

The SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Aiken Public Library

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



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Volume 19, No. 2

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

February, 2020

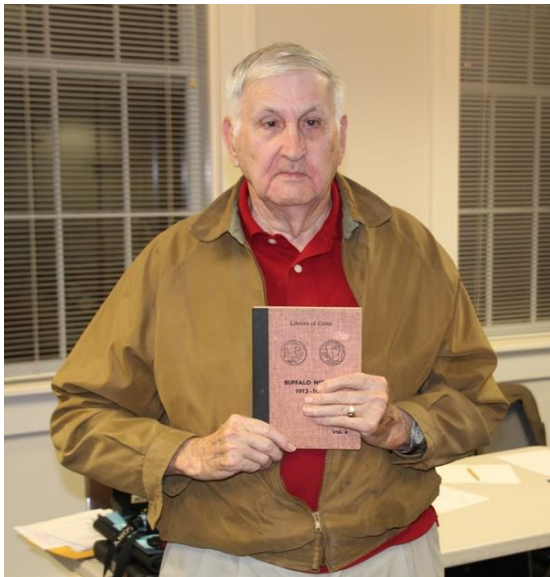
Our next meeting of the year is on Tuesday, Feb 4. , 2020 at the Aiken Public Library, early arrivals, 6:15
Steve Kuhl will present a program on Visiting the Merchants' Bank of South Carolina at Cheraw, 1833 - 1865

Long time SJ CSRA Member Howard Hillman, a special collector

2019 Club Meeting Schedule

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

Howard Hillman was a special Numismatist



Howard Hillman displaying his complete set of Buffalo nickels in the classic National Coin album at a club Show & Tell session

Member Howard Hillman passed away in late November, 2019 but his legacy as a numismatist and long-time member of our club will live on. Howard started collecting coins long before the age of "slabbing" yet built an extraordinary collection of classic obsolete US coins such as a complete set by date and mintmark of the Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel series (1913-1938-D) shown above. Howard represented the antithesis of the "Buy it in the slab" collector and leave the grading to "them" and over the years, acquired a lot of hard to find dates along with uncirculated examples such as a beautiful BU 1876-P Trade dollar. In addition to his many Show & Tells, he presented a number of interesting programs regarding his numismatic adventures which he experienced as a younger collector at some of the local clubs in Pennsylvania going back to the 1970s. He will be surely missed!

Collecting the US Coins of 1820, 200 years ago

By Arno Safran



The obverses of a basic 1820 years set (*sans* gold)
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

The US coinage of 1820 featured just five of ten denominations authorized in the first US Coinage Act of 1792. These included the copper large cent and the silver *disme*, quarter and half-dollar plus the rare \$5.00 Capped Head gold half-eagle type which is rare and costly across the grading spectrum. That said, most collectors can assemble a set of the four denominations shown above, especially in the middle to higher circulated grades, (e.g., VF-25 to AU-50). 1820 was also an election year 200 years ago and James Monroe, our fifth president was running for a second term which was occurring in the midst of our first major Depression known as "*The Panic of 1819*".



James Monroe

The Depression was caused by a number of issues. After the Napoleonic wars in Europe and the War of 1812 between America and Great Britain ended, European nations no longer required goods from the United States. The 1st Bank of the United States looked the other way when smaller state banks allowed loans to big business not backed by "specie", (i.e., silver or gold) which caused bankruptcies to break out nationwide. Finally, the Supreme Court under the jurisprudence of Chief Justice John Marshall favored the private interests over the states that were affected. Oddly, the turmoil had little effect on President Monroe who ran unopposed to win a second term.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1820, 200 years ago

(Continued from the previous page)



The reverses of the 1820 cent, *disme*, quarter and half-dollar
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

The beauty regarding our early US coinage is that most collectors do not have to procure mint state examples of our obsolete coinage of this period as both the obverses on page one and the reverses of the four denominations above display colorful surfaces that are both well defined and sharp.



An 1820/19 Coronet large cent N-1, R1 graded AU-58
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 2020, the reported mintage for the large cent was 4,407,550, a new record. Like most coins of that era there were numerous varieties, three of them over-dates of which the example shone above is one of them. The dates are catalogued as large, (most common), medium and small, (*the least common*). The example shown is the most common and listed as an **R1**.



Detail showing the tip of the 1 within the top curve of the 2



An 1820 Coronet cent, normal date, N-13, R1
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

This is another attractive AU-58 example showing the normal date cent boasting a sharp strike and attractive copper color. Of the two date varieties, the over-date is three times more expensive than the normal date. In 1820, a cent had the purchasing power of 22 cents.



An 1820 Capped Bust *disme*, JR-4, R5 graded XF-40 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

During the decades of the teen years of the 19th century there were a number of disruptions and suspensions regarding our silver and gold coinage. The half-cent was suspended from 1812 thru 1824, the half-*disme* from 1806 thru 1828 and the *disme* was disrupted a number of times. Asst. Mint Engraver John Reich's Capped Bust Liberty *disme* was first struck in 1809 but none were coined in 1810, 1812 or 1813 and after 1814, there was a six-year gap before *dismes* would be struck in consecutive years from 1820 thru 1837.

Silver in the United States was still in short supply during this period and was mostly used for the striking of Capped Bust half-dollars. This was due to the suspension of the silver dollar in 1804, making the half dollar the largest silver denomination. As a result, it was needed by the banking system as specie to back larger business investments. To make up for the lack of large silver deposits, the Mint depended on the Latin American half-*real*, worth 6¼¢, the *real*, a silver coin slightly larger than the dime valued at 12½¢ and the 2 *reales* (or two-bits,) the same size as our quarter dollar at the time which accounts for the interrupted releases of these denominations. In the case of the dime and quarter this dependency was no longer required and the Philadelphia Mint began striking sufficient mintages for both denominations.

When silver became more productive in the late teens the use of Latin American coins began to diminish. In 1820, the Philadelphia Mint struck a then record 942,587 Capped Bust *dismes* which include thirteen different die varieties, eight for the obverse and nine for the reverse. The large zero in the date is slightly more common than the small zero and on the reverse of Variety 1, the legend **UNITEDSTATESOFAMERICA** are joined as of one word, a popular variety. The die variety of the particular example shone above happens to be one of the rarer ones, an R-5 identified by the wider space between stars four and 5 on the left side of the obverse. It was acquired without the author's awareness of the variety away back in January, 1989 from a dealer set up at a local coin club meeting and later submitted for certification to NGC where it was graded XF-40. **Note larger space betw. 4th & 5th star.**



Between 1820 and 28, the diameter and edge of the dime was **18.8 mm**. When the close collar attached to the screw press in late 1828, the diameter of the dime was reduced from to **18.5 mm** and the edge became reeded. This was done to ensure that all dimes would have same exact diameter. By 1839, the process was completed for all US coin denominations.

In 1820, a dime had the purchasing power of \$2.21.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1820, 200 years ago

(Continued from the previous page)



An 1820 large Capped Bust quarter, B-2, R2 graded AU-55 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1820, the Philadelphia Mint struck a reported mintage of 127,444 quarter-dollars of which five varieties are known. The B2, R2 shown above is one of the more common ones. (The letter B next to the number is for Ard W. Browning, a dealer who attributed the varieties for each date of the series back in 1925 and the R2 represents the rarity scale with the number 1, the most common and the number 8, extremely rare with only a few specimens known to exist.) The large size Bust quarter was struck from 1815 thru 1828 but not in every year and contains a few rarities making it virtually impossible for most collectors to complete a date set. The foregoing said, the 1820 issue is affordable in the lower circulated grades, although a better long-term investment would be to try to acquire an AU graded example--although pricey--like the coin shown above. In mint-state, even the commoner date large size Bust quarters are very expensive. The attractive AU-55 specimen shown above was acquired back in 2002 when prices were much lower than they are today.



An 1820 large Capped Bust quarter, B-3, R3 graded VF-25 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

This is another variety of the same date but certified VF-25 by ICG. The coin was acquired at the FUN show back in 2003 at a much lower cost than the example shown atop the page yet despite the lower grade, it displays an awesome strike with all the major features showing clearly. It is the author's view that VF-25 grades a couple of decades ago show far more detail than a similar dated example displays today. As a type coin, the author considers John Reich's large size Bust quarter to be one of the more handsome US types not only due to its design but its 27 mm size. The denomination was subsequently reduced to 24.3 mm in 1831 when he close collar device was attached to the screw press. From that time to now, the quarter has retained its 24.3 diameter size. In 1820, 25c had the purchasing power of \$5.53.



An 1831 reduced size Capped Bust quarter B-4, R1 graded AU-50 by ICG. The diameter was reduced from 27 mm to 24.3 mm having a reeded edge while the motto, E PLURIBUS UNUM has been removed from above the eagle on the reverse.
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]



An 1820/19 curl-base 2, Lettered edge Capped Bust half-dollar, O-102, R-1 graded XF-40 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1820, the Philadelphia Mint struck 752,122 half-dollars, the third lowest mintage of the lettered edge Capped Bust series (1807-1836). Only the 1807, with a reported mintage of 750,000 and the key date 1815/2 with just 47,150 struck had lower mintages. As the highest silver denomination since the suspension of the dollar in 1804, the banking system primarily used the coin as "specie" (hard money) in order to back large business investments and transactions with the result that a lot of higher graded circulated to mint-state specimens are more plentiful and lower priced compared with the more heavily circulated Liberty Seated and Barber halves that followed.

Although the 1820 half is still moderately priced with only one scarce variety among the eight known, (the O-107, designated as a R5), the over-dates are slightly more expensive due to collector popularity. As for the remaining varieties, only the over dates come with either a curl base or a flat based two in the date. The remaining normal dates have only the flat base 2. The letter O before the number stands for the late Al Overton, a dealer and attributor of the three early US half-dollar design types struck from 1794 thru 1836.

The coin above was acquired in 2013 via internet mail order from a dealer who set up at the Georgia Numismatic Association and Blue Ridge Numismatic shows held annual at the Convention Center in Dalton, Ga. In 1820, a half-dollar had the purchasing power of \$11.10.



An 1820 Square base 2 in date gold \$5.00 half eagle graded MS-60 by PCGS (Courtesy of Heritage's Auction Archives)

The reported mintage of the 1820 \$5.00 gold half-eagle was 263,806 but the \$5.00 gold Half-eagles that were coined from 1816 thru 1833 are virtually uncollectible in today's numismatic market because so few have survived the decade of the 1820s. The cause of their disappearance was the rise in gold above face value due in part to our first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton's choice in valuing gold at the ratio of 15 ounces of silver to one ounce of gold but long after Hamilton died in a duel with Aaron Burr in 1804, starting around 1814, more discoveries of silver widened the gap to sixteen ounces of silver to one ounce of gold with the result that the gold coins struck in the 1820s were more valuable than its face value in relation to silver. As a result, most of the gold coins released from the mint were either sold for higher prices to bullion dealers and melted or sent to European Banks for their higher than face value than in the United States. Those wealthy enough to keep their gold coins usually surface at major auctions today grading between AU-53 and MS-63 and are scarce to rare despite their mintages, which is why a magnificent coin like the 1820 \$5.00 half-eagle certified MS-60 shown above, most of us will never own. In 1820, \$5.00 had the purchasing power of \$111.00.

Upcoming Coin Shows!

Here is a listing of Coin Shows happening in our area in the next few months. Make plans to attend and expand your numismatic knowledge!

Month	Dates	Shows	Location
Feb	7-9	Charlotte Coin Club 50th Annual Show	Park Expo and Conference Center 800 Briar Creek Rd. Charlotte, North Carolina 28205 Contact: Gregory Field 704-293-4426 cell/text: gregory@charlotterecoins.com http://www.charlottecoinclub.org/show.htm
Feb	14-16	50th Upstate SC Coin Show Sponsored by the Greenville and Parker Coin Clubs (SCNA MEMBER CLUBS)	Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium 385 N Church St Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303 Contact: DAVID BURZINSKI (864) 293-8416 http://www.upstatescoinshow.com/
Feb	27-29	American Numismatic Association's 2020 National Coin & Money Show	Cobb Galleria Centre 2 Galleria Pkwy SE, Atlanta, GA 30339 convention@money.org.
March	6-8	Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS) Show	Camp Jordan Arena 323 Camp Jordan Pkwy East Ridge, Tennessee 37412 Contact: Bob Hurst 321-427-6474 http://tsns.org/home/
Mar	21	Camden Coin Club (SCNA MEMBER CLUB)	Camden Recreation Department 1042 West DeKalb Street, Camden SC 29020 (Hwy. #1 South in Camden, SC) http://www.coinshows.com/camden-ccc.html camdencoinclub@gmail.com
Mar	21-22	Statesville Coin and Currency Show	Statesville Civic Center 300 S Center St, Statesville, NC 28677 Contact: Bill Brewer at 704-450-1639
Apr	17-19	Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show	Dalton Convention Center 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., Dalton, GA 30720 Tom Youngblood: Tom.Youngblood@Bart.net or 770-815-4042 Chip Cutliff: chascoin@6@yahoo.com or 770-639-0190 https://www.gamoney.org/coin-show/
Apr	18	Marion Coin Club, Marion NC	Marion Community Building 191 North Main St., Marion, NC 28752 Contact: Jeff Hicks at (828) 460-7867
May	2	Midlands Coin Club, Columbia SC (SCNA MEMBER CLUB)	American Legion Hall #6, 200 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC 29201 www.MidlandsCoinClub.com
May	15-16	Augusta Coin Club, Augusta GA (SCNA MEMBER CLUB)	COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER 212 PARTNERSHIP DRIVE GROVETOWN, GA 30813 JUST OFF I-20 EXIT 190 Contact Bourse Chairman David Chism @ 706-541-4143 or dchism@comcast.net, augustacoinclub.org

Show and Tell!

The January 2020 SJ CSRA CC program was an extended Show and Tell Session! Five members of the Club brought in a wide variety of numismatic items to share with the audience. Here is a recap!



SJCSRACC Member Robbie Ogden brought two American Silver Eagles to Show & Tell – One bought from a Chinese website for \$2.11. He challenged the Club Members to identify the counterfeit. Can you tell?

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SJCSRACC Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Sproull brought in an error coin – a 1980-P Nickel minted on a one-cent planchet. Graded MS-63 by ANACS



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ANACS
LIFE MEMBER

Show and Tell!

Continued



SJCSRACC Member John Kolmar brought one of his favorite coins - an 1893 Columbia Exposition Isabella Quarter (inset). John had one of these coins when he was very young, but according to John, he sold it for love! He recently bought this coin to replace the one he sold so many years ago.



SJCSRACC Member Steve Kuhl brought in three very different Show & Tells:

- Two 1862 State of South Carolina \$4 bills.
- A 1945 Canadian Chrome-plated steel nickel with Morse code on it;
- An AG3 1791 half-cent;

Read more on each of these items elsewhere in this newsletter.



SJCSRACC Member Chuck Braun (not pictured) brought an ancient silver stater from the city of Gortyna in ancient Crete. Gortyna was the first city in Crete to issue coinage.



Left: 1945 Canadian Chrome-plated steel nickel with the World War II motivational phrase "We Win When We Work Willingly" in Morse code around the edge of the coin on the reverse.

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LEFT: Obverse of AG3 1797 Half-Cent (artificial color due to flash photography. Actual coin is very dark brown.)

Club News!

It was announced at the 2019 South Carolina Numismatic Association's Annual Convention that the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club had been selected as SCNA's Co-Club of the Year, along with our sister Club just across the Savannah River in Augusta Georgia! Seen here is SJCSRACC President Mr. JJ Engel with the award plaque received from the SCNA!



SJCSRACC President JJ Engel with the "Coin Club of the Year – 2019" plaque from the South Carolina Numismatic Association.

You are invited to the 50th Annual Upstate South Carolina Coin Show

Sponsored by The Greenville & Parker Coin Clubs

February 14, 15, & 16, 2020

Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium

385 North Church St. Spartanburg, SC

WWW.UPSTATESCINSHOW.COM / WWW.CROWDPLEASER.COM

* Coin Grading Services on site *

***Public Invited / Free Admission ***

Show Hours	Friday	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Young Numismatist	Saturday 11:00 AM
	Saturday			
	Sunday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM		

Contact: David A. Burzinski, Bourse Chairman
BMWDAVE1964@yahoo.com (864) 293-8416

The Greenville Coin Club meets each Tuesday, and the Parker Coin Club meets each Thursday. Visit their websites at: www.greenvillecoinclub.club and www.parkercoinclub.org

February 27-29, 2020

National Coin & Money Show®

\$100 Million of Numismatic National Treasures in Atlanta



Mismade \$1 million World War II penny.

Upside-down serial numbers.

Rare Georgia gold.

WHAT:

At the family-friendly National Coin & Money Show® the public can see more than \$100 million of historic rare coins and colorful currency including a \$1 million penny, rare Georgia gold coins and paper money, and examples of misprinted currency – such as upside-down serial numbers. Sponsored by the nonprofit American Numismatic Association, more than 350 dealers will be buying and selling rare coins, paper money, gold and silver. Many of the experts will provide free, informal evaluations of the public's old coins and paper money. There will be educational seminars and a children's treasure trivia game.

Admission: Thursday and Friday, February 27 & 28, 2020, \$8 for adults, children 12 and under admitted free. Free admission for everyone Saturday, February 29.

WHEN:

Public hours: Thursday and Friday, February 27 & 28, 2020, from 10 am to 5:30 pm; Saturday, February 29, from 10 am to 3:30 pm.

WHERE:

Cobb Galleria Centre, Hall D, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Online at www.NationalMoneyShow.com
American Numismatic Association, 800-367-9723

1943 - 1945 Canadian "Victory" Nickel

- Inexpensive Coin. NGC Values: MS-60: \$2.50; MS-63: \$6; MS-65: \$80
- Exception: Only known 1944 Tombac

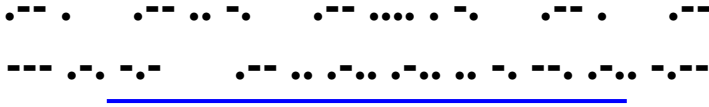


1943 – 1945 Canadian Victory Nickel.
<https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/canada-5-cents-km-40a-1944-1945-cuid-1034444-duid-1257935>

Specifications – 1944 – 1945 Canadian 5 cents

- Mintage:
 - 1944: 11,532,784
 - 1945: 18,893,216
- Alloy: Steel, plated with nickel (.0127 mm) and Chromium (.0003 mm)
- Weight: 4.54 grams
- Diameter :
 - Opposite Corners: 21.3 mm
 - Opposite Sides: 20.87 mm
- Edge: Plain / Smooth
- Mint: Royal Canadian Mint
- Designed and Engraved by:
 - Obverse: T. H. Paget, Thomas Shingles
 - Reverse: Thomas Shingles

“We Win When We Work Willingly”



- Struck 1943 to 1945
- During WW II demand for copper and zinc was high
- 1943 Cents made of Tombac – a type of Brass
- 1944 & 1945 coins made of steel and plated with nickel and chrome.
- Small number were not chrome plated and have a duller appearance.
- Dodecagonal (12-sided) shape
- First non-standard circulating Canadian coin (other than commemorative dollars)
- Obverse: Bust of King George VI, facing left
- Reverse has “V” for Victory and the coin’s denomination; Flaming torch in front of “V”
- Denticles on Reverse replaced by Morse code phrase: "We win when we work willingly".
- Design re-used in 2005 to commemorate 60th anniversary of V-E Day.
- Reverse was engraved to scale (most coins engraved at large scale and then reduced.)



1943 Canadian Victory Nickel – Tombac
<http://www.coinsandcanada.com/coins-prices.php?coin=5-cents-1943&years=5-cents-1937-1952>

U. S. Dollar Value by Grade for 1943 - 1945 Canadian "Victory" Nickel (\$)											
Year	Composition	Mintage	G	VG	F	VF	XF	50	60	63	65
1943	Tombac (Brass)	24,760,256	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.8	3.5	12	150
1944	Tombac (Brass)	8,000				85,000					
1944	Steel	11,532,784	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.3	2.5	6	50
1945	Steel	18,893,216		0.1	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.3	2.5	6	80

DATA SOURCE: NGC.com at <https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/canada-5-cents-km-40-1943-1944> and <https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/canada-5-cents-km-40a-1944-1945>

Sources:**CoinsandCanada.Com:**

<http://www.coinsandcanada.com/coins-articles.php?article=world-war-ii&id=381>

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation:

<https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/canada-5-cents-km-40a-1944-1945-cuid-1034444-duid-1257935>
and <https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/canada-5-cents-km-40-1943-1944-cuid-1034481-duid-1270165>

NOTE: The dots and dashes at the top of the Fact Sheet is the Morse Code on the nickel representing the phrase "We Win When We Work Willingly"

Editor's Note: This fact sheet was developed following the purchase of this coin at the SCNA Convention in 2019. It was bought from Low Country Coins, and is an excellent \$2 history lesson! Many THANKS! To Mr. John Placko IV for sharing the history behind this coin to me.



1944 Canadian Victory Nickel – Missing Chrome Layer.
<http://www.coinsandcanada.com/coins-prices.php?coin=5-cents-1945&years=5-cents-1937-1952>

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Examining Varieties, Errors and Numismatic Subtleties

**The 1797 Liberty
Cap Half-Cent**

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Author's Note: This article continues a planned periodic series that seeks to examine and understand the subtle differences that make some varieties of coins more collectible and valuable than other versions.

One of the very first coins minted by the United States was the half-cent denomination. It is believed the half cent exists because of the efforts of Alexander Hamilton, who thought the denomination would be used by the poor (a half-cent in the late 1790s was a lot of money) and because much of the existing coinage in circulation was fractional Spanish Reales including the 1/8th Reale (12 ½ cents or "one bit"). Several sources indicate that despite these logical reasons for having this denomination, the coin was not accepted by the public nor by financial institutions, and subsequently was little used. Production of the half cent was suspended after 1797 and did not resume until 1800 when the Draped Bust design was introduced.

The first half cent was minted in 1793 and was only issued for one year. This design had an image of Liberty facing left. The second series lasted four years, from 1794 – 1797, and featured Liberty facing right. The total mintage for the second series was 350,790 coins, distributed as follows: 1794: 81,600; 1795: 139,690; 1796: 1,390 (Key Date); 1797: 127,840

These coins were all 23.5 mm in diameter, but the thickness of the planchet varied. All 1794 and some 1795 coins were minted on a thick planchet and weighed 6.74 grams. Some 1795 coins and all the 1796 and 1797 dates were minted on a thinner planchet that weighed 5.44 grams.

That said, there is some discrepancy with respect to planchet thickness for one variety of the 1797 coin. NGC indicates that the Cohen-3b variety is minted on a thick planchet, although this information could not be verified when reviewing other sources and references. In fact, the PCGS website lists the Cohen-3b variety to weigh 5.44 grams, meaning it was minted on the thin planchet, and the Redbook™ only attributes thick planchets to the 1794 and 1795 mintages.

Most planchets were old planchets brought from England in earlier times that were shipped in barrels in the holds of ships. This subjected them to saltwater which damaged the planchets, and coins struck on them will often appear to be of poor quality. Also, the saltwater exposure typically turned the planchet brown so finding a red or red-brown instance of this coin is highly unlikely.

These coins were also struck on cut-down one-cent planchets or cut from Talbot, Allum & Lee (TA&L) cent token planchets. TA&L was a business based in New York City that was engaged in trade with India, and they had their own one-cent tokens minted by the US Mint. Excess / unneeded tokens became stock planchets for the 1795 and 1797 half-cents minted by the US Government. Coins from this stock sources are of the “thick planchet” variety.

High quality versions of the 1797 half cent are extremely rare due to the planchet and minting issues common to the era. In fact, Q. David Bowers in his book *A Guide Book of United States Type Coins* (2008, Whitman Publishing) states that the 1797 half cents are “curious for their primitive appearance” and “are usually seen in low grades and often on unsatisfactory planchets.”

The obverse of this coin is thought to have been designed by John Smith Gardner and the reverse by Robert Scot. The design of this coin is fairly basic. The obverse has a bust of Liberty facing right; her hair is tied with a bow; “LIBERTY” is inscribed above the bust and the date is shown below the bust; and denticles surround the outer edge. The reverse features the denomination “Half Cent” inside a wreath (there does not appear to be consensus on

what plant / plants the wreath is representative of.) The wreath is tied at the center bottom with a ribbon, and below that is the fractional denomination of 1/200. “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA” encircles the upper portion of the wreath and, as with the obverse of this coin, denticles surround the edge.

Five varieties of the 1797 half cent are known:

- Plain Edge, 1 above 1. This coin reflects an engraver’s error, where the first “1” in the date was punched too close to the bust. This variety is catalogued as Cohen-1:



1797 1/2C Plain Edge, BN (Regular Strike) PCGS MS66BN
<https://www.pcgsc.com/coinfacts/coin/1797-1-2c-plain-edge-bn/1036>

- Plain Edge. This is the standard / most common variety of the coin, and reflects the intended design. This variety is catalogued as Cohen-2:



1797 1/2C Plain Edge, 1 ABOVE 1, Mint State.
<https://www.ngccoin.com/coin-explorer/liberty-cap-half-cents-1793-1797-pscid-7/1797-plain-edge-1-2c-ms-br-coinid-11036>

- Plain Edge, Low Head. This coin reflects an error where the hubbing was performed off-center, resulting in the bust being placed very close to the date. This variety is catalogued as Cohen-3a:



1797 1/2C Plain Edge, BN (Regular Strike), Low Head, PCGS MS63BN
<https://www.pcgsc.com/coinfacts/coin/1797-1-2c-low-head-plain-edge-bn/35107>

- Lettered Edge: “TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR” is inscribed on the edge of the Low Head variety. Per NGC this coin is on a thicker planchet and is catalogued as the Cohen-3b variety. PCGS lists the weight of this variety as 5.44 grams, indicating use of a thin planchet. Logically one would think a thicker planchet would allow for edge lettering, while a thin planchet would not, but again, the reference material is not consistent on this point.

- Grippled Edge: Only 12 of these coins are known to exist. The gripped edge variety has incuse segments on the edge of the coin. There is no consensus on what caused these marks, and theories range from the Mint having issues when stamping the planchet to the coin being gripped by pliers for unknown reasons. This coin is catalogued as the Cohen-3c variety. Since there are only a few examples known, their value is very high:

Because of the low mintage and consequent rarity 1797 half cents are costly to obtain. AG-3 and G-4 examples of the three most common varieties – the Plain edge, the 1 over 1, and the Low Head - are within the price range for the average collector, but VG-8 and above becomes very pricey and not within the means of many. The Lettered Edge coin starts in the high three figures in AG3, and the Grippled Edge coins are unobtainable. Shown below is a chart of the current valuations for the 1791 half cent:

Further information about this series of coins can be found in the sources mentioned below. Additionally, the NGC website contains a well-written summary of this series. This information may be found at:

<https://www.ngccoin.com/coin-explorer/liberty-cap-half-cents-1793-1797-pscid-7-desig-ms>

1797 LIBERTY CAP HALF-CENT PRICE ESTIMATE COMPARISON											
VARIETY	Grade / Service	AG-3	G-4	VG-8	F-12	VF-20	VF-30	EF-40	AU-50	AU-55	60
PLAIN EDGE	PCGS	335	650	1025	1400		3050	4900		12500	19500
	Redbook	275	500	750	1250	3500		6000	8500		
	NGC		645	1160	1380		2750	5000	6875	11600	20600
1 ABOVE 1	PCGS	315	600	975	1400		2750	4900		11000	16500
	Redbook	250	500	650	1100	1800		4000	6500		
LOW HEAD	PCGS	315	600	975	1400		3000				
	Redbook	350	575	975	2250	4500		14000			
LETTERED EDGE	PCGS	800	1750	2750	5500		14000	22000			
	Redbook	700	1400	2750	7000	16000		50000	77500		
GRIPPED EDGE	PCGS	50,000	60,000	90,000	97,500						
	Redbook	20,000	45,000	75,000	145,000						

Sources and References:

- *A Guide Book of United States Type Coins*, By Q. David Bowers, 2008, Whitman Publishing
- *A Guide Book of United States Coins - 2020*, By R. S. Yeoman, 2019, Whitman Publishing
- *Half Cents Die Variety Set by Cohen, Circulation Strikes (1793-1857)*,
<https://www.pcg.com/setregistry/half-cents/half-cents-specialty-sets/half-cents-die-variety-set-by-cohen-circulation-strikes-1793-1857/2881>
- Coin images from PCGS CoinFacts and NGC Coin Explorer websites
- <https://www.jmbullion.com/coin-info/cents/half-cents/1797-half-cent/>
- <https://www.ngccoin.com/variety-plus/united-states/half-cents/liberty-cap-half-cents-1793-1797/?page=1>; VarietyPlus®; Liberty Cap Half Cents (1793-1797)

Two Almost Identical State of South Carolina \$4 bills from the Columbia, SC Branch

These two notes (purchased from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History) were presented at the January Show & Tell session. Provided here is the information that was shared with the Club.



Each note is Series A with Serial Number 77 and matching signatures (J. L. Clark, Cashier 1862 – 1865; John Fisher, President 1862 – 1865). The only difference is the handwritten dates on these notes. The top bill is dated 9 January 1862 and the bottom is dated 1 June 1862.

In discussion with Mr. Patrick McCawley from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (source of these two notes) and renowned Numismatist Mr. Hugh Shull on why the serial numbers are the same, it is believed that the numbering of bills started anew each day (started with serial number “1”) rather than continuing the numbering from where they left off the day before. Reinforcing this thought is that notes with three-digit serial numbers are rarely found.

Key Design elements feature Robert Hayne (left), Fort Moultrie (top center) and Langdon Cheves (right).

Robert Hayne, 1791 – 1839: Lawyer; Soldier; Politician

- Married Frances Pickney, daughter of former South Carolina Governor Charles Pickney
- Captain during the War of 1812; Major General in the SC State Militia.
- Member of the SC Legislature from 1814 – 1818
- South Carolina Attorney General from 1818 – 1822
- U. S. Senator from SC from 1823 – 1832
- Governor of SC from 1832 – 1834
- Mayor of Charleston, SC from 1836 - 1837
- President of the Louisville, Cincinnati, and Charleston Rail Road
- Chairman of the Nullification Convention, 1832

Langdon Cheves, 1776 – 1857: Lawyer; Politician, Banker, Statesman

- South Carolina Attorney General from 1808 – 1810
- U. S. Congressman from SC from 1810 – 1815, including being Speaker of the House 1814 - 1815
- Chief Commissioner of Claims for the Treaty of Ghent (which settled the War of 1812)
- Chairman of the Board for the Second United States Bank 1819 – 1822. (Irony: As the Speaker of the House he led the legislative defeat of the re-chartering of the First Bank of the United States.)
- Retired from public life in 1822.

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