

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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 Treas Xavier Pique
 Sgt. In Arms Marv Blalock
 Board of Directors:
 Glenn Sanders, Larry Lucree and
 Howard Black



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Volume 6, Number 4

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April, 2006

Next Meeting, Thursday, April 20, 2006 from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Show Sets Record! Atlanta ANA, Great for Club

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

One of Our Best Shows Ever

Our Spring Show held on March 31 and April 1 set a new record; 41 tables sold, thanks again to the efforts of our bourse chairman, David Chism. President Myers reported that an estimated 150 persons attended the two day event. When asked how visitors learned about the show, their replies included the following: 1. club members spreading the word, 2. from coin publications, 3. the two coin shops; Augusta Coin Exchange and Clein's Rare Coins; 4. also postcards sent, 5. road signs and from the local media—6. TV and 7. newspapers. Treasurer Xavier Pique reported that after all expenses, the Show netted the Club almost \$2,000. Helping out at the Welcoming Desk were Marvin Blalock, Glenn Sanders, Howard Black, Ian Rule, Bill Myers and Arno Safran along with others. Thanks all! The dealers appeared very satisfied and are expected to return.

The raffle winners were:

- 1st Prize: member Christopher Lucree who won: a ¼ oz gold Eagle
- 2nd Prize: Randy Blunt— 1/10 oz gold Eagle
- 3rd Prize: member Larry Lucree—a 2005 silver proof set
- 4th Prize—Chris Lucree again—an MS-63 Morgan dollar
- 5th Prize—member Floyd Brown— a 2006 Silver Eagle

Congratulations go out to all the winners. The club also wishes to thank Howard Black for making a raffle tickets tumbler.

Our next show is scheduled for November 17 & 18 at the Belair Conference Center, 4081 S. Belair Road in Augusta just off Exit 194 of I-20. The new site will house 45 dealers.

(More Club News continues on page 4, column 1)

190 Years Ago— The Coin of 1816 and a Look Back at 1815

By Arno Safran



An 1816 Coronet Large Cent, the first year of the series (1816-39)

For those reading this who think there may be a typo in the subtitle, "the Coin of 1816" please be assured, there is no typo. In 1816, only one denomination was produced by the US Mint at Philadelphia and that was the cent. How did this happen? The Coinage Act of April 2, 1792 had authorized ten denominations; but only once, in 1796, were all ten struck in a single year. For years, including the months that led up to the War of 1812, the Mint received all its copper planchets for both half cents and large cents from Matthew Boulton's Manufactory located in Soho-Birmingham, England. In 1807, the men of the British frigate, "Leopold" attempted to board the American vessel "Chesapeake" in search of deserters. When the American Captain refused, they shot a broadside at the Chesapeake killing three and wounding 18, boarding anyway; carrying off four deserters. President Jefferson, rather than declare war, ordered an embargo against all British goods. The embargo failed due to the smuggling activities that were rampant at the time. The British continued to harass American ships in search of deserters who could not abide the poor conditions on board. Mint Director William Patterson was having great difficulty obtaining planchets (*copper blanks*) until war prevented him from receiving any at all. After the war ended on Dec. 24, 1814,

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

190 Years Ago: The Coin of 1816 (continued from page 1)

at the Treaty of Ghent) more shipments of planchets would eventually be resumed but they did not arrive soon enough for any 1815 cents to be coined. This would be the only date when no US cents were issued. In fact, it would not be until late 1816 that the Mint would receive a sufficient number of copper blanks to produce more cents. Towards the end of the war, Director Patterson had used the last remaining cent blanks to coin 1814 Classic Head Cents, and many of these immediately went out to pay Mint employees their back wages which Congress had denied them.



An 1814 classic Head Cent, S-294 variety with crosslet 4,
Many of these went out to pay mint workers their back wages

The Classic Head design, arguably our most beautiful to appear on the cent, large or small, was first struck in 1808 and was the work of John Reich. After arriving from Germany, Reich served as an indentured servant to a silversmith but was later freed on the recommendation of chief coiner Henry Voight. One of Reich's earlier works was the Indian peace Medal struck in 1801. Now highly regarded as an engraver, Reich was brought in as Assistant to Chief Engraver Robert Scot in 1807 and was asked by Mint Director Patterson to redesign all our coinage. Patterson, a Democratic-Republican under President Jefferson wanted the coinage to reflect something other than Federalist ideology, though how one can visual this stylistically from our coinage remains an enigma to this day. Reich's Classic Head (sometimes called Turban Head) design appeared on the cent from 1808 through 1814.

Today, Classic Head cents are considered scarce in problem-free condition from G-4 on up. Many of the cent blanks arrived appearing dark and corroded; the result of being stored in kegs placed in the damp holds of the ships; somewhat similar if not identical to the conditions many of the British deserters endured. Obtaining a chocolate brown Classic Head cent, free of problems, has always sold at a premium to collectors. During the War of 1812 copper was needed by manufacturers who would melt coins as quickly as they were received. The Mint was ordered not to coin any cents leaving many Mint workers bereft of wages. When the order was finally rescinded in 1814, the last 360,000 planchets were coined into 1814 Classic Head cents. Patterson quickly sent Matthew Boulton a substantial order for more large cent size planchets. Unfortunately, the 950,000 copper blanks he requested were not received until December, 1815, almost one full year after the Treaty of Ghent was signed.

Near the end of 1816 a new cent design was authorized. Some believe the new type was done by the aging Robert Scot but numismatic scholar, Robert Julian, now considers it was Reich who created the less attractive Liberty Head due to failing eyesight. The Coronet type has been dubbed with the not so complimentary sobriquet, "Matron Head".

1815 Coinage

Without copper planchets available, the Mint struck two silver denominations in 1815; the Quarter (featuring Reich's Capped Bust design for the first time on the 25¢ coin) and the Bust half, (the key date of that series). The mintage was relatively small for both; 89,235 for the quarter and just 47,150 for the half dollar. Both were coined as overdates; (1815/2). The gold coinage was lower still. Except for the \$5.00 gold Half Eagle—which only four are known to exist out of the reported 635 struck—no other gold coins were struck in 1815.



1815 Capped Bust Quarter and Half dollar obverses



1815 Capped Bust Quarter and Half Dollar reverses

1816 Coinage

Towards the end of 1815 into early January 1816, the Mint produced 2,820,982 cents with the new Coronet design. Not long afterwards, a devastating fire destroyed most of the Mint's equipment in the melting room and it took virtually the entire year for the structure to be rebuilt – only this time with a brick facade. As a result of the disaster no other coinage was produced in 1816 other than the cent denomination.

Those wishing to have one example of the only coin issued in 1816 will not have to pay a great deal of money as it is a rather common date. Of the nine varieties struck that year, the second known die variety; the N-2 surfaces with the most frequency, especially in mint state. (The N stands for Harold Newcomb, noted attributor of the series.) The variety was found in large numbers as part of the famed Randall Hoard of large cents discovered after the Civil War. It is that variety which is pictured at the head of page one, column two. Happy hunting!



The 1801 Jefferson obverse Indian Peace Medal of John Reich

J.I.M. Part 3: Malaya

By Bill Myers



A J.I.M. \$1.00 note issued for Malaya during WW II

Malaya fell to the Japanese in December, 1941. The Japanese issued their own currency for Malaya. Printed in denominations of cents and dollars, these notes were once advertised as money the Japanese printed in preparation for invasion of the United States, but this was not true. The series letters are “M” and the block letters are black unless otherwise noted. There are varieties both with and without a quatrefoil (flower with four petals) watermark as noted below. Most are lithographed but some of the higher denominations have engraved faces.

The Fractionals

The \$1¢, 5¢ and 10¢ notes have “THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT” with the denomination spelled out and in numeral form on the face and repeated in numeral form in an ornate design on the back. These notes have no watermark.



A Ten Cent J.I.M. Malaysian note of W.W. II

The 50¢ notes have the addition of “PROMISES TO PAY THE BEARER ON DEMAND” and a fan palm on the right added to the face. Varieties for these Fractionals are as follows:

- 1 cent: block letters; fractional block letters
- 5 cents—block letters; fractional block letters
- 10 cents—block letters; fractional block letters
- 50 cents—block letters MA, MB, no watermark; Block MC-MT; with watermark

The Dollar Notes

There are five denominations of dollar notes; the \$1, \$5, \$10, \$100 and \$1000 and most are engraved.

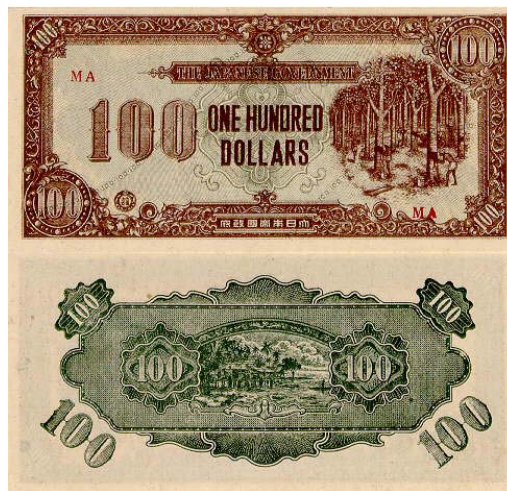
The face has “JAPANESE GOVERNMENT” and “PROMISES TO PAY THE BEARER ON DEMAND” (except for the second issue of the \$100 note.) The denomination is spelled out and in numerical form. The back of the \$1 and \$5 have the denomination in numerals as an ornate design. The \$10, \$100 and \$1000 have a vignette along with the repeated denomination in numerals.

The authentic \$1 notes have a breadfruit tree on the left and a coconut palm on the right of the face. (See example on column one at left.) The face of the \$5 note has a coconut palm on the left and a pawpaw on the right.. The authentic \$10 notes have bananas, breadfruit and coconuts pictured in the center of the face. There are two styles of \$100 notes. On the first style, there is a hut under palms on the face and a man with buffalos in the river on the back.



A J.I.M. Malaya \$100 Note—First style

The second style note has a rubber plantation on the right side of the face and native houses and seashore on the back.



A J.I.M. \$100 Malaya Note—Second style

The final note of the series is the \$1000. The face has two buffalos pulling a cart and the back is like the \$100 note—first style.

Most of the replicas of these notes originated in Europe and were probably created as premiums (like baseball cards). They have no watermark and are lithographed.

More Club News (Continued from page 1, column 1) Club Takes Table at ANA Convention in Atlanta

Earlier this month President Bill Myers arranged with the American Numismatic Association for our club to have a table near the entrance to the main bourse at the Spring ANA Money Show. The convention was held at the Cobb Galleria in northwest Atlanta (*Smyrna*) Fri. thru Sun. April 7-9 and represented a numismatic event on a national scale. More than 800 dealers set up at an ANA show offering an array of type coins, tokens and medals, bank notes and scrip from the US and from all over the world, past and present. ANA convention rules allow for only four representatives of a regional club to set up a display table and all must be members of the American Numismatic Association. Representing our club were Marvin Blacklock, David Chism, Bill Myers and Arno Safran. Glenn Sanders stopped by and also helped out but Marv was content to man the booth for most of the time and his efforts in selling some 2006 club medallions and lanyards while also signing up free memberships and distributing newsletters proved to be tremendous. Thank you, Marv.

Three other area clubs participated along side Augusta; the Metropolitan Club of Atlanta (MCCA), the Rockdale Coin Club and the Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) that represents the state. The South Carolina Numismatic Association (SCNA) also had a booth located in the corridor leading to the bourse area. As part of the "Join a Local Coin Club for free" promo sponsored by Al Adams and Gold Rush Galleries, our Club recruited 14 new members which puts us very close to the century mark for 2006.

Other Convention Highlights for Our Club

There's more to a major numismatic convention than just buying and selling. There are slide programs held hourly in private rooms off the main bourse and a major exhibits area located towards the front-side of the main convention hall. This attendee had an opportunity to peruse the vast exhibit area and saw some incredible displays. Three of them looked familiar as they were set up by our own Bill Myers. These included the one on POGS which won "Best In Show" at the F.U.N. Show held in Orlando, FL last January. Bill also had two other exhibits; one on Puffin Coins, the subject of a previous article appearing some months ago in this newsletter and another entitled "Clasped Hands". The latter won third place in the Common Design Category and his "Puffin Coins" took 2nd Prize in the National Coin Week competition. Congratulations, Bill.

Review of the March 16 Meeting

Our General Show Chairman, David Chism gave a report on the upcoming Spring Show set for Mar. 31 & Apr. 1, at the new location; the Augusta Inn and Conference Center, expecting a record turnout of dealers. The new members signed up at the meeting, Brian Hoyt and J.T. Williams. Welcome gentlemen. Treasurer Xavier Pique reported a balance of \$6,164.52 in our treasury. Prize winners included Butch Harris and Barry Bolgla, both winning 206 Silver Eagles. The 50/50 was won by Gary James—\$64.00. Congratulations go out to the winners.

There were three Show & Tells; one by Rhonda Scoggins who displayed a military challenge coin used by her husband between 1976 and 1980. Gordon Farmer showed more

examples of Dahlonge gold coinage and Bill Myers displayed Military Payment Certificates and other aspects of MPC's such as scrip, chits, challenge coins-to be carried at all times-; also ration cards and various tokens. These he acquired while attending a MPC Convention held at Fort Clinton, OH near Lake Erie. Most of these were World War II related.

Speaking of WW II related items, Bill will be presenting a full length program, entitled J.I.M. (*Japanese Invasion Money*) at our upcoming meeting on Thursday, April 20. The series has been appearing in our club newsletter but you will enjoy it a lot more when you see the fantastic slides Bill has prepared—using our new digital projector.

The March Program

Arno Safran concluded his series of slide talks on *Latin American Coins that were Legal Tender in the United States until 1857* with the segment on Central America. From 1824 through 1838, the five countries that make up Central America; Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica formed a loose confederation and issued silver and gold coinage. The silver consisted of the 8 *Reales*, 2R, 1R, ½R and ¼R.



An 1824 Central American Republic 8 Reales showing volcanoes representing the five Central American countries with Ceiba Tree on reverse.



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