

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

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

July, 2022

Our next will be on Thursday, July, 7 at 6:45 PM in the South Aiken Presbyterian Church
Due to the latest *Omicron* variant of Covid-19, please wear a face mask inside the building

Collecting of US Quarter dollars types, Part Three

2022 Club Meeting Schedule

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

“What A Lovely little US silver Coin”



An 1848 Liberty Seated Half-dime medium date variety
graded AU-58 by NGC
[Increase page size to fill monitor screen to view details.]

The little silver coin shown above was acquired by the author at a coin club meeting back in October, 1994. In those days, a number of coin clubs had a few dealers set up at small tables surrounding the seats in the meeting room. Members would arrive early with the purpose of coming across a coin they might wish to add to their collection. The Trenton, NJ Numismatic Club was one such group and back in 1994, the author spotted an attractive 1848 Liberty Seated half-dime graded AU-50 in a plastic flip at one of the dealer's tables priced at \$60. The 1995 *Red books* were already out and apparently the 1848 half-dime struck at the Philadelphia Mint had two date varieties, one with a medium date and the other with a **large date that overlapped into Miss Liberty's skirt** which at the time were worth the same. In 2013, the author submitted the coin for certification and NGC graded AU-58, which today is valued at \$300 for the medium-date issue compared to \$60 the dealer charged believing it be only an AU-50 at the time of sale. In more recent years the large date issue has turned out to be a lot scarcer with the result that today a specimen certified AU-58 is priced at \$850. Collecting obsolete coins over the years brings many aspects of new realities, enjoyments as well as occasional disappointments although this acquisition proved to work out fairly well.



Collecting A Nicely toned AU-58 to MS-64 Barber Quarter Year Set By Arno Safran



An 1892 Liberty Head quarter graded MS-62 by NGC
[Increase page size to fill monitor screen to view details.]



In 1891, the reign of the Liberty Seated silver coins came to an end and our sixth Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, Charles Barber was asked to strike a new type coin for our dimes, quarters and half-dollars.

Charles Barber was born in London in 1840. His father, William Barber--who had been our previous Chief Engraver from 1869 to '79--and is best known for the Trade dollar and the 20 cent piece--had moved the family from London to the United States in 1852, so Charles' influences in the art of engraving and coin design were based on the more traditional coinage designs of the past rather than the newer modern artistic developments that were occurring elsewhere.

By the 1890s's, those artists who were still attached to the artistic styles of the previous generations, were now considered passé; this despite their artistic gifts as engravers and Charles Barber was now regarded as one of them. The foregoing said, all four US coins intended for circulation that Barber created; the Liberty Head “V” nickel--first coined in 1883 followed in 1892 by his Liberty head dimes, quarters and halves were so well designed and functional that they were still found in circulation as late as the early 1960s.

The 1892 Barber quarter shown above was graded only MS-62 by NGC but it is still appears to be a well struck coin with clear details with a nicely toned appearance.

Collecting an AU-58 to MS-64 Barber Quarter Set

(Continued from the previous page)



An 1896 Barber Quarter graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

A toned coin can be a beautiful object to behold but not all toned coins are either beautiful or legitimate. Coins tone for a variety of reasons due to exposure to drops of water, or chemical invasion such as verdigris or other un-desirous agents that tend to erode the metal surface. Sometimes, a coin will tone beautifully if evenly spread across the surfaces of both the obverse and reverse. Once certified and housed in a hermetically sealed plastic holder, the toning seldom loses its allure. If original and not artificially applied, such a coin will be worth a premium beyond its certified grade. The 1896-P Barber quarter had a reported mintage of 3,847,000 and while it is not considered a rare date, it is not all that common either, especially for an example certified MS-64 with exquisite toning like the coin showed above. It was acquired in March, 2016.



An 1898 Barber Quarter graded AU-58 by NGC
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

This mintage for the 1898-P Barber quarter was 11,100,000, the third highest of the entire series. It was certified AU-58 by NGC and was acquired from a dealer set up at the Georgia Numismatic Assoc. Convention held in April of 2015. It is the only toned member of the group that was not uncirculated. Upon viewing the “slab” in one’s hand, the toning literally jumps out at the observer displaying a magnificent radiance across the entire coin’s surface, which is why the author liked the piece, paying a higher premium than one would for a normal example of a common date in the same grade. Finding a toned specimen such as this is rare which is why collectors need to attend regional or state shows since it is far less likely that they will see one at a coin club meeting and if displayed at the monthly show & tell session, the owner is unlikely to sell it.

Not all the Barber quarters the author acquired over the years were located at large regional shows or even state or club ones. Sometimes one could find a delightful example displayed on a dealer’s web site over the internet. Before the turn of the last century however, that situation was in its infancy with few US coin dealers using that forum compared to dealers selling foreign or ancient coinage. Prior to 2000, most U.S. dealers who sold coins by mail order, seldom displayed a photo and if they did, it wasn’t always that clear. All that has changed with digital images now shown by virtually all on-line dealers.



An 1902-P Barber Quarter graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

This lovely mauve toned 1902 Barber quarter was first seen on March, 2014 on a dealer’s website who the author had come to know and respect having previously acquired coins from him at both the Georgia and Blue Ridge Numismatic Associations held at the Dalton, GA Convention Center. He was highly esteemed for his numismatic knowledge and reliability. The author texted him as to whether the coin was still available, received a price that he thought was reasonable and within a week or less, received the 1902 Barber quarter in the mail looking exactly as the image portrayed on the dealer’s web-site. Again, the coin cost a little more than the MS-62 grade but due to its eye appeal, it was worth the slight increase in price.



A 1903 Barber quarter graded MS-64 by NGC

This lovely example of the 1903 Barber quarter was acquired two years later in 2016 also as a mail order but from the same dealer who sold him the 1896 Barber quarter shown atop the top of column one. The 1903 however, displays a slightly lighter toned obverse with the strongest toning occurring above Miss Liberty cap and tiara while the entire circumference on the reverse is brilliantly toned encircling the eagle. The 1903-P quarter had a mintage of 9.3 million but is scarcer in the higher mint state grades especially toned this nice. The author’s mother was born in 1903 which makes this particular coin all the more desirable in his collection.



A 1904 Barber Quarter graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

The toning on this “beauty” is more subtle; somewhat darker yet still startling and very attractive. The mintage of the 1904-P Barber quarter was 9.5 million yet it is somewhat scarcer, toned this nice. As with the preceding two out of the three specimens shown, this Barber quarter was also acquired off the internet from the same dealer who sold him the 1896 Barber quarter who actually specializes in eye appealing obsolete coinage.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting an AU-58 to MS-64 Barber Quarter Set

(Continued from the previous page)



A 1905-S Barber quarter graded MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1905, the mintage of quarters produced at the Philadelphia Mint was reduced considerably from 9.5 million the previous year to just 4.9 million. Only 1.2 million were struck at the New Orleans with 1.8 million produced at the San Francisco facility. Nevertheless, the 1905-S issue was fairly common for Barber dimes and halves, although a bit less so for the quarter which is why the 1905-S Barber 25c piece shown above was much more expensive than all the preceding Philadelphia Mint Barber quarters pictured earlier. Despite the increase in cost, the author was fortunate to locate one with such lovely toning; once more from the same source which made it all the more worthwhile. The coin was acquired back in 2017.

The Mysterious Disappearance of the 1900 Barber Quarter



A 1900 Barber quarter graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1900, the Philadelphia Mint struck well over 10 million Barber quarters, the fourth largest mintage of the series. The New Orleans Mint struck 3,416,000 and the San Francisco Mint, just 1,858,585. According to the 2023 *Read Book*, an MS-63 specimen of the 1900-P is priced at \$375, the 1900-O, much higher at \$1,100 and the 1900-S at \$1,200, higher still. That said, the author has not seen a 1900-P certified AU-58 thru MS-64 in years; well circulated ones, aplenty, an MS-65, seldom and MS-66's, a few, but those certified AU-58 through MS-64, hardly any in a long time compared to other common dates of the series. The picture above illustrates an attractive well struck coin but upon enlarging the page, some tiny nicks and scrapes do appear. So! Where have the all the 1900-P quarters gone, specifically certified from AU-58 through MS-64?

The possible answers may have a lot to do with the date representing a century mark which collectors find very enticing and while the mintage of the Philadelphia Mint issues were enormous, the desire to secure one for their collection--at a price most could afford--had a larger following than all the other dates of the series. Another reason for the date's scarcity in the grades mentioned is the extremely heavy circulation all of Barber's designed coins had at the time they were released. The purchasing power of a quarter in 1900 was \$8.00.



An 1893 Barber quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

The author began seriously collecting Barber quarters ranging in grades from AU-58 thru MS-64 starting back in 1990 but did not complete the date set until 2019, almost two decades later when he came across an attractive 1893-P specimen certified MS-63 by PCGS at the Augusta Coin Club show held in May of that year. After the large mintage of 8.2 million for the 1892-P, the reported mintage for the 1893-P quarter was reduced to 5.4 million with 3.3 million struck at New Orleans and only 1.4 million at the San Francisco Mint. Unlike the 1892 pieces which were saved as a new design type, the 1893 circulated more heavily but apparently, enough 1893 specimens in the lower uncirculated grades are still available for collectors on a middle class income budget to obtain a specimen.

As for the particular specimen of the 1893-P shown above, the reader will observe that the coin shows no toning whatsoever, just the reflection of light that brightens the appearance of the coin whereas the 1900 specimen pictured on the lower portion of column one was taken in broad daylight.



A 1906-D Barber quarter graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1906, the Denver Mint opened its doors striking 3,280,000 Barber quarters, not far behind the 3,650,760 produced at the Philadelphia Mint while only 2,458,400 were coined at the San Francisco facility. Upon sufficiently enlarging the page, the reader will locate the **D mintmark on the coin's reverse** just below the eagle's lowest feathers, centered above the **R** and **D** in **QUARTER DOLLAR**. While the specimen shows some uneven toning, it still looks somewhat attractive and sold at a reasonable price of just \$300. Today, PCGS' *COINFACT* lists a MS-62 graded 1906-D Barber quarter's at \$550 retail although at some on-line auctions the date has sold for far less. The example of the 1906-D quarter shown above was acquired at the Georgia Numismatic Association show held back in April, 2016 from a dealer who regularly set up at the Blue Ridge Association, also the South Carolina Association shows and occasionally at the Augusta Coin Club show and was a highly respected numismatist. One of the reasons Barber's type coins look so attractive is that he filled the spatial areas between the central devices with the stars and legend leaving little space for cuts or marks.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

Collecting an AU-58 to MS-64 Barber Quarter Set

(Continued from the previous page)



A 1913 Barber quarter graded MS-62 by ICG
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

Unlike the 1913-S Barber quarter which actually has the lowest reported mintage of only 40,000 coins struck that year compared with the 1896-S with a mintage of 188,039 and the “King” of the entire series, the 1901-S with just 72,664 struck, the 1913-P specimen--with a mintage of only 484,000, used to be considered the “key date” of the Philadelphia Mint portion of the Barber quarter series, although nowhere nearly as expensive as the three San Francisco extreme rarities. The specimen shown was acquired away back in July, 1993 at the ANA summer Convention held that year at the Baltimore, MD. Convention Center. At the time, it cost \$825 and except for the 1905-S which cost \$300 more much later in 2017, the 1913-P was the second most expensive of his set. Today, PCGS’ *COINFACT* lists the date’s retail value at \$950, but when the writer checked a recent sale of 1913 quarters certified MS-62, some sold for as little as \$630 at a Heritage Auction as recently as July, 2021. “Cest la vie”! Such is life. Did he get snookered back then? In 1993, the 1913-P Barber quarters were hyped as somewhat rare and actually sold at higher prices than they do today, perhaps, much in the way certain Morgan dollar dates when held back by the Banking system shortly after they were struck. left the impression that their mintages were infinitesimally low and were considered rarities like the 1903-O Morgan dollar.

The End of the Run



A 1916-P Barber quarter over a 1916 Standing Liberty quarter
graded MS-63 & 62 respectively by NGC
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details.]

All good things come to an end but sometimes, better things follow. In 1916, the Philadelphia Mint struck 1,788,000 Barber quarters while the Denver Mint coined 6,540,800, both extremely common in uncirculated condition. During the last two weeks of the year, the Philadelphia Mint struck 55,000 of engraver, Hermon McNeil’s new Standing Liberty quarter but they weren’t released until January, 1917 in order to comply with the 25 year limit coinage design types. Despite the huge disparity in value regarding each of the 1916 dated quarter types shown above, the pair represents a stunning conclusion to the article bidding a fond farewell to the old and a welcome to the new.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting June 2, 2022,

President, J. J. Engel called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:50 p.m. He reported that there were 18 members present (including three attending online) and 5 guests.

Jimmy Widener won the members’ door prize, a 2017 ¼ ounce Mexican Libertad.

A motion was made by Willie Simon, seconded by Sharon Smoot, and passed to dispense with the reading of the May 2022 meeting minutes. A copy will be on file, and a copy will appear in the club newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Goergen reported that the Club’s bank balance was \$1624.81.

Show & Tells

There were four Show and Tell presentations.

JJ Engel brought in a set of replica tokens issued by the city of Charleston in 1970. This set included a copy of the **extremely rare Elephant Token** for the Carolinas from 1694.

Jimmy Widener shared a 1975 Canadian \$50 bill that portrayed the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police on the reverse**.

Glen Sanders shared a pamphlet and flyer promoting the **SCNA Coin Show and Convention in Greenville at the end of October**. The ANA road show is being brought to our state for the first time, and many remarkable rarities will be on display including the **1913 Liberty nickel**.

Arno Safran brought in an **80-year old 1942 Brilliant Uncirculated year set** housed in the old plastic holder type that included six coins instead of the usual five--since the silver dollar had been suspended after 1935--but due to the **onset of WW II, nickel was now needed for the war effort, so the nickel in the earlier struck 5c coin of 1942 was replaced with a new alloy of 56% copper, 35% silver and 9% manganese each bearing large Mint marks, P, D and S atop the reverses**.

Minutes from the SJ CSRA CC

(Continued from the previous page)

The program for the June 2 meeting was titled *The Coins that Changed the World*, by David Cashin. David reflected on the odd items that served as monetary instruments before the creation of coins over 2,500 years ago in the Anatolian kingdom of Lydia. These coin-predecessors included large and heavy items such as knife coins in the far east. David noted how coins provided a much more convenient and efficient way to regulate commerce.

He also noted how even in the ancient world--by observing which Banker's marks appeared on coins--it was possible to monitor how a single coin had journeyed from the Mediterranean to India and as far as China. David also explained how the coins of Tripura in northeastern India provide some of the few recorded details of that region's history going back several hundred years ago, and how old silver coins in the region were frequently converted into silver jewelry.

Years ago while in India David had discovered what turned out to be a unique coin from the 1500's. Coins of that era uniformly included the name of the King, his Queen's name, and a major event such as a coronation, marriage, or battle. History books for India had included a reported two battles of Chittagong, 1528 & 1530, based on the known coin inscriptions. However, the coin David discovered-- which was rescued by him from a jewelry shop--made it clear that coins dated 1530 were not observing a second battle, but rather the King's marriage to an additional wife. So, this coin effectively rewrote the history books for Tripura. The program was enjoyed by all the members who asked David a number of questions, followed by his receiving a certificate of appreciation.

Pat James won \$5 in the 50-50 drawing. Following the monthly auction, JJ adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary*

Spence's Odd Fellows ½ Pence Token By Bill Myers



Spence's Odd Fellows ½ Penny ConderToken
[Enlarge page to fit monitor screen to view details]

With our mid-term election campaigns in full swing there is no shortage of mud-slinging amongst the candidates. We are inundated with it on the TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and the internet. Making disparaging comments about a politician is not a new idea and existed over 200 years ago without the benefit of the mass communications we have today. Coins and tokens have often been used to transmit messages and probably started not long after coins were "invented". In the late 17th century and early 18th century Conder tokens served this purpose in England. Due to shortages of ½ penny and 1 penny coins, tokens were minted as a substitute and carried a variety of messages. They are named after James Conder who originally catalogued them. Helen Barry introduced me to Conder tokens and she can give a more detailed history.

The token I am featuring was minted for Thomas Spence. He operated a book shop in London and was considered a revolutionary and a proponent of individual freedom, freedom of the press and common ownership of land. He closely followed the writings of Thomas Paine. He spent 7 months in prison in 1794 for high treason. After his release he became a coin dealer making and selling tokens, many of which expressed political feelings - especially his. In 1801 he spent 12 months in prison for libel. He died in poverty in 1814.

I have found several interpretations of the meaning of the designs of this token, so I will try to consolidate them. The obverse of the token features the conjoined busts of William Pitt on the left and Charles Fox on the right. William Pitt was the Prime Minister of England and is pictured with a sad expression, as he could not suppress sedition and revolt. Charles Fox was the leader of the opposition against Pitt and King George III and his bust has a gleeful expression. They were enemies and were certainly "odd fellows" to be joined on the same token. Around the bust is ODD FELLOWS QUIS RIDES, the latter meaning who laughs. The reverse has an open hand with a heart in the palm inside an olive wreath. One source states that the heart in the hand denotes Spence's devotion to his cause. I found that the heart in the hand is also the symbol of the Odd Fellows so it may be there as a satire of Pitt and Fox as odd fellows. The olive wreath represents peace and has been interpreted by some to the revolution in France and the fact that Spence felt Britain was preventing peace.

Before moving to Tucson, AZ in 2008, Bill Myers was a former active member of our club. (ED.)

The Educational Bank notes, *Series of 1896*
(First in a Series)



The \$1.00 Educational Silver Certificate, Series of 1896
[Courtesy of Wikipedia] [Enlarge page to fill screen.]

US large size bank notes--first issued during the early years of the Civil War and lasting through the late 1920s--are another popular collectible with many numismatists. As with the vast number of certified obsolete US coins, many of these large size banknotes have found their way into certified holders submitted by dealers or collectors to **PMG** (Paper Money Guarantee) or **PCGS**, (Professional Coin Grading Service) as a means of guaranteeing their authenticity and grade.

In 1896, the Bureau of Engraving introduced a new series of silver certificates called "The Educational Notes" that have become among the most popular with US paper money collectors. The silver certificate was first issued in 1878 as a banknote that could be redeemed in silver dollar coins, (e.g. Morgan dollars), the amount designated by the bank-note's numerical value. The law remained effective thru 1967 and for one more year, in 1968 where such a note could be redeemed for silver bullion since no silver dollars had been coined since 1935, the last year of the Peace dollar. The Educational notes were issued in denominations of \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00.

The face of the \$1.00 note was sub-titled, "*History Instructing Youth*" displaying a series of Washington DC landmarks in the background. The back of the \$1.00 note shows portraits of Martha and George Washington. William Hickok Law designed the face of the note and Thomas F. Morris, the back. The vignette of Martha Washington was done by Charles Burt in 1878 and the vignette of George Washington was created by Alfred Seeley in 1867.

During the late 1980s thru 2000, the author collected large size US paper money and owned the three educational notes in circulated condition before selling his paper money collection. Today, even the \$1.00 educational note is pricey but affordable in the lower certified circulated grades.

(To be continued)

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