectful, Friendly & Courteous Service*

**Augusta Coin Exchange**

— JOHN M. RUSINKO —

Mon - Fri | 11AM - 4PM 706.210.5486 | 702.845.1934  
 Sat | 11AM - 4PM JR.Rusinko@yahoo.com

Member : ANA-R147538, CAC, SeniorCoins1792@gmail.com  
 PCGS, NGC & ICTA  
 Dealer LIC # 40829 4015 Washington Rd, STE - L  
 Buying and Selling Martinez, GA 30907