

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

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



The Stephen James
CSRA Coin Club of Aiken
P.O. Box 5562
New Ellenton, SC 29802
Web site: www.sjcsracc.org

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

Volume 22, No. 6

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

June, 2023

**Our next meeting will be held at the South Aiken Presbyterian Church on June 1, 2023
With Covid around, consider wearing a face mask while indoors!**

Collecting the Half-dollars of the United States, Part Five

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

A tiny slightly worn Jewel of a coin from 1805



An 1805 Draped Bust five-cent piece graded XF-40 by NGC
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

In 1805, the Philadelphia Mint struck eight of the ten coins authorized by the first Coinage Act of the United States in 1792. The two coins omitted were the gold Draped Bust \$10.00 eagle and the silver Draped Bust silver dollar, both having been suspended the previous year, 1804. As for the tiny little 1805 dated silver coin shown above, it was coined from 1800 thru 1805 minus the 1804 date only to be suspended the following year, not to reappear with a different type until 24 years, with John Reich's Capped Bust design in 1829.

All our early silver coinage tended to be struck in small numbers due to 1) the experimental problem of the strike, 2) the lack of silver and with the half-disme the problem with many becoming bent during circulation due to its thinness. This factor also caused many of the examples to strike up poorly with some aspects of the coinage design missing, like the coin shown above.

If one enlarges the page either to fill the monitor screen up to 200%, the reader will observe some aspects of the coin that are faded out especially on the reverse in which almost one half of the stars are missing going down to the extreme right side of the shield. On the obverse, the upper portions of Miss Liberty's cleavage is virtually non-existent yet despite these faults, the coin is still graded XF-40 because these faults, the areas that appear well struck merit the XF-40 grade.

Of the four Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle half-dimes, the 1802 had the lowest mintage of 13,010 and is considered the key date of the short-lived series due to its extremely rarity, while the 1805 had the second lowest mintage with just 15,600 struck--and while not as rare, is still quite scarce and pricey. The author acquired the coin at the Baltimore ANA convention in 2003 and it has since doubled in price.

Collecting the Half-dollar types from 1916 thru 1965

By Arno Safran



A 1916-D Walking Liberty Half-dollar certified MS-64 by NGC
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

In 1916, the Liberty Seated Walking Liberty half-dollar replaced the Barber's Liberty Head type and was struck at all three mints, Philadelphia, with just 608,000 produced, Denver, with 1,014,400 coined and at San Francisco, the least with just 508,000 struck; the latter being scarce and quite costly today. The designer was Adolph Weinman, an extremely talented engraver who emigrated from Germany at age 14 and settled in New York City.



Adolph Weinman

Born on Dec. 11th in 1870, in Dummersheim, Baden, Weinman, studied at the Cooper Union Artists League in New York City and later with various sculptors such as Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Daniel Chester French. Another talented Sculptor, of the same era was Hermon A. MacNeil who created the Standing Liberty Quarter also in 1916. Weinman is known for designing the *Mercury* dime in 1916 as well. He died in Port Chester, New York Many years later in August, 1952 at age 81.

For those wishing to acquire a half-dollar from 1916, the Denver Mint specimen as shown above--produced the most halves and is currently priced the lowest of the three mints. The **D** mintmark appears on the obverse of the coin midway between the r in the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** and Miss Liberty's skirt.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the Half-dollar types from 1916 thru 1965

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



A 1917-D Walking Liberty half-dollar with the mint-mark on the obverse graded AU-55
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]



A 1917-D Walking Liberty half-dollar graded AU-50 with a tiny D mint-mark on the reverse barely noticeable just below the leaves and under the upper end of the rock.
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

Both of these Walking Liberty half varieties of the 1917 D halves are expensive in mint state but in AU 50 or 55, they are affordable for collectors who wish to acquire the various varieties of the series. The 1917-S, not shown is similar regarding the placement of the two mint-marks while the 1917-P which had no mint-marks had a mintage of over 12.9 million and is extremely common. The Philadelphia Mint issues of the 1918, '19 and '20 are less common while the branch mints with lower mintage circulated heavily and are scarce to rare.



A 1921 Walking Liberty Half-dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

Due to a post WWI recession in 1921 and 1922, all three mints struck low mintages. Only 246,000 Liberty Walking half-dollars were coined at the Philadelphia Mint in 1921 but by saving up, the author was able to acquire a beautiful example shown above certified MS-63. In 1922, no US coins were produced at all except the "penny" struck only at the Denver Mint only and the Peace dollar at all three mints in huge numbers.

In 1923, the Walking Liberty half-dollar was coined only at the San Francisco Mint with none produced until 1927, '28 and '29, the latter at both the San Francisco and Denver Mints; then during the deepest year of the Great Depression in 1933 but again, only at the San Francisco Mint.



A 1933-S Walking Liberty Half-dollar graded AU-58 by PCGS
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

In 1933, the San Francisco Mint struck 1,786,000 and they circulated but the coin is not as scarce as those struck during the 1920s. While the Depression was far from over, the Mint began to strike relatively larger mintages at all three mints in 1934 but this time dealers were taking out rolls of uncirculated halves as soon as they left the bank and these coins remained plentiful going into the 21st century. After 1936, the half-dollar denomination began to be less used by the public and by 1941 the Liberty Walking half-dollar circulated less and less. Years later, the prices to acquire any one of them dropped in value. A coin with the same mintage in the 1940s as one in the teens is much more common today since by then it hardly circulated.



A 1944 Liberty Walking half-dollar graded MS-66

From 1936 on, the Walking Liberty Half-dollar was usually brilliantly struck especially at the Philadelphia Mint which also produced the largest mintages of the three mints then in operation. In 1938, the Denver Mint struck only 491,600 halves compared with the 4,111,000 million struck at the Philadelphia Mint while the San Francisco Mint struck none. The 1938-D is the last scarcer Walking Liberty type half-dollar although not too challenging to find. By 1941, the public was using less half-dollars in their pocket-change despite the higher mintages and stronger strikes mainly due to their more cumbersome size and the fact that there was no slot for the half-dollar in the vending machines. The series ended in 1947.

The Franklin Half-dollar



A 1948 Benjamin Franklin half-dollar graded MS-64
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting the Half-dollar types from 1916 thru 1965

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



A 1952-D Franklin half-dollar graded MS-64 Full Bell lines
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

In 1948, Chief Mint engraver J.R. Sinnock, was asked by Mint director Nellie Tayloe to create a new half-dollar type coin honoring Benjamin Franklin. While Franklin was never president, he was heralded as one of great patriots active in the cause of our 13 colonies separation from the British empire and after the Revolutionary war in shaping our coinage program. His lifespan for that period spanned 85 years from 1705 to 1790, just long enough to see George Washington serve his first year and a half as our first president.

When the Franklin half-dollar first appeared in 1948, many collectors along with others were disappointed since the coin did not appear as aesthetic in appearance as the Walking Liberty half-dollar did. In more recent times, the Franklin half design has been praised for its simplicity and overall appearance similar in style to the Barber half. Along with the symbol of the Liberty Bell appears the motto, *E PLURIBUS UNUM* to the left and a tiny eagle to the right which turned out to be an afterthought by the engraver. The tiny size of the eagle was criticized when the coin first appeared.

Regrettably, as a coin, the Franklin half-dollar did not circulate much although the author recalls that before he became a college professor as a young teacher of elementary school children Franklin halves were used heavily in the school luncheon cafeteria. In more recent times, dealers are selling Franklin halves certified MS -64 and 65, especially those with full bell lines on the reverse at much higher prices now than two decades ago.

The Kennedy Half-dollar



A silver 1964 Kennedy half-dollar grading MS-64
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

On November 22, 1963 President John Kennedy was assassinated after serving almost three years as our 34th president. He was popular with the American people and his lovely and very attractive wife, Jacqueline decided to request a new type half-dollar coin in his honor which replaced the Franklin half in 1964. It would be the last .900 fine silver half-

dollar struck for circulation. Chief engraver, Gilroy Roberts created the obverse before retiring and Asst. Chief engraver Frank Gasparro who would become officially the Chief Engraver of the Mint the following year created the reverse. The new Kennedy silver half dollar had huge mintages with 273,304,004 struck at the Philadelphia Mint while 156,205,446 were produced at the Denver Mint. By that time the San Francisco mint was an assay office striking mostly proof issues only. According to the **2024 Red Book** an MS-63 graded 1964 half-dollar has a value of \$13.00 with one grading MS-65, \$35.00.



A 1965 Silver-clad Kennedy Half-dollar graded MS-65
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

Beginning in 1965, our silver coinage was replaced by clad coinage (with no metal value) on the dime and quarter denominations while the half-dollar would still be struck with around 40% silver until 1971 when it too would have no silver in it although still worth 50 cents. Such was the attractive 1965 Kennedy half shown above. The mintage was 654,879,366 and issued only as mint sets. According to the **2024 Red Book**, an example like the one shown above grading MS-65 is worth as much as \$75.00 today.



A 1976-1976 dated clad Kennedy Half-dollar graded MS-64
[Magnify to 150 to 200% to view the details of the coin more clearly.]

The Bicentennial Kennedy half-dollar was struck for circulation in both 1975 and 1976 but with the 1796-1976 date. It had colossal mintages of 234,308,000 produced at the Philadelphia and 287,565,248 struck at the Denver Mint. In the grade shown the coin is only worth around \$3.00 to \$4.00 today. The reverse design was the work of engraver Seth Huntington. The coin was also struck as souvenirs which included 20% silver proofs initially priced at \$7.00 for just the half-dollar, today worth \$11.50 as well as for the three silver centennial sets which included the Washington quarter, Kennedy half-dollar and Ike dollar at \$15 per set and worth around \$27.00 today. It's the history that counts here. The coin continues to be struck in copper nickel clad coinage today although back in 2014, the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy half-dollar, it was also coined in gold, worth \$900 today. Today's half-dollar is virtually an unused coin.

**STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB
Minutes from the Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 4, 2023**

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 16 members in attendance (one via Zoom).

Chuck Braun won the door prize – a BU commemorative half dollar for Statue of Liberty (1986).

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

Chuck Goergen reported the Club's bank balance was \$1232.88, however \$95 is from coin show income that will be returned to a dealer since the 2022 show was cancelled.

Old Business:

Club dues are payable – see Jim Mullaney.

New Business:

J.J. Engel reported that Steve Nix from the Augusta had offered to assist in any future coin show by interfacing with dealers. It would still be up to our own Bourse Chair to coordinate the remaining aspects of the show (venue, tables, security, etc.). J.J. indicated that although it is too late in 2023 to coordinate a show in September, this is something we should consider for next year if we want to have another Coin Show.

Show and Tells:

Glen Sanders shared an 1802 large cent where it is evident that a bit copper had been shaved off. This was a fairly common practice in the past where copper or silver was shaved from the edge of coins, accumulated from many coins, and sold as scrap. This eventually led to the design of silver coins having a reeded edge to make it evident when it was shaved or clipped.

Jimmy Widener shared a 2023 silver Britannia that had recently been released that had King Charles on the obverse.

The Program:

Arno Safran gave this month's program entitled **Collecting the U.S. Coins of 1900**

Arno did a wonderful job tying in U.S. history by showing a number of photographs of New York City as it appeared at the time his grandparents grew up and his personal family history from over 120 years ago during the presentation of the coinage. His slides emphasized how small change such as nickels and quarters had appreciable purchasing power back then for bus/train fare and groceries.

Arno displayed uncirculated images of all 1900 coins intended for circulation that century-ending year which included engraver James Longacre's 1900 Indian Head cent, Charles Barber's Liberty Head "V" nickel, also his Liberty Head silver dime, quarter and half-dollar and Engraver George T. Morgans' 1900 Morgan dollar. Arno explained that while the 1900 gold issues were relatively common, they were all beautiful and worth saving up to acquire.

The 50/50 drawing

Member Sharon Smoot won the 50-50 drawing - \$12.50.

The Monthly Club Auction:

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary*



Crissy Kuhl, Proprietor
803-989-4676

The \$10.00 Red Seal United States Note, Series of 1901 (One of our most popular large size Bank note issues)



The \$10.00 Red Seal United States Note (AKA, the Bison Note)
[Courtesy of Wikipedia] [Enlarge page to fill screen.]

One of the most popular large size US banknotes is the famed Bison Note, designated as a United State Note, Series of 1901. It was intended to be placed into circulation to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition authorized in 1804 by President Thomas Jefferson. The face of the note shows the portraits of Merewether Lewis and William Clark engraved by G.F.C. Smilie. The bison on this note was named Pablo who was killed in Montana in 1886 and not Black Diamond who appears on the reverse of the 1913-1938 Indian Head nickel. It was originally sketched by Charles Knight and later painted by Ostander Smith, then engraved by mint engraver M.W. Baldwin. A pinkish-red Roman numeral over an Arabic 10 appears on the left side of the Bison and the famed Red Seal on the right. The central device on the back of the note is the allegorical female figure of Columbia, not Liberty. She appears centered under classical Roman arches with a flourishing green plant displaying the note's legal status. The note commemorates the exploration of the northwestern portion of our nation which led to the Westward Expansion of the United States in the greater part of the 19th century.

Although the Bison note is considered common, due to its popularity, it is fairly expensive across the grading spectrum. Crisp Uncirculated pieces certified MS-64 or higher however are scarce and quite costly but certified VF-35s--which can still appear attractive if enough of the original color remains--will cost a pretty penny, (no pun intended) but worth saving up for if one is an ardent large size US obsolete banknote collector and wants to add it his or her collection.

When the writer was collecting the large size US Banknote series during the 1980s and '90s, he was only able to acquire specimens mostly grading VF-30 thru XF-45. Before he and his wife Vilma were retiring to the southern delights of the beautiful CSRA, he was thinking of adding the Bison note to his

collection having just obtained an attractive example of the Series of 1896 \$5.00 silver certificate featuring the Native American, Chief Running Antelope on the face of the note.



He believed it would complete a short set representing an important segment of US history having the two notes paired together, but even then, the Bison note was expensive and preparations were well underway to move to their new home.

Oops!

In submitting "filler" articles of two of the three Educational Bank-notes that recently appeared in the April and May, 2023 issues of the club newsletter, the author admits that he completely overlooked that these some two articles appeared in the July and August, issues of 2022. I guess he is aging more quickly than he thought, but thanks his readers for not reminding him of his latest faux pas!

Kindly patronize our dealers

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 4015 Washington Rd, STE - L
Dealer LIC # 40829 *Buying and Selling* Martinez, GA 30907

