

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

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V.P. Garry Naples
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

Dec. 2022

Our next get together will be a pre-Xmas Holiday dinner on Thursday, December 1st at the Columbus Club
Early arrivals from 6:30 PM with Dinner starting at 7:00 PM

Collecting early U.S. Large cents Part #3 From 1816 to 1857

2022 Club Meeting Schedule

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

Who said MS-62 graded coins are not worth much?



A 1902 Barber quarter certified MS-62 by PCGS
[Increase page to fill the monitor screen or enlarge to 150%]

Back in March, 2014, the author was surfing the internet when he came across this lovely Liberty Head Barber quarter certified MS-62 by PCGS. The dealer who advertised the coin was known to the author since he set up at the Georgia Numismatic Association and Blue Ridge Numismatic Association annual shows held each April and August respectively in Dalton, GA located in the north western corner of the state but also at the FUN show held in early January, in Orlando, Florida and was known for his excellent judgment for coins with eye appeal; so he sent for the coin "on approval" and realized it was a "no brainer" to acquire the coin. When he received it, appeared in the hand exactly like the photo shown above and while priced above the retail for an MS-62 graded Barber quarter at the time, it was worth the price for its beauty alone.

In 1904, the quarter was minted at the Philadelphia Mint with a fairly large mintage of 9,588,143 and at the New Orleans Mint with a lower mintage of 2,456,000 although still plentiful as a date. None were produced at the San Francisco Mint that year. Nevertheless, the 1902 quarter is considered a common date, although this particular specimen displaying a faint mauve toning, even when enclosed in the plastic holder radiates a certain charm that is rare in of itself and worth the price.

In 1902, Theodore Roosevelt was in his second year as 26th president of the United States due to the assassination of President William McKinley the year before and while the new president favored a change in all our coinage designs which would start to occur in 1907, I think that had the coin toned during Teddy's presidency, he might of murmured, "What a beautiful work of art that is?"

Collecting large Cents from 1816 thru 1857

By Arno Safran



An 1816 Coronet Large cent graded MS-64 by NGC
[Increase page to fill the monitor screen or enlarge to 150%]

After the Treaty of Ghent which was summarily signed on Christmas eve, Dec. 24, 1814--followed with the victory by Gen. Andrew Jackson's troops over the British in the Battle of New Orleans in January of 2015--which convincingly ended "the War of 1812" between the U.S. and Great Britain, the U.S. Mint was free to get back to business addressing our coinage program especially as it regarded our copper coins. No new large cents were produced however until December, 1815, yet dated 1816 replacing the beautiful Classic Head type with the Coronet type, attributed to Robert Scot. (The coin was later nicknamed the "Matron Head" by those who didn't like the new cent design.) No 1815 dated cents survive except for a handful of modified 1813 Classic Head cents re-engraved with a 5 replacing the 3.

The 1816 Coronet Large cent shown above was certified MS-64. by NGC. It was acquired by the author back in 1997, a decade after NGC began certifying coins. By Early American Copper Club standards, the coin looks closer to an MS-63, possible even, a MS-62 due to its somewhat weak strike on the obverse although the reverse appears stronger. Unlike the previous types, with the exception of the 1821 and 1823 issues which had smaller mintages, all the other dates of the Coronet cent series are considered fairly common although greatly used with mint state examples scarce to rare.

Like the Classic Head type before it, the Coronet head faces left with the thirteen stars surrounding the allegorical figure of Liberty with the date centered below while the reverse remaining as before. The Coronet type obverse remained the same but starting in 1835 revisions began to occur which included the "Type of '34" and "'36", the Beaded Hair in 1837, the Silly head, Booby Head and Petite Head all produced in 1839 and finally, the Mature Head, first coined in 1843, remaining unchanged until 1857, the end of the large cent series entire run. This article will explore all the subtle subtypes.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Some Unusual Examples of the Coronet Type Originally described by numismatist, Harold Newcomb



An 1817 Coronet cent N-16 variety with 15 stars around Miss Liberty graded Fine-12 [Increase page to fill the page or enlarge to 150%]

When it comes to the “raw” specimen of the Newcomb #6 die variety of the Coronet cent shown above dated 1817, its popularity with collectors is due the fact that 15 stars were placed on the obverse surrounding the coin instead of the normal 13. The coin was graded as a FINE-12 yet despite its wear visible on Miss Liberty’s hair and on the wreath on the reverse, the coin still appears attractive, well struck for the grade and evenly worn with no major problems. Today, the coin is listed in that grade is priced around \$240.



An 1821 Coronet large cent, N-1, R2 graded XF-40 [Increase page to fill the page or enlarge to 150%]

Above is an example of one of the scarcer dates of the Coronet Large cent series, the 1821, which had a reported mintage of only 389,000. The coin has nice color and appears problem-free.



**An 1823/2 over-date, N-1, R2 over-date Coronet large cent along side the 1823 normal date, N-2, R2+ Coronet example
The more attractive coin on the left was graded XF-45 while the unattractive heavily worn coin at right was graded just VG-8**

The Philadelphia Mint struck over-dates in 1819, 1820 and 1823. What is interesting regarding these two examples of the 1823 Coronet Large cents is the numbers struck with that date **went unrecorded and included as part of the 1824 mintage** which was 1,262,000. Due to the far greater scarcity of the 1823 cents compared with the 1824, which are not all that common either, their value today

is greater. The N in the title under the images of each cent that appears after each date refers to Harold Newcomb, a dealer who specialized in the Coronet large cent series and wrote a book describing all known varieties from 1816 thru 1857. During this period in American history, it was not unusual for coins to appear with occasional overdates or even errors. In the mid to later years engravers who joined the Mint such as William Kneass, Christian Gobrecht and possibly less known engraver, Robert Ball Hughes tinkered with improving the cent’s design. Below, are mostly Gobrecht’s alterations shown on the coin from the right to the one on the left.



**The two Matron Head large cent subtypes of 1835, the type of 1834, N-5, R2 at left and the type of 1836, N-7, R1 at right
Their grades are XF-45 and AU-50 respectively
[Increase page to fill the page or enlarge to 150%]**

The obverse of the coin was slightly revised by Christian Gobrecht. On the coin on the left, Miss Liberty’s neck appears larger compared with the more graceful smaller one shown at the right. Also planchet was slightly reduced to 47 mm via the close collar that was attached to steam-press. The grades of the two coins are almost identical with certain portions of each coin appearing slightly sharper or weaker than the other.



The two Coronet large cent sub-types of 1837 showing the plain hair cord at left, N-5, R2 graded AU-55 and the beaded edge, N-11, R1 at right graded AU-58

The plain hair variety at the left was acquired by the author at the Garden State Numismatic Association convention in July, 1994 while the 1837 Beaded edge variety was sold to him at the ANA Convention held in Philadelphia in August, 2000.

Collecting large Cents from 1816 thru 1857

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



**The 1839 Silly Head, N-4 over the Booby Head , N-11
Matron Head large cents both graded XF-40s
[Increase page to fill the page or enlarge to 150%]**

In 1839, five different varieties were produced of the Matron Head large-cent although one of them would represent a new type officially starting in 1840. The two coins shown above received ghastly names although they are popular with large cent collectors. Of the two, the Silly Head looks closer to the more normal cent portrayal while the top right of the Tiara protrudes further beyond the L of LIBERTY and a thicker curl appears above her eye while the curl near her ear is thicker. On the lower right side at the Booby Head' shoulder there appears a blotch instead of curls and imperfect beading on the curls plus other more subtle differences. Also, on the Booby Head reverse, there is no line under CENT.



The 1839 Large cents showing the type of 1838 with the beaded hair style at left and the new Petite Hair style type with Miss Liberty's countenance tipped slightly downward with the date centered.

With the first striking of the Beaded hair type produced in 1837, none of the preceding sub-types are scarce let alone rare and were affordable in grades shown when he acquired them during the 1980s and '90s. Before 1857, the large cent had the purchasing power of a dime or more. Most of the coins shown up to this point do not display extensive wear which implies that 1) a greater number of cents displaying the Coronet Matron Head type were struck and 2) many more were saved before they were worn down like the earlier large cent types produced from 1793 thru 1814.



The two Large cent types of 1843. last year of the Petite Head at left and the first year of the Mature head

In 1840, Gobrecht became the third chief engraver after creating the Liberty Seated dollar in 1836 and the passing of previous chief engraver, William Kneass. This would be the last change that Gobrecht made regarding the Coronet type-Braided Hair large cent. Renamed the *Mature Head*, the coin would be struck thru 1857 when it would be replaced by the Flying Eagle small cent later in that year.



An 1857 Mature Head Braided Hair Large Cent graded AU-55

Finally, it is believed that the inspiration for the Coronet/Braided Hair Mature Head cent designs came from Gobrecht's admiration of Venus in Benjamin West's painting, "*Love Conquers All*". Having said, that, it should be remembered that the first Coronet cents were released in 1815 with the 1816 date, some eight years after Benjamin West's painting when both engravers Robert Scot and John Reich were still active. Large cents are both a wonderful and challenging group of U.S. obsolete coins to collect!



**Love Conquers All , An 1808 painting by Benjamin West.
Notice the hair style of Venus at the upper left.**

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, Nov 3, 2022

President J.J. Engel, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the South Aiken Presbyterian Church (SAPC). There were 17 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

Jim Sproull reminded 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 October 2022 meeting. A copy of the October Meeting Minutes will be on file with the other club records and one appears in the Club newsletter.

JJ Engel reported for Chuck Goergen that the Club's bank balance was \$1753.63 , however \$635 is from coin show income that will be returned to dealers since this year's show was cancelled.

Old Business:

The club's annual Christmas dinner will be held Dec 1 at the Columbus Club on Spaulding Drive off Daugherty Road. This will occur in place of the December club meeting.

New Business:

JJ Engel conducted an election to fill the position of Vice President for the club, completing the term for Pat James who passed away in August. Garry Naples was elected by unanimous acclamation.

Show and Tells:

Glenn Sanders shared graded 50th anniversary medals from the recent SCNA convention in Greenville. He also shared a bit about birthday notes – where the note's 8-digit serial number shows an individual's birthday. He still hasn't found a complete birthday note for himself – but he did have one where the day and month of his birth was followed by four zeros, and a second where the year of his birth was followed by four zeros.

Jimmy Widener shared a 2008 Note from Zimbabwe with a denomination of \$10,000,000. Kelly got a matching set of coins and notes commemorating \$10 Buffalo notes from a recent coin show.

Kelsey Forde shared four hobo nickels she obtained at the SCNA convention, including one attributed to one of the earliest Hobo nickel artists, Bo, and another attributed to the first known female Hobo nickel artist.

The Program:

Arno Safran presented a program on U.S. half dimes. He covered the entire period they were issued from 1794 to 1873, during which they went through four major obverse design changes and six major reverse design changes. He noted the origin of this size silver coin from the ancient Greek hemi-drachm, followed by the Roman

half-Siliqua – and more recently the British 3-cent piece and Spanish half-*Real*. As always – Arno provided a very informative and entertaining talk on the U.S. half-dime and covered a good amount of material in a short period, including excellent photos of coins half-dimes from his collection to reinforce the points he made.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

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