

South Carolina Numismatic Association's 46th Annual Convention

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Did you see THAT? Whoa! Are you kidding me? I didn't know that! Hmmm.

Those were just a few of the thoughts that echoed through my mind as I walked the bourse floor at the SCNA's 46th annual convention, which was held in Greenville, SC from October 26 – 28, 2018.

This is the largest show held in South Carolina, and according to Convention Chairman Mr. Bill Latour (from Low Country Coins) there were almost 70 Dealers and 150 tables at this show. As can be expected, there was a HUGE variety of items available to buy, barter, or simply talk about.

Were you there? I do hope so, because these types of opportunities present the Collector with virtually limitless ways in which to expand their numismatic knowledge and to establish or enhance relationships with other Collectors.

46th Annual S.C.N.A. Convention Schedule of Events			
Thursday, October 25, 2018			
7:00 pm	Dealers Set-Up, Security Begins		Exhibit Hall 2
9:00 pm	Convention Area Closes		
Friday, October 26, 2018			
9:00 am	Convention Area Opens to Dealers		Exhibit Hall 2
10:00 am	Exhibit Catalog		Exhibit Hall 2
6:00 pm	Convention Area Opens to Public		
6:30 pm	Convention Area Closes to Everyone		
Saturday, October 27, 2018			
9:00 am	Convention Area Opens to Dealers/ SCNA Executive Board Meeting		Exhibit Hall 2
9:30 am	SCNA Executive Board Meeting		Exhibit Hall 2
10:00 am	Convention Area Opens to Public		
1:00 pm	SCNA Young Numismatists Meeting		Exhibit Hall 2
2:00 pm	"The Tribes of Greenville's Carver Mills" By Tom Chalkers		Exhibit Hall 2
6:00 pm	Convention Area Closes to Public		
6:30 pm	Convention Area Closes to Everyone		
Sunday, October 28, 2018			
8:30 am	Breakfast/Installation of Officers/ New Executive Board Meeting		Exhibit Hall 2
9:30 am	Convention Area Opens to Dealers		Exhibit Hall 2
10:00 am	Convention Area Opens to Public		
3:00 pm	Convention Area Closes to Public		
3:30 pm	Convention Area Closes to Everyone		
4:00 pm	Security Ends		

Thank you for attending!!!



**Schedule of Events
46th Annual SCNA
Convention**



Steve Nix (President of the Augusta Coin Club) and Bruce Getman (SCNA Exhibit Chair) discuss an Exhibit,

In addition to all the dealers that were buying and selling bullion, coins, currency and exonomia, there were several special participants that were not to be missed. What follows is a short summary of the additional exhibits and participants that were at the Convention. Given time, longer and more detailed articles on these topics will be written.

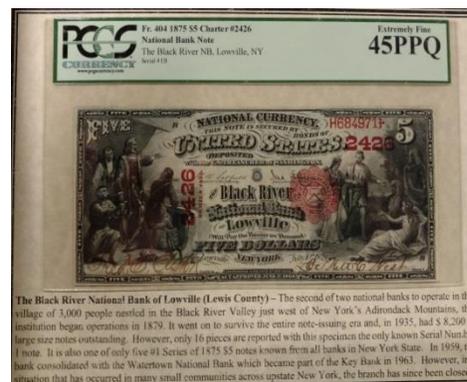
First off, each year at the Convention there is an Exhibit competition for both Adult SCNA members and Young Numismatists. According to Mr. Bruce Getman, SCNA Historian and Chairman of the Exhibits program, this year there were five Adult and two YN exhibits. The YNs win prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 for first through third place, respectively. The Adults earn

trophies and coins – first place gets a ¼ ounce American Gold Eagle, whereas second and third get 1/10 oz AGEs.



Map of NY State, highlighting Counties where the Serial #1 Notes originated

The exhibits presented this year were without a doubt spectacular. Mr. Robert Moon won first prize for his display titled *First Notes, A Selection of Serial Number 1 National Bank Notes from New York State*. This display was extensive and the notes were pristine. Second and third place exhibits were also very worthy. Here is a sample of what was displayed by Mr. Moon:

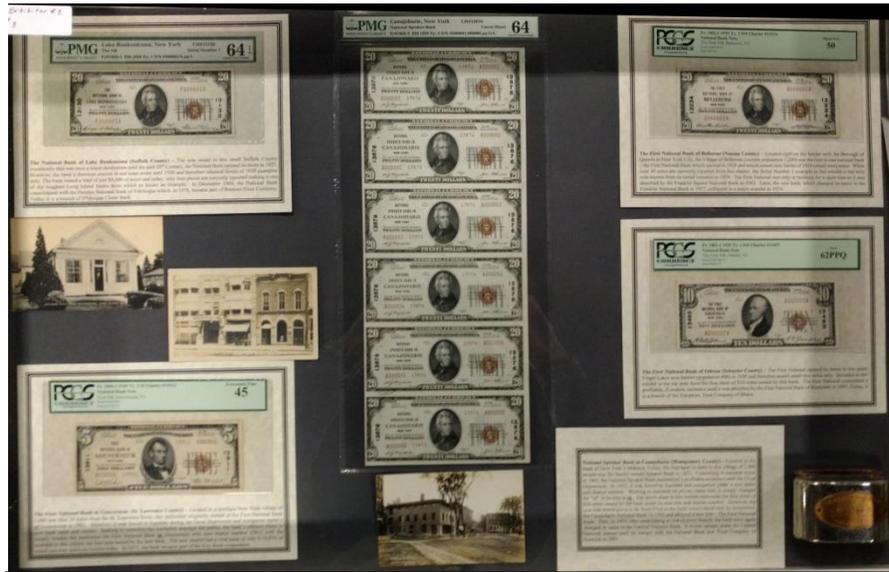


\$5 Black River National Bank of Lowville NY Note, Serial Number 1. From The Bob Moon Collection

The Black River National Bank of Lowville (Lewis County) – The second of two national banks to operate in this village of 3,000 people nestled in the Black River Valley just west of New York's Adirondack Mountains, this institution began operations in 1879. It went on to survive the entire note-issuing era and, in 1935, had \$ 2,000 in large size notes outstanding. However, only 16 pieces are reported with this specimen the only known Serial Num. 001 note. It is also one of only five #1 Series of 1875 \$5 notes known from all banks in New York State. In 1959, the bank consolidated with the Watertown National Bank which became part of the Key Bank in 1963. However, in a situation that has occurred in many small communities across upstate New York, the branch has since been closed.

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A portion of Bob Moon's award-winning display of Serial #1 National Bank Notes from New York State, with supporting exnumia.

Mr. Bill Latour, owner of Low Country Coins and Chairman of the SCNA Convention had a spooky educational display of counterfeit coins and bullion. His exhibit was intended to educate, but it was scary! The variety of items counterfeited was amazing. According to Bill, all of the items in his extensive exhibit were obtained in business transactions, either his own or from other Dealers who submitted the items to him to be added

to this "museum". It is stressed that all these counterfeits were discovered during the course of doing business. Shown below are some of the items displayed. One item added insult to injury – it was a counterfeit one-ounce silver bar (plated silver, copper core) which was stamped "In Cast We Trust".



**Counterfeit Silver Bar.
Courtesy Bill Latour**



Examples of Counterfeit Coins. Courtesy of Bill Latour

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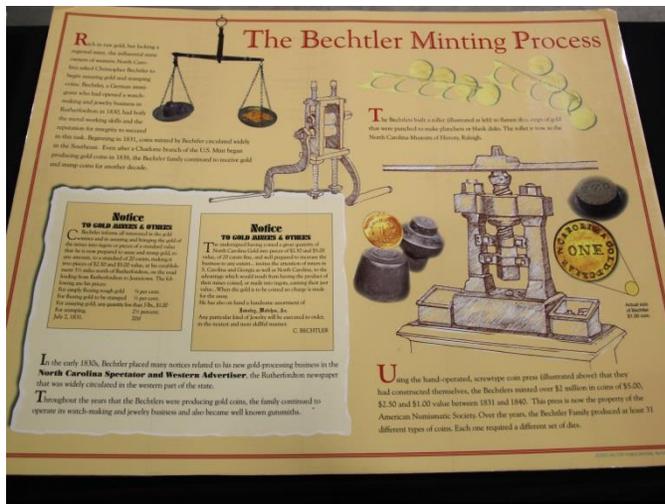
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Bechtler Mint Museum – Rutherfordton, NC



Mrs. Betty Jenkins with the Norman Jenkins Collection of Certified Bechtler Mint Coins.

Christian Bechtler was a German-born American goldsmith and watchmaker. He produced gold dollars, known as Bechtler Dollars, in western North Carolina during the 1830s prior to the US Government establishing the Branch Mints at Dahlonega GA (first coins minted 1838) and Charlotte NC (also 1838). At the SCNA's 2018 Convention, the staff from the Bechtler Mint Museum in Rutherfordton NC brought memorabilia and coin minting information from their facility. Additionally, Mrs. Betty Jenkins, and her "adopted son" Tim Callahan brought 53 NGC-certified Bechtler coins of various denominations (\$1, \$2.5 and \$5) to show. This is believed to be largest privately held collection of Bechtler coins in existence, and was compiled by Mrs. Jenkin's husband Norman. In addition to the coins, Tim brought a collection of 27 pocket knives made by Case specifically for the Bechtler Mint Knife Club, which was in operation from 1983 to 2007. This collection may be the only complete assemblage, and took Tim many years to gather.



Informational poster on the Bechtler Minting Process. From the Bechtler Mint Museum, Rutherfordton NC



NGC-Graded Bechtler \$5 "Era" Coin, circa 1837 – 1842. From the Norman Jenkins Collection



Tim Callahan with the first two knives of the Bechtler Mint Knife Club

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The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

New to the convention was a display and large amount of literature from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Now we have all heard of the Federal Reserve Banks, and most of us in the collector community probably feel they know a lot about how they function. Certainly the Author felt that way, until he talked to Mr. Princeton Williams, Senior Outreach Manager for the Atlanta Fed. Mr. Williams shared an amazing knowledge of the history, purpose, products, and plans of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank.

One of the main functions of this bank is to remove damaged currency from circulation if mechanical inspection shows that any of several parameters have been exceeded (such as the note being too worn). He indicated they have five machines that perform the inspections, and they each process 100,000 notes an hour, four days a week. They operate three of these machines at full capacity four nights a week. This means that altogether, each day these machines process 8 Million notes (of all denominations). He shared that in addition to the operating facility, they have a museum that is open to the public, and which has a window through which you can observe their processing operations. There is more to share, but that will be in another article.



Mr. Princeton Williams, Senior Outreach Manager for the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank shows some of the educational information he had available at the Convention.

The United States Mint

The Federal Government was also in attendance, via the US Mint's travelling store. This team, led by Mr. James Pressley, brought all types of mint products for Convention patrons to purchase, including the American Eagle 2018 One Ounce Palladium Proof coin which was unavailable from the Mint website at the time of the Convention. In addition to reviewing the mint products for sale, Mr. Pressley discussed a new marketing program that is aimed at gaining more young numismatists into the hobby, and he



U. S. Mint's Travelling Store at the SCNA Convention, October 2018

shared some information about upcoming product releases, including the 5 ounce silver Apollo 11 50th anniversary commemorative coin. Manufacture of this coin will introduce two "firsts" for the Mint: the coin is the first reeded 5-oz silver coin, and it is curved, ala the baseball coins. And did you know that the US mint is self-funded, i.e., it is not funded by Taxpayer dollars? While the Department of Treasury and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are taxpayer funded, the Mint is not.

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The author would be completely remiss if he didn't mention the excellent work that YN Coordinator Mr. Will Gragg did in making the YN Program for this convention. Will took the time to travel to other shows to benchmark and collect ideas, and this resulted in him building a carnival of games as the medium by which to teach the YNs. 20 + boy scouts and many other YNs came to this program and both learned and shared their knowledge with each other. This program was very well done, and is anticipated to get even better as the exhibits mature over time.



Patrons at the Young Numismatist "carnival" of the SCNA Convention



Pat McCawley from SC Dept of Archives and History with some of the items he brought to display and sell



SJCSRA Coin Club member Dr. Tony Chibbaro gave a seminar on the Tokens of the Cotton Mills from Greenville County, South Carolina.

So, in the author's opinion, the best is saved for last. All day Friday this "cub reporter" wanted to talk to the person staffing this display. But the table was forever occupied, it was busy busy busy, and the author felt that interrupting was inappropriate. FINALLY, late in the day there was a lull, and the author pounced. This exhibit was filled with "one of a kind" rarities - obsolete South Carolina currency that was discovered in the basement of the State Capital in Columbia.

Notes with an amazing history, from issuance to redemption to packaging for destruction (which luckily did not happen) to curation to now being made available for purchase. This was a "not-to-be-missed" opportunity. And if this seems to be a tease, well maybe it is. Here is a smattering of the items brought by the SC Department of Archives and History:



\$3 Bank of the State of South Carolina Note from the SC Dept of Archives

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**Rare \$500 Stonewall Jackson Confederate States of America Note.
Courtesy of SC Dept of Archives and History**

The provenance of these notes is so special that this story deserves a full-length article. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History graced this convention with their attendance by the participation of Mr. Pat McCawley, Supervisor of Archival Processing. Mr. McCawley brought some obsolete SC notes that his office curated, and which

were available for purchase. More specially, he brought a registry containing one example of each South Carolina note discovered in this trove, including several rare examples, and a note that had not been previously identified in Austin Sheheen's book *South Carolina Obsolete Notes and Scrip*.



Sealed package of redeemed notes awaiting curation by the SC Dept of Archives and History

Mr. McCawley pointed out that they have more packages of notes to be curated, so who know what is to come? We look forward to having this organization at future SCNA conventions.



Sample of obsolete South Carolina notes, from the SC Dept of Archives Registry.



Sample of obsolete South Carolina notes, from the SC Dept of Archives Registry.



This was a great convention! Full of coins, currency, wonderful exhibits, unique opportunities, and most of all, SUPER people! Hopefully you were able to attend this year. If you did not, are you enticed to do so next year? Obviously there was a lot going on for the collector – many unique opportunities to increase numismatic knowledge and perhaps to acquire a few special items. You owe it to yourself to find the time and make plans to attend next year! The SCNA even offers reimbursement if four members of our Club choose to rent a vehicle and come to the convention. What a bargain – we can have a day trip to the convention for free! How can we pass that up?