

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at America's Best Value Inn on Washington Road
the Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 6, Number 3 THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER March, 2006

Next Meeting, Thursday, March 16, 2006 from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Club Show: A Complete Sell Out with 41 tables Sold ANA Spring Convention in Atlanta April 7, 8 & 9

Club Meeting Calendar for 2006

Jan. 19	May 18	Sept. 21
Feb. 16	June 15	Oct. 19
Mar. 16	July 20	Nov. 16
Apr. 20	Aug. 17	Dec. 21

90 Years Ago— The Amazing Coins of 1916 by Arno Safran



The 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter Dollar

Club Dinner at Logan's Well Attended A Record 41 Tables Sold for Spring Show

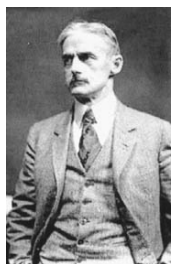
For those who were unable to attend the club dinner at Logan's Steak House on February 9, you missed an enjoyable event and we missed you as well. The food was excellent and the company was great. Forty-one members renewed their membership that night. President Bill Myers received a round of applause for helping to arrange such a delightful occasion.

Meanwhile, our Show Chairman David Chism has reported that our upcoming early Spring show scheduled for March 31 and April 1 has a record 41 tables sold with a number of dealers waiting in the wings to see if they can be squeezed in as substitutes in case of last minute cancellations. The Friday and Saturday event will be held at the Augusta Inn and Conference Center (formerly the Holiday inn) located at 1075 Stephen's Creek Road just around the corner from our present meeting place. Please remember to bring in the donations along with your raffle ticket stubs. These should include the name and telephone number of the donor. The deadline is Saturday, Apr. 1 at 2:00 PM and thanks in advance.

The regular meeting held on the following Thursday, Feb. 16 was also an enjoyable affair. Treasurer Xavier Pique reported a balance of \$7,325.06; this after the club made another \$500 donation to the Hurricane Katrina victims of Pass Christian, MS; in addition to the cost of the Feb. 9 club dinner.

1916 was a banner year for US numismatics for at least four reasons. First, there were the three new design types; the Winged Liberty (*Mercury*) dime, the Standing Liberty Quarter and the Walking Liberty Half Dollar. These replaced Charles Barber's Liberty Head dimes, quarters and halves respectively. Second, 1916 saw the striking of two different design types in a single year as the new designs for the dime and quarter followed the Barber coinage later that same year. The third resulted in the production of two highly popular American rarities; the 1916-D Mercury dime (with a mintage of only 264,000) and the 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter, (with just 52,000 struck), while the fourth represented the continuation of more exquisite new design types begun in 1907 with the Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 gold Double Eagle. It was Theodore Roosevelt—who upon becoming President after the assassination of William McKinley in 1901—recognized that a nation's coinage ought to resonate its goals of peace and strength along with beauty and majesty. He asked Augustus Saint-Gaudens—one of the leading sculptors of the period—to come up with a new design for the \$20 gold piece; today regarded by many as our most beautiful coin. A number of Saint-Gaudens' students and devotees would later achieve similar successes for the US Mint, producing new coinage designs which many numismatists regard as the golden age of United States coinage, (1907-1947).

The Coinage of 1916 (continued from page 1, column 2)



Hermon MacNeil



1917 Type I Standing Liberty Quarter
Far more affordable than the rare 1916 issue

Saint-Gaudens died in 1907 but among his younger contemporaries were Hermon MacNeil (1866-1947) and Adolph Weinman (1870-1952). Both MacNeil and Weinman were already noted sculptors when they entered the competition for new coinage designs announced in late December, 1915 by Mint Director Robert W. Woolley. Despite Chief Engraver Charles Barber's irritation at the prospect of having his 25 year Liberty Head designs replaced, MacNeil and Weinman's new adaptations were chosen in early March of the following year from the many talented artists who entered the design contest. Weinman was actually the winner for two denominations for his *Mercury* dime and Walking Liberty Half Dollar entries.



Adolph Weinman in his Studio

Unlike the rare and expensive 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter issued only at the Philadelphia Mint, the *Mercury* dime was struck at all three Mints, allowing the collector of modest means to purchase the low cost Philadelphia issue or San Francisco offering from MS-63 to 65 without having to take a second mortgage on the house. With the 1916 SL quarter now selling in the five figures from AU-50 on up, most collectors are forced to opt for the 1917 Type I issue pictured above. The date looks almost identical to the 1916 and usually come well struck with lustrous surfaces, even in MS-63. As such, it is priced within the range of most avid collectors.

There is an interesting debate as to who actually posed for the Standing Liberty Quarter. Originally it was believed to be Doris Doscher, a model and sometimes Broadway actress and singer who went by the stage name of Doris Doree. In 1972, a news story suggested that another woman may have been the model. Irene MacDowell; then 92, reported that it was she who had posed for the 1916 quarter. Her husband had been a tennis partner of the sculptor. Like Doris Doscher, Irene MacDowell was an actress and a beauty. The source for this information is found in "Standing Liberty Quarters" by J.H. Cline, a noted dealer in the series.



Doris Doscher



Irene MacDowell

Which beauty was the model for the 1916 SL Quarter?

The model for the Weinman's Winged Liberty *Mercury* dime has never been in doubt. In addition to being a great artist, Weinman was frugal in matters of business and owned property in New York. One of the young couples who rented an apartment in his building was the now famous poet Wallace Stevens and his attractive wife Elsie. It was she who Weinman asked to pose for the new dime. For collectors who like to collect two different design types of the same date and denomination, acquiring a 1916 P Mint Barber and Mercury dime are affordable from VF-35 thru MS-64 and make for an attractive pairing as long as they are approximately in the same grade.

Even a circulated pairing of 1916 Barber & Mercury dimes make for a nice display yet cost very little.



Of all three innovative silver coinage designs initiated in 1916, Weinman's Walking Liberty Half dollar is perhaps the most eloquent. The grace of the slender figure of Liberty is arguably equal to Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold Striding Liberty design while the fully feathered eagle on the reverse of the half dollar is among the finest renditions of our national bird ever to appear on a coin. Both the 1916 and '16-D (with mintmark on obverse) are more affordable than the 1916-S and can be acquired in AU-50 thru MS-63 within a reasonable price range, though certified specimens are recommended.



This 1916 Walking Liberty Half Dollar graded MS-66 by PCGS just realized \$3,200 in the Heritage Signature Sale on March 2, 2006. A MS-63 specimen would cost closer to \$400; an AU around \$250.



J.I.M. - Part 2 BURMA by Bill Myers

The Japanese invaded and took control of Burma in January 1942. Burma JIM is a short series. The series is noted by the letter "B" in red, block letters. There are no serial numbers. They are in the denominations of cents and rupees. Each denomination was also produced as specimen notes, which are the most expensive. These will not be listed below. There were also counterfeit Burma JIM, not printed by the Burmese but by the United States and Great Britain. They were for use by agents working in support of the allies. The British Special Operations Executive (SOE) requested 1 million 10-rupee and 200,000 1-rupee counterfeit notes. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) requested 25,000 10-rupee notes.

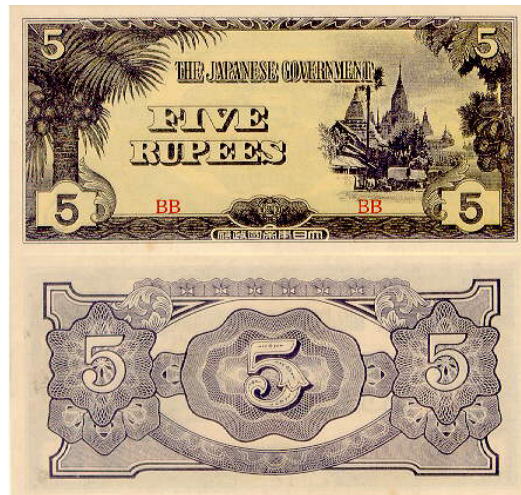
The fractional JIM notes of Burma come in the value of 1, 5, and 10 cents. The face has "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT", the denomination written out and in numeral form, and red block letters. The back has the numeral denomination in the center and corners on an ornate design. The bills are lithographed.



The varieties are:

- 1 cent - block letters; fractional block letters,
- 5 cents-block letters, fractional block letters
- 10 cents-block letters; fractional block letters

There are six different denominations of rupee notes. The face and back of the 1/4 rupee is designed like the fractional notes. The face of the 1/2 to 100 rupee notes continue to have "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT" and the denomination, spelled out and as a numeral, as well as a picture of the Anaconda Temple at Pagan. Additional features on the face of the notes are as follows. The 1 rupee note has a breadfruit tree on the left with the temple on the right. The 5 rupees has a coconut palm on the left and a pawpaw tree with the temple on the right. (See next column, ed.)



The 10 rupees note has a large Roman numeral "X" and a coconut palm on the left and a coconut palm and the temple on the right. The 100 rupees note has "100" and a coconut palm on the left and the temple on the right. The back of these bills have the denomination numeral repeated on an ornamental design, as on the fractional notes as shown below.



In addition, the 10-rupees note has the denomination spelled out at the center. A quatrefoil (flower with four petals) watermark is found on these notes, except where noted below. The varieties that you will find are as follows:

- 1/4 rupee - block letters only, no watermark;
- 1/2 rupee - block letters only;
- 1 rupee - blocks 75 mm apart; -
SOE counterfeit, blocks 75mm apart, no watermark; -
blocks 78 mm apart;
- 5 rupees- block letters only;
- 10 rupees-block letters 8 mm wide and 67-74 mm apart; -
-SOE counterfeit, block letters, no watermark;
- OSS counterfeit, block letters, watermark, no line in design;
- OSS counterfeit, block letters-orange, 7.5 mm wide,
72 mm apart, watermark, no line in design -
block letters 6.75 mm wide, 67-69 mm apart,
no watermark, silk threads in paper.

More Club News (continued from page 1)

Member Gordon Farmer Wins Prestigious Award

In other club news, Glenn Sanders reported that member Gordon Farmer was named "Citizen of the Year: 2005" for North Augusta. Congratulations, Gordon. For members who do not know Gordon all that well, he is a multi-faceted collector who not only enjoys coins, but also coin weights, antique cars, old clocks, even gold mines to name just a few. For a while, Gordon was the proprietor of a gold mine located between Lincolnton and Washington, GA. Gordon has been collecting Dahlonga gold coins for a considerable number of years and has completed a date set or close to it. At one of our Show and Tells back in August, '05, he brought in one of the rarest of the rare, an 1854-D \$2.50 gold Quarter Eagle, mintage; a scant 874. It was certified in a NGC AU-55 holder. We miss you Gordon and hope you will rejoin us soon.

At the Feb. 16 meeting, winners of the Silver Eagle Attendance drawings were members Carl Clark and Arno Safran. John Attaway took the 50/50; \$58.00. Congratulations gentlemen!

Big Show Coming Up in Atlanta APR. 7-9

President Bill Myers announced that the weekend after our show here in Augusta, the American Numismatic Association (ANA) will be holding a major convention at the Cobb Galleria located just northwest of Atlanta in Smyrna on Cobb Parkway (AKA Federal Rte. 41).

Directions are simple. Take I-20 west to Atlanta into Rtes I-75/ I-85. At the "big" split, continue northwest on I-75 exiting at Exit 258 towards Cumberland Boulevard. Turn left on Cumberland Blvd SE; then right onto Cobb Parkway; then slightly right again onto Galleria Parkway SE. The big convention center is right there.

The Convention is open to the public at no charge (including free parking) and the hours are Fri. Apr. 7 and Sat. Apr. 8 from **9:00 AM to 6:30 PM**; Sun. Apr. 9 **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. *Word of advice: Most major dealers don't hang around for Sundays, leaving local dealers to fill in their spots.*

Club Planning To Take Table at ANA Convention

In addition, President Myers has negotiated with the ANA staff to provide our club with a table where we can display information, perhaps sell some 2005 and 2006 club medallions and distribute back issues of the newsletter. Some volunteers will be welcomed to share in this task.

If you've never attended a large show, this may be your only opportunity to do so until next January's big FUN show down in Orlando but that's close to a seven hour drive whereas Atlanta is only slightly more than two hours. Whether you spend \$1,000 or nary a dime, there is much to see numismatically at this kind of event. Make no mistake about it. An ANA Convention is an extravaganza. The US Mint usually takes a booth there. There are dealers in Foreign, Ancients and US coins along with specialists in Tokens and Medals, paper money and scrip.

In other club news, President Myers mentioned that the club is considering moving towards computer generated "slide" programs via power point presentations for our programs. He also encouraged more members bring in coins or other numismatic items for Show and Tell.

The Program

At our Feb. 16 meeting, Arno Safran continued his slide talk on Latin American coins; some of which were legal tender in the United States until 1857. First shown were some Ferdinand VII copper pieces called *Tlacos* (meaning *tokens*) struck to drive out the poor quality private Hacienda tokens. Next came an 8 *Reales* piece displaying the portrait of Augustin Iturbide; a silver dollar-sized coin dated 1822. His rule was short lived after the Mexican legislature realized he had proclaimed himself Emperor Augustin with delusions of conquering all of Central America. This was followed by a series of early Republican silver coins showing the famed Phrygian Cap & Rays reverse. The obverse displayed an eagle upon a cactus with a snake in its beak. This type lasted from 1824 to 1909 despite occasional interruptions. The Cap & Rays were issued in the denominations of 8 *Reales*; (\$1.00), 4 *Reales* (50¢, scarce), 2 *Reales*, (25¢), 1 *Real*, (12½¢) and ½ *Real*. (6¼¢). Arno even showed a tiny ¼ *Real* equivalent to our 3¢ piece valued at 3&1/8¢ at the time of issue.



The copper *Tlacos* of Ferdinand VII (1/16, 1/8 and 1/4 *Reales*) These coins were issued to drive out the hacienda tokens that were somewhat debased compared to these Royalist pieces.

A friendly reminder that 2006 dues is still due for some!



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