

The SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Aiken Public Library

SJ CSRA Coin Club of Aiken
P.O. Box 11
New Ellenton, SC 29809
Web site: www.sjcsracc.org

Pres. Steve Kuhl
V.P. Pat James
Sec. Jim Mullaney
Treas. Chuck Goergen
Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



Programs: Pat James
ANA Rep.: Glenn Sanders
Show Chairman: Steve Kuhl
Photos: Steve Kuhl
Publicity: Pat James
Newsletter: Arno Safran
E-Mail: arnosafran@comcast.net
Auctioneer: Jim Sproull
Web site: Susie Nulty (see above.)

Volume 17, No. 10

the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club, Founded in 2001
Monthly Newsletter

Oct. 2018

Our next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018 at 6:45 PM in the Aiken Public Library

US Three cent silver coin, an unusual collectible

2018 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 4	Apr. 5	July 5	Oct. 4
Feb. 1	May 3	Aug. 2	Nov. 1
Mar. 1	June 7	Sept. 6	Dec. 13

Collecting the *Trime* 1st & Last years of issue



An 1851-O (left) and 1873 proof (right) 3 cent silver trime
[Magnify image to 500% to view details.]

One of the more curious numismatic collectible US coin types is the tiny three-cent silver piece. It was coined from 1851 thru 1873, the last year as a proof only. Few numismatists have assembled complete date sets of the business strikes plus the 1873 proof because a some of the middle dates (1854-1858) are quite scarce while many of the later dates (1859-72) beginning with 1867 had mintages of less than 5,000 and are extremely scarce and pricey.

By 1851, the effects of the gold rush in 1849 had brought about a silver coin shortage since our silver coins were now worth more than their face value in relation to gold and were being taken out of circulation being sold at above face value to bullion traders. In a partial, attempt to stem the tide, Congress took advantage of the postal service's reduction in prices of first class stamps from five-cents to three-cents by authorizing a new tiny three-cent silver coin. It weighed .80 grams and contained just 75% silver bonded to 25% copper with a diameter of just 14 mm. In its first year, the Philadelphia Mint struck over 5.4 million three-cent pieces while the New Orleans mint produced 720,000, the only year any branch mint would strike the tiny silver denomination. At a commercial Sunday show held in 1995 in Trevoze, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, the author acquired the 1851-O example shown above for the then paltry sum of \$175. Today the smaller mintage 1851-O certified MS-62 is listed at \$900 retail by PCGS' *COINFACT* while the higher mintage 1851-P is priced at \$245.

From 1854 thru 1858, the Mint increased the amount of silver to 90% bonded by 10% copper. Two more outlines were added to the star on the obverse and a tiny sprig and arrow were added to the reverse surrounding the III. These are costly and a best-buy would be a 1858 certified AU-58. In 1859, the Mint reduced the three lines surrounding the star to just two and all dates thru 1862, are plentiful enough for most collectors to acquire an AU-58 specimen at modest price.

Collecting the US Coins of 1848: (170 Years Ago)

By Arno Safran



Elizabeth Cady Stanton speaks at Seneca Falls, NY on the resolves adopted at the meeting after a revision of the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal."

In 1848, four significant events occurred in the United States. After three years of intense fighting, the Mexican War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Vera Cruz on August 2. Although the nation gained vast areas of land which today represent most of the western states, 13,000 Americans lost their lives in the conflict. A less known news item occurred in July of that year in Seneca Falls, NY near Lake Placid where the Woman's Suffrage Movement began in earnest. (*See sketch and caption above.*) 1848 was also the first year that all voting in the general election occurred on the same day, Tues., Nov. 7. The Whigs candidate, General Zachary Taylor, known as "Old Rough and Ready" defeated Louis Cass, the Democrat in a close popular vote but by a much larger majority in the electoral college to become the 12th president of the United States. Near the end of the year, Gold was discovered in Sutter Mill, California which would subsequently have an effect on our coinage program. As for the US coins of 1848, they represented more of the same, the Mature Head copper half-cent and cent and the Liberty Seated silver issues Liberty Head gold coins.



An 1848 Liberty Seated dime graded AU-55
[Magnify image to 200% to view details.]

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1848: (170 Years Ago)

(Continued from page 1, column 1)



A electroplated example of a proof 1848 half-cent
(Reprinted from previous page)
[Magnify image to 500% to view details.]

Between 1840 and 1848, no half-cents were coined for circulation. Instead, the US Mint struck an undisclosed number of proof half-cents for collectors although no mintage records exist regarding these items, the estimated number of actual original proofs struck for each date range from only 15 to 30 pieces. Restrikes were made at a later date thereby augmenting the total numbers somewhat but almost all examples that were legitimately coined from 1840 thru 1848 are extremely rare and beyond the means of 95% of today's collectors..

When the author was attempting to complete a set of US coins from 1848 (*exc. Gold*) he knew that the 1848 proof half-cent was extremely rare but at a local coin show, a dealer friend showed him an electroplated version of an 1848 proof half-cent charging him only a minuscule fraction of the price that a legitimate one would cost, the example you see above.

Electroplated coins were created by taking impressions from the obverse and reverse of an actual bone fide coin and welding them together. They came into vogue during the mid to late 19th century. Many electroplated replicas of silver coins were struck with silver plated surface over lead interiors, but with copper coins, regular bronze metals could be used. As a result there are a number of electroplated replicas of the low mintage proof half cents at fairly modest prices . In 1848, a half-cent had the purchasing power of 16¢.



An 1848 Mature Head large cent, N-29, R3 graded XF-45
[Magnify image to 500% to view details.]

A collector seeking an 1848 Braided Hair large cent will have no such problem finding a legitimate example since the reported mintage was a whopping 6,415,799, an all time record for the denomination surpassed three years later in 1851. The coin shown was acquired "raw" and graded AU-50 by the dealer but in the author's opinion it is only an XF-45, and although a scarcer die variety, is very inexpensive today. Most Braided Hair large cents, (sometimes referred to as "The Mature Head" type (1843-1857) are moderately priced thru AU-50 and were struck in much larger numbers than the earlier cent types,. In 1848, a cent had the purchasing power of 32 ¢.



An 1848 Liberty Seated half-dime, V-7A, R2 graded AU-58 by NGC
[Magnify image to 500% to view details.]

In 1848, the Liberty Seated silver half dime *with stars* also *with drapery* and upright shield was now in its ninth year but unlike the copper denominations which were only struck at Philadelphia Mint, most of our silver denominations were now being coined at both the Philadelphia and New Orleans Mints, the latter having opened ten years earlier in 1838. During the 1840s, the output from the Philadelphia mint usually dwarfed that of the New Orleans Mint and from 1845 thru 1847 the New Orleans Mint didn't strike any half-dimes at all, but in 1848, the mintages struck at both facilities were very close, 668,000 at Philadelphia and 600,000 at New Orleans. Despite the closeness in numbers, it is easier to find a 1848-P than an 1848-O especially in the higher circulated grades thru mint state because the 1848-O circulated more heavily.

The 1848-P half-dime shown is designated V-7a for Daniel W. Valentine who was the one of the earlier major attributors of the half dime series. According to the late Al Blythe, author of *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half-dimes* (1992) there are two major varieties for the 1848-P, the medium date that is common and the large date which is scarcer and is 25% more expensive. Since both dates varieties appear large, the large date protrudes into Miss Liberty's skirt and the rock to her left whereas the medium date does not. The coin was acquired "raw" for \$65.00 in 1994 from a dealer set up at a local club meeting. In 2012 it was submitted for certification and was graded AU-58 by NGC. Today PCGS' *COINFACT* lists it at \$315. In 1848, a half-dime had the purchasing power of \$1.60..



An 1848 Liberty Seated dime No. 101 R4+ graded AU-55
[Magnify image to 500% to view details.]

In 1848, dimes were only coined at the Philadelphia Mint which struck 451,500. Despite the fairly large mintage, Brian Greer, author of *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes* (1992) considers the date to be somewhat scarce. There are two subtle varieties with one showing the date sloping downward and the other, the date, level., (Scarcer!) The specimen shown was acquired at a large regional show in 1994 for \$200 and later certified AU-55 by NGC. Today, it retails for around \$350. A perusal of PCGS' *COINFACTS* shows many more examples of the 1848 dime certified BU (MS-62-65) than uncirculated ones. This is because the circulated pieces cost far less and could be obtained at local club shows or smaller regional shows with few appearing in on line or major auctions.. In 1848, a dime had the purchasing power of \$3.20.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1848: (170 Years Ago)

(Continued from the previous page)



An 1848 Liberty Seated quarter graded XF-40 by PCGS
[Magnify image to 200% to view details.]

Compared with the 1848 half-dime and dime denominations, the 1848 quarter is considered one of the scarcer dates of the long running Liberty Seated quarter series (1838-1891). The coin was struck only at the Philadelphia Mint that year with a reported mintage of just 146,000 and it circulated heavily. According to numismatic scholar Ron Guth of PCGS, the coin is not only rare in mint state (MS-60 -70) but also scarce in the circulated grades.. The 1848 quarter appears to be well struck and even in XF-40, it has a attractive appearance. This is one of those coins that occasionally appears on the internet and sells fast. The author liked the digital image and asked to see he coin “on approval”, a request that dealers will honor for repeat customers. When it arrived via 3 day priority mail, the coin looked extraordinary nice for an XF, exactly like the digital image portrayed on the web-site.. If the reader enlarges to image of the coin to 200%, you will observe some wear on Miss Liberty’s legs indicative of the XF-40 grade but otherwise, the remaining details are fairly sharp. In 1848, a quarter had the purchasing power of \$8.00.



An 1848-O Liberty Seated half-dollar graded AU-55 by PCGS
[Magnify image to 200% to view details.]

In 1848, the Liberty Seated half-dollar *without motto* sub-type was struck at both the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints., but in the case of this denomination, the Philadelphia Mint struck just 580 thousand compared with the New Orleans facility’s output of a over 3. million. As a result, the **1848-P** is considered to be a scarce coin across the grading spectrum with not too many mint state examples of high quality. Ironically, despite its huge mintage, the second largest in the decade, the **1848-O**-- like the example shown above---**is not as common as one would expect** since the coin circulated heavily.

The New Orleans specimens were not as well struck as the scarcer Philadelphia mint issues and were not as lustrous but if one enlarges the coin’s image of the 1848-O specimen to 200%, it shows fairly clear surfaces with lots of detail. In 1848, a half-dollar had the purchasing power of \$16.00.



An 1848 Liberty Seated dollar graded AU-50 by PCGS

Only 15,000 Liberty silver dollars were struck by the Philadelphia Mint in 1848 which was the lowest for the decade of the 1840s. None were coined at New Orleans. As a result, the date has become extremely popular with collectors and expensive. The current suggested retail price of an 1848 silver dollar certified only VF-35 is listed at \$1,000. The AU-50 shown above is valued at slightly more than double that figure.

After Gobrecht’s initial majestic design-type was struck from 1836 thru 1839, there apparently were some problems which caused mint director Robert Maskell Patterson to hire engraver Robert Ball Hughes to make some improvements. Hughes, a renowned engraver in his own right, widened the head and torso of Miss Liberty perhaps to improve the striking of the coin and replaced Titian Peale’s magnificent soaring eagle design used by Gobrecht for the reverse with John Reich’s former spread eagle that first appeared on the Capped Bust half dollars from 1807 thru 1839.. This was most unfortunate especially for the large size 38 mm in diameter silver dollar design. For comparisons sake, Gobrecht’s obverse design was retained only on the half-dollar seen on the bottom of the preceding column. In 1848., a dollar had the purchasing power \$32.00.



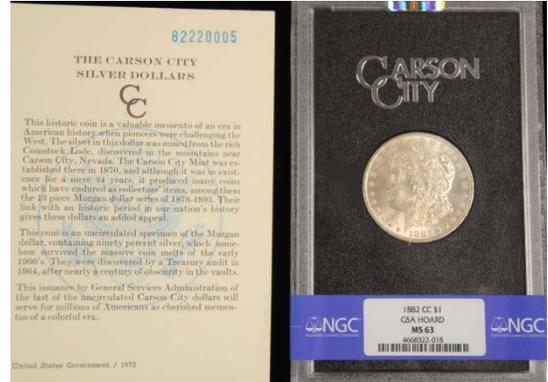
The obverses of an 1848 year set (sans gold)
[Magnify image to 200% to view details.]

The acquiring of the seven coins that form a this US 1848 year set took a long time. None of them are uncirculated due to the expense involved and range from a low of XF-40 to AU-58. While 1848 may have been the birth year of the woman’s suffrage movement, Europe was in the throes of revolution.

My Favorite Program!

© Stephen Kuhl, September 2018

Dear Readers - As many of you know, I simply LOVE when the program for our Club's meeting is an extended Show & Tell session! Why, you ask? Because I never cease to be amazed at the collecting interests and diversity of the Club's members. The September 2018 meeting of the Stephen James Central Savannah River Area Coin Club (the SJCSRACC) was no exception – nine members showed approximately fifteen individual items, which ranged from a Widow's Mite to Obsolete currency to Bullion Gold to rare collectible cards to a Scan-O-Matic! Our many thanks to those members that brought and presented items! Please enjoy the following photos of the members and the items they presented. The pictures are courtesy of Crissy Kuhl. Thanks Crissy, for taking and sharing your photos with us!



1882-CC Morgan Dollar, acquired by Ford & Stirrup in Carson City NV.



Tim Stirrup and Kelsey Ford "tag team" their Show & Tells



Tim Stirrup and Kelsey Ford tell the audience about the coins they brought to share.



Nevada State Museum Commemorative Medallion 1/2 oz Silver, struck on the original Carson City Coin Press #1. Obverse features the Nevada State Capital building; The reverse features an image of Press #1.

Typhany Norden shows a Widow's Mite (or Lepton) that she received as a gift. These small copper coins are the only Jewish coins mentioned in the New Testament. The Mite came in a display box made of Olive wood from Bethlehem, Israel.



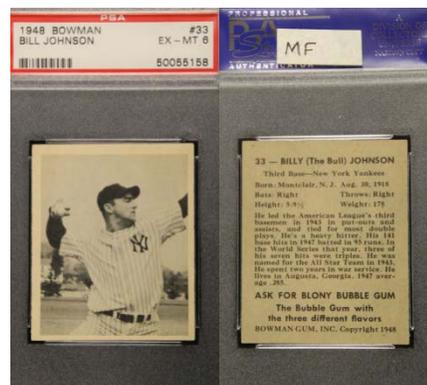
Close up of the Scan-O-Matic. This device came with different size insert tubs (black tube on right) to fit the various denominations of coin.



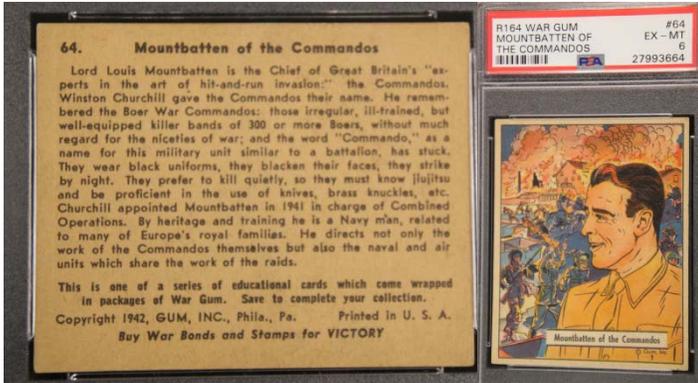
JJ Engel shows a set of certified antique collector cards



John Kolmar demonstrates how to operate the Scan-O-Matic. Per John, one could quickly scan through a roll of coins.



1948 Bowman Gum Company Collectible Card. William "The Bull: Johnson, 3rd baseman for the NY Yankees



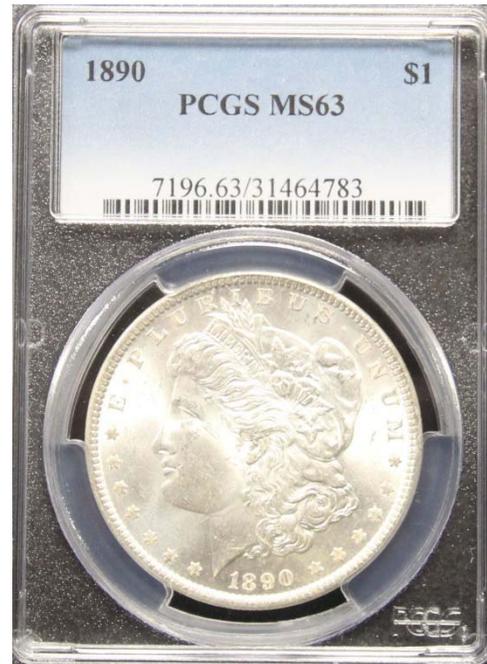
**1942 GUM Card - Lord Mountbatten of the Commandos
Graded EX-MT6**



Arno Safran showing two hard to obtain coins from 1890 – the \$1 Morgan and the Liberty (or V) nickel



**1933 Planters Card - Wild Boar Hunted Animals.
Graded VG-EX4**



1890-P Morgan Dollar, PCGS MS63



1890-P Nickel
graded PCGS MS63



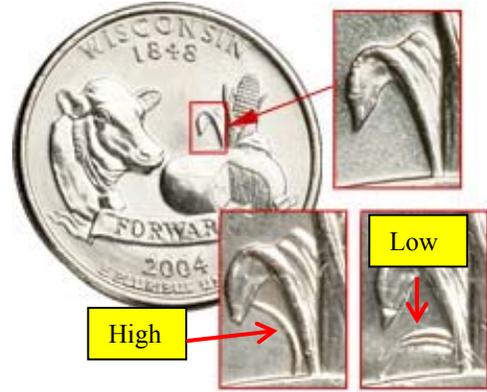
Uncut sheet of Obsolete 1872 South Carolina Notes, issued in replacement of Blue Ridge Railroad Bonds.



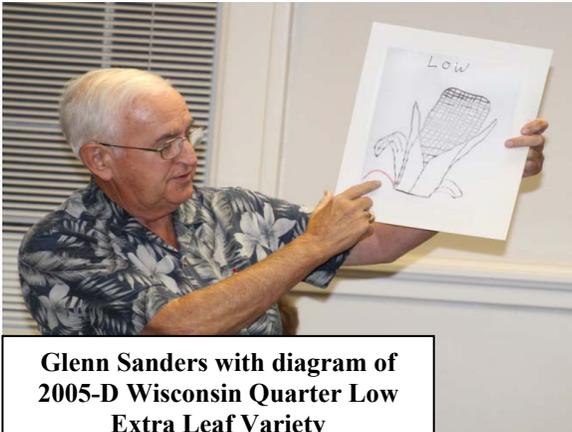
Steve Kuhl discussing uncut sheet of 1872 South Carolina Obsolete Notes, and \$5 Holly Springs Mississippi Exchange Office note.



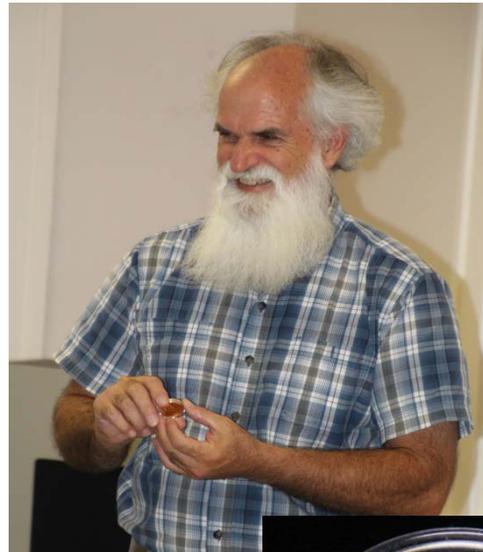
1860s unissued \$5 Holly Springs Mississippi Exchange Office note. Printed on back of State Bank of Louisiana \$1, \$2, and \$3 notes.



2005-D Wisconsin Quarter, showing Normal design and the extra leaf high and low varieties.



Glenn Sanders with diagram of 2005-D Wisconsin Quarter Low Extra Leaf Variety



Jim Mullaney (above)

2015 High Relief \$100 coin (right)



Sanders with diagram of 2005-D Wisconsin Quarter High Extra Leaf Variety



Can you identify the Mystery Member of the Month?

Hints:

- Native of Florida
- Former US Naval Officer.
- Collects coins with fish & marine life designs



**Answer from Last Month:
Mr. JJ Engel**

**STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB
Regular Meeting, Minutes of September 6, 2018
Aiken Public Library**

President Steve Kuhl called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:45 PM.

Sgt. In Arms Jim Sproull reported that there were 20 members present and 2 guests. Jim announced information concerning several upcoming coin shows in the vicinity.

Jimmy Widener won the members' door prize drawing, a 2018 Silver Eagle.

A motion was made by J.J. Engel, seconded by Marion Engel to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the August 2018 meeting and subsequently passed, a copy to be placed on file.

The treasurer's report for September showed a balance of \$1,921.65.

Arno Safran reminded the members that the Augusta Coin Club will be holding their next meeting on Sept. 20. The program will be by him on "The US Coins of 1850 during a year of crisis." The club meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Sunrise Grill, located at the West Town Shopping Center on Washington Road in Martinez, GA.

In place of our standard **program**, we had an extended **Show and Tell** session at the September meeting. Nine members, including guests brought in items to share with the club.

J.J. Engel displayed baseball cards that had been "slabbed" by a company associated with PCGS. These included a 1948 card of Billy Johnson, a one time Augusta resident, a 1942 war gum card and a 1943 card on hunted animals from Planters Peanuts.

Arno Safran displayed two US coins from his collection of "Coins from the Gay Nineties decade that he's been assembling: an 1890, a Liberty nickel and a Morgan dollar, both certified MS-63 by PCGS.

Steve Kuhl shared a sheet of SC bills from 1868 that had been issued as replacement notes by the Blue Ridge Railway Company.

Typhany Nordeen shared a Widow's Mite contained in a small wooden box made from an olive tree from Bethlehem.

John Kolmar brought in a device called a Scan-o-matic from the 1950s that was designed to rapidly view and magnify a stack of coins.

Glenn Sanders brought in Wisconsin statehood Washington quarters showing die errors.

Guests Tim Spurrier and Kelsey Forde showed a medallion from a recent visit to the Carson City Mint. She also displayed a Carson City Morgan dollar procured at a shop that is across the street from the mint.

Jim Mullaney brought in a 2015 Liberty high relief gold coin from the US Mint.

The program for our next meeting on October 4 will be on "Coins featuring Fish" by member Jerry Lipsky.

Pat James won the 50-50 drawing - \$13.

Following the monthly auction, Steve Kuhl adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary**

Kindly Patronize our Advertisers

Coins Stamps & Currency
Buy & Sell Gold - Silver



1643 Whiskey Road
Aiken, SC 29803

tel. (803) 643-9957
cel. (803) 420-2949
cel. (602) 432-0920

Rocio E. Talj
Managing Partner

coinsstampscurrency@gmail.com

Since 1941




Clein's Rare Coins

3830 Washington Rd., Ste. 32 Martinez, GA 30907
Buying & Selling U.S. Coins, Currency & Confederate
- ALL GOLD & SILVER BULLION -
(Eagles, K-Rands, Maple Leafs & Pandas)
COIN APPRAISALS



STEVE DAMRON
Ph: (706) 755-2249
Fax: (706) 755-2461
Tue-Fri 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Sat. 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Respectful, Friendly & Courteous Service




Augusta Coin Exchange

— JOHN M. RUSINKO —




Mon - Fri | 11AM - 4PM 706.210.5486 | 702.845.1934
Sat | 11AM - 4PM JR.Rusinko@yahoo.com

Member : ANA-R147538, CAC, SeniorCoins1792@gmail.com
PCGS, NGC & ICTA
Dealer LIC # 40829 *Buying and Selling* 4015 Washington Rd, STE - L
Martinez, GA 30907

The editor would like to thank once again, the wonderful contributions by Steve Kuhl vis-a vis the summary of the September 6 show and tell session along with brilliant photo images and also James Mullaney for his detailed Minutes of the September 6 meeting.

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB
2018 FALL SHOW**

**GOLD ★ SILVER ★ CURRENCY ★ TOKENS ★ MEDALS
EXONUMIA ★ JEWELRY ★ COLLECTIBLES ★ SUPPLIES**

**FREE
ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
PUBLIC INVITED**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH &
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH**
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
YN PROGRAM SATURDAY NOON

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER
212 Partnership Drive – Grovetown, Georgia
Exit 190 on I-20, go south one block, turn left and drive straight into Exhibition Center.

RAFFLE DRAWING
Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets from Club
Members or at Registration.

Sponsored by:
AUGUSTA COIN CLUB



Serving the Numismatic
Community for 40 Years
On Site
Show Specials