

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

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

December, 2023

Our pre-Christmas dinner will be held on Dec. 7 at the Columbus Club on Spaulding Road in Aiken
Based on one's religious affiliation, the editor wishes you a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas

The editor's choices of U.S. coins ending in 3 from 1803 to 1933

2023 Club Meeting Schedule

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

An attractive Early Large Cent type



An 1803 Draped Bust Large cent, S-254, R1 AU-53
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The 1803 Large cent had a reported mintage of 3,131,691, a record that would stand until 1817, the second year of the Coronet Cent type. Of the 23 die varieties of the 1803, Large cent, the Sheldon 254 shown above is one of the more common and therefore less expensive than many of the others. Its identity is based on the 3 in the date touching the drapery on the obverse while the reverse displays the fraction bar a bit long and far too right over the two zeroes but not over the one in 100. This particular variety also comes with a large die crack under Miss Liberty in later struck issues but not in the one shown since it was struck before the die began to deteriorate.

The S in the description directly under the coin title stands for William Sheldon, a major collector and die variety attributor of Large Cents struck from 1793 thru 1814. The 254 represents the 254th die variety going back to the very first large cent type back in 1793. The R after the variety number stands for Rarity with the 1 being the most common and an 8, with only 108 know if that. Most early U.S. type large cents struck from 1793 are fairly expensive to begin with, even grading VF-20 and higher and the example shown was pricey in the grade shown when the author acquired it back in 2007. It has doubled in price since then however. The coin has a nice coppery chocolate hue and represents an eye appealing example created by our first Chief Engraver, Robert Scot.



An 1813 Capped Head \$5.00 half-eagle graded AU-55 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The 1813 Capped Head type Large cent was the first year of a sub-type that emerged from the stylized Capped Bust type originally designed by Asst. Chief Engraver John Reich and first produced in 1807. The coin was struck annually thru 1812. For some reason, not exactly known, the type was altered in 1813. It became known as the Capped Head type but was never considered a wholly new design type presumably because it retained similar design. There is some question as to whether Robert Scot—who was still Chief Mint Engraver during this time frame or John Reich, the Asst. Chief Engraver redesigned the original. The newly changed Capped Head \$5.00 half-eagle would be produced in the same size and form from 1813 thru 18 except 1816 and '17 in mintages averaging in five figures with the exception of 1815 when only 635 pieces were produced but due to the fact that the gold coins minted here were more valuable than those made in Europe, those half-eagles struck after 1815 were melted or sent to Europe for profit and are extremely rare today as a result.

Collectors wishing to add at least one of this type to their collection can acquire either the 1813 or 1814/3 dates because these were left untouched by the melt in 1816 and beyond and are still available. The foregoing said, this is not a coin for the lighthearted. Even in the grade AU-55, it costs plenty and one must save up for it. The coin below displays the original Reich design struck from 1807 thru 1812 and is quite beautiful.



An 1807 Capped Bust \$5.00 half-eagle gold AU-58
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting U.S. coins ending in three

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



An 1823/2 Coronet large cent graded XF-45
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The lovely 1823/2 Coronet large cent shown above was also acquired by the author at an Atlanta Coin Show back in April, 2005. It is one of the two or three scarcer dates of the Coronet series so it has considerable value since most of the Coronet cent dates are fairly common with only certain die varieties being scarce. The coin shown above displays an appearance of an uncirculated example but if one checks Miss Liberty's hair atop her head, it is not quite as pronounced which is why it was graded only XF-45 instead of AUU-50 or higher.



An 1833 Capped Bust Half-dollar O-114, R4 graded AU-50

For collectors who like to collect early U.S. silver coinage, the Capped Bust half dollar has a large number of choices because most dates were struck in the multi-millions and the coin still looks attractive graded VF-25. When the silver dollar had been suspended in 1803, the half-dollar became the highest value silver coin and was used in businesses and the banks as specie to back transactions and investments. The Lettered Edge Capped Bust half dollar replaced Scot's Draped Bust half in mid 1807 and was struck in every year thru 1836. With the exception of the 1815 with only 47,150 produced and the 1820 when 751,122 were struck, the Philadelphia Mint struck over one million coins every year thru 1836, the final year with a record 6,545,000 struck. The 1833 issue shown is a handsome example with a reported mintage of 5,206,000 and is affordable thru AU-50.



An 1843 pairing of transitional dates from the Petite Head type at left to the Braided Hair Mature Head type at right

Between 1816 and 1835, the large cent underwent a series of minor changes under the umbrella name of the Coronet cent; also called the uncomplimentary name of Matron Head due to its less attractive appearance compared with the two previous cent types; Scot's Draped Bust and Reich's Classic Head types. The standard designed remained the same until 1835 when engraver Christian Gobrecht started to tinker with ways to alter the not very popular cent design type. He continued to make small changes in 1837 with a changeover from the **Plain** and **Beaded edge** hair cord and in 1839, receiving such names as **Booby Head** and **Silly Head** along with the **Petite Head** which appears at the bottom of column one on the left dated 1843. In that same year, he finally produced the perfect Coronet type design called the **Mature Head** also **Braided hair** design that would continue to 1857, the end of the large cent's run. The final Gobrecht makeover of the large cent goes back to 1843 which is why the author decided to add the two coin to his collection.



An 1853 Liberty Seated quarter with arrows & rays graded MS-61
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

Due to the discovery of gold in 1849, the silver in our coinage became worth more than its face value and started to be taken out of circulation to be melted. In 1853 Congress passed a law that lowered the amount of weight in each silver denomination except the dollar--which hardly circulated here. Chief Engraver James Barton Longacre placed arrows surrounding the date on the obverse with rays added above and around the eagle on the reverse to make the public aware of the change. The subtle change not only solved the problem but made the quarter as well as the half-dollar extremely popular to the public at the time and collectors in later generations. Despite the over 15 million struck by the Philadelphia Mint that year and the 1.3 million at the New Orleans Mint (not shown) the coin is expensive in uncirculated condition. Longacre's added touch created a beautiful coin. It is a pity that the rays on the reverse was removed the following year.



An 1863 Liberty Seated dollar graded AU-50
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

Despite being somewhat subtly altered from Christian Gobrecht's original design of the obverse the Liberty Seated dollar, our largest silver coin was quite artistic in its own right. In 1863, the nation was in the throes of the third year of the Civil War and most silver coins were being hoarded. The dollar was hardly used by the public due to its high value since basic goods were lower than a half-dollar let alone the \$1.00 coin, so the dollar hardly circulated with most being sent to the Orient, especially China where it was accepted. The author was fortunate to acquire the coin back in 1987 at a low cost.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting U.S. coins ending in three

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



A 1873 Trade dollar graded XF-45 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to 200% to see the coin's details more clearly.]

The Trade replaced the Liberty Seated dollar as part of Coinage Act of 1873 and was struck primarily to be used in the orient especially china although it was used here more sparingly. The coin was designed by William Barber who became the Chief Engraver of the U.S. mint 1869 after James Barton Longacre passed away. The Trade dollar was struck at the Philadelphia, San Francisco and Carson City Mints and after 1878, only as proofs. The San Francisco Mint struck the highest number of coins. From 1879 thru 1883 the Trade dollar was struck as proofs only for collectors. In 1884, 10 were struck followed by just five in 1885 that are believed to have made without knowledge by the Mint at that time; somewhat like the 1913 Liberty Head nickels.



1883 Liberty Head nickels with no cents and with cents

[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The writer selected the two 1883 Liberty Head nickel sub-types because of the hullabaloo that was created during the first year of issue. In the early 1883, the Liberty Head, (also known as the V nickel) replaced the Shield nickel first struck in 1866. It was designed by Charles Barber, the son of William Barber who replaced him as the new Chief engraver after his father passed away in 1880. Apparently, the reverse of the new coin displayed just a large V in its center without the word, **cents**. The new coin was conceived by some sly individuals to mean Five dollars but in order to create that effect, they gold plated the coin on both sides making it appear like the \$5.00 gold half-eagle.



A 1900 Liberty Head gold \$5.00 half-eagle graded MS-63 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

As a result, Charles Barber altered the reverse very cleverly by placing the word **CENTS** under the large wreath that surrounded the V and very subtly squeezed the motto **E PLURIBUS UNUM** in tiny letters just above the wreath and under the words **STATES OF**. The mintage of the no cents nickel was just 5,474,300 compared with 15,026,200 for the "with Cents" version, yet the no cents version is worth just \$85.00 grading compared with the with cents coin which is worth \$200 in the same MS-63 grade.. The reason of course, is the 1883 with **CENTS** on the coin was saved in large numbers.



An 1883-O Morgan dollar certified MS-64+ by POCGS

[Enlarge page to 200% to see the coin's details more clearly.]

The Morgan dollar is one of the most popular as well as collectible of U.S. coinage due to its size, attractiveness and availability since one can acquire a complete date set in uncirculated condition except the 1893, 1894 and 1895 dated issues at affordable prices. (The three mid 1890 coins were acquired in AU-50 and 55 grades.)

In 1883, the New Orleans Mint struck 8,725,000 Morgan dollars and many of them are still available at a reasonable and affordable price because the author acquired the coin shown above for just \$75.00 at an Augusta Coin Club show held in November, 2018. The current 2024 Red Book lists one grading MS-64 at \$120 retail.



An 1893 Barber Liberty Head dime graded MS-63 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to 200% to see the coin's details more clearly.]

In 1891, the final year of the Liberty Seated silver coinage, Chief Engraver, Charles Barber was asked Mint Director Edward Leach to create a new design type for the dime, quarter and half-dollar. The first of these new coins were called the Liberty Head type were first struck in 1892, so the 1893 example of the Liberty Head dime shown above was in its second year and why it was certified only MS-63 baffles the mind because when the coin is enlarged to 150 or even 200% its surfaces still appear flawless.

The coin was minted at all three mints, the Philadelphia Mint with a fairly substantial mintage of 3,339,940, the New Orleans Mint, with 1,760,000 produced and the San Francisco Mint with 2,491,401 pieces. 1893-P graded MS-63 is listed in the current *Red Book* at \$275 while a specimen from the New Orleans Mint in the same grade is priced \$600 with a San Francisco example certified MS-63 at \$850, the two latter double and almost triple the Philadelphia Mint price. One would think that two branch mints would have similar leftovers in relation to their respective smaller populations but apparently that wasn't the case which is why that for most collectors on a specific budget, the Philadelphia mint specimen represents a "Best Buy". The author acquired the 1893-P dime certified MS-63 shown above at a Heritage Auction in 2018 for \$250.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

Collecting U.S. coins ending in three

(Continued from page 3, column 2)



A 1903 Indian Head cent graded MS-64 Red by PCGS
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The lovely full Red Indian Head cent was one of the many common dates of the series which began in 1859 thru 1909. The coin underwent a series of minor changes thru 1864 copper nickel surface was changed to Bronze. The coin was designed by James Barton Longacre, our fifth Chief Engraver who created more design types than any other with the Indian Head cent being his most popular despite his \$20.00 Coronet Liberty Head Double eagle being perhaps his most artistic achievement which had even a longer run from 1850 thru 1907. For numismatists who joined the hobby around 1976, the year of our bicentennial, Indian Head cents were better known by both their parents and especially their grandparents who used them often while collectors who started out a generation later than the writer, found them to be more of a numismatic novelty since by then, a cent could buy nothing and was only useful to make change for minor purchases. Starting with the 1879 issue, the Indian Head cent becomes more common, especially in the early 20th century. Today, our obsolete copper coinage are graded brown, Red-Brown and full Red with the latter being the most valuable like the 1903 specimen shown above.



The 1913 Buffalo nickels, Types One, MS-65 and two, MS-64
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

Most collectors know about the five 1913 Proof Liberty nickels that were never officially authorized but in that same year, a new five cent type coin design created by designer James Earle Fraser replaced the Liberty Head nickel and like its two five cent predecessors, once again required a slight change in the design shortly after the coin was released that was deemed necessary. With the Shield nickel, the rays had to be removed from the obverse in mid 1867 because the coin didn't strike up well in that area and with the Liberty nickel that followed in 1883, the word CENTS had to be inserted at the bottom of the reverse because without it, persons were confusing the coin with the \$5.00 half eagle as mentioned prior to this segment of the article.

With the 1913 nickel, it was discovered that on the Type One, reverse, the FIVE CENTS positioned on the mound the Bison was standing on was too high and was likely to wear more quickly, so they added an exergue recessing the FIVE CENTS within it, thus creating two sub-types for the nickel denomination for the third time in a row as shown above.

The new nickel was struck at the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco Mints. Both varieties coined at the Philadelphia Mint are considered common dates, with the Denver Mint issues less so while those produced the San Francisco Mint, especially the Variety 2 is scarce and costly.



An 1923 Standing Liberty Quarter graded MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The reader should magnify the image of the Standing Liberty quarter shown directly above to view the stunning artistic beauty of Artist and Sculptor Hermon MacNeil's creation. In 1823, the Philadelphia Mint struck 9,716,000 quarters compared with just 1,360,000 at the San Francisco Mint. None were produced at the Denver Mint that year. According to PCGS' COINFACTS, an MS-64 currently retails for just \$465 but in a recent auctions held in 2022 and 2023, an example certified MS-64 ranged from a low of \$240 held in Aug. 2022 while one sold for \$840 in March, 2023. The more expensive had eye appeal but the lower price example had none.

The problem with the Liberty Standing quarter was not in the design but in its functionality. Unlike the Waking Liberty Half dollar which had a diameter of 30.6 mm, the quarter's diameter at just 24.3 mm diminishes the size of the artistic concept considerably with the result that MacNeil's Standing Liberty design loses some of its artistic magnificence compared with Charles Barber's more traditional Bust type approach to coinage. None the less, if one magnifies the page the coin emerges as a true artistic achievement.



A 1933-S Walking Liberty half-dollar graded AU-58 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to 150% or 200% to see details more clearly.]

Another of our most beautiful coins is the Walking Liberty Half-dollar. It was created by Sculptor Adolph Weinman and first struck in 1916 at all three Mints but during the so-called "roaring twenties" into the early 1930's, it was not considered needed as much with the result that after 1921, the coin when it was needed was only struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1923, 1927, 1928 followed by 1929 at both the Denver and San Francisco Mints and in 1933 only at the San Francisco Mint once again. It wouldn't be until 1934, when the denomination would be produced at all three mints again which by that time--during the still deep depression--coin dealers began putting away the coin as soon as it left the mint due to increased collector interest which is why coins from that year are far more common today.

The 1933-S Walking Liberty half-dollar had a mintage of 1,796,000 in keeping with similar low mintages in the previous years although not as low as those struck back in 1921 at all three mints. He acquired the coin shown above at the Augusta Coin Club spring show held in May, 2012, for only \$550.00. Today, the retail price is \$750 according to COINFACTS. When it comes to the grading scale it is somewhat ironic that most MS-60 graded coins) which is the first of the ten uncirculated grades) appear unattractive due to a number of minor flaws such as digs, rim nicks, unsightly marks, uneven coloring and strike while an AU-58 which is almost uncirculated shows a good strike and charming luster like the above. So ends the US Coins ending in 3

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, November 2, 2023

President J.J. Engel, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:55 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the South Aiken Presbyterian Church (SAPC). There were fourteen members in attendance in person and three more online.

Garry Naples won the door prize – a BU commemorative half dollar for Statue of Liberty (1986), which he donated to the club for a prize at the Holiday Dinner.

J.J. Sproull informed 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 2023 meeting. A copy of the October Meeting Minutes will be on file with the other club records and the Minutes are also reported in the Club newsletter.

Chuck Goergen reported that the balance in the club's account is \$1648.40.

New Business :

JJ Engel reminded us about the Holiday dinner at the Columbus Club this year on December 7. Social hour will start at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 6:30.

Show & Tell:

Typhany Nordeen shared her experiences at last month's SCNA convention. She had obtained a 2022 silver Britannia and a 1945 5-Ore Swedish coin made of iron during WWII. She also won a Military Payment Certificate from the Vietnam Era by participating in a quiz at the state convention.

Chuck Goergen shared a 2016-W burnished American Silver Eagle, that was released in 2019, which he found to be a very attractive finish.

The Program:

Jim Mullaney presented a trivia quiz for this month's program. The quiz was in a multiple-choice format and covered a half-dozen different categories. The quiz generated quite a bit of discussion among the club members as we discussed some of the trivial, but interesting, aspects of coin collecting.

Ken Bailey won the 50-50 drawing.

JJ Engel, assisted by Jim Mullaney, conducted the monthly club auction.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary*

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