

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

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



The Stephen James
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Volume 24, No. 11

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

November 2025

Why are so many U.S. Coins from the early 19th century hard to find, II?

2025 Club Meeting Schedule

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



An 1809 Classic Head Half cent C-6, R1 graded XF-40

(Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.)

During the second year of the 19th century our early U.S. coinage was created by John Reich who was of German decent having recently arrived from Bavaria onto U.S shores in the very early 1800s. He was highly recommended at the time to President Thomas Jefferson who later asked Mint director Robert Patterson to ask Reich to redo all our coin denominations thereby replacing Robert Scot designs although Scot was still the chief Engraver.

Reich's first half-cents were struck in 1809 using his Capped Had Bust design type on the obverse. The reported mintage was a whopping 1,154,572, a record for the entire half-cent denomination series which despite major gaps continued to be struck in smaller numbers thru 1857, the last year both the half-cent and large cent would be coined, so despite its usage in the early 19th century and beyond, examples of the date are still fairly inexpensive to acquire by collectors on a middle class budget. Reich's Classic Head type was also struck both in 1810 and 1811 with much smaller numbers, especially the latter which is considered the key date of the entire half-cent series (except for the mysterious the 1831 with a tiny mint age of just 2,200 which may or may not have been intended for circulation.



The rare 1811 Classic Head half-cent C2, R 4 graded only VG-8

(Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.)

Notice the extensive wear in the 1811 which had a reported mintage of just 63,140; a very scarce coin and far more costly.



An 1811 Classic head Large cents-287, R2 graded VF-30] (Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.)

In 1808, John Reich replaced Robert Scot's Draped Bust type with his Classic Head design and it is just as impressive as Scot's, perhaps even more so in the writer's opinion. The design type was the same as the half-cent but appears more elegant in its appearance especially in the grade of VF-30 where already one can see more of Miss Liberty's hair than on lower graded examples.

Unlike the Classic Head Half Cent which had been suspended in 1811 just before the War began until 1825, it was harder to get the planchets for the larger size large-cent due to our difficulties with Great Britain both before and during the War of 1812. As a result, our Classic Head cents were produced in far more smaller mintages affecting the 1809, 1811, 1813 and especially the 1814 dated Classic Head cents with the 1814 desperately needed to pay our mint employees their salaries.

Long before the author arrived in the CSRA, (Central Savanna River Area), he acquired the vast majority of his large cents (as well as half-cents) in the northeastern United States where the copper coinage was far more popular by serious collectors and many of the coin dealers handled them either in their coin shops or at a coin show. This enabled the writer to acquire many of these coins although they were still fairly expensive even in the lower grades. The coin shown below is another attractive example.



An 1814 Classic Head Crosslet 4 Large Cent, S -294, R1 graded AU-50 by EAC

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

The Small size silver coinage of the early years of the 19th Century



An 1829 Capped Bust half-dime graded AU-58 by PCGS

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

Our first Capped half-dimes were not produced until 1829 and by that time John Reich had long-retired having left the Mint in 1817. By that time, William Kneass was the Mint's Chief Engraver and he copied Reich's Capped Bust type seriously making only minor changes that are hardly noticeable. What is remarkable about this half-dime series is the huge amount of coinage that were struck each year. From 1829 thru 1837 the Philadelphia Mint struck over one million half-dimes every year except in 1832 when only 965,000 were coined and in 1837, the final year, when just 871,000 were released; still a huge amount when one compares the amount of *dimes* and quarters that were produced during that same period. As a result, these coins are a lot less expensive to acquire especially in the higher grades such as the AU-58, shown above.



An 1809 Capped Bust Disme graded VF-30 by PCGS

Jus

The Capped Bust *disme* first appeared in 1809 and was created by John Reich in a similar fashion to the copper coinage shown on page one. The reported mintage for the **1809 *disme*** was just **51,065**. The new *disme* type was reduced in size from 19mm to 18.5 mm but slightly thickened accordingly thereby maintaining the same weight and amount of silver as the previous type created by Robert Scot. The writer acquired the coin displayed away back in March 1988 at the **Metropolitan Coin Show** held in New York City. It cost only **\$350** back then. Today, it is worth a great deal more.

The first more affordable Capped Bust dimes



1814 small date & large date Capped Bust dimes

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

It would not be until 1814 when our *dimes* were struck in larger numbers--421,500 to be precise--when the survivors would become more affordable to modern-day collectors. The small date at left is a slightly scarcer than the large date shown at the right.



SMALL DATE

LARGE DATE

The Large Size Capped Bust Quarters of the early 19th Century



An 1815 Capped Bust quarter graded AU-50

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The Cap Bust quarter was not produced until 1815, the last denomination to be created by John Reich and it's a beauty, especially in the middle to higher grades like the AU-50 specimen shown directly above. As with the others, the author acquired the coin shown directly atop this column many years ago at **Stack's**, on 57th Street in Manhattan, NYC away back in **May, 1978** when he was still living in New Jersey, just 65 miles south of New York City.

The reported mintage of the new 1815 quarter type came to only 89,235, the third lowest in the series. The type was struck thru 1828 with the exception of the 1816, 1817 and 1826 dates. Apparently a large enough number of the 1815 quarters were saved since no quarters were struck after the Draped Bust quarter type which ended in 1807, so after seven long years a lot of the newly designed 1815 Capped Bust quarter was presumably saved so as souvenirs so it isn't as scarce a coin as one may expect although still fairly pricey today.

No quarters were produced in either 1816 or 1817 but in 1818, 361,174 Capped Bust large size quarters were produced followed by 144,000 in 1819, 127,444 in 1820 and 216,851 in 1821 followed by only 64,080 in 1822.



An 1818 Capped Bust quarter B-8, R3 graded VF-35

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The writer acquired the 1818 Capped Bust quarter at a major Whitman Coin Show held at the Baltimore Convention Center far more recently back in June 2018. Since none were coined the previous two years, the Philadelphia Mint struck 361,174 pieces in 1818, the most in one year in the entire series which ended in 1828, so the 1818 issue is by far the most common date and the easiest to acquire at reasonable prices which in the grade shown still look fairly attractive and having gone up much higher since the writer acquired his example.

This quarter group series is one of the handsomest in this collector's opinion but it is also more challenging because there are some very tough dates to acquire such as the 1823 and the virtually impossible, the 1824 which is scarce but possible to obtain if one saves up for it. Then, there is the legendary 1827 which is virtually impossible. The remaining dates, not shown; the 1819, 1820, 1821, and 1822 followed by the 1825 and lastly, the 1828 are all possible to attain if one takes the trouble to save up over one year at a time before attending a large show or going on line. There are also a number of interesting varieties.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Half Dollars of the early 19th Century



**An 1813 Capped Bust Lettered Edge Half-dollar, O-103, R2
Graded AU-50**

The most majestic U.S. coin of the first three decades of the 19th century was the half-dollar. Since no silver dollars were being made during this entire period, the half-dollar represented the highest silver coin and engraver, John Reich's Capped Bust design was most majestic with Liberty now facing left surrounded by the 13 stars representing the original thirteen U.S. colonies with the date below on the obverse and the legend, **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** surrounding **E PLURIBUS UNUM** over the Spread Eagle on the reverse with the denomination, **50.C.** directly below it. The reason the coin is officially called the Lettered Edge is because the sentence, **FIFTY CENTS OR 50 cents** appears on the edge of the coin which appears on no other U.S. denomination.

The type lasted longest of all the other denominations shone including the large cent series since the same design would appear on the fifty-cent piece from 1807 thru 1836. During the same period, the Cent's went through three major design types, The Draped Bust, Classic Head and Coronet. While the majestic half-dollar just went through one. The mintages were just as large if not larger from the cents struck from 1816 on. As for the major examples of this vast half-dollar period, the key date is the 1815/2 which was struck with only 47,150 supposedly very early 1816 just before the great fire ended all coinage for the year. Some of the many over dates are quite popular beginning with the 1814/3 followed by the 1817/4 and the 1820 which had a mintage of 750,122 but is not considered scarce, let alone rare.



An 1815/2 Lettered Edge Capped Bust Half-dollar, O101A R3

Of the many half-dollar varieties that were created during the thirty years **that the Lettered Edge half-dollar** was coined, **the one major rarity and favorite of collectors has been the low mintage 1815/2 date shown directly above.** The 1815 dated half had a reported mintage of just 47,150 pieces and represents the key date of the series. The writer acquired the coin shown directly above while attending the American Numismatic Association Convention held in Atlanta in the summer of 2001; having recently moved from New Jersey to the Central Savannah River Area in Augusta, GA and it was at his first major show in the south that he was able to acquire this highly desired coin that many collectors cherish. It was expensive then, but since he always saved up before attending a major show, he could afford it. Today it is worth three times what he paid for it.

The Elegant Gold Coins of John Reich



An 1807 Capped Bust half-eagle graded AU-58 by NGC

John Reich released his first U.S. gold coin in 1807 halfway through the year after Robert Scot's Draped Bust type that was produced earlier before being terminated. This--of course--was also the same year Reich replaced Scot's Draped Bust Half-dollar with his Capped bust Lettered edge half-dollar displayed on column one; so it was in mid 1807 that John Reich began working at the U.S. Mint. The coin shown above is typical of Reich's concept, but as a gold piece, it appears as a work of art, quite magnificent to the eye in the author's opinion. Both Scot's and Reich's gold \$5.00 half-eagles were 15mm in diameter.

The reported mintage for the 1807 Capped Bust half-eagle was 51,605, slightly more than the mintage of 32,488 of Scot's last gold Draped Bust design gold half-eagle type; not shown. Both gold types are priced similarly today and while each are considered fairly common dates they are valued equally if still somewhat costly, especially with gold continuing to reach record highs as this is being article is being written. If the reader is able to increase the page to 150%, the two gold coins shown both above and below appears magnificent as a numismatic work of art.



An 1813 Capped Head gold Half-Eagle graded A U-55 by PCGS

In 1813, the Capped Head sub-type replaced the Capped Bust type and the mystery still abounds as to whether Reich or Scot made the alteration. On the obverse, Miss Liberty appears more slightly more masculine ala "Achtung"-ish suggesting you wouldn't want to cross swords with her.

The new obverse type was struck from 1813 thru 1834 although after 1815, virtually none of the dates are affordable due to most of them were either melted here or sent to Europe to be melted for profit since the each coin design type had more gold in them than it's actual value with the result that the gold coins were either melted here or sent abroad to be melted for its greater gold weight contents of 135 grains instead of 129 grains which didn't change until 1834.

As a result, the only common dates of the series are the 1813 with a reported mintage of 95,428, the most common date followed in 1814 which was dated 1814/3 with had a smaller mintage of just 15,454. None were struck in either 1816 or 1817; but from 1818 thru 1834, virtually all of the later dates were melted for the reasons mentioned above. As a result, even the 1820 issue--with a reported mintage of 263,806--was heavily melted with just a small number remaining here and priced extremely higher today.

Because the author reviews these gold coins as a work of art as well as a good investment, he considers their value three fold' their artistry, their historical value and their numismatic value today.

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB

Regular Meeting Thursday, October 2, 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 23 members and 1 visitor in attendance.

Jim Sproull won the door prize, a quarter-ounce silver Britannia. He also informed members of upcoming coin shows in the region.

A motion passed to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the September meeting. A copy of the September Meeting Minutes will be on file with the other club records and the Minutes are also reported in the Club newsletter.

Jim Sproull reported that the club's treasury had a balance of approximately \$3400.

Old Business:

Steve Kuhl reminded everyone of the upcoming SCNA convention in late October. The live + internet auction will be on Thursday this year. There are currently 85 lots up for auction. Steve noted that last year a lot of gold and silver bullion was essentially at spot, even after accounting for all fees. The latest SNCA newsletter including convention information is available online.

Steve also reported that the annual convention of Early American Coppers will be in Charlotte, NC, April 29-May 3, 2026. This convention is rarely held in our region. There will be a bourse floor with approximately 60 tables for dealers. Gene Belair announced that the 2026

The ANA National Money Show will be held in Savannah Georgia this year, Feb. 26-28.

The club's annual Christmas dinner will be at the Columbus Club the first Thursday in December in place of our regular meeting. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for guests. The menu is similar to recent years with a choice of steak, chicken, or salmon as an entree. A Reservation form will be included with the November newsletter.

New Business:

Luca drew from the YN grab-bag – a 1903 Indian cent.

Show & Tells:

Arno Safran shared a gold coin from the West Point Mint featuring the design of the Buffalo nickel on a gold coin. This \$5 coin was smaller than the original Buffalo nickel, but still a beautiful design in superb gold condition. The coin was graded SP70 by PCGS. Only 17,429 were minted at the West Point Mint and while the coin was not released as part of our regular money but

more as a commemorative, it was still struck in less numbers and only in 2008.

Garry Naples shared a Civil War Token (graded MS-64 Brown), a **"Spoot"** (meaning "Spot" Token). The reverse has an inscription referring to the US flag on the obverse, "If anyone tears it down shoot them on the **spoot**." The error in "**spoot**" makes it unique.

Kelly Nordeen shared his experience from the Sumter Coin Show last month that he attended with his wife, Typhany, Steve Kuhl, and Jim Mullaney. Typhany won a door prize drawing mid-day, a 2008 Presidential dollar proof set and a 2017 Silver Proof set. Several hours later Kelly's ticket was drawn for a later door prize, a Cooke Islands Legacy Eagle first-strike graded PCGS MS70. Kelly also shared a 50-state set of 2-dollar bills produced by a private mint, where stickers for each state had been applied to the 2-dollar bills.

Jimmy Widener shared a Canadian commemorative gold coin for the 30th anniversary of the start of Maple Leaf bullion. It was a ½ gram coin with a diameter of 11 mm, containing \$62 of gold at current prices.

The Program:

Gene Belair presented a program on The Type Coins of Newfoundland, in extreme northeastern Canada. England first claimed the area in 1496 in an expedition by Sebastian and John Cabot. Portugal, France, and Spain also had claims on the land. After many years and occupations between European nations, the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht confirmed Newfoundland as a British possession. The Dominion of Newfoundland was a member of the British Empire until 1949 when it joined the Canadian Confederation as the 10th Province. In 2001 it officially became known as "Newfoundland and Labrador".

As a separate dominion, Newfoundland had its own coinage. It issued decimal coinage in 7 different denominations from 1865 through 1947. The coins were minted at three locations – Royal Mint of London, Heaton Mint of Birmingham (H mintmark), and the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa (C mintmark). As a British Dominion, the obverse of all coins showed the current monarch. The reverse of the coins were relatively simple, but attractive.

There are 138 coins in the complete denomination, date, and mintmark set. Gene presented photos of a 20-piece Type set from his collection, and all the coins were present in the room for viewing.

Jim Sproull, assisted by Steve Kuhl, conducted the monthly club auction.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

Stephen James Coin Club Holliday Dinner Info

The club invites you to our Holiday Dinner
Celebration, Thursday, December 4, 2025

Location Knights of Columbus Hall
1003 Spaulding Drive (off Dougherty)
Aiken, SC

Time Schedules:

Social Hour in bar 6:00pm pre Dinner

Dining Room v Arrival Times

6:45 PM to 7:00

Dinner in the Dining Room begins at 7:00 PM

Friends/Spouses invited!

\$25pp members / \$35pp guests

→ Must reserve & pay ahead

→ Sorry, no drop ins!

Menu Choices below:**1. Steak**

Filet # Well _____ Med _____ Rare _____

2. or Chicken**or 3. Salmon**

Includes: Salad, Vegetable, Potatoes

Sign up to bring dessert:

PRINT Member(s) Name(s):

Total dollars

Guest _____

Total \$ _____

Chicken # _____ Salmon # _____ Received

check or cash will confirm your reservation

Make check out to SJCC + include this form

Needs to be received by **NOVEMBER MEETING**

If not at November meeting, mail check (no cash) to:

Sharon Smoot

27 Windermere Way

Aiken SC 29803

Call if questions: 803- 642-1242

Checks or cash must be received by Sharon

NO LATER THAN Nov 14, 2025

Our next meeting is Nov. 6th, a good time to
make your decision!

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