

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

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



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

December, 2015

Our annual dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10 at Knights of Columbus

Club to close-out year with festive pre Xmas dinner meeting

2015 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 8	Apr. 2	July 2	Oct. 1
Feb. 5	May 7	Aug. 6	Nov. 5
Mar. 5	June 4	Sept. 3	Dec. 10

Dec, 3 regular meeting cancelled

Dinner Meeting to take place the following Thursday, Dec. 10 at Knights of Columbus

Originally, the club was planning to hold its annual end of year pre Christmas dinner meeting on December 3 but the Knights of Columbus, our host facility for the past two years had already booked the hall for that date offering us the following Thursday Dec. 10 instead. Since the Aiken Public Library knew in advance that we generally hold our December meeting elsewhere, they booked the room for Dec. 3 to another group. with the result that as in past years, no regular meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month. By now most members have received from Treasurer Chuck Goergen a flyer and map with the two menu choices, prices for members and non-members, etc. Members wishing to attend the pre-holiday dinner party must submit their entrée choices and payment to the club by December 3. For those who have not done so already, please send in your payment to the Stephen James CSRA CC, P.O. Box 11, New Ellenton, SC 29809.

At our November 5 meeting our program consisted of a group of fascinating numismatic Show & Tell exhibits by members. President Steve Kuhl has contributed a full page of these proceedings which appear on page 4 of the newsletter.

In other news, a number of our members attended the annual fall coin show sponsored by the Augusta Coin club held on Novembers 20 & 21 at the Columbia County Expo Center in Grovetown, GA. The 52 table show afforded collectors of the region a lot of options to add to their collections including having one's "raw" coins appraised or graded by ANACS.

The biggest coin show in the US is the annual winter FUN show sponsored by the Florida United Numismatists. It will be held at the Tampa, FL Conv. Ctr. Jan 7-10, 2016.

Collecting the US Coins of 1940: 75 Years Ago

By Arno Safran



The obverses of a BU 1940-P Year Set
[Use a 3X glass or magnify up to 200% to see details.]

Seventy-five years ago America was emerging from the Great Depression. Despite the improvement in economic conditions there was uneasiness among the people. War had erupted throughout Europe with Hitler's armies moving through France, Belgium and Holland to the north while ravaging Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland to the east. The German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact signed in 1939 was only a delay to the invasion of Russia in 1941. Meanwhile the Luftwaffe's Blitzkrieg over England was exacting a crucial toll on the British who were expecting a German invasion at any moment. During 1940, Americans began to again enjoy some of the leisure pleasures of life. Folks listened to the radio, went to the movies, took short vacations wondering if they would be drawn into the raging war across the Atlantic some 3,000 miles away.

Our coinage was much more functional in 1940 than it is today. Even a "penny" could buy something; perhaps a stick of candy or a couple of chicklets. 2¢ would get you the morning tabloid. Postage was 3¢, carfare 5¢, an ice cream sundae 15¢ and a three tiered pencil box, a quarter. To a kid, a half dollar was a fortune.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1940 (Continued from page 1, column 2)



The reverses of a BU 1940-P Year Set
[Use a 3X glass or magnify up to 200% to see details.]

During the 1930's and 1940's the Philadelphia Mint produced the most coins and the best strikes of the three Mints. The 1940-P half dollar shown was presumably under graded as a MS-63 by the dealer as it only cost only \$20.00 back in 1977. It was certified MS-65 by PCGS in 2012. The Quarter has the obverse of a 63, a reverse of a 64 and would probably grade MS-63. The dime is a MS-64 but the reverse does not exhibit fully split bands which lowers its value somewhat. With over 176 million struck, the 1940-P Jefferson nickel is extremely common date and despite the lovely gun metal toning, MS-65's still cost only \$4.00 today. The 1940-P cent probably grades MS-64 Red. All 1940-P mintages are plentiful and none of the coins are expensive.

In 1940, the population of the United States had surpassed 132 million, an increase of 7.3 percent over the 1930 census of 123.2 million, The state of South Carolina ranked 26th in population with a population of 1,899,804. (Courtesy of Wikipedia). The average annual income across the United States came to \$1,725.00 or \$143.75 a month and just over \$33.00 a week. It was in 1940 that the forty hour work week went into effect, so on average, a laborer earned roughly 82½¢ an hour. The minimum wage was far less; around 25¢ an hour.

Nationwide, the mean price of a new home was \$3,900; more in the larger cities and suburbs; between \$5,500 and \$9,000. In 1940, rent averaged \$30.00 a month and a new car cost around \$700. Gas to fill it cost 11¢ a gallon.



Ad for a 1940 Plymouth 2 door Sedan

Radio was still “king” in 1940 as television sets were far too expensive. A table radio cost \$16.95 but a large console like the GE model pictured at right was priced at \$79.95. One with a 78 rpm record changer increased the price to \$129.95. That was a lot of money back then as such a sum would have had the equivalent purchasing power of almost \$2,000 today.



After 1935, dollar coinage was suspended. That left just five denominations; the cent, nickel, dime, quarter and half dollar. These were struck at the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco Mints but in 1940, no half dollars were coined at the Denver facility leaving just the four coins shown below.



An uncirculated 1940-D Year set shown actual size

Of the four denominations produced at the Denver Mint in 1940, only the 1940-D quarter with a mintage of 2,797,600 is considered a better date. According to the 2016 Red Book a 1940-D 25¢ grading MS-63 is listed at \$165 and in MS-65 at \$300. Starting with the 1932-D and S issues the 1940-D is the last of the scarcer Washington quarter normal date issues and may even be a “sleeper”.



A BU 1940-S Year set. [Use 3X glass or magnify to 200%]

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1940
(Continued from previous page)



The reverses of a 1940-S BU Year Set
[Magnify up to 500% to see S mintmark and full bands on Mercury dime.]

The San Francisco Mint produced all five denominations in 1940 but in lower numbers than at Philadelphia Mint. While none are considered scarce, 1940-S pieces grading MS-64 or better are priced slightly higher than the 1940-P's in the same grades. The San Francisco Mint strikes tend to be much softer than both the Philadelphia or Denver issues and this is all the more clear when you compare the two half dollar obverses.



1940-P (left) & 1940-S (right) 50¢ obverses side by side
Compare the strikes of Miss Liberty's left hand

During virtually the entire run the Walking Liberty half was coined (1916-1947) the "S" Mint issues displayed a lack of clarity on Miss Liberty's left hand across her waist compared to the Philadelphia mint issues Well struck MS-64 or better specimens of 1940-S issues showing greater hand detail are few and far between and command a large premium.



1940-P 50¢ full hand and 1940-S 50¢ flat hand

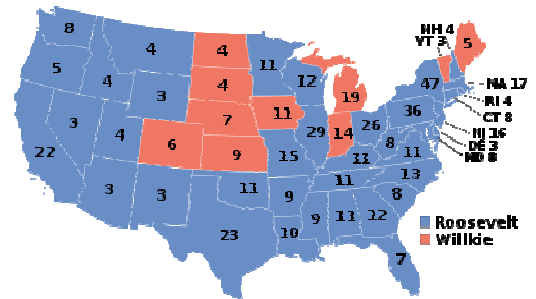
If you or a loved one was born in 1940, 2015 represents an important milestone. In 1940 the life expectancy was 60.3 for men and 63.9 for women. Today it is around 75.2 for men and 80.4 for the fair sex. If you wish to make a gift to someone who has just turned 75 years of age, consider presenting them with a 1940-P year set, grade of your choice. It would not be expensive as there are no really scarce dates.

The General Election of 1940



Franklin Delano Roosevelt Wendell Willkie

In 1940, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt--seeking an unprecedented third term--defeated businessman Wendell Willkie of Indiana by 5 million votes, 27 million to 22 million in the popular vote. In the Electoral College FDR received an overwhelming majority, 38 states to 10.



With the Depression ebbing and war clouds increasing the American people decided to stick with FDR for another term. FDR would go on to win a fourth term in 1944 but did not live to see the Allied victory over the Nazis on May 8 and Japan on August 14, 1945. FDR may have been born to wealth and a patrician lifestyle but he did not live in an ostentatious manner. As early as 1924 he built a small humble cottage in Warm Springs, GA near a mineral lake which aided people suffering from Infantile Paralysis, the disease that had paralyzed him earlier that year. During his Presidency he referred to this home as "the Little White House".



"The Little White House" in Warm Springs, GA

The site is located in Warm Springs, GA, southwest of Atlanta. It is around four hours drive from the Augusta and the CSRA. Returning many times later as President, FDR developed a warm bond with the people of the south.

**SHOW AND TELLS – SJCSRA COIN CLUB MEETING –
2015-11-05 Photos & Captions by President Steve Kuhl**

The program for our monthly Club meeting that was held November 5th, 2015 is one of my favorite activities of the year – it was an extended Show & Tell. This program is so much fun because it always brings an amazing and intriguing variety of items. Our members certainly have very diverse collecting interests! Here are photographs of the items that were presented at the meeting. Enjoy!!



Marion Engel showing an uncut sheet of 16 \$1 bills from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing



Kelly Nordeen with a Chinese 10 yen short snorter

A short snorter is a banknote which was signed by various persons traveling together or meeting up at different events and records who was met. The tradition was started by bush pilots in Alaska in the 1920's and subsequently spread through the growth of military and commercial aviation. If you signed a short snorter and that person could not produce it upon request, they owed you a dollar or a drink



Front & Back of \$10 South Carolina Revenue Bond Script from 1872 in Uncirculated condition, one of the set (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50



shown by JJ. Engel

(Show & Tells continued on page 5)

More Show & Tells from Nov. 5 meeting



Tom Misiag (above) with 1858 Judd pattern Indian Head Cent (remember the Government was producing Flying Eagle cents at this time



Chuck Goergen (above) displaying to Alexander type Ancients



2007 Godless Presidential Washington \$1.00 with mottoes E Pluribus Unum and IN GOD WE TRUST omitted from edge Brought in by Steve Kuhl



YN Tucker Bledsoe (left) with 1957A \$1 Silver Certificate found in change at his family's business



1920 "Heart Cent" (found by Howard Hillman (left).

Appears to have been a defective planchet that was minted, because the "M" is seen to be in the depression



Jerry Lipsky showing silver rounds featuring reptiles



plus 20 Austrian Euro coin (above)

(More Show & Tells on page 6)

Show & Tells from Nov. 5 Meeting

(Continued from previous page)



Jim Sproull, (left) showing one coin from a high-relief 3-coin set from American Samoa, commemorating America's Cup Win. Minted in Singapore, the set consists of 5 oz. Silver, 1 oz. silver, and ½ oz. gold coins



The other Jim, Jim Mullaney shown above with 1783 8 Reales coin from the wreck of El Cazador

The El Cazador (The Hunter) was a Spanish ship that sank in the Gulf of Mexico in 1784 with ~450,000 Spanish reales on board. The wreck and treasure was discovered in 1993.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB

Minutes from the Regular Meeting Nov 5, 2015 Aiken County Library

President Steve Kuhl called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:50 p.m.

Jim Sproull reported that there were 23 members present and 2 guests. Jim announced information concerning several upcoming coin shows in the vicinity, including the Augusta Coin Club show on Nov 20 & 21.

John Kolmar won the drawing for the members' door prize, a Franklin Half Dollar.

A motion was made by JJ Engel, seconded by Marion Engel, and passed to dispense with the reading of the October 2015 minutes. A copy will be on file with the other club records, and a copy will appear in the club newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Goergen stated that the Club's bank balance was \$2,362.39.

Steve Kuhl presented a summary of the results of the club's September Coin Show. We had 17 dealers who filled 36 tables at the show. We had \$1330 income from table fees and sold \$758 worth of raffle tickets, both noticeably better than the last several years. A total of 325 people attended the show, also an improvement from previous years. The proceeds from the show improved to \$2564 however the expenses were also up (\$2181.46), so the net profit for the club of \$382.54, while better than the last two years, was only up slightly. Prize winners at the show were: 1st prize – Jim Jewett, 2nd prize – Suzi Sizemore, and 3rd prize – Jack Goldenberg. Several generous donations were made at the show including Jack Goldenberg's donation of his 3rd place prize, dealer Joe Thompson's donation of a Dansco coin album for Liberty Half Dollars, and the ANA's donation of a 2015 hard cover Red Book & a pamphlet on collecting ancient coins.

.VP Pat James reported that the December 3rd program would be "Coins of the 1830's, the Decade of Change", by Arno Safran. (Post-meeting note – the December 3rd meeting is cancelled and the next club event is the dinner on Dec 10th)

The club's November program was an extended set of Show and Tells by club members. See attachment for a description of each item that was shared.

Kelly Nordeen won \$12 in the 50-50 drawing.

Following the auction, President Kuhl adjourned the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary*

November 5, 2015 Coin Club Meeting Show & Tells

1. Marion Engel Uncut sheet of 1985 16 \$1 bills
2. JJ Engel 1872 South Carolina revenue bonds/scrip Blue Ridge Rail Road Company in \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 denominations in pristine condition

3. Tom Mesiac 1858 Indian Head cent/Flying Eagle Judd Pattern with rotated die
4. Jim Sproull 1783 8 Reales minted in Mexico City, recovered from the ship El Cazidor which sank in 1784 fifty miles off the coast of New Orleans; there were 450,000 coins when the ship was found in 1993.
5. Tucker Bledsow 1957 \$1 silver certificate that his mother got in change. 1957 was the last year that silver certificates were issued.
6. Kelly Nordeen 1940 Chinese \$10 Yuan note minted in Singapore from Burma with signatures of the crew of one of the Flying Tigers fighter planes in 1940 during WW !!
7. Chuck Goergen Two ancient coins minted approximately 300 BC from Mesopotamia, one picturing Antigonus and the other picturing Seleukos 1st.
8. Howard Hillman 1920 au cent with a heart on the planchet on the reverse.
9. Jerry Lipsky Several coins from Austria, Australia and Canada with dinosaurs on them, in silver, colorized and proof conditions
10. Steve Kuhl A Godless dollar: an error \$1 Washington coin without the markings on the edge of *e pluribus unum*, the date and mint mark. He also related seeing an error coin at a dealer's table at the recent SCNA Show that was called an eleven cent which was a cent over struck on one side on a dime planchet.
11. Jim Mullaney First, a \$100 high relief gold coin minted by the US in 2015; and a 1987 three coin set commemorating the America's Cup yacht race which were from Samoa and minted at the Singapore Mint. It consisted of a \$100 ½ oz gold coin, and 5 oz and 1 oz silver coins. America was the name of the yacht that won the first race.

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Editor's Note: The editor would like to thank Steve Kuhl and Jim Mullaney for their respective contributions regarding the Show and Tell session held at the November 5 meeting.