

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. Steve Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Xavier Pique
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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: arnosafran@comcast.net
Bourse Chairman, David Chism
Auction: Glenn Sanders
Bids Recorder, David Chism

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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October, 2011

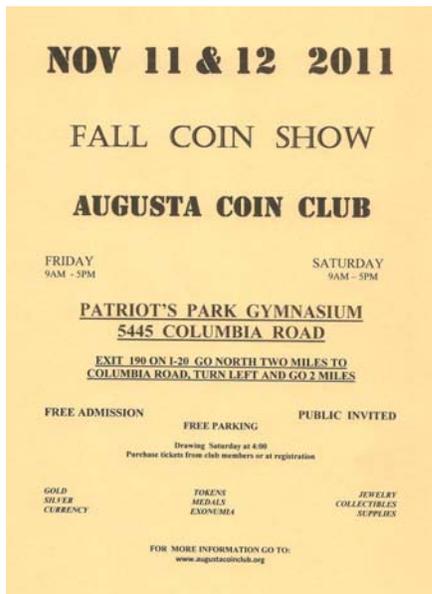
Our Next Meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

Fall Show, Nov. 11 & 12 at Patriot's Park

Club Meeting Calendar for 2011

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

Club's Annual Fall Show 3½ Weeks Away



Flyer for Club's Upcoming Fall Show

[Use 3X power glass or magnify to 200% to read fine print]

The flyer says it all. We need volunteers to help with the set up, welcoming desk and take down and greater attendance from the public (including our own club members) to bring about the show's success. Please try to sell at least one book of raffle tickets @\$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Better yet, with well over 100 members on the 2011 club roster, if each member sells one book and buys another for him or herself, the club will earn at least \$1,000 thereby defraying the cost of the prizes which include gold and silver coins. Return the cash along with the stubs with names and phone numbers to the show no later than Saturday, Nov. 12 by 2:00 PM and thanks in advance.

(More Show Information and Club News on page 4, column 1)

Collecting Capped Bust Quarters: Part Two

Reduced Size issues By Arno Safran



Obverses of an 1828 large Bust 25¢ and 1831 small Bust 25¢
[Use 3X glass or magnify to 200% to see details on all coins displayed.]

During the last ten years, collecting early US quarters (1796-1838) has become more challenging. With an increase in the collector base during the past decade, less problem-free examples have been surfacing. Throughout its first four decades quarter dollar mintages seldom exceeded 300,000 in a single year. In fact, it would not be until 1835 that the 25¢ coin would reach a million in production with almost 2 million made. Compare those figures with the billions struck annually today.

The last large size Bust quarters were produced in 1828. In 1829 a number of our coins began to be struck in a closed collar that established a standard diameter for each denomination. In 1831 quarter production was resumed but the size of the coin was substantially reduced from 27 mm to 24.3 mm, (roughly one inch) the same as today. The chief engraver, William Kneass tapered John Reich's obverse design and removed from the reverse the scroll containing the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM.



Reverses of the 1828 large Bust and 1831 small bust quarters

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Reduced sized Bust Quarters

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



An 1831 Bust Quarter B-3 R5 grading XF-40, mintage, 398,000
Reduced size Bust quarters were struck in consecutive years from 1831-1838

From 1796 through 1818, quarters were seldom struck on a yearly basis. After 1807, the last year of the Draped Bust type, no 25¢ coins were issued until John Reich's resplendent Capped Bust type was issued in 1815. None were coined in 1816, 17 & 26. Large Bust quarters were dated from 1818 through 1825 inclusive and again in 1827 & 1828 although only a small number of the 1823 and 1827 survive and are essentially non-collectible. Recorded mintages shown in the *Red Book* are unreliable since in the early years of the Mint, a coin's date was no guarantee that it was struck in that year.

Beginning in 1831 this pattern changed. The small Capped Bust quarter was struck in each year of its type run (1831 to 1838 inclusive); then continued to be coined in consecutive years under different types all the way through 1921.

[The first break in the series came in 1922 when no quarter dollars were made. Since then, regular dated quarters have been omitted only in the Depression years of 1931 and 1933. During our Bicentennial celebration, quarters along with the half dollar and dollar coins received dual dates 1776-1976 in both 1975 and 1976. These named have been the only exceptions in the consecutive yearly date procession of 25¢ pieces since 1831.]

Collecting a complete date set of reduced size Bust quarters (1831-1838) should be easier than the earlier large set group (1815-1828). For one thing, the mintages are larger. For another, the type is far less popular than its predecessor with demand still fairly low. For a third; all dates are priced about the same which means there are no major rarities among the group. The 1831 quarter had a mintage of 398,000 compared with the 1815 first year for the large size quarter of just 89,235. The 2012 *Red Book* lists most dates at \$150 in VF-20, and \$450 in XF-40. While the latter grade is not cheap, a large size Bust quarter in XF-40 would sell for around \$1,400 today.



An 1832 Bust Quarter B2 R2 grading XF-40 with 320,000 minted

The reader will observe the letter B followed by a number under each picture. The B stands for A. W. Browning collector and dealer of Bust quarters and author of "The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States: 1796 thru 1838". The first number represents the die variety and the second its rarity with 1

being the most common and 8 being extremely rare. Prices begin to increase--even for a common date--from R4 on. For 1831 there are now seven known die varieties of which the third and seventh are R5's, rare. In 2008 numismatic author Steve M. Tomkins published a new book on Early US Quarters and it lists all the most recent varieties discovered with updates on rarities.



An 1833 Bust Quarter, B1 R2 graded AU-50 by IGC; mintage 156,000

If there is said to be a "key" date to the short series, then the 1833 issue perhaps is it. Only 156,000 were struck that year according to Mint records. Despite this, the 1833 is only slightly more costly to acquire than the others. There are only two varieties for this date, both considered R1s but on the reverse of the second one--not shown--there is no period at the right side of the C in 25C and there are only two vertical gules running down the shield. This same reverse appears on the 1834 B-1 and 1835 B-7.



An 1834 Bust Quarter, B4 R1 grading XF-45, mintage 286,000

There are five varieties for the 1834. The one show above is the most common. Varieties are attributed on the obverse by the position of the last digit in the date to the curl, the relationship of the upper left star to Liberty's headband and the distance between the lower stars to the Bust. There are other points of attribution as well.



An 1835 Bust Quarter B6, R5 graded XF-40 by Anacs Reported mintage 1,952,000

If one is interested in only one date for type, the 1835 quarter--with a mintage of almost 2 million--is likely to be the most readily available. In fact 1835 was a banner year for Bust silver coinage as the half dime, dime and quarter were produced in record numbers; each with well over a million. The half dollar received more than 5,350,000 which is the fifth highest in its series. The 1835 has the most varieties; eight in all, of which

Collecting Reduced Size Bust Quarters

(Continued from previous page)

the sixth is rare and the eighth is very rare. Only the first, second and seventh variety are considered common.

In addition to the *no period* variety after 25 C, other points of attribution on the reverse are determined by approximate distances between specific diagnostic points. These include how close or far away the 25 C is from the eagle's talons or the lower border, also the distance of the arrows to the right side of the coin; also the size of the letters in the legend; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and whether the eagle has a tongue or not. The two aforementioned attribution guide books are definitely worth their modest cost in guiding the collector.



An 1836 Bust quarter B2 R4 grading XF-45, mintage 472,000

The 1836 Bust quarter is the second most common of the eight year series but falls far short of the previous year's record. Varieties 2 and 3 display interesting die cracks.



An 1837 Bust Quarter, B2 R2 graded AU-50, mintage 252,400

The 1837 has the second lowest recorded mintage with five known die varieties; four of which are rare to extremely rare. Alas, the coin shown above is the only common variety for that year and not worth a premium. The fascination with collecting early US coinage--especially the quarters for which the collector base is still not very large--is the opportunity for discovery. The three later varieties; B3 through B5 were all recent discoveries by collectors who took the trouble to study the series and their known attributions. When their collections sold at auction years later, their finds realized extensive gains over the original purchase price.



An 1838 Bust Quarter B1 R1 graded XF-45, mintage 366,000
[Use 3X glass or magnify to 200% to view details.]

The last date in the series is 1838 for which there is only one known die variety. Later that same year, the new liberty Seated design of Christian Gobrecht replaced William Kneass's Capped Bust. The new obverse type would continue through 1891 albeit with a number of modifications.



1838 Bust and Liberty Seated quarter obverse types

Originally, the reverse of the new Liberty Seated type was to display Gobrecht's soaring eagle that appeared on the 1836 dollar coins after Titian Peale's sketch but for some reason--never fully explained--the Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson instead chose to retain Reich's old Pterodactyl-like eagle with minor modifications. With the striking of some 366,000 in the first portion of 1838 the Capped Bust quarter-type finally came to an end.



Reverses of the 1838 Capped Bust and Liberty Seated quarters

[For those receiving this by E-mail it is recommended that you magnify all the coin pictures up to 200% for greater clarity of detail.]

At the time the small Bust size quarters were issued the purchasing power of the quarter dollar averaged \$6.00. Andrew Jackson was completing his first of two terms as 7th US President and by the series' end, Martin Van Buren was serving the second year of his only term as our 8th US president.

The reader will observe that all the coins accompanying this article are neither uncirculated nor low grade specimens. They range for the most part between XF-40 and AU-50 specimens and are generally problem-free. Both the large Bust and reduced size quarter sets took 23 years to assemble as they were acquired between 1979 and 2002, a large number before 1986, the year professional authentication and certification of coins began. While the small size Bust quarter series (1831-38) is arguably less aesthetically attractive than the large size *with motto* quarters series that preceded it (1815-1828), the author welcomed the challenge of the hunt for these more readily available dates that can still be somewhat elusive in problem-free condition. With the greater collector base yearning for the same material it is becoming increasingly more difficult to acquire mid grade circulated obsolete coins of this era in quality condition and certified coins are recommended. That said it may not be too late to try. Happy hunting!

Club News



The 2011 Club Medallion struck in copper (actual size when printed)
The reverse shows the Partridge Inn during the early years of the 20th Century
[Use 3X glass or magnify to 200% to view details.]

At our August 18 meeting Xavier Pique announced that the 2011 Club medallions had arrived. The medallions were struck in Antique Bronze, Antique Copper and Silver wash and priced to members at \$9.00 each or three for \$25.00. The club has issued medallions showing different Augusta motifs on the reverses since 2005. This year the club decided to strike a limited mintage of just 50 of each alloy. If you are interested in acquiring one of these or medallions from back years, please contact Treasurer Xavier Pique or President Steve Nix.

At the September meeting, Show Chairman David Chism reported that he expects another strong showing by dealers for our Nov. 11, 12 fall show. As the newsletter went to press Dave reported 30 tables have been pledged or sold. He expects to sell at least 50 tables by Nov. 11, the first day of our show. President Steve Nix thanked Dave and suggested that it is now up to us to support the show by increasing our percentage of club attendance. Only 50% of the members attended the last two club shows. That figure has to be improved if we are to maintain a viable dealer base, let alone attract new dealers. At the Sept. 15 meeting Treasurer Xavier Pique reported a balance of \$9,063.08.

The club was happy to welcome member Jack Seech back after a three year hiatus. Jack now lives in Sumter, SC but has rejoined our club and will try to make some of our meetings.

The **Show & Tell** session featured one exhibit, an impressive new US Mint Medal commemorating the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 brought in by our club president, Steve Nix. The obverse inscription contained two impressive words, ALWAYS REMEMBER and the reverse, two more; HONOR and HOPE.

For our **program**, club member and numismatist Jim Barry presented a talk on the legacy of Alexander, the Great (356-323 BC) on Classical Greek and early Roman coins displaying a variety of beautiful examples from his collection representative of different eras.

The door **prize winners** for Sept 15 were Richard Owen who received a 2011 one ounce silver eagle and Brenda Radford who won a 1954 Franklin Half dollar. The winner of the 50/50 was Brian Hoyt who took home \$80.00 Congratulations, Brian, Brenda and Rick.

Kindly, patronize our Advertisers

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NOV 11 & 12 2011

FALL COIN SHOW

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB

FRIDAY 9AM - 3PM SATURDAY 9AM - 3PM

PATRIOT'S PARK GYMNASIUM
545 COLUMBIA ROAD

EXIT 180 ON I-20 GO NORTH TWO MILES TO COLUMBIA ROAD, TURN LEFT AND GO 2 MILES

FREE ADMISSION FREE PARKING PUBLIC INVITED

Drawing Saturday at 6:00
 Purchase tickets from club members or at registration

GOLD SILVER CURRENCY JEWELRY MEDALS FIGURINES JEWELRY COLLECTIBLES SUPPLIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO www.augustacoinclub.org

There's more to this *Newsletter* than meets the eye. Please turn the page and read another of Xavier Pique's illuminating articles under the umbrella title of **Page V.**

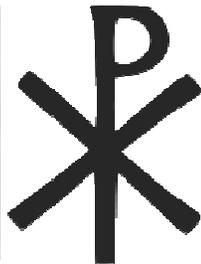
PAGE FIVE- By Xavier Pique
The CHI RHO- Ancient and Modern Symbol



The CHI -RHO, (CHRISMON, or Labarum of Constantine, or Christogram) is among the most recognizable symbols of our time. It has a religious association to Christ, yet the origins of this icon can be found centuries earlier, in ancient Greece and Egypt. It has also been used extensively in coinage. In this article, we will explore the origin, meaning and usage of the Chi-Rho.

The overlapping X and P letters that form the symbol are actually the Greek letters Chi and Rho, and are often seen in religious context with the letters Alpha and Omega, as in the picture above. Although not technically a cross, the Chi Rho invokes the crucifixion of Jesus as well as symbolizing his status as the Christ. (The A and Ω were added in Christian times to signify the mighty power of Jesus- See Revelation 22:13).

Some scholars claim that the Chi-Rho is actually an early, stylized rendition of the symbol for the Egyptian deity Horus, usually symbolized by an eagle. The similarity of the Egyptian representation of Horus, the falcon, seen below, to the Chi-Rho is worthy of consideration. The falcon was found in an Egyptian tomb and dates from around 1250 BC.



The Spread-eagled symbol for Egyptian Deity Horus has a similarity to the Chi-Rho. Falcon Circa 1250 BC

The Chi Rho is known to have been a Greek pagan symbol. The Chi-Rho symbol was also used by pagan Greek scribes to mark, in the margin, a particularly valuable or relevant passage; the combined letters Chi and Rho standing for *chrēston*, meaning "good." It thus became a symbol for good fortune in Greek ancient times.

One of the earliest numismatic uses of the Chi-Rho that I know of is in the coins of Ptolemy III Euergetes, King of Egypt from 246 to 221 BC. Some of the coins from this period were marked with a Chi-Rho on the reverse, between the eagle's legs.

Used from the earliest days of Christianity on lamps, liturgical objects, sarcophagi, and in catacomb painting, and still in wide



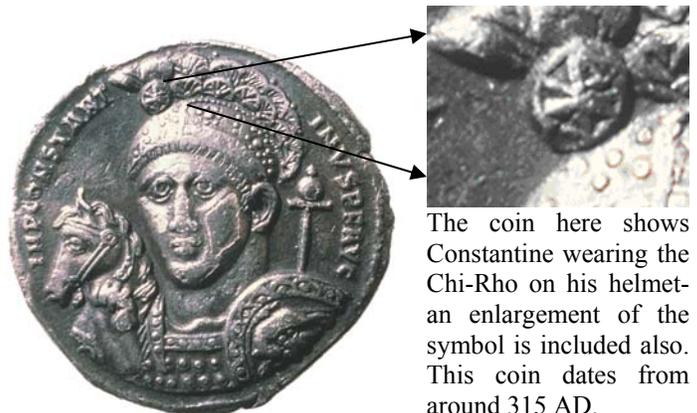
Ptolemy III Bronze Coin Circa 240 BC. CHI-RHO symbol is seen on reverse between eagle's legs

use today, the Chi Rho is linked to the conversion of the Roman Empire to Catholicism in the fourth century AD. The Chi-Rho was adopted as a symbol of Christ around 300 AD, at the time of the Emperor Constantine. It is said that Constantine had a vision on the eve of his battle against Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge, near Rome, in AD 312.



In this dream, Constantine (marble bust-left) saw the Chi-Rho symbol in the sky and allegedly had the symbol emblazoned on the warrior's shields and standards. The battle was won, and the Chi-Rho became embedded in the depths of the Roman Catholic denomination. The Chi-Rho symbol appears in a few coins from Constantine's time, and is not seen in a major way until some years later.

Roman rulers Vetranius (350 AD), Magnentius (350-353 AD), Galla Placidia (426-430 AD) and Justinian (527-565 AD) made wider use of the Chi-Rho in coinage, as seen in the illustrations below.



The coin here shows Constantine wearing the Chi-Rho on his helmet- an enlargement of the symbol is included also. This coin dates from around 315 AD.

Constantine the Great- Circa 315 AD. Note Chi-Rho symbol on helmet, See enlargement at right.

The **labarum** is a spear or standard with the Chi-Rho symbol on top. It was used to identify a legion going into battle. The Labarum of Constantine (see below) slowly gave way to the crucifix as the preferred symbol of Christianity on Roman coins. Later emperors such as Majorian (457-461) and Zeno (474-491) made use of an elongated cross- much like a sword- in place of the Chi-Rho. As Roman history entered in the Byzantine era, the Chi Rho and Labarum were replaced by the cross in some form or other, and were no longer used in coinage or in everyday life.

Or maybe not- today the Chi-Rho is again in wide use as a symbol in Christian churches, corporate logos, posters, jewelry, tattoos, and many other places. It is a powerful symbol, one we should recognize with awe and a sense of the long history behind it.



Galla Placidia Gold Coin- AD 426-430. A wreath envelops the Chi-Rho



The Labarum of Constantine - Standard carried by Constantine's troops into the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in AD 312. IHSV means 'in this you shall conquer' in Latin



Justinian Coin (527-565 AD). Justinian is considered the last Roman Emperor. The Chi-Rho is on Reverse



Vespasian Coin- AD 69-79. Note the double Labarum on the reverse with the Chi-Rho inscribed



Magnentius Coin- 350-353 AD. Notice the large Chi-Rho in the reverse

Wayne Damron to Speak at October 20 Meeting

Wayne Damron, proprietor of Klein's Rare Coins will be our guest speaker at our upcoming meeting, October 20. His topic, "The Case for Collecting the Popular Key Date United States Coins" will be one he has given before but updated to include the recent trends since 2005. Wayne will compare the progress the common date type coins within a series coins have made since 1963 compared with the key dates of those same series. You will be amazed at some of his findings. Some of the key dates to be included among cents are the 1877, 1909-S VDB, 1914-D, 1922 plain and 1955 double die. Among dimes, the 1916-D Mercury, quarters, the 1901-S Barber and halves, the 1921 issues. Then of course there are the various key Morgan dollars. You won't want to miss Wayne's program.