



THE SCANNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FROM

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION**

VOLUME 53, No. 1, FEBRUARY 2025

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SOUTH CAROLINA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
 VOLUME 53 No. 1, FEBRUARY 2025

A photograph of a 1998 P 10C Struck on a Clut Down 1C Plan 1.94 GR Mint Error MS 65 RD coin, graded by NGC. The coin is a copper-colored 10-cent piece, showing the profile of George Washington. It is mounted in a black NGC holder. The label on the holder reads: 1998 P 10C STRUCK ON A CLUT DOWN 1C PLAN 1.94 GR, MINT ERROR MS 65 RD, 581931-002, and includes a barcode and the NGC logo.



A silver 10-cent Canadian coin from 1967. The reverse side features a stylized swan in flight, facing left. The year '1967' is visible on the right side of the coin.

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POLICY

The policy is that an advertisement will run for three (3) issues. The only changes for these issues will be to change the telephone number, address or e-mail address. Advertisements are important to us in order to defray the costs of producing and mailing The SScanner. The SCNA and the advertising dealers would appreciate your mentioning to them that you have seen their ad in this journal. The SCNA reserves the right to refuse any requested advertisement should the proposed ad be determined, at the sole discretion of the Editor, non-compliant with SCNA rules or standards.

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***Rates subject to change at the discretion of SCNA.**

For current rates, contact the SScanner Editor.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTALS

<i>Issue:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
February	December 1st
June	April 1st
October	August 1st

Items received after deadline may not be printed in the following issue.

SCNA MEMBERSHIP RATES

*Membership application is
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Rick Ciano-macv42@gmail.com

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e-mail: donniesdesigns4u@aol.com; Phone: (864) 415 - 5142
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From the Editor

Greetings Fellow Numismatists!

With Spring just around the corner (robins are appearing in my yard) is it too late to say happy new year? Well, since we have kicked off the 2025 coin show season with the Upstate and Low Country shows, how about happy numismatic new year? And

the shows are continuing in quick succession – The clubs in Aiken and Camden are having shows in March, Midlands and GNA in April, and Augusta in May. Exciting!

My time at last October's SCNA Annual Convention and Coin Show was much different than in past years. Over the course of three days I only spent perhaps a total of three hours on the bourse floor! Why? Because, as detailed in this issue, I was participating in some very special events put on by the SCNA: I (and 20 other people) attended the ANA Counterfeit Detection seminar, ably hosted by Messrs. Keith Moon and Bill Latour (owner of Low Country Coins). When you see Bill, please congratulate him – he is now ANA-certified to teach three courses – Counterfeit Detection, and both Fundamental and Intermediate Grading! Well Done Mr. Latour!

In conjunction with Greg Capps, Robin Rice, and the wonderful staff from Brunk Auctions of Asheville, NC, I helped coordinate SCNA's first annual numismatic auction! While attendance in the room was light, there was a solid internet presence, and all but two of the 134 lots were sold! Plans are already underway for this year's auction – see the information in this issue for how you can submit your items!

This issue contains a collage of photos taken at the convention, and I am grateful for the photographers who acted in my stead – Stefanie Durham, Typhany Nordeen, Lisa Daniels, and Will Gragg - Thank you folks!

I want to circle back to the topic of counterfeiting – this scourge continues to increase as technology and Artificial Intelligence advance in leaps and bounds. In this issue I relay the story of one person who was a victim and incurred a significant loss due to counterfeit coins. Between this article and the article on the ANA Counterfeit Detection Seminar, I provide several ways that we can gain knowledge and better protect ourselves from this bane.

Sadly, we note the passing of Mr. Jim Barry – former SCNA President, Founder and Charter member of the club in Aiken, and my friend of many years. Jim was an expert in ancient coins, and I attended many of his presentations where he provided the context associated with the coins he was showing. I learned a lot of Greek and Roman history from Jim! We will miss him greatly, and our condolences to Helen, his wife of 60+ years and another stalwart numismatist!

Frequent contributors Will Gragg and Mark Benvenuto round out the numismatic articles in this issue. Will ponders the possible ending of the minting of US Cents; Mark talks us through re-assembling a 1942-P Proof Set.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and find it valuable to your hobby. I also hope to see many of you at the show in Aiken on March 15th!

Steve Kuhl,

803-645-1769; scnanewsletter@gmail.com

SCNA NEWS! - SPECIAL RECOGNITION!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL SCNA COIN SHOW AND CONVENTION!

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The South Carolina Numismatic Association, in conjunction with Brunk Auctions of Asheville, NC is proud to announce the second annual SCNA Coin and Currency Auction! This **LIVE AND INTERNET** auction will be held on **Thursday, October 23, 2025** in Greenville, SC in conjunction with SCNA's 53rd annual convention!



Brunk Auctions is accepting consignments for this auction through September 5, 2025. This exclusive auction provides an opportunity to buy and sell high-quality numismatic items. Accordingly, items submitted for consignment should have a minimum retail value of \$400.

SCNA is hosting this event. Consigners and Buyers will be entering into a financial agreement solely with Brunk Auctions.



Items will be catalogued by Brunk Auctions and listed on their website prior to the auction. Authentication may be required for some items, so submissions should be made before the deadline to allow time for authentication.

Buyers can pre-register on Brunk's website – go to “Upcoming Auctions” and then “Pre-register”. There will also be an SCNA link available after June 1. Registration requires entering a valid credit card in order to be able to bid, although you don't have to use that card for purchases (it won't be automatically charged).



brunkauctions.com

To submit items for this auction, please contact Mr. Greg Capps of Brunk Auctions at 828-254-6846
greg@brunkauctions.com

Upfront Fun - The Kickoff Article

Reassembling the 1942 Proof Set

By Mark Benvenuto

The United States Mint is a veritable corporation, industry, and business unto itself when it comes to producing proof coins, and has been for several decades. There is no doubt that the fine folks working there are at the absolute top of their game when it comes to minting absolutely perfect proof coins. And the volume produced ensures that virtually every annual set will be a relatively common set of the nation's circulating coins. But it wasn't always this way. Back when what collectors generally call the modern era of proof sets began, the output was extremely low, certainly by today's standards. Let's take a close look at just one, and see how tough an endeavor it would be to reassemble it.

No, not 1936! It might seem logical to look at the oldest of the modern proof sets to see about prices for each of the pieces in one, but this is going to be an expensive proposition. After all, the 1936 is the least common of them all. That means each and every coin will not come cheap.

Yes, the 1942! The main Mint in Philadelphia put out proof sets from 1936 to 1942, then took some years off before restarting the program in 1950.

The production for any and all seven of the years from '36 to '42 qualify as tiny by our modern standards.

But the 1942 set was the most common of these years. The number of each denomination does not match up if we are to look through standard references like "The Red Book," simply because proofs were not made exclusively to be sold as sets back in that time. But for the Lincoln cent, it appears that 32,600 proofs were produced.

As just mentioned, 32,600 proofs is a tiny number, and we might think that getting our hands on such a cent today might be a real chance to flatten our wallet. The pleasant surprise then is that we can do so for about \$40. We will not go into the nuance and detail of whether a specimen is red, or red-brown, or brilliant brown; rather we'll leave that up to each individual. But this price can serve as a start point for us.



1942 Lincoln Cent (Wheat Reverse), PCGS Proof 67+RD, Courtesy PCGS at <https://>

Continued

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The 1942 nickel: The year 1942 was the first of four during which the composition of our five-cent coins was changed. There were some proofs made with the usual alloy – 29,600 to be exact – and slightly more made with the large mint mark over Monticello, and the adjusted alloy. A bit on the strange side, it is the less common one that is the most affordable, coming in at about \$40 for a PF-63 grade. A bit like the proof Lincoln cent, we'll leave a discussion of the subtle minting details of "full step" Monticello examples for another time. Yes, this type of choice strike will cost somewhat more. But it's good to know that we can land a Jefferson nickel for only \$40 as a proof.



1942-P 5 Cents Jefferson Nickel, PCGS Proof 68,
Courtesy of PCGS at <https://www.pcgsc.com/coinfacts/coin/1942-5c-nickel/images/4179>

The 1942 proof Mercury dime: It appears there were 22,329 Mercury dimes churned out as proofs in 1942. This coin and design has been a collector favorite for decades; and we can claim this is still the case today, with both a gold version having been made a few years back, as well as palladium bullion coins produced with the image.

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With this level of popularity, as we might expect, the price is going to be somewhat higher than we have seen for the first two pieces in this quintet. We'll need something like \$150 to \$200 to land one of these prime dimes. On purpose we give a price range because this is the general zone we find if we stop in at what can be called, "the flea market that never sleeps," eBay. Still, even though the price tag is a bit rich, it's far lower than a rare Mercury dime might be.



1942-P 10 Cents, PCGS Proof 86, Courtesy of PCGS at <https://www.pcgs.com/coinfacts/coin/1942-10c/images/5077>

The proof Washington quarter: When it comes to the first of what we can consider the big duet of silver in proof coins of 1942, we find that standard lists indicate there were 21,123 proof twenty-five cent pieces churned out. This number is lower than the just-mentioned Mercury dime count, yet the price is also a bit lower.

This is probably because the fan base for the traditional Washington quarter has never been as deep and dedicated as that for the ten-cent pieces. Whatever the case though, something like \$100 should be able to land us a 1942 proof Washington quarter in a grade such as PF-65.



1942-P 25 Cents Washington Quarter, PCGS Proof 69, Courtesy of PCGS at <https://www.pcgs.com/coinfacts/coin/1942-25c/5981>

The Walking Liberty half: The big game trophy for any 1942 proof set is going to be the Walking Liberty half dollar. Again we have a number provided by the different reference books – 21,120 of these big guys. And again we can expect a hefty price tag, since the Walkers tend to be one of the most avidly collected classic series of United States silver coins. So here we go with some prices: \$400 for a PF-63 specimen, and \$500 for the same as PF-65.

Continued

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For those of us who cap our spending at something like \$100 per purchase, no matter what, this is going to seem ridiculous. But when we consider how rare a 1942 proof Walking Liberty half dollar is, we have to admit this is actually an undervalued fifty-cent piece. It might be worth saving up for one.

All summed up? It seems reasonable to assemble this set for under \$1,000! We claim the Walking Liberty half dollar as the big game trophy, and so we can stretch the analogy a bit further and point out that it is the lion's share of the expenses if we opt to reassemble a 1942 proof set. The Mercury dime comes in next, but is not really going to bust most budgets. And the cent, nickel, and quarter are pretty affordable. It looks like putting the 1942 proof set together again is not that far fetched an idea after all!



1942-P 50 Cents Walking Liberty Half-Dollar, PCGS Proof 67+ CAM, Courtesy of PCGS at <https://www.pcgsc.com/coinfacts/coin/1942-50c->



1942-P Proof Set in Capital Plastic Holder, Sold out at \$889, Courtesy of Yesterday's Change at <https://shop.yesterdayschange.com/products/1942-6-coin-proof-set-superb-brilliant-proof-in-capital-plastic>

Graphics, layout, and editing by Steve Kuhl

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MEMBER CLUB NEWS!



BREAKING NEWS! ANNOUNCING THE 2025 SJCSRA COIN SHOW! After a several year hiatus, the SJCSRACC is making preparations to hold a Coin and Currency show on Saturday, March 15th, 2025. The show will be held at the gymnasium of South Aiken Presbyterian Church, 1711 Whiskey Road. This is the same location the most recent show was held. Please see the flyer elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Aiken, SC

Coin & Currency Show



**March 15, 2025
Sat. 9:00 – 4:00**

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Pee Dee Area Coin Club

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More Info : Ronnie Westbrook, Bourse Chair, 843-616-4824

MEMBER CLUB NEWS!



The club is growing, and the hobby is still HOT! We have seen an increase in attendance, and we think it may be the wonderful programs, the camaraderie, the auctions or just a great interest in the hobby. Highlighted programs were counterfeit detection parts 1 & 2 under the microscope and CIA notes from the Bay of Pigs invasion.

The club has participated in the Senior Show in Columbia at the Fairgrounds. The show highlighted the SCNA and Midlands Cub and we offered free visual appraisals, invited many to join a club, offered advice on dispatching a collection and even gave out a few coins as well as flyers and business cards. Last year we were fortunate enough to garner a few new members from this event.

Our next event is another Hettie Anderson presentation March 20th for the Daughters of the American Revolution at the DoubleTree in Columbia. This is not open to the public, but in front of a very large group. It is our pleasure to tell this story to anyone who will listen.



In June we expect to work with the SCNA and participate in the SC Homeschool Expo. This event is great and we show how numismatics can be used to teach history, economics and geography. We generally get some new members from this event as well.

We are proud to announce one of our YN's will receive the SCNA's Austin M. Sheheen Scholarship for 2025. This will allow Hampton Moore to attend the ANA Summer seminar in June and July. We are proud of Hampton and support his education and coin business. He actually has his own website at www.PalmettoTreeCoins.com.



We also have our Spring Coin Show coming up April 4-5 at the Medallion Conference Center, 7309 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209. Hours 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday and 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Saturday.

We were a little tight at our last show in November and have since made two improvements. We added another 3000 square feet and reduced the number of tables. This should provide 8 feet of space in the aisles and make for a more comfortable experience.

BSA – Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge clinic is scheduled April 5th during our show. Great way to get started and earn your badge, but to be honest, it is a great program for ALL kids. Clinic starts at 10:00 AM and we prefer you sign up ahead of time but will take walk-ins. E-mail MidlandsCoinClub@gmail.com for sign up or questions.

Today, we sit at 112 members and expect to grow in 2025. Our meetings are still the second Thursday of every month at Columbia International University, 7435 Monticello Road (William Jones Bldg.), Columbia, SC 29203. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. We usually have a program, auction, and business meeting with two door prize drawings. Visitors are welcome to check us out, bring a friend.

Check us out on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/MidlandsCoinClub>

https://www.instagram.com/midlands_coin_club/

https://twitter.com/Midlands_Coin

Or check out our website at www.MidlandsCoinClub.com. You can e-mail us at MidlandsCoinClub@gmail.com or call 803-250-5610

Spring Coin Show

Midlands Coin Club

A non-profit organization
Members of the ANA & SCNA

April 4 & 5, 2025

Friday 10 - 5, Saturday 9-4

Medallion Center

**7309 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, SC 29209**



Coins - Currency - Tokens - Medals - Jewelry - Supplies

FREE Parking, FREE admission

Family Friendly Event

60+ Tables, 30+ Dealers, 24 Hr. Security



ANACS Coin Grading will be onsite taking submissions both days

**Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic for Scouting America
(Boy Scouts) Saturday at 10:00 AM - Limited availability
E-mail MidlandsCoinClub@gmail.com to sign up**



www.MidlandsCoinClub.com

For Dealer Information, email: MidlandsCoinClub@gmail.com

BSA Scout Merit Badge Programs

for

Coin Collecting in South Carolina

Three dates – Three Cities – One near you

- From 10-12:30 (**Saturday only**)
- Everything needed to qualify in one day.
- Please wear your Class A's.
- Certified merit badge counselors on site, blue cards available.
- All councils/districts welcome.
- Coins, supplies and other material provided.
- Small fee of **\$5** to cover cost of supplies and coins.
- General questions and register e-mail:
 - Gator29063@aol.com
 - Send Scout's Name & Troop Number.
 - Date /City requested.



*Aiken SC – March 15th begins at 10:00 AM



At the **SJCRA Aiken Coin Show** – www.sjcsracc.org

South Aiken Presbyterian Church Gym, 1711 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC – Show hours Sat 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

*Camden SC – March 22nd begins at 10:00 AM



At the **Camden Coin Club Spring Coin Show** – www.CamdenCoinClub.com

Camden City Arena, 420 Broad Street, Camden, SC – Show hours Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

*Columbia SC – April 5th begins at 10:00 AM



At the **Midlands Coin Club Spring Coin Show** – www.MidlandsCoinClub.com

Medallion Convention Center, 7309 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC – Show hours Fri 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

WWW.SC-NA.ORG

www.facebook.com/SCNumismatics

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51st Annual Raleigh Money Expo™

Coin, Currency & Stamp Show
Presented by the Raleigh Coin Club

June 27-28-29, 2025
Fri 10a-6p, Sat 10a-5p, Sun 10a-3p

The Exposition Center
NC State Fairgrounds
(4285 Trinity Rd, Raleigh, NC)

190+ Dealer Tables – Educational Programs – Free Coins for Kids
Free Admission & Parking – more info at www.RaleighCoinClub.org



Announcing the 2nd Annual SCNA Numismatic Auction!

The South Carolina Numismatic Association, in conjunction with Brunk Auctions of Asheville, NC is proud to announce the second annual SCNA Numismatic Auction! This LIVE AND INTERNET auction will be held at 2 pm on Thursday, October 23, 2025 in Greenville, SC in conjunction with SCNA's 53rd annual convention!

Brunk Auctions is accepting consignments for this auction through September 5, 2025. This exclusive auction provides an opportunity to buy and sell high-quality numismatic items. Accordingly, items submitted for consignment should have a minimum retail value of \$400.

SCNA is hosting this event. Consigners and Buyers will be entering into a financial agreement solely with Brunk Auctions. Items will be catalogued by Brunk Auctions and listed on their website prior to the auction. Authentication may be required for some items, so submissions should be made before the deadline to allow time to complete any needed authentication.

Buyers can pre-register on Brunk's website – go to "Upcoming Auctions" and then "Pre-register". Registration requires entering a valid credit card in order to be able to bid, although you don't have to use that card for purchases (it won't be automatically charged).

**To submit items for this auction, please contact
Mr. Greg Capps of Brunk Auctions at
828-254-6846 / greg@brunkauctions.com**



NEW SHOW! NEW SHOW!

COIN & CURRENCY SHOW!!

SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025

9:00 am - 4:00 pm



FREE KIDS GIFT!

**FREE
APPRAISALS!**

**FREE
ADMISSION!**

COINS, TOKENS, CURRENCY, COLLECTING SUPPLIES & BOOKS

*** BUY * SELL * TRADE * FREE APPRAISALS**

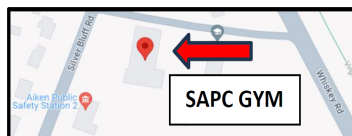
ANACS THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION SERVICES ON PREMISES

IN THE GYM AT SOUTH AIKEN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1711 WHISKEY ROAD

AIKEN, SC



Between Security Federal Bank and First Citizens Bank

Event Host: Stephen James CSRA Coin Club

CONTACT: STEVE KUHL, 803-645-1769; scannewsletter@gmail.com; P.O. Box 5266, Aiken, SC 29804



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SCNA Award Winners and Scenes from the 52nd Annual Convention!



SCNA AWARD WINNERS

*Hall of Fame Awardees: Blenda Brush, Hugh Shull; Doris Whitehouse
Show Exhibit Award Winners: Senior: Bob Moon; Junior: Hampton Moore
SCNA Numismatist of the Year: Will Gragg
SCNA Club of the Year: Midlands Coin Club*



SCNA RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

Paul Walters & Gen. Lee with \$20 St. Gaudens won by Paul (center)

Jeff Frank - ASE Winner (top Left)

John Felix - ASE Winner (Btm left)

Other ASE Winners (Not Pictured) Dennis McClain; Pat Walters; Chris Podgurski



SCNA SHOW SCENES

Top to bottom: Awards Breakfast, Jeff Cooper - New SCNA Life Member; Carter Colquitt - New SCNA Life Member; Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic; Bourse Floor

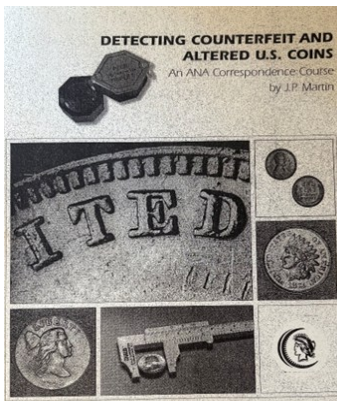


SCNA SHOW SCENES

Top to bottom: 2024 SCNA Y/N Certificate; Kids Koin Karnival; Hampton Moore's Winning Exhibit on the South Carolina Tricentennial; Members of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club visiting the SCNA Convention

The photos you just enjoyed are courtesy of Lisa Daniels, Typhany Nordeen, Will Gragg, and Stefanie Durham!

THANK YOU!



COUNTERFEIT DETECTION, THE ANA WAY!

By Stephen Kuhl

The South Carolina Numismatic Association, in collaboration with the American Numismatic Association hosted the much sought-after Counterfeit Detection: Classic Fakes and Chinese Made Counterfeits seminar at SCNA's 52nd annual convention in October 2024.

This sold out class was led by Mr. Keith Moon (who stepped in at the last minute due to a schedule conflict

ANA's textbook for Class

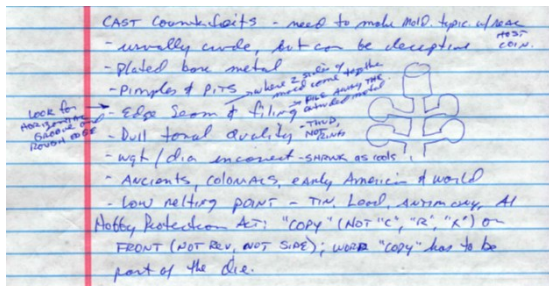
with the original instructor) and our very own Mr. Bill Latour, owner of Low Country Coins in North Charleston, SC. I had wanted to take this class for several years, including signing up for the 2023 seminar at SCNA that unfortunately was cancelled at the last minute, so I was very thankful when Keith stepped in to serve as the primary instructor so that the class could be held.

I'll mention that Bill deserves accolades because he was recently certified by the ANA as an instructor for three of their most popular classes – The Fundamentals of Grading, Intermediate Grading, and the Counterfeit Detection courses. This is a super achievement that recognizes Bill's hard work, accomplishment, and numismatic knowledge. And it is a benefit to the SCNA to have one of our own certified. Congratulations on a job well done, Bill!

This intensive two-day seminar afforded the students a good balance between presentation and hands-on learning. I'm a note-taker, because that is how I internalize and best remember what I'm being told. I ended up with 21 full pages of notes over the course of the two days! The objectives of the course were to teach us new skills, en-



Keith Moon showing Diagnostics of a Counterfeit 1935 Spanish Trail half-dollar

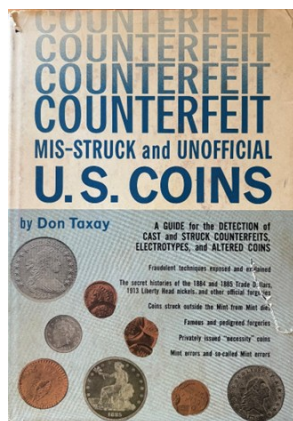


hance our knowledge, identify our strengths, improve our weaknesses, all to (hopefully) avoid costly mistakes in the future. With 21 pages of notes, there is a lot that I could write about, so I've chosen to relay several main takeaways I garnered from the class.

Continued

Build a reference library that covers both general information about counterfeits and specialized information on the coins you are most interested in. With respect to this, the following publications were discussed in the class. Several of these books are no longer in print, but as I checked the internet I found used copies that were available. I was not the only one in the class doing this, because one book I found on Amazon had 4 copies available when I first checked, but when I went to purchase it later in the day they were all gone!

- ANA Counterfeit Detection Volume I & Volume II: These books contain a compilation of reprinted articles on counterfeiting originally published in ANA's *The Numismatist*.
- PCGS' Coin Grading and Counterfeit Detection Guide (1st ed 1997; 2nd ed 2004)
- Counterfeit Mis-struck and Unofficial US Coins, by Don Taxay, 1963. This book is long out of print, but fundamental. If you can pick one up for your library, do so.
- US Gold Counterfeit Detection Guide by Bill Fivaz, 2006. Bill Latur told the class that the first 10 pages of this book might be some of the most important reading you'll ever do regarding counterfeits coinage.
- ANA's textbook - Detecting Counterfeit and Altered US Coins
- Build your own "show kit" – make a 3-ring binder containing authentication information on specific coins you are interested in.



Counterfeit Mis-struck and Unofficial US Coins, by Don Taxay, 1963



Bill Latour offering guidance to student Steve Gilliland

Develop and practice good coin viewing habits. This advice may sound pretty basic, and it is, but often we either get complacent or in too much of a hurry to put the advice into practice. Some considerations:

- **Lighting:** Coins will look very different under various light sources, sometimes making it hard to detect diagnostics and markers. Clearly there is a distinct difference between incandescent and LED bulbs, but LEDs present several new issues we may not be familiar with. For example, did you know that LEDs fade over time? It's true! Bill said he changes out his LED bulbs every three months, even though they have not reached the end of their service life, because of this fading. To see this effect for ourselves, he encouraged us to go back and re-look at

previously viewed coins after we have installed a new bulb.. Also recall that LED bulbs come in all different “temperatures” (which means the color they put off). You’ll often see phrases such as “bright”, “true”, “blue”, and “soft”. Bill said all he uses are the bulbs designated “bright”. Whatever bulb you choose, at a minimum be consistent and use the same light when viewing coins.

- Look at the entire coin (all 3 sides) with an unaided eye before viewing the coin using magnification.
- Properly hold the coin when viewing, and be sure to tilt and rotate it to help see the diagnostics. I can’t overemphasize this point – in class my partner Mike would often see things that I did not immediately see until I tilted the coin a particular way. And since many of the markers are very subtle, this technique is super important to apply.
- In addition to a magnifier, it is important to know the correct weight of the coins you are viewing and have a calibrated scale with you to actually weigh the coin. Two comments: weight becomes irrelevant if the coin is in a slab. If it is raw and in a 2x2 it is a less of an issue – if you ask, reputable dealers will take the coin out of the 2x2 to weight it for you. (But don’t ask them to let you weigh it – it is their coin; they should be the only one to handle it outside of a protective holder.)
- A third essential tool is a set of calipers used to measure the diameter of the coin. Whereas the mass of coins change as they wear, seldom does the diameter change (unless the coin has been clipped to harvest the precious metal in the coin). I found



inexpensive digital calipers at Harbor freight. I think I paid a few dollars for them. (If you wear eyeglasses, they also have magnifying lenses that you can attach to the bow of your glasses. These are quite handy and cost less than \$5 when I last bought them.)

Genuine U.S. Coin Gram Weights 1793 - 2024

Half Cents - Liberty Cap (1793 - 1799)	6.74 grams
Half Cents - Draped Bust, Classic Head , Braided Hair (1800 - 1857)	5.44 grams
Large Cents Flowing Hair - Liberty Cap (1793 -1796)	13.48 grams
Large Cents Draped Bust (1796-1807) Liberty Head 1808 - 1857)	10.89 grams
Small Cents Flying Eagle (1856 - 1858) Indian Head Copper-Nickel (1859-1864)	4.67 grams
Small Cents Indian Bronze (1859-1909)	3.11 grams
Small Cents Lincoln Wheat Reverse (1909 - 1958) Bronze	3.11 grams
Small Cents Lincoln Wheat Reverse 1943 Steel	2.70 grams
Small Cents Lincoln Memorial Reverse (1959 - 1982) Copper Alloy	3.11 grams
Small Cents Lincoln Memorial Reverse (1982 - 2008) Copper-Zinc	2.50 grams
Small Cents Lincoln Bicentennial Reverse 2009 Copper-Zinc	2.50 grams
Small Cents Lincoln Shield Reverse 2010 - Date Copper-Zinc	2.50 grams
Two Cent Piece (1864 - 1873)	6.22 grams
Three Cent Pieces Trimes (1851 - 1853) 75% Silver	0.80 grams
Three Cent Pieces Trimes (1853 - 1873) 90% Silver	0.75 grams
Three Cent Pieces (1865 - 1889) Copper-Nickel	1.94 grams
Five Cent Shield Nickel (1866 - 1883)	5.0 grams
Five Cent Liberty Nickel (1883 - 1913)	5.0 grams
Five Cent Buffalo Nickel (1913 - 1938)	5.0 grams
Five Cent Jefferson Nickel (1938 - Date)	5.0 grams
Five Cent Jefferson Nickel (1942 - 1945) War-time 35% Silver	5.0 grams
Half Dime Flowing Hair - Draped Bust - Capped Bust (1794 - 1836)	1.35 grams
Half Dime Capped Bust 1837	1.34 grams
Half Dime Seated Liberty Variety 1 & Variety 2 (1837 - 1853)	1.34 grams
Half Dime Seated Liberty Variety 3 & Variety 4 (1853 - 1873)	1.24 grams
Dime Draped Bust - Capped Bust (1796 - 1837)	2.70 grams
Dime Seated Liberty Variety 1 & Variety 2 (1837 - 1853)	2.67 grams
Dime Seated Liberty Variety 3 & Variety 4 (1853 - 1873)	2.49 grams
Dime Seated Liberty Variety 5 & Variety 4 Design Resumed (1873 - 1891)	2.50 grams
Dime Barber (1892 - 1916) Mercury (1916 - 1945)	2.50 grams
Dime Roosevelt (1946 - 1964) 90% Silver	2.50 grams
Dime Roosevelt (1965 - Present) Copper-Nickel	2.27 grams
Twenty Cent Piece (1875 - 1878)	5.0 grams
Quarter Draped Bust (1796 - 1807) Capped Bust (1815 - 1838)	6.74 grams
Quarter Seated Liberty Variety 1 (1838 - 1853)	6.68 grams
Quarter Seated Liberty Variety 2, Variety 3, Variety 4 (1853 - 1873)	6.22 grams
Quarter Seated Liberty Variety 5 & Variety 4 Design Resumed (1873 - 1891)	6.25 grams
Quarter Barber (1892 - 1916) Standing Liberty (1916 - 1930)	6.25 grams
Quarter Washington (1932 - 1964) 90% Silver	6.25 grams
Quarter Washington (1965 - Date) State, National Park, American Women	5.67 grams
Quarter Washington Bicentennial (1976) 40% Silver	5.75 grams
Half Dollar Flowing Hair (1794 - 1795) Draped Bust (1796 - 1807) Capped Bust Lettered Edge (1807 - 1836)	13.48 grams
Half Dollar Capped Bust Reeded Edge (1836 - 1839) Seated Liberty Variety 1 (1839 - 1853)	13.36 grams
Half Dollar Seated Liberty Variety 2, Variety 3, & Variety 4 (1853 - 1873)	12.44 grams

List of US coin weights from Bill Latour

Continued



Spark erosion counterfeit 1874 3 Cents. Courtesy of NGC at <https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/3396/Counterfeit-1874-Three-Cent-Nickel/>

Learn the different types of counterfeiting techniques and what methods can be used to recognize coins manufactured via these techniques. This is the central purpose of the ANA Counterfeit Detection course and obviously I can't possibly relate all the information taught in this area. But here is a list of the most common methods for making counterfeiting dies – go investigate these

on your own (or sign up for a class!) but bear in mind, this information is from my notes and I may have misunderstood or misinterpreted what was said:

1 to 1 Transfer Dies: Counterfeit coins made from these dies are often within Mint mass and size specifications, and have the expected tonal resonance “ring” when tapped or struck with an object. But these coins often lack fine detail and finishing, and may be off-color. Any imperfections on the source coin will be repeated in the counterfeits.

Spark Erosion Dies: Coins from these dies also will often meet size specifications, but the fields will appear proof-like and the devices will have a granular look to them. A key diagnostic is if the edge of the coin looks proof-like.

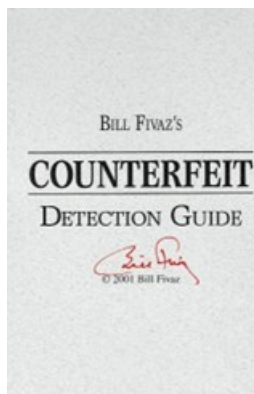
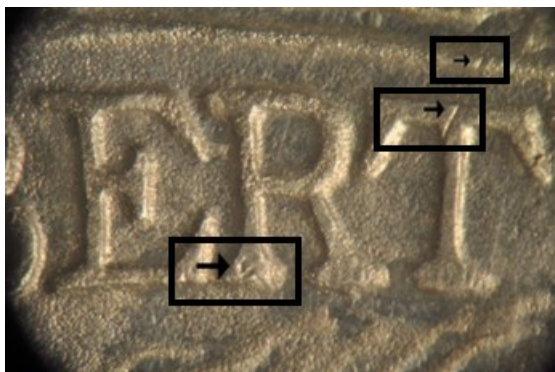
Impact Dies: Real coins are “squished” to make the dies, often resulting in coins with sharp design elements at the center of the coin, but mushy or fuzzy details closer to the rims. “Wire rims” may also be present.

Cast Dies: These can be very prevalent, but they are also one of the easiest to distinguish. Coins made from cast dies have mushy details, low relief of the design elements, will be widely variant to Mint specs, may exhibit irregular fields and a significant loss of detail. The entire surface of these coins will also look “pebbly” due to the mediums used for casting the coin or die molds.

Hand Cut Dies: Not surprisingly, such coins show crude workmanship and often incorrect design elements, usually are not made of the correct metal, and are not within specs. Interestingly, these can be collectible in and of themselves!

Electrotype Coins: These coins look very good on the obverse and reverse, so they may be tough to discern. The key is on the rims. Electrotyping involves creating two shells (one for each side of the coin, then joining them together and filling in the middle with a base metal such as lead). The key diagnostic is to look for a seam on the edge of the coin indicating where the two shells were joined. Note that the rims can be machined to remove the seam, making it harder to detect the counterfeiting. Electrotyping was an accepted practice “back in the day” but is now considered counterfeiting. That said, some electrotype coins are worth more than the genuine items. The Newman Numismatic Portal has an article on this subject that can be found at: <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/dictionarydetail/515832>

Learn the techniques used to convert common genuine coins into sought-after, but counterfeit, collectibles. Conversely, know the diagnostic that prove the coin is genuine. Ingenuity and innovation are the hallmarks of the human race, and nowhere in numismatics is this more evident than in the alteration of common coins to fabricate “rarities”. Common practices: Adding or removing mintmarks; changing dates (such as tooling an “8” into a “3”). Many years ago Bill Fivaz came and spoke to the coin club in Aiken SC, and I’ll never forget what he told us. He said that counterfeiters constantly develop new ways to deceive, and because of this is it impossible to keep track of all the markers of a counterfeit. Instead, he encouraged us to know and remember the diagnostics that prove the coin is real. These markers are static – they don’t change. An example would be the 1893-S Morgan Dollar. All genuine coins have “rabbit ears” in left foot of the “R” in “LIBERTY” and a die scratch in the top of the “T” in “LIBERTY” as shown here (Image courtesy of NGC at <https://www.ngccoin.in/resources/counterfeit-detection/top/united-states/10/>)



Aside: in 2001 Bill published a “shirt pocket sized” booklet showing the genuine markers for 22 coins that are frequently counterfeited, such as the 1877 Indian Head, the 1909-S VDB, the 1918/1917-D 5 Cents, the 1942/1941-P Mercury Dime, 1932-D and S quarters to name a few. A good portion of the class was spent re-viewing the genuine characteristics of the classic collectibles, and I found Mr. Fivaz’s book additive to the discussion. It

was great having the actual coin in my hand and comparing its markers to those described by Bill Fivaz, as well as in the ANA course material. As we went through each coin, Keith and Bill would share some common counterfeiting or alteration techniques associated with the coin we were discussion For example, the 1926-S nickel is susceptible to an added or embossed mintmark.



Reverse of genuine 1926-S nickel, courtesy NGC at <https://www.ngccoin.com/coin-explorer/united-states/nickels/buffalo-five-cents-1913-1938/13959/1926-s-5c-ms/?des=ms>

Continued

We were coached to look for the correct style of mintmark (the same mintmark punch was used from 1917 to 1928, so the “S” on the 1926 should look just the same as the other years in that range.) They also shared how to detect if the mintmark has been embossed, such as by looking at the finish and flow on the reverse of the coin opposite the mintmark and looking at the finish of the mintmark itself, compared to the field (if it is the same, then chances are the “S” was raised up from the field.)

The instructors mentioned that the area of commemorative coins was especially tricky because of the relative low populations to use as comparisons. Keith said 1 to 1 transfer fakes of commemoratives was the most common area of counterfeiting following gold coins. The ANA course material developed by JP Martin, as well as the ANA reprints of articles previously published in *The Numismatist*, together provide a good reference set of markers for known fakes. An example would be a divot that repeats on each coin because there was a raised bump on the original coin that the transfer was made from.

1926-S Buffalo Nickel

MINTAGE OF THE 1926-S NICKEL WAS 970,000, WHEREAS THE 1926-P NICKEL HAD A MINTAGE OF OVER 44 MILLION.

PRICES FOR MS60 1926-S NICKELS ARE OVER \$5000, SO THERE IS MOTIVATION TO COUNTERFEIT. NGC SAYS THAT THEY FREQUENTLY RECEIVE ADD “S” (ALTERED) NICKELS.

SOURCE: NGC.COM AT [HTTPS://WWW.NGCCOIN.COM/NEWS/ARTICLE/6015/COUNTERFEIT-DETECTION/](https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/6015/COUNTERFEIT-DETECTION/)



Counterfeit 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar (L) and genuine Coin (r). Notice the “mushy” lack of detail on the left compared to the image on the right. Courtesy of NGC at <https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/5579/counterfeit-1920-pilgrim-tercentenary-commemorative/>

Know the minting technology and techniques of the era, to include specifics about the coins: Examples: The 1831 half-cent: It was issued only as a Proof so any other finish is a fake; An 1859 Indian Head cent with a shield on the reverse – since the shield was not introduced until 1860, an 1859 cent with a shield is either a pattern coin (worth mucho dinero) or a counterfeit. Which do you think is more likely?



Counterfeit 1831 half-cent. Image courtesy <https://www.coincommunity.com/forum/topic.asp>

Or the 1894-P Morgan dollar – there was only one obverse die and one reverse die, so a single marriage. In addition to die cracks on the genuine coin, in the case of a single die marriage it is easy to compare a coin to an internet image from PCGS or NGC – are they the same?

Beware Chinese Counterfeits: The remainder of the class was devoted to the fear-inspiring area of Chinese counterfeits. While there is a lingering reputation that Chinese counterfeits are of low quality, unfortunately that no longer holds true – there are more and more examples of excellent counterfeits coming from China.

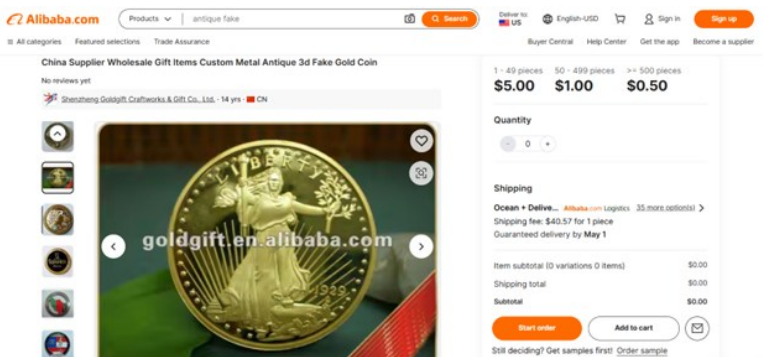
Keith first discussed the characteristics of genuine US gold coins for each design type used – flat field, incuse design, and sculpted field - and then the di-

agnostics for detecting fakes. Techniques for evaluating these classes of design can be applied to all coins using the design. For example, the sculpted field coins (\$10 Indians; \$20 St.

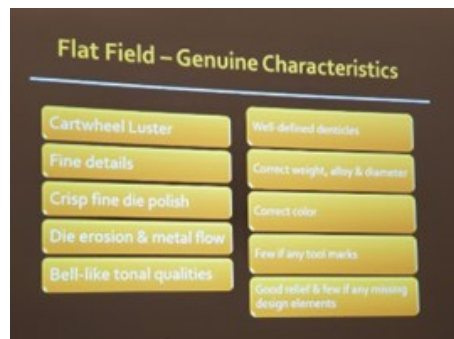
Gaudens) used a three-piece collar that results in visible seams on the rim of the coins. If you have a coin without these seams, well....

In addition to

the counterfeit detection techniques mentioned earlier associated with the various types of dies, there are numerous additional ways to discern counterfeit flat field gold coins. Some typical



Website found within seconds of searching Goggle for “fake gold coin from China”. Site unabashedly sells fake coins



attributes: loss of fine detail; “flat” appearance of raised design elements; “toothy” / unevenly spaced denticles; missing low relief design elements (they didn’t transfer); and several others. One oddity Keith mentioned: Many times the gold counterfeits will actually be too pure – 22 carat (91.67%) versus the expected 21.6 carats (pure gold is 24 carats; US gold coins were 90% gold, so $24 \times .9 = 21.6$).

Continued

Fake incuse gold coins can be detected by a number of means. One such method is to place the coin face down on a hard surface and see if the coin spins. If it does, then it is fake – it spins because the incuse design isn't deep enough. Also, since the deepest parts of the incuse design equate to the highest design elements on the dies, these surfaces may be extra shiny on the coin minted from the transfer die. To reduce the shine, the counterfeiters will tool the coin to make it duller, so look for tool marks on the coin. And one more interesting fact related to the 1908-S \$5 Indian: The "S" mintmark should be exactly the same as the "S" mintmark seen on the genuine 1909-S Lincoln cent. Why? Because the same mintmark punch was used for numerous coins across several denominations minted in San Francisco from 1908 to 1917! Shown here is a counterfeit 1908 Indian \$5, with enlarge-



ment showing significant tool marks around the date. Courtesy of NGC at <https://www.ngccoin.in/resources/counterfeit-detection/top/united-states/34/>

Two interesting "asides" were talked about. First, the fake

gold coins from Lebanon. In the 1940s the US sold obsolete minting equipment to the Lebanese government. In the 1960s the equipment was sold to private interests in Lebanon, who then operated these machines practically 24/7 for 20 years, minting counterfeit US gold coins.

The second are the Omega counterfeits, so called because of the omega symbol (Ω) found on the coins. Produced in the 1970s, there are seven known denominations, and one that is likely. The counterfeits represent Philadelphia struck coins (no mintmark) of the following denominations and years:

- \$20: 1907, 1910, and 1913;
- \$10: 1926 and maybe the 1913
- \$3: 1874, 1878, 1882



An omega (Ω) symbol in the loop of "R" in "LIBERTY" of a counterfeit 1882 \$3 Indian. Image courtesy of NGC at <https://www.ngccoin.com/resources/counterfeit-detection/top/united-states/5/>

Wrap-up: As stated at the beginning of this article, this class was a good balance of lecture and hands-on learning. The ANA provided many boxes of coins for us to look at. This population included all the denominations discussed in class and contained many genuine coins as well as many types of counterfeits. For example a given denomination would have multiple genuine examples, and then examples of the various types of fakes – cast, electrotype, 1:1 transfer etc.

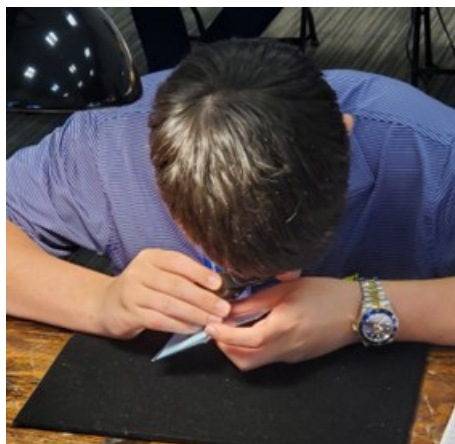
It became very obvious to me that I'm not naturally talented at detecting counterfeit coins, and that I need to be especially cautious (and TAKE MY TIME!) when looking at purchasing high value raw coins. Perhaps I'm being a bit too hard on myself. Keith did mention that it takes looking at A LOT of coins to get good at identifying counterfeits, so maybe there is still hope for me!

Which leads to a final thought: Having taken this class, I now understand why many coin collectors default to only collecting graded / slabbed coins. But as discussed in another article in this issue (documenting an unfortunate event) slabbing is not a panacea – not only have counterfeits gotten to such good quality as to sometimes fool the grading companies, but now the holders themselves, label and all, are often counterfeited too. So even if a coin has been slabbed, it is still in the purchaser's best interests to closely examine the coin for any indications that it might be fake. Simply put, don't judge the book by the cover - think critically and examine closely, irrespective of the slab.

This was an excellent class, and I'm hopeful that the SCNA can offer it again, especially since Mr. Latour is now an ANA certified instructor! If you are interested in expanding your knowledge on counterfeit detection, then reach out and lobby SCNA's President Randy Clark to hold this class again. There is a minimum class size to make it economically viable to hold the class, so if you are interested don't wait to share your interest with Randy!



The Author (left) and Mike Smith (right) examine coins to determine if the samples they are looking at are genuine or counterfeit



On the other end of the spectrum, Hampton Moore, Owner of Palmetto Tree Coins and a full head of hair, takes a close look at a coin.

SCNA & Brunk go together like silver & gold!

By Stephen Kuhl

SCNA & Brunk Auctions. This winning combination made their mark on South Carolina numismatics with the successful conduct of the inaugural SCNA numismatic auction, held this past October in conjunction with the 52nd annual SCNA Convention!

Co-coordinated by SScanner Editor Steve Kuhl and Brunk Auction's numismatic expert Greg Capps, the Brunk team put on an excellent live and internet auction that saw 134 lots cross the auction block with a net value, inclusive of fees, of over \$400,000 (by my uncertified notes and calculations!)

There certainly was a wide variety of items for sale! There was an extensive number of gold and silver items - both bullion bars and coins, as well as collectable coins such as Morgans, more than 50 capped bust half and quarter dollars, and even a shipwreck half dollar (1858 O from the wreck of the SS Republic) to name a few.

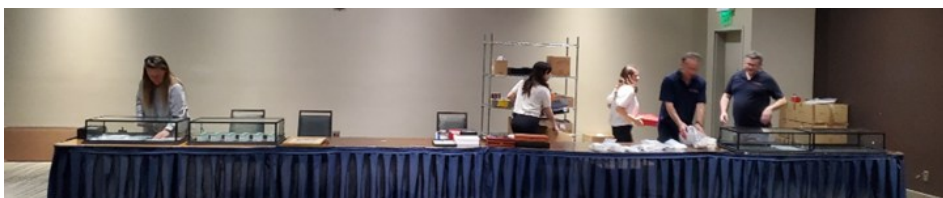
There also was a small amount of US and confederate currency, 30 South Carolina merchant tokens, over 500 modern-era mint, proof, and silver proof sets - these went at a BARGAIN price! Perhaps the neatest item of the auction was a set of 1936 PDS silver half dollars and associated exomumia that were squirreled away in a 1936 time capsule to mark the sesquicentennial of South Carolina. The capsule was opened in 1986 and the coins, which are one of 10 known sets, were slabbed and brought to market.



In person attendance was light, but very active, as most of the items were bought by those present in person



A sampling of auction items



The Brunk Team setting up the auction display

Integral to the success of the auction was the Brunk team (shown above) that supported Greg, and who deserve special thanks from the SCNA for their efforts:

Robin Rice, Vice President and silver specialist. Robin has over 37 years with Brunk

Auctions and she was their first full-time hire! Robin was instrumental in giving the go-ahead for the auction, and authorizing the use of Brunk support equipment (computers, tables, display cases, etc.), which saved SCNA from having to rent these items!

Greg Capps, Brunk's coin and currency expert. Greg did all the receipts, valuations, and cataloging for the auction (despite the ravages of Hurricane Helene at the end of September) and was a very capable auctioneer / master of ceremonies. Greg also made sure all the required licensing and contractual agreements were in place to successfully hold this event.

Allison Schuster, Brunk's technical support specialist was very capable in getting all the electronics connected as a system and online with the Convention Centers system to support both the live and the internet aspect of the auction.

Kayla Crilley, a Junior Fine Arts Cataloger that joined Brunk Auctions just two months before our auction, and



Property Manager Thomas Nixon checking in auction items

Thomas Nixon, whose official title is Property Manager, but who clearly is a "jack of all trades", having 20 years of experience with Brunk. Among the many things he did, Thomas inventoried all the items to make sure the auction would go off without a hitch.

This team worked together to bring in and set up all the

items needed to make the auction a reality. A heartfelt THANKS! to each member for their partnering, problem solving, and "can do" attitude that resulted in an excellent and professionally run auction!

Randy Clark, SCNA's President also was instrumental in bringing the auction to fruition. Randy purchased needed support equipment, such as a podium, microphone and speaker, and a TV monitor to use to display the auction items. Thanks Randy!



Renowned Numismatist Hugh Shull previewing the auction items

Planning is already underway for the 2nd annual SCNA Numismatic auction, to be held on Thursday, October 23rd at 2 pm. Consignments will be accepted through Friday, September 5th. Please see the ad in this issue, or contact Greg Capps at Brunk Auctions (828-254-6846 /



In Memoriam: James "Jim" Richard Barry

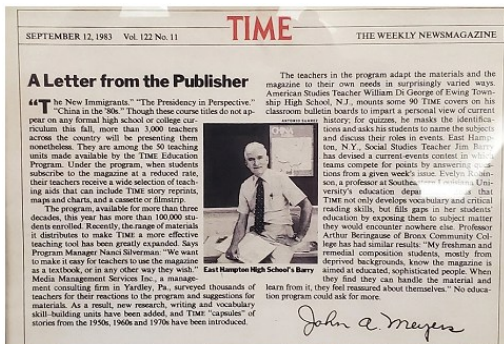
Mar. 15, 1936 – Oct. 29, 2024

Mr. Jim Barry, 88, two-term SCNA President (2008 & 2009) departed this earthly world on October 29, 2024.

Jim was a well-known numismatist who loved to share his knowledge of coins and history. A natural and trained teacher, Jim spent his adult life sharing stories on the ancient world, as documented in the record of the time – coins. Jim's professional career as a teacher in East Hampton, New York spanned from 1959 to 1991 and carried him to faraway lands, including China, Japan, Thailand, West Africa, Egypt, and South America.



Following his retirement, Jim and his wife Helen moved to the Wilmington, North Carolina area and became active in the Lower Cape Fear Coin Club in Wilmington, NC. Later, Helen and Jim moved to Aiken South Carolina, where they were the driving force in chartering a new South Carolina coin club – the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club. Their world travels continued, to include New Zealand, Australia, the Caribbean, Alaska, and the Panama Canal. Jim was an officer or member of many numismatic organizations, and he frequently wrote articles on the ancient Greek and Roman coins that he so loved, and his writings were published in several numismatic journals. Those of us that knew him benefitted from his energy and numismatic knowledge, and we are better numismatists because of Jim. He is missed by so many!



Jim Barry was featured in Time magazine's *A Letter from the Publisher* column in the September 12, 1983 issue



Helen Barry, married to Jim for 60 years!



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COIN SHOW CALENDAR

Month	Dates	Shows	Locations & Contacts
Mar	15	<i>NEW SHOW!!</i> <i>The Stephen James CSRA Coin Club</i> <i>AIKEN, SC</i>	<i>South Aiken Presbyterian Church Gymnasium</i> <i>1711 Whiskey Road, Aiken SC</i> <i>Steve Kuhl, scnanewsletter@gmail.com; 803-645-1769</i>
Mar	21-22	<i>Camden Coin Club, Camden SC</i> <i>(SCNA MEMBER CLUB)</i>	<i>Camden City Arena, 420 Broad Street Camden, SC</i> <i>http://www.coinshows.com/camden-ccc.html</i> <i>camdenclub@gmail.com; Pascal Brock 803-438-2866</i>
Apr	4 - 5	<i>Midlands Coin Club</i> <i>(SCNA MEMBER CLUB)</i>	<i>Embassy Suites; 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29203</i> <i>Bourse Chair: Mike Smith (803) 447-3441, or Andy Shaw:</i> <i>(803) 422-4821. email: MidlandsCoinClub@gmail.com</i>
Apr	11 - 13	Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show	Dalton Convention Center; 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., Dalton, GA 30720; Tom.Youngblood@att.net or 770-815-4042 Chip Cutiliff: chascoins06@yahoo.com or 770-639-0190 https://www.gamoney.org/coin-show/
May	16 - 17	<i>Augusta Coin Club Show</i> <i>(SCNA MEMBER CLUB)</i>	<i>Columbia County Exhibition Center;</i> <i>212 Partnership Dr., Grovetown GA 30813;</i> <i>Bourse Chairman: Steven Nix; Phone: 706-267-9602;</i> <i>fleetwoodcoins@hotmail.com; augustacoinclub.org</i>
June	27 - 29	51st Annual Raleigh Money Expo	The Exposition Center NC State Fairgrounds (4285 Trinity Rd, Raleigh, NC)
Jul	10 - 12	19 th Annual Summer FUN Convention	Orange County Convention Center 9800 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819 http://www.funtopics.com/summer-fun.html#ConventionInfo
Jul	25 - 27	<i>Low Country Coin Show</i> <i>(SCNA MEMBER CLUB)</i>	<i>Exchange Park Fairgrounds, 9860 Hwy 78, Ladson, SC</i> <i>Contact: Randy Clark, TwoBuckRandy@yahoo.com</i> <i>(843) 367-0141; www.lowcountrycoinclub.com</i>
Jul - Aug	31 - 2	Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Show	Dalton Convention Center; 2211 Tony Ingle Pkwy, Dalton, GA 30720 Show Coordinator: Ronda Leeper 676.232.6982
Sep	19 - 20	<i>Camden Coin Club, Camden SC</i> <i>(SCNA MEMBER CLUB)</i>	<i>Camden City Arena, 420 Broad Street Camden, SC</i> <i>http://www.coinshows.com/camden-ccc.html</i> <i>camdenclub@gmail.com; Pascal Brock 803-438-2866</i>
Oct	3 - 5	67th Annual NCNA Convention & Coin Show	Cabarrus Arena & Events Center 4751 Highway 49 North, Concord, North Carolina 28025 Contact: Perry Siegel, (704) 488-4787; herakles@herakles-inc.com
Oct	11	<i>PEE DEE Area Coin Show</i> <i>(SCNA MEMBER CLUB)</i>	<i>SiMT Building Florence-Darlington Technical College</i> <i>1951 Pisgah Road, Florence, South Carolina 29501</i> <i>Contact: Pat Patton, 803-403-5607 or 843-413-9373</i> <i>http://peedeearcoinclub.com/</i>
Oct	23 - 25	<i>SC Numismatic Association's</i> <i>53rd Annual Convention & Coin Show</i> <i>and AUCTION!</i> <i>SHOW DAYS: THURS, FRI, & SAT.</i>	<i>TD Convention Center</i> <i>1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC 29607</i> <i>Bourse Chairman Marc Kosanovich Phone: 864-275-3204</i> <i>mksan5173@aol.com</i>

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A faint, grayscale background image of a Liberty Bell and stars, likely representing the American Revolution or the founding of the United States.

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Death of the Cent?!



While I understand the need to tighten up budgets in the US, I am torn on the proposal to eliminate the cent. This has come up before, but in today's political climate, it might actually happen. Canada did this years ago in May of 2012



By Will Gragg
SCNA YN Director

and stopped distributing them in 2013. The reason behind this was because it cost more to produce the cent than it was worth. With cash transactions, change is rounded up or down. With electronic transactions, cents are still used.

According to the latest annual report from the US Mint, each penny cost 3.7 cents to make, including the 3 cents for production costs, and 0.7 cents per coin for administrative and distribution costs.

Per Chris Isidore's article *Getting rid of the penny introduces a new problem: nickels*¹ eliminating the penny would require an increase in the use of nickels to fill the small change gap from the loss of the cent coin. But nickels are an even larger loss to manufacture than the cent. The US Government loses 2.7 cents for each cent coin made, but since it costs 13.8 cents to make each nickel, the loss would be 8.8 cents per coin, or more than three-times the loss per cent coin (of course less nickels would like have to be made versus the billions of cents that are made each year.)

My sadness comes at the thought of future collectors to the hobby. At 8 years old, I first started collecting the famous Lincoln cent using Whitman folders. This fueled my obsession to complete the folder and to learn more about coins, varieties, mint marks and Lincoln himself. This is one of the simplest and most



Lincoln Cent (Wheat Reverse), 1909-S VDB 1C, RD, PCGS MS67RD, <https://www.pcgsc.com/coinfacts/coin/1909-s-vdb-1c-rd/2428>

cost-effective sets (minus a few key dates) because you can collect from circulation at cost, one cent! This set is also what makes the 1909-s VDB so popular, because collectors want the coin to complete the set.

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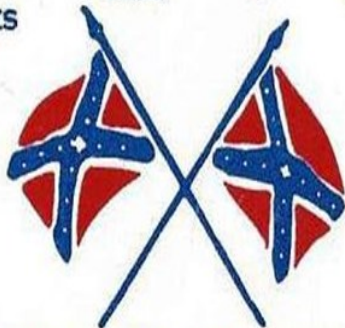


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As a youngster, I couldn't wait to go through pocket change to fill my folders. It was also very easy to grab examples that appeared uncirculated and shiny. As I grew older, I moved them from the folders to nicer Dansco albums, but at age 58, I still have them in my collection!

When I run the YN Program at the SCNA convention annually, I provide FREE cent folders and buckets of cents for YN's to use to fill them. I have seen kids spend hours going through these. I provide wheat backs, memorial and shield backs as well. It's not the coin, it's the "Find" and the thrill of filling that holder hole with a coin...one step closer to completing the set!



I guess we can begin working on the Jefferson Nickel set next, which appears to be the natural progression of collecting, a path I followed as well. But it will be sad to see the infamous Lincoln cent go away. I guess we will wait and see what happens.

On a "silver lining" note, as of 2024, about a quarter trillion pennies are estimated to be in circulation, or more than 700 pennies for each person in the United States, which should hold out for a while!²

1 *Getting rid of the penny introduces a new problem: nickels*, By Chris Isidore, CNN, February 10, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/10/business/costs-of-pennies-and-nickels/index.html#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20latest%20annual,for%20administrative%20and%20distribution%20costs.>

2 Weaver, Caity (September 1, 2024). "America Must Free Itself from the Tyranny of the Penny". The New York Times.

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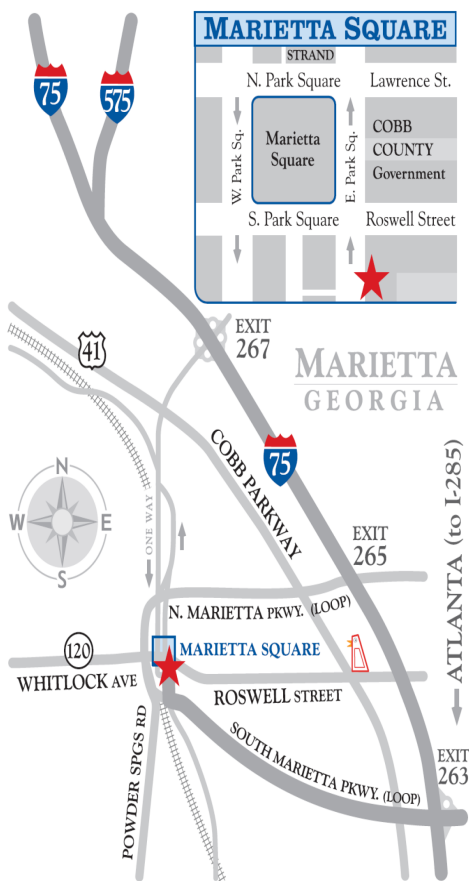
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Applicants for the Austin M. Sheheen, Jr. Young Numismatist (YN) Scholarship must be a member in good standing of the SCNA.

Applicants between the ages of 13 years and 17 years as of the date applications are due are eligible to participate.

SCNA will decide each year what amount and number of scholarships are to be offered the following year, conditioned upon fund availability for the scholarship. The local coin clubs can decide if club funds can be contributed to the SCNA scholarship winner(s).

YNs will be judged on their contributions to their local coin club, the SCNA and their accomplishments in school, religious institution or community activities.

The applicant must write a letter of self-nomination stating the reason(s) he/she would like to attend an ANA Summer Seminar. Also, the applicant must have at least 2 nominations with one being from a local coin club member or SCNA member who personally knows them. The other nomination should be from a school professional, religious institution or community leader who is involved with the nominee in one or more of these activities. Nominations should describe the applicant's contribution to the group. Any questions about the nominating procedure should be directed to the SCNA Secretary.

Application blanks may be obtained from *The Scanner*, via SCNA's Website at www.sc-na.org, or by e-mailing SCNA's Young Numismatist Director at scna_webmaster@yahoo.com

All completed applications and supporting documentation must be received by the SCNA YN Director by December 31st.

Please complete the information listed on the Application Form on the reverse of this page, and send the completed form to SCNA's YN Director.

SCNA AUSTIN M. SHEHEEN, JR. YOUNG NUMISMATIST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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Name of Nominee if Different from Applicant _____

Address _____

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I give permission for the applicant to apply for the SCNA Scholarship and attend the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado if awarded. The decision of the Scholarship Committee is final. I also give permission to use and publish photographic images of the scholarship winner. Winners are asked to write a report on his/her ANA Seminar experiences.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Signature of Applicant (YN) _____

Completed application, self-nomination letter, at least 2 additional nomination / recommendation documents, and any other supporting material for this application must be received by the SCNA Young Numismatist Director by December 31. Send to:

Will Gragg
SCNA YN Director,
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Annual Dues include mailing of three periodical SCNA Journals unless paperless membership is selected. SCNA Journals will still be available and posted on www.sc-na.org.

I hereby agree to abide by the SCNA Bylaws and Code of Ethics (posted on www.sc-na.org).

_____/_____
Signature Date

Signature of Proposer: _____ / SCNA No. _____

Send Application to the SCNA Membership Secretary:
Stefanie Durham, 6645 Deveau Rd, Sumter, SC 29154

Date Received: _____ (SCNA Use)

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Caveat Emptor. A Sad Story.

By Stephen Kuhl

Late last fall a local South Carolina numismatic dealer uploaded a Facebook post documenting an unfortunate, but all too common, event: A patron came to the store to cash in several certified gold coins. The problem? Unbeknownst to the owner, all the coins he brought in were counterfeit! Wait a second you think, didn't I say these coins were certified? Meaning that all the counterfeits fooled the grading service? Actually, no - the holders are counterfeit too – including the labels and holograms! A counterfeit coin in a counterfeit holder. Wow!

This event reinforces the cautionary advice that when purchasing coins from someone on the internet, it's always a good idea to be very skeptical, unless you know you are dealing with a reputable person. Otherwise, **caveat emptor!**

Believe it or not, in all the years I have been collecting, I have NEVER purchased a collectible coin from the internet. Bullion? Sure, from reputable places like Silvertowne

Sooo we see a lot of counterfeit coins, gold and silver in our shop. This group really hit hard as a gentleman on a fixed income bought these as an investment in gold 4 years ago (eBay seller from another country). With current gold prices he wanted to sell so he could make some money off the increase in value plus he needed the money. All are fake- fake gold and fake holders. This happens a lot. If you are wanting to buy/sell gold or silver find a reputable shop or send me a message and I can help with a list in your area.



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or JM Bullion, but collectible coins?

Nope! This is not to say that I wouldn't – of course I would from reputable dealers that I know, like those that advertise in this magazine. But from eBay or other forums where the buyer is an unknown quantity? I won't take the risk.

When it comes to slabbed coins being genuine or counterfeit, there are four possible combinations, one of which is good, one is insulting but OK, and two are bad bad bad: You can purchase a genuine coin in a genuine holder (the good); a genuine coin in a fake holder (the OK); a counterfeit coin in a genuine holder (the bad); and a fake coin in a fake holder (the bad bad). These combinations are illustrated in the chart that follows:

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COIN	SLAB	COMMENTS
REAL	REAL	This is still the majority of slab coins being sold. "The real thing!"
FAKE	REAL	Fake coin certified by a grading service. Major grading services will reimburse you if they make this error. These instances are being seen in the market, and it affects the confidence of buyers.
REAL	FAKE	Coin tends to be very over-graded, slab will not pass close inspection. More prevalent on eBay than at coin shows.
FAKE	FAKE	More likely on e-Bay (and similar services), swap meets, flea markets etc. Price tends to be a lot lower than market value (too good to be true!)

Shown below are some of the “certified” gold coins that were counterfeit; I’ve also included several photos of other coins that crossed this dealer’s counter and were found to be counterfeit. Notice the “grainy” appearance shown in the closeup of the 2010 coin—clear indication of a cast counterfeit!



My vote for the worst of the worst is the “2023 First Strike PCGS MS70 American Silver Eagle”. Look at the close up shot – what a WRECK!

So what can you do as a buyer?

Coins

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Gene Pruitt

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There are LOTS of things you can do to reduce the risk (of course we'll never completely eliminate the risk.) Here are some suggestions:

Purchasing choices: Make wise choices and only purchase from reputable dealers. Buying in person is often the best option, where you can see and feel the coin

Continued



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Technology: In 2020 PCGS unveiled their Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, where they embed a chip in their coin and currency holders. Per their press release, *...this technology enables collectors to tap their holders with a phone, launching certification information right on the device's screen. This data ensure collectors, dealers, customers, and others that the coin or banknote stated on the label is indeed the piece inside the holder.* Another option, (quite pricy, but if you purchase a lot of raw gold and silver it is probably worth the cost) is purchasing a Sigma Metalytics Precious Metal Verifier. (Aside: Referring back to last October's ANA Counterfeit Detection seminar, Bill Latour shared several tips for using this device, based on his experience with it.)



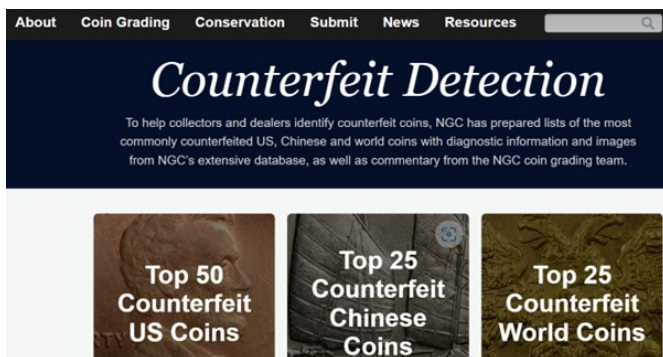
Formal Education: Take formal courses/ seminars such as the one the ANA presented at SCNA's Convention in 2024.

Self-Education: While there are limited options for formal training, there are many options for self-study available via the internet. Note that the quality and accuracy of the content may vary, so consume with a discerning eye. Here are a few to get you started:

- PCGS has a whole series of videos on YouTube covering counterfeit coin detection: Copper Coins; Nickel & Silver Coins; Dollars & Commemoratives; and Gold Coins. It is sad to say that these videos have amazingly low view counts (8,000 to 80,000)



- NGC has an excellent library of knowledge on counterfeits available at <https://www.ngccoin.com/resources/counterfeit-detection>, including the web page available at the link shown in the box, which lists the 50 most counterfeited coins based on what NGC has received in submission for grading. Heck of a way to find out a coin is counterfeit—submit it to a grading service only to have it returned as a fake coin! How disheartening.



Continued

- The ANA has online seminars such as their e-Learning Academy series as well as the following webinars (and more are often added): Detection of Counterfeit and Altered Coins; Introduction to Paper Money Production and Counterfeit Detection; Counterfeit US Gold Coins; Chinese-Made Counterfeit Coins; Counterfeit Detection of Key Dates and Mint marked U.S. Coins; Detection of Counterfeit Slabs
- The Anti-Counterfeiting Educational Foundation (ACEF) at <https://acefonline.org/>. This website contains a wide range of very helpful information on active / current counterfeiting topics, which is important because the counterfeiters always seem to be one step ahead. This site also contains an archive of information going back to 2017. If you have never been on this site, it is worth multiple visits.
- Books, Book, Books! Several books on detecting counterfeits are listed in the article in this issue on the ANA Seminar held in Greenville, SC in 2024. It is noted that the two ANA books (which compiled counterfeit-related articles from *The Numismatist*) are out of print but are available to download for free from the ANA website at [money.org](https://www.money.org/counterfeit-detection-resources/). Here is a link to the page: <https://www.money.org/counterfeit-detection-resources/>.



Counterfeit Detection Volumes I & II

Reprinted from *The Numismatist*

Counterfeit Detection Volumes I & II: Reprints from *The Numismatist* contain significant articles on counterfeit detection that appeared in *The Numismatist* from 1977 through May, 1988.

Not intended to be complete textbooks on numismatic counterfeit detection, rather, these volumes should serve as handy guides to those pieces, both counterfeit and genuine, that are of the greatest concern to collectors.



The point of reviewing and learning all this information is to understand what tools are available for you to use, as well as giving you diagnostic techniques to employ to better protect yourself from counterfeit coins. There is no quick fix for this scourge, and because of the continual advance of technology, it mandates continual learning to keep up with the new ways devised to fool us! Counterfeiting will never be eliminated, but with time, knowledge, publicity, and continuous focus over the long-term perhaps we can collectively keep it tamped down. I began this article with the adage Caveat Empor! I'll end with another adage: Knowledge is POWER! Especially in the world of fake numismatic items.

Shown here is a sampling of the many counterfeit coins that have crossed the dealers counter! Numismatist, protect thyself!



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**June
2025**

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Numismatics depends on the integrity of both Buyers and Sellers. A loss of trust results in lost business and the degradation of the reputation of our hobby. That is why the SCNA has an approved Code of Ethics which governs the conduct of SCNA Members.

SCNA CODE OF ETHICS

A Member must agree to comply with the following standards of conduct:

To support and be governed by the By-Laws of the Association and by any other rules, policies, charters, regulations or other governance-related instruments as may be adopted from time to time by the Executive Board.

To conduct his/her self so as to bring no reproach or discredit to the SCNA, or impair the prestige of its membership.

To conduct all numismatic dealings in a just, fair and moral manner and to make no false statements as to the condition of a numismatic item (altered, counterfeit, or otherwise) or in any other matter.

To neither buy, sell, trade, give or receive numismatic items of which the ownership is unclear or suspect.

To abide by all local, state and federal and to laws; to assist cognizant authorities, if requested, in their investigation of alleged violation of any local, state, or federal law.

Confirmed violation of this Code, as determined by the SCNA Ethics Review Process, will be grounds for disciplinary action of the SCNA Member, as defined in the SCNA By Laws.

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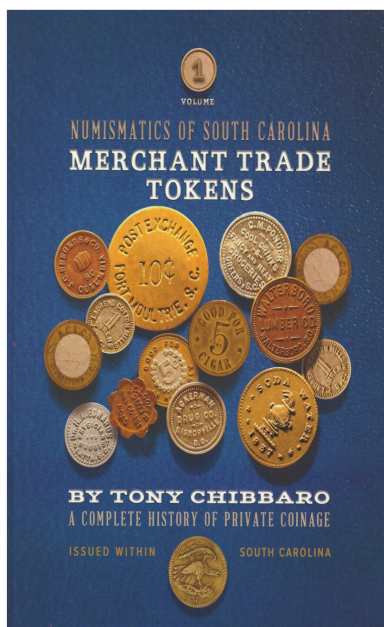
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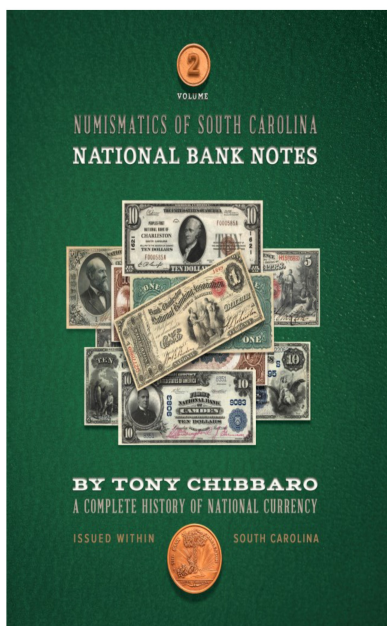
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Announcing



SCNA Annual Auction



The South Carolina Numismatic Association, in conjunction with Brunk Auctions of Asheville, NC is proud to announce the second annual SCNA Coin and Currency Auction! This LIVE AND INTERNET auction will be held on **Thursday, October 23, 2025 in Greenville, SC in conjunction with SCNA's 53rd annual convention!**

Auction! Thursday, 10/23/25: Lot Viewing: 9 am; Auction: 1 PM

Brunk Auctions is accepting consignments for this auction through September 5, 2025. This exclusive auction provides an opportunity to buy and sell high-quality numismatic items. Accordingly, items submitted for consignment should have a minimum retail value of \$400.

Buyers can pre-register on Brunk's website – go to "Upcoming Auctions" and then "Pre-register". There will also be an SCNA link available after June 1. Registration requires entering a valid credit card in order to be able to bid, although you don't have to use that card for purchases (it won't be automatically charged).



brunkauctions.com

**To submit items for this auction, please contact Mr. Greg Capps of Brunk Auctions at 828-254-6846
greg@brunkauctions.com**