

The SJ CSRA CC now meets at the MieStelle Bakery on the first Thursday of the Month

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

June, 2025

**Our next meeting will be held on June 5, 2025 at the MieStelle Bakery in Aiken, SC
Consider bringing in a Numismatic Show & Tell item!**

Why shopping at Coin shops and attending Coin shows are advisable

2025 Club Meeting Schedule

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



Am 1829 Capped Bust dime, JR-3, R4+ graded XF-45 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Obtaining United States obsolete coins like foreign coins or ancient coins usually relies on four advantages; at your own club meetings, shopping at nearby coin shops, going on line or attending a coin show.

The 1829 Capped Bust dime shown directly above was an incredible find by the writer because it is a scarce die variety and a Gem for the grade. The author acquired the coin shown above at the Augusta Coin Exchange in Martinez, GA

Not too many XF-45 graded coins looks like this one. If one enlarges the page to 150% the coin resembles a higher grade specimen. It is extremely well struck with every detail clearly shown on both sides of the coin and is mark free.

In 1829, 700,000 Capped Bust dimes were produced which was a lot for that period and the fifth highest mintage for the series that was struck from 1809 thru 1837 so the date is not considered rare, but during that year there were three major varieties that were released, the **small 10¢**, **medium 10¢** and **large 10¢ on the reverse**, the last named being the scarcer of the three and the example that is pictured above. There were twelve die varieties struck with the 10th being coined with a **curl base 2 in the date that is extremely rare and very expensive today**. Nevertheless, the third variety, **JR-3, R4+** shown above is considered **"Very scarce and difficult to locate above Very Fine-30"** according to the authors of *Early United States Dimes 1796-1837*, so the XF-45 example shown above was an amazing find for the this collector.

An Interesting numismatic Memento



A Replica of the 1794 Flowing Hair silver dollar
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Make no mistake about it; the object shown above is gorgeous but it is simply a copy of the 1794 silver dollar and while it was struck in 90% silver bonded by 10% copper like the original 1794 coin, it is not considered coinage but merely a replica. Nevertheless, it is still worth the current value of its 90% silver bonded to 10% copper if not intended for circulation.

The example shown above displays clearly what our first Chief Engraver Robert Scot attempted as an engraver. If readers look carefully at the center of the eagle's feathers on the reverse, they will observe a slight gap at the center of the eagle's body. Upon enlargement, the word **COPY** appears inside it. It cost the writer \$25.00 also at the Augusta Coin Exchange and the so-called replica is worth the purchase if you can still obtain one due to its silver value.



The author's 1795 Flowing hair silver dollar graded Fine-15
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

It cost \$1,100 back in 1995. Today it's worth \$5,000 because it's the real thing! (Continued on page 2, column one)

More Coin Shopping at Local Coin Shops

The rare 1895-O Morgan dollar in a NGC-holder graded AU-50
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]



In June 2018, the author walked into Clein's Rare Coins, also in Martinez, GA where on the right side of the main shelves, the Morgan dollars were placed for examination. To his great surprise, he saw an 1895-O piece among the group. Realizing this was one of the scarcer Morgan dollars in the popular series that was struck in consecutive years from 1878 thru 1904, he asked Steve Damron, the proprietor for the price and he was told \$850. He wrote out a check for the required sum and was glad he did because the retail price has climbed to \$2,000 in 2025 as this is being written with recent auction prices--for which there are many--ranging from \$1,380 to \$2,400.

Most Morgan dollars struck at the Philadelphia Mint were struck in huge numbers, some as much as high as 19 to 21 million in a given year. The New Orleans Mint was second in that feature followed by the San Francisco Mint with the Carson City producing the least annually. Sometimes the coins never left the bank for years after being struck with the result that both dealers and collectors assumed the dates were scarce resulting in high prices until later on when either a horde was discovered or the banks that were holding them released huge numbers that were in bags.

When it came to the 1895-O Morgan dollar, the low mintage was the result of a World-wide depression that lasted three years from 1893 thru the end of 1895 when the coin was struck in small numbers. In 1895, the coin was struck at only three mints. The Philadelphia Mint issue was struck as a proof only and is extremely rare. The San Francisco mint struck 400,000, slightly less than the New Orleans issue which was 450,000 made, the last named shown directly above.



An attractive 1890 Morgan dollar also acquired at Clein's

Acquiring Coins at Club Coin Shows



A 1929 \$2.50 quarter eagle graded MS-62 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

In 1929, the U.S. Mint struck the cent, the nickel the dime, quarter and half-dollar but no silver dollars that year. When it came to the gold issues, the Mint struck three of the four gold types, the quarter eagle, shown above, the half-eagle and a double eagle which are extremely rare and expensive today thereby leaving the tiny \$2.50 gold quarter eagle as the only 1929 gold coin that a collector on a middle class budget is likely to afford.

The writer had already acquired a five piece uncirculated 1929 year set from the cent thru the half-dollar and needed the 1929 \$2.50 quarter-eagle to complete it since it would be virtually impossible to acquire either the half-eagle or double eagle due to their extreme rarity and cost.

On March 15, 2025 the Stephen James CSRA CC held its first coin show since 2019. It took place on a beautiful Saturday morning and afternoon at the South Aiken Presbyterian Church located off Whiskey Road in Aiken, South Carolina. Former club president Steve Kuhl took on the responsibility as Bourse Chairman; which involved getting coin dealers from both South Carolina and Georgia to set up at the show. When the writer arrived at 11:00 AM, the room was packed with people surrounding the bourse floor. As the collector made his rounds around the various dealer's tables, he eventually came across the coin shown directly above. He needed the tiny gold coin if he was to finally complete his 1929 Uncirculated Year set. He recognized the dealer whom he had once acquired a lovely 1903 \$2.50 quarter eagle which represented the year of his mother's birthday at an Augusta Coin Club's show held back in 2019. At the SJ SSRA CC show another club member showed him two scarce Classic Head large cents dated 1814. This was the kind of show it was; the most successful in the SJ CSRA CC's history.



An 1877 Trade dollar graded MS-62 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

More recently, while attending the Augusta Coin Club's annual Spring Show on May 16th and 17th 2025 at the Columbia County Exhibition Center in Grovetown, GA, the author acquired the 1877 Trade dollar shown above; a fascinating short-lived U.S. silver dollar coin that was produced for circulation from 1873 thru 1878 before being struck only as proofs from 1879 thru 1883 with a mere handful coined in 1884 and '85 presumably at the Mint director's request. Despite the large mintage of 3,039,200 struck at the Philadelphia Mint for the 1877 dollar, the coin, while not scarce nor rare--is not easy to come by or afford this nice, something one obtains only at a show.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Obtaining Obsolete U.S. coins at Major Coin Shows



**An 1837 Small sized Capped Bust quarter, B2, R2
graded AU-50 by PCGS**

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Back in October, 2012, the writer needed an 1837 dated Capped Bust quarter in order to complete his 1837 year set of U.S. coinage (excluding gold), so he and his wife, Vilma attended the annual South Carolina Numismatic Assertion's annual Convention in October of that year held in Greenville, SC. This is a big show with dealer attending from all over the United States. At large shows like this, one ma moves slowly from table to table and aisle to aisle until he/she finds something that one is looking for; but at this particular convention I was fortunate enough to discover the coin shown directly above in less than a half hour at a major U.S. dealer that I had did business with numerous times.

After 1828, the large size quarter was not produced for two years probably due to perfecting the installment of the close-collar to the screw press which formed exact diameters for each denomination. As a result, in 1831 the Capped Bust quarter was reduced in diameter from 27mm to 24.3mm, the same as today.. The new type of that period would be stuck thru 1838. The motto, **E PLURIBUS UNUM** was removed from above the eagle on the reverse.

The reported mintage for the 1837 quarter was just 250,400 and according to Numismatic Historian, Steve M. Tomkins, author of *Early United States Quarters "1796 thru 1838"*, (**published back in 2008**) of the six die varieties produced that year, the Browning-2 is the most common. (**A. W. Browning was the previous numismatic specialist in the quarter series.**) The writer did more current research and discovered that no 1837 B2 quarters of this variety have appeared in any major auction going back to 2004, so it seems that the coin variety shown above is scarcer than the writer thought!



A 1907 \$5.00 half-eagle graded MS-64 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Directly above is Gem 1907 \$5.00 half-eagle; a 21.6 mm gold coin that the author acquired at the F.U.N. Show held in Orlando, FL in 2016, the cost, just **\$620.00**. It is a common date but was acquired to complete his 1907 year set. Little did he realize that gold would increase in value so much that by 2025, the coin is now retailing for **\$1,500** with recent auction realized prices averaging at \$1,080 to \$1,680 at major auctions. It pays to attend major coin shows.

Acquiring three half-dollar types at different shows



**An 1860-S Liberty Seated half-dollar, WB-1, R4
graded AU-55 by NGC**

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The 1860 Liberty half-dollar was struck at the Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco mints with the latter being the scarcest of the three today. The coin had a mintage of 472,000 pieces and apparently circulated heavily since it is scarce today and has increased in retail from value from \$600 to \$1,000. That said, PCGS CoinFacts has found the date in the grade shown having appeared in only nine auctions going back to 2005, so the coin is far from common.

The 1860-S was struck with a large S and a medium s, in the date, the latter slightly less common. The author acquired the large S variety shown above back in January 2011 at the FUN Show held in Tampa that year when he was attempting to put together an 1860 Year set.



A 1911 Barber Liberty Head half-dollar graded MS-63+ by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Charles Barber's Liberty Head design appeared on the half-dollar from 1892 thru 1915 and has always appeared to be a popular collectable due to its perfect balance. With the exception of the last three dates, the Philadelphia Mint usually struck the most Barber halves each year. During most of this period the half-dollar circulated heavily at all the mints but it appears that the more wealthy could put a new example aside when the new date came each year allowing for collectors of today to acquire them at grades as high as MS-63.

The coin shown above--which is considered a fairly common date--was acquired by the author at the Georgia Numismatic Association Show held in Dalton, GA back in April 2014. The dealer was asking \$1,075, so the author sold a few better-date circulated Barber halves in exchange allowing him to acquire the coin for nothing, since it's a beautiful specimen The coin is worth \$1,275 today.



A rare 1919 Walking liberty Half-dollar graded MS-63

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

Acquiring three half-dollar types at different shows

(Continued from the previous page)



An enlargement of the scarce 1919 Walking Liberty Half-dollar

In 1919 the Philadelphia Mint struck only 962,000 Walking Liberty half-dollars, less than the two Branch mints that year, yet both the 1919 dated San Francisco and Denver Mint Walking Liberty Halves are more expensive to obtain in mint-state grades. The foregoing said, the 1919-P half-dollar certified MS-63 is an expensive coin today with an example similar to the author's coin shown above having recently sold at a Heritage auction for \$4,200. The author paid a whopping \$3,500 for this coin while attending the Blue Ridge Show back in August of 2013. When one plans to attend a major show, you save up for it and the writer was fortunate to acquire this coin because it has enormous eye appeal for the grade and is scarce. It currently retails for \$4,750 according to PCGS COINFACTS and while the coin hasn't skyrocketed since he acquired it, it's still a good bargain. The 1919 Walking Liberty half dollar is the second rarest date next to the famed 1921 Philadelphia half-dollar in this series which was coined from 1916 thru 1947.



An 1813 \$5.00 Gold Half-eagle graded AU-55 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

In 1813, the mint's Asst. Engraver, John Reich, altered the Capped Bust \$5.00 half-eagle design to the Capped Head--which while was somewhat similar to the previous type--appeared more masculine on both sides of the coin. To this day, no one knows the real reason for the alteration but the example--as shown above--is a handsome coin nevertheless. The new coin type was struck from 1813 thru 1834 with the 1813 and 1814/3 specimens being the most common. After that, the type becomes rare to extremely rare due to the fact that during this period, the ratio of silver to gold in the U.S. was still the same as the Hamiltonian 15½ silver to 1 ounce of gold while in Europe, it was 16 to 1, so most gold coins struck in the U.S.A. were worth more than their value and sent to Europe for profit where they were melted to be used in European coinage.

The author first saw the coin shown above *on line* at a Heritage Auction but was out bid.. A couple of months later, in February, 2020, he was attending a major show in Atlanta and a dealer told him he had a nice example of the 1813 half-eagle at home and would send it to him on approval. It arrived within five days and when he opened the package he discovered that the coin was the same one he was outbid on only priced \$25.00 more. "Go figure!?"

Acquiring Interesting U.S. obsolete coins on line



A 1798 Draped Bust silver dollar with Heraldic Eagle reverse
BB-112, R2 graded XF-40 by PCGS

Early United States coinage even if they represent common die varieties are scarce today since it is more than two centuries since the 1798 dollar shown above was released for circulation. While the obverse of the specimen shown is strong and attractive, the reverse displays a weak strike. The author looked at some of the PCGS COINFACTS examples sold at recent auctions and found that the stars especially on the right side on the reverse weak as well which was dubbed an *R2*, a fairly common one by M.H. Bolender, the author of *The United States Early Silver dollars from 1794 to 1803* published back in 1950. Today, most numismatists use Q. David Bowers' tome on all *United States Silver dollar Coinage* published in two volumes in 1993. The coin itself then is not considered scarce although it is somewhat costly. PCGS COINFACTS lists the retail value for the date at \$6,000 today but most recent auctions range from \$2,580 to \$4,230 with only the more costly \$4k+ version displaying eye appeal.

The coin shown above was acquired on line away back in March, 2005 from a reliable dealer that the author had done business with at major shows.



An 1867 Liberty Seated dollar with motto on reverse graded AU-58
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Shown directly above is a scarce Liberty Seated dollar with the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** appearing above the eagle on the reverse, then in its second year. The mintage was just 46,900 pieces with most coins being sent to China and the Orient leaving not many remaining in the United States, so the date is scarce and expensive. The author discovered the coin *on line* back in August 2017 and the cost was plenty but the price has doubled in value since he acquired it

The purpose of this article was to share with the reader the various means one can acquire obsolete coins of value beyond the monthly club auctions with coins that were obtained either at local coin shops, club shows, major coin shows, major coin auctions and on line coin dealer's offerings. When the author first started collecting coins in the late 1970s lots of dealers used to set up at club meetings. Today, can acquire better date obsolete coins not just from the United States but from all over the world by opening up one's lap top and checking out the various **aps** that provide unending numismatic opportunities.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, May 1, 2025

President Kelly Nordeen, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Oh Mie Stelle Bakery on Pine Log Road. There were 21 members in attendance in person and two visitors.

Mark Heaton won the door prize – a 2024 quarter-ounce silver Britannia.

Steve Kuhl informed members of upcoming coin shows in the region.

A motion was made by JJ Engel and seconded by Sharon Smoot to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the April 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.

Old Business:

Steve Kuhl reported the final accounting on our coin show held March 15th. The show income exceeded the expenses by \$1660.37.

New Business:

Arno noted that the Red Book's principal editor had changed, and that certain content that had been standard for decades was moved to the beginning of each coin type so all coins would still be covered by a set of annual books over several years.

The Program:

Gene Belair presented a program on "**Queen Victoria – Her Majesty's Portraits on the Tokens of Canada**".

Gene described his long-time interest in Canadian coins and shared with us some striking examples of fairly early coinage from various Canadian Provinces. Gene reminded us of the lengthy reign of Queen Victoria (1837 – 1901), that was only recently eclipsed by Queen Elizabeth II. The earliest examples Gene shared were from Nova Scotia (thistle half-penny and penny of 1840 and 1843), and were technically tokens vs. coins. These were needed in the provinces to assist in commerce while coins were relatively scarce.

At the time, Spanish coins circulated in Canada (as well as some smaller amounts of coinage from other countries) to augment the amount of British coinage available.

Gene showed 1843 halfpenny and one penny tokens from New Brunswick which were interesting because the reverse design of a 3-masted sailing ship was unchanged (except for the stated denomination) when the item was minted as currency in 1854.

Gene informed us of coinage production from various provinces including New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edwards Island.

He also had interesting examples of store tokens from Montreal in the 1860's which also included Queen Victoria on the obverse.

Everyone enjoyed Gene's presentation on a new topic for most of us.

Gene Belair also won the 50/50 drawing - \$22.

Following the program, Typhany Nordeen, assisted by Steve Kuhl, conducted the monthly club auction.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

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