

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

Pres. William Myers
V.P. Arno Safran
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Xavier Pique
Sgt. in Arms: Marvin Blalock
and Bryan Hoyt



Club Mailing Address
Augusta Coin Club
P.O. Box 2084
Evans, GA 30809
Web site:
www.augustacoinclub.org

Special Duties
Webmaster: Xavier Pique
Newsletter editor, Arno Safran
E-mail: amosafran@comcast.net
Bourse Chairman, David Chism
Auction: David Chism & Glenn Sanders
Bids Recorder, Marvin Blalock

Volume 8, Number 5

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May, 2008

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2008 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

May 2, 3 Club Show, A Huge Success

Club Meeting Calendar for 2008

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

46 Tables Sold, Dealers and Collectors Pleased



Member Larry Lucree with client during the height of our Show
(Photo courtesy of Bill Myers)

Kudos to our Bourse Chairman David Chism and all those who helped out for making our most recent two day numismatic event the most successful in the history of the Augusta Coin Club. In canvassing the dealers as well as collectors and club members, virtually everybody was satisfied with both the surroundings and the camaraderie that took place. In the final analysis, 46 tables were sold. With all expenses paid, the club netted a respectful sum and over \$200 in 2008 medallions were sold. At 3:45 PM on Saturday David Chism drew the raffle ticket stubs out of the wonderful hopper member Howard Black made for the club and here are the results of that drawing: The first prize was a 1/4 oz. gold eagle and it went to Thomas Leonard. Member Joe Ervin took the second prize; the 1/10 oz gold eagle. The 3rd prize was a 2007 silver proof set (with 14 coins in it) that was won by Virginia Justice. Member Donald Youngs took the fourth prize a certified BU MS-64 1902-O Morgan dollar and Dave Hoover won the fifth prize, a 2008 silver eagle. Congratulations to all the winners. Our upcoming meeting is May 15 and our next Show is Nov. 14 & 15, two weeks prior to Thanksgiving.

(More Club News continued at the bottom of page 4, column 1)

The Coins of 1798 (excluding gold): 210 Years Ago

By Arno Safran



A 1798 Draped Bust/ Small Eagle Silver dollar, B-2 R4,
(Courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives)

During the early years of our republic, the Philadelphia Mint had a difficult time producing sufficient coinage for circulation. Copper had to be ordered from Birmingham, England. Our silver and gold reserves were largely unknown and there were just enough members in Congress whose dubious feelings about our coinage program succeeded in keeping the Mint's budget at a minimum. To make matters worse, a Yellow Fever epidemic arose during the summer months and Philadelphia seemed to be the epicenter affecting the mint employees and engravers. In those days there was more than enough coinage from the Spanish Mints in Latin America to produce plenty of circulating bullion coinage for use here and abroad. Despite all these obstacles, our early coinage designs kept improving and reached artistic mastery when the majestic Heraldic Eagle reverse replaced the scrawny small eagle on the reverses of the Draped Bust silver dollar and dime in 1798.



A 1798 Draped Bust/ Heraldic Eagle Silver dollar, B-22 R2,
(Courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives)

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

The Coins of 1798 (excluding gold): 210 Years Ago

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



1798 \$1.00 small and large eagle reverses
[Courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives]

Compared with the output of the various US mints during the past 100 years, our early US coinage was not struck in very large numbers and 1798 was no exception. Excluding the rare and expensive three gold issues, there were only three denominations struck that year. These included the cent with more than 1.8 million, the dime with just 27,550 and the silver dollar with a reported mintage of 327,536. (No half-cents, half-dimes, quarters or half dollars were issued with the 1798 date). The overall obverse design featured the Draped Bust Liberty type (since 1795). The rendering of Miss Liberty by our first Chief engraver Robert Scot was allegedly based on Gilbert Stuart's portrait of Anne Bingham, an attractive Philadelphia Socialite who was married to Pennsylvania Senator William Bingham. The reverse of the first 1798 dollars displayed John Eckstein's small eagle type but after an unknown amount were released, Chief Engraver Scot adapted the Great Seal of the United States as the centerpiece of his new Heraldic Eagle and these were coined in larger numbers. Today the 1798 small eagle dollar type is valued at about three times the Heraldic eagle reverse type.



A 1798/7 Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle dime graded MS-65 by NGC
[Courtesy of Heritage Auctions archives]
This is the more common 16 stars reverse.
[Magnification of 200% to 500% will show the overdate and 16 stars on rev.]

No such transition occurred with the 1798 dime. Produced with the small eagle in 1796 and 97, the Heraldic Eagle reverse was placed on all 1798 Draped Bust dimes from the get go. However there is an over date 1798/97 with 16 stars (the 16th representing Tennessee's admission to the Union) and another with the regular 13 stars which is scarcer to go along with the 1798 normal date which comes with a regular size 8 and a small 8; the latter variety much scarcer and priced accordingly.



A toned 1798 normal date Draped Bust dime graded MS-63 by NGC
With 13 stars reverse. [Magnify page up to 500% for details.]
[Courtesy of Heritage Auctions archives]



The 1798/97 10¢ 16 and 13 stars reverses side by side
Courtesy of Heritage Auctions Archives
[Magnify page 200% to 500% to view details.]

As a date, the 1798 dime used to be the third least expensive behind the 1805 and 1807 issues but with so many collectors vying for early US type today, it may only be affordable in an AG to VG state of preservation. Certified specimens are recommended.



A 1798 Draped Bust Large Cent, S-157 R2 1st Hair style normal date
from the renowned Walter Husak collection. Graded AU-58 by PCGS
[Courtesy of Heritage Auctions Archives] Magnify page 200% to view details.
The reported mintage was 1,841,745 for all known die varieties.

If a collector wishes to acquire one US coin bearing an 18th century date, the 1798 large cent is easily the most accessible and least costly. The more than 1.8 million issued in 1798 surpassed all previous cent dates and types (1793-97) and is affordable for a modest price up to Fine-12. Like the dime, the 1798 cent came with an overdate and a normal date but since so many more dies were used on the cent, the overdates can be divided into the close overdate (catalogued as Sheldon-150 & 151) and the wider over date (S-152).



This 1798/7 cent struck off center was graded AU-50 by PCGS
At 500% magnification one can see the top of the upper bar of the 7 above the 8 and the slanted vertical bar inside the lower loop of the 8.
[Courtesy of Heritage Auctions Archives]

1798 cents are also known for having two styles of hair. The renowned large cent collector and attributor Dr. William Sheldon cites in his *Penny Whimsy* these diagnostics: "On style 2 there is a conspicuous extra curl superimposed on the mass of hair, about 3 mm from the latter edge of the lowest curl and on a direct line between the latter and forelock. Once this extra curl is noted it can never be overlooked."



1798 1¢s showing the 1st hair style at left and 2nd hair style at right.
[from the Husak collection. Courtesy of Heritage Auctions Archives]

The Coins of 1798 (excluding gold), 210 Years Ago

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



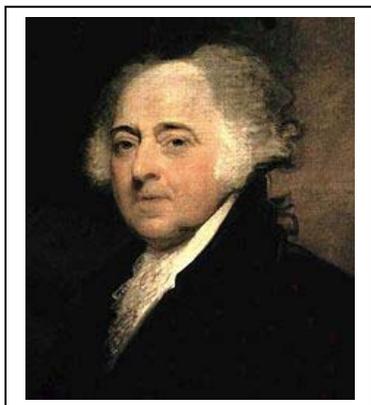
The Obverses of a 1798 three piece year set

From the author's collection [Magnify to 200% to see details.]

1798 \$1.00, B-15, PCGS-40, 1798/7 10¢ JR-1, NGC-40 and 1¢ S-267 VF-30

The 1798 coins pictured on the preceding pages were used for observational purposes to show the subtle differences among the major die varieties for that year. As a collector who was once a member of the teaching profession and therefore compelled to live on an income commensurate with middle class values, it would be virtually impossible to obtain any of those beauties without winning the power ball or some other significant lottery. That said, over the years the writer was able to acquire a 1798 large cent in VF, a Draped Bust dime and Large eagle Bust dollar certified XF-40 as shown above. Needless to say, this numismatic goal would be elusive today.

When collecting coins from a different era I have wondered what their purchasing power was at the time of their issue compared with today's. Here's what I learned. Based on 2008 statistics, the 1798 large cent would have had the spending power of 17½¢, the Draped Bust dime, \$1.75 and the silver dollar, \$17.50. The three coins together could acquire goods valued at almost \$20.00 today. If the rare and extremely high priced 1798 gold coins were included in this survey, the \$2.50 quarter eagle would purchase \$43.75 worth of goods, the \$5.00 half eagle, \$87.50, and the ten dollar gold eagle, a whopping \$175.00. Add the current bullion value to these figures and the purchasing power would rise even more. Struck 210 years ago, these 1798 coins might seem ancient to a young numismatist or downright modern to a collector of Greek and Roman. Somewhere between these two perspectives, the cent, dime and dollar of 1798 may just be numismatic goals worth pursuing.



John Adams was President of the United States in 1798 and was a member of the Federalist Party. The most controversial law passed during his administration was the Alien and Sedition Act which the Democratic-Republican Party of Thomas Jefferson thought to be unconstitutional on the grounds that it restricted freedom of speech.

WW II U.S. EMERGENCY NOTES

By Bill Myers NORTH AFRICA



The face of the \$1.00 North Africa Silver Certificate

Last month the Hawaii overprint notes were discussed. The North Africa Emergency Notes were the next to be issued.

A special issue of Silver Certificates was issued for the invasion of North Africa (Operation Torch) on November 8, 1942. They were also used in Sicily. The notes had a yellow Treasury seal, instead of the usual blue seal of that time. If a large amount of the notes fell into enemy hands, they could be declared valueless. All of the notes bear the signatures of Julian and Morgenthau and there are replacement (star) notes available, but these are more difficult to find and are expensive to purchase. All numbers given are Friedberg classification numbers. The \$1 is series 1935A (2306), the face of which is shown above...

The \$5 note is series 1934A (2307).



The face of the \$5.00 North Africa Silver Certificate

The \$10 note is series 1934 (2308), which is quite rare, and 1934A (2309). There is an interesting variation, as well. The North Africa \$10 notes were made to look like the Federal Reserve Notes by making the yellow Treasury seal and blue serial numbers green and adding a fake Federal Reserve Bank seal. It is unknown why this would be done, as the notes are still legal tender. These are collectable as well.



The face of the \$10.00 North Africa Silver Certificate

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

WW II U.S. EMERGENCY NOTES

(Continued from the preceding page)

I have completed my type-set of these notes, which show how World War II had far-reaching effects on our country, including its monetary system.



North Africa Emergency Notes Table

\$1	1935A	Silver Certificate	Julian/Morgenthau	2306
\$5	1934A	Silver Certificate	Julian/Morgenthau	2307
\$10	1934	Silver Certificate	Julian/Morgenthau	2308
	1934A	Silver Certificate	Julian/Morgenthau	2309

References:

- Benford, Timothy. WWII Emergency Currency @ www.helium.com/tm/237996/invasion-prompted-emergency-currency
- Friedberg, Arthur L. and Ira S. Paper Money of the United States, 12th Ed. The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc. pp 212-3.
- Schwan, C.F., Boling, J.E. World War II Remembered – History in Your Hands, A Numismatic Study. BNR Press. 1995, pp 401, 430-1.

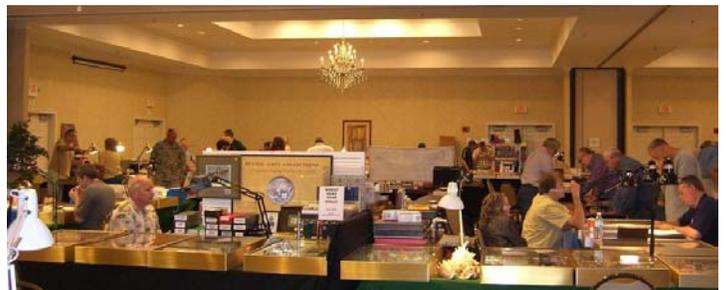
More Club News (Continued from page 1, column 1)

At our April 17 meeting Xavier Pique presented a PowerPoint program entitled, “My Dream with Gold” It featured all the major US Gold types issued for circulation from 1795 through 1933. At the onset, Xavier explained the purpose and boundaries of the subject by stressing such terms as “virtual

collection” pricing along with the highest affordable grade for common issues in problem-free condition. The club thanks Xavier for another informative numismatic survey.

The one new item of business had to do with holding a pizza party at one of our upcoming meetings in lieu of a dinner and the members responded favorably; the meeting date to be discussed at our next get together. The prize winners at the April 17 meeting were Tom McBurney and Bennie Bolgla; each winning a silver eagle and J.C. Williams who won \$78.00 in the 50/50 drawing. Congratulations gentlemen! Our next meeting is May 15 at America’s Best Values Inn. President Bill Myers will present a program on the P Mint. See you there.

More Highlights from our Show



There was lots of bourse action at our May 2, 3 Show as shown. [Photo courtesy of Bill Myers]

Kindly Patronize Our Advertisers



Clein’s Rare Coins

1255 Telfair St. Augusta, GA 30901
between 12th and 13th Streets

Buying & Selling U.S. Coins, Currency & Confederate
-ALL GOLD & SILVER BULLION
(Eagles, K-Rands, Maple Leafs & Pandas)
COIN APPRAISALS



ANA
LIFE MEMBER
LM-4691

WAYNE DAMRON
Phone & Fax (706)-722-9945
T-F 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Sat. 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.



Augusta Coin Exchange

Fine Rare Coins

Buying US Coins, Currency, Gold and silver Bullion

4015 Washington Rd. Suite L Martinez, GA 30907
between Columbia and Flowing Wells Roads



Larry Lucree
PH 706-210-5486
Evenings 706-339-7275

ANA Member #R-21285
Mon-Fri. 10:30 am–4:30 pm
Sat. 8:00 am–1:30 pm