

# South Brevard Coin Club



November 2024

## MEETINGS:

**First Wednesday of  
every month**

David R. Schechter  
Center

(Satellite Beach Community  
Center)

1089 So. Patrick Drive  
Satellite Beach, FL  
32937

Doors Open 6:00

Social Time 6:30–7:00 pm

Meeting Time 7:00 pm

## Board of Directors:

Chairman:

**Jim Nuara**

President:

**Jack Klein**

Vice President:

**Open**

Treasurer:

**Tim Janecke**

Secretary/Newsletter

**Paula Davis**

## Next Meeting

**November 6, 2024**

**7:00 pm**

## ***Stagecoach Auctions by Wallace***



Sheena Wallace will discuss the entire auction process from how to consign, to how to bid, and associated fees, etc.

Learn the insights of the Numismatic auction process from A to Z

***Plus Monthly Auction & Raffle!***

***South Brevard Coin Club***

***P.O. Box 372418, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3972***

***Member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA)  
and Florida United Numismatists (FUN)***

***[www.southbrevardcoinclub.org](http://www.southbrevardcoinclub.org)***

## **South Brevard Coin Club**

### ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS***

#### ***Current Nominees***

***Chairman – Jim Nuara***

***President – Bob Senton***

***Vice President – Bill Peterson***

***Treasurer – Tim Janecke***

***Secretary – Paula Davis***

***If you're interested in being considered for one of these positions please contact a current member of the board.***

***Job Descriptions for each position are in the October newsletter.***

***This is your opportunity to contribute and be an integral part of this Club.***

## **VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING**

by Paula Davis

Volunteers are what make this organization work. If it wasn't for volunteers, this Club would not exist. It's volunteers that see to it there is a monthly Club Meeting and the Second Sunday Coin Show. The Club has the potential to do so much more if only more people would step up and get involved. We would like to have more educational programs, community outreach programs, get involved with more youth programs and make more of a presence in the community. Also, we would like to bring back monthly refreshments and outside activity planning.

The request for volunteers is made at every monthly meeting and needed positions are listed in the newsletter periodically. SBCC currently has a membership of 130 people and yet less than 6% do the work necessary to keep the Club and Coin Show running. Our monthly meetings generally have 35-40 people in attendance who typically come month after month because apparently, they feel they get some value from the group. What I think most members don't realize is it takes a tremendous amount of planning and work to make this all happen.

It's the dedication of people like Jim Nuara, Bob Mellor, Jack Klein, Tim Janecke and myself that make this club work. The amount of work done is attributed to just a few members, several of whom still work full-time jobs while devoting tireless amounts of time and energy to making not only the Club work but the Coin Show grow and be successful. There is a lot of decision-making at board meetings to decide how to run things, managing of the treasury, secretarial duties, government reports, membership maintenance, newsletter and website creation in order to get information to the membership at large.

Jim Nuara not only runs a business and manages a large family but is the backbone in running the Club and Coin Show. Bob Mellor, who also works full time, procures all our raffle items and does the bulk of our educational programs. Tim Janecke handles all the finances and government reporting and I serve as Secretary, Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. All these positions should have backups and jobs split out so clearly, we need more people familiar with these necessary duties to help the Club function. Even the few community outreach programs we're trying to develop get the same few volunteers to work them. Also, we would like to bring back monthly refreshments and outside activities, but it takes volunteers to accomplish that.

But when called to step up, most people tend to look the other way. A club like this only works if people work together to make it work. Most of the groups I've belonged to through the years are similar. People want to come and enjoy the program, the camaraderie and whatever is going on and then leave and go home and wait until next month when it all happens again. They don't realize the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to make programs, raffles, auctions, newsletters, websites, coin shows and money management happen. The majority of these functions fall to about 5 people.

My personal thought is if you belong to a group that has something you're interested in, not only should you support and help that group thrive but by doing so you also thrive. When I joined, I had certain life skills I was able to contribute and I'm happy to do so. Many of us are retired from different vocations and have many skills we can contribute to help out. It's disappointing that so many people belong to this club and yet don't choose to get more involved and help make the Club grow. Clubs like this only survive if everyone is involved.

As they say, many hands make light work. It makes me sad and also discouraged to see that when Jim appeals to the membership month after month for people to just help out so few step up. There are several in the group that do come forward to help with different functions which is very much appreciated, but there is so much more we can accomplish with participation!



## Upcoming Programs

<i>Month/Year</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
January 2024	Colonial and Early American Currency	Tim Janecke
February 2024	World Coins	Jack Lane
March 2024	ANACS Coin Grading Service	Terry Morrissey
April 2024	Spring Picnic and Raffle	Golden Corral
May 2024	Numismatic Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
June 2024	The Value of a Coin Grading Class	Mike Young
July 2024	Annual Pizza and Numismatic Movie Night	
August 2024	1715 Treasure Fleet	Jim Wilson
September 2024	Numismatic Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
October 2024	Members Bourse Night	
November 2024	Stagecoach Auctions by Wallace	Sheena Wallace
December 2024	Annual Holiday Dinner and Raffle	Golden Coral



**Coin Club Library** – The Club has a great library of numismatic books that members are welcome to check out! The complete list of books available is in the newsletter. Contact Jack Klein ([kleinjack@att.net](mailto:kleinjack@att.net)) to check out.

### Invite a Friend!

Invite your friends who share your numismatic passion to come to a meeting and see what we're all about.

Only \$15.00 per person for year!

*Benefits and Membership Application in newsletter.*

### **Articles for the Newsletter are encouraged from all members!**

*Please consider submitting an article about something you found interesting or some personal experience you have had in your coin collecting.*

*Your sharing helps educate other members with your areas of expertise or experience.*

*Plus, there is a little goody from the Club for your efforts!*

*Also, let us know of any future Coin Related Events in the Area.*

*Please submit articles or information to Paula Davis ([pmgdavis@aol.com](mailto:pmgdavis@aol.com))*

*to appear in a future newsletter.*

## Mark Your Calendar!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday COIN SHOW**

Azan Shrine Center  
1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd  
Melbourne, FL 32935

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Each Month**

**9:30am-2:30pm**

This is a monthly show held on the second Sunday of every month. Come to the show to pick up Coins-Currency-Stamps or become a dealer and sell.

Free admission, free parking. A.N.A.C. Coin Grading Company is on site for your coin submissions, food is available for purchase.

For information on table rental contact **Alysha Wilson - Phone 321-704-3070 or email [AlyshaWilson@Att.net](mailto:AlyshaWilson@Att.net)**

### **COIN TALK**

Suntree Viera Public Library

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month**

**6:00pm-7:45pm**

Informal group, open to the public to come share and learn. Bring coins to discuss or learn about. Every month is an interesting discussion and unites you with other coin enthusiasts.


### **COINS IN FLORIDA**

**[www.coinsinflorida.com](http://www.coinsinflorida.com)**

Fabulous website for a comprehensive list of coin clubs, auctions, shows, events, and news in Florida! Join their newsletter!

**Check out this website for a wealth of information, resources and events for all levels of numismatists.**

**<https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week>**



**SBCC has an extensive library that is available to all the members. Check out the list of books below.**

**We would like to revive the BOOK REVIEW at our monthly meetings in which a member gives an oral review of a book they have read to the membership. And for your efforts, Bob will have something for you from the goodie bag!**



# SBCC Library Books

Available for Checkout  
Contact Jack Klein ([kleinjack@att.net](mailto:kleinjack@att.net))



ITLECOIN CLUB of SOUTH BREVARD LIBRARY	PAGE 1
TITLE	Author Publisher
1913 Liberty Head Nickel	Stack Bowers
American Silver Eagles	Whitman Publishing
Andean Collection South/Central American Bank Notes	Spink Inc.
Blackbook Price Guide to Paper Money	HUDGEONS, Marc
Coin and Currency Market Review	coinprices.com
Coin World Extra Magazine	Coin World
Collectible American Coins	BRESSETT, Kenneth
Confederate States Paper Money	CUHAJ, George S.
Curious Currency	LEONARD, Robert D.
Die Photos & Fuld/Moore Listings Update	FULD, George & Melvin
Early Paper Money of America 5th edition	NEWMAN, Eric P.
Early Paper Money of America 2023 edition	NEWMAN, Eric P.
Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins	BREEN, Walter
ErrorScope Magazine	Number 3
Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint	WINTER, Douglas
Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins	FUOSS and WILLIAMS
Grading United States Coins	ANA
Indian Peace Medals	ADAMS, John W.
Money: History in Your Hands	ANA: James Earl Jones; narrator
Money of the Bible	BRESSETT, Kenneth
National Bank Notes A Guide with Prices 1981	KELLY, Don C.
National Bank Notes A Guide with Prices 2004	KELLY, Don C.
Neighborhood Mint, The	HEAD and ETHERIDGE
Numismatic Forgeries	LARSON, Charles
Numismatic Listings of Modern and Medieval Countries	GROSSMAN, Lee
Obsolete Paper Money Issued by U.S. Banks	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Blue Book Handbook of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Blue Book Handbook of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Blue Book Handbook of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Guide to Mint Errors	HERBERT, Alan
Official Red Book: A Guide Book of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Red Book: A Guide Book of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Red Book of United States Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 1 Guide to Morgan Silver Dollars	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 2 Guide to Double Eagle Gold Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 3 Guide to United States Type Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 4 Guide to Modern US Proof Sets	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 5: Guide to Shield and Liberty Nickels	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book #6: Guide to Flying Eagles and Indian Cents	BOWERS, Q. David



COIN CLUB of SOUTH BREVARD LIBRARY	PAGE 2
TITLE	Auth or Pub
Official Red Book #7: Guide to Washington Quarters	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book #8: Guide to Buffalo and Jeffersons Nickels	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 9: Guide to Lincoln Cents	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 10: Guide to US Commemorative Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 11: Guide to US Tokens and Medals	JAEGER, Katherine
Official Red Book # 12: Guide to Gold Dollars	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 16 Guide to Civil War Tokens	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 17 Guide to Hard Times Tokens	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 18: Guide to Mercury Dimes Standing Liberty Quarters Liberty Walking Halves (single volume)	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 19: Guide to Half Cents Large Cents	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 20: Guide to Barber Silver Dimes	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 21: Guide to Liberty Seated Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 22: Guide to Modern US Dollars	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 23: Guide to the US Mint	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 24: Guide to Gold Eagle Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book \$26: Guide to Quarter Eagle Gold Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Whitman Guidebook Grading Standards US Coins	BRESSETT, Kenneth 1999
Official Whitman Guidebook to US Currency	BRESSETT, Kenneth 1999
Paper Money of the United States 2017	FRIEDBERG, Arthur and Ira
Past Tense: History through the Lens of American Coinage	GILLIS, Rod
Rare Coin Estate Book 2000	HALPERIN, James
Red Book of United States Coins 1965	YEOMAN, R.S.
Secrets of the Rare Coin and Bullion Business	GAROFALO, Michael
Select Numismatic Bibliography 1965	CLAIN-STEFANELLI, Elvira Eliza
SHEKEL	SCHUMAN, Edward
Shipwrecks Near Wabasso Beach	WELLER, Robt. & RICHARDS, Ernie
Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money 14th Edition	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of United States Tokens	RULAU, Russe
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1701-1800	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1801-1900 (2004)	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1801-1999 (1999)	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1901-2000	CUHAJ, George
Standard Catalog of World Coins 2001-2008	BRUCE, Colin
Standard Catalog of World Coins Single Volume 1987	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Paper Money 1650-1960	PICK, Albert
Standard Catalog of World Paper Money 1961-2000	BRUCE, Colin
Standing Liberty Quarters 2007	CLINE, J.H.
Truth Seeker: Life of Eric P. Newman	AUGSBURGER, BURDETTE, & OROSZ
United States Coinage	GUTH, Ron & GARRETT, Jeff
United States Copper Cents	NEWCOMB, Howard R.
United States Gold Patterns	AKERS, David W.
U.S. Pattern, Trial, & Experimental Pieces	ADAMS & WOODIN
World Coin News Magazine	KRAUSE Pubs

## ***BENEFITS OF SBCC MEMBERSHIP***

- Meet once a month with fellow numismatists
- Education
  - Guest Speakers
  - Numismatic Classes
  - Library of books that can be checked out
- Tabletop your coins before each meeting for sale or to show and tell
- Participate in coin auction (Buying and Selling)
- Receive a pre-1965 silver dime each meeting
- Win coins and coin related items in raffle
- Annual Summer Picnic
- Pizza and Movie Night
- Annual Christmas party with big coin raffle



## **SOUTH BREVARD COIN CLUB**

P.O. Box 372418 Satellite Beach, FL 32935

[www.southbrevardcoinclub.org](http://www.southbrevardcoinclub.org)

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Membership Type:** New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Dealer Only \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (      ) **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby promise to abide by the Bylaws of the Club*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Club Dues: \$15.00 per person**

**Children under 18: - \$5.00 each**



# “THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PROJECT AND THE ISSUANCE OF BINGLES”

By Bob Senton

Residents of rural areas in northern states were among those who suffered the most during the Great Depression. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as part of the New Deal Program, established a series of rural rehabilitation colonies, through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Colonies were established in Cherry Lake Farms, Florida; Dyess Colony, Arkansas; Pine Valley Rural Community, Georgia; and the Matanuska Colony in Alaska. The Matanuska Colony was founded by 203 families from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Also, one family from Oklahoma joined them. It was located in the Matanuska Valley about 45 miles northeast of Anchorage. The families were divided into seven camps. The colony project cost \$5 million. Each family received 40 acres of land and a \$3,000 credit in the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation commissary. This was done with the understanding that the land would be transformed into productive farm land. Land was sold to the colonists at \$5 per acre for uncleared land. There was a 30-year payment schedule with a 3% interest rate. The Government was to build houses, barns, and pay for transportation of the families and some of their belongings to the colony. Supplies would be available from the ARRC. They would be available at cost, until the residents became self-sufficient. The ARRC was the governing body for the colony. A nine-man

board was set up for that purpose. They set the price for goods, determined what crops could be planted, and enforced the rules of conduct for the settlement. The ARRC issued a form of currency called “Bingles”. These coins were intended for local use only and provided a practical way for people to physically manage their money.

“Bingles” were issued in the following manner.

Aluminum coins were issued in the one cent, five cent, ten cent, twenty-five cent, fifty-cent, and one-dollar



denominations.

Brass coins were issued in the five-dollar and ten-dollar denominations.

They were used for

only about six months between 1935 and 1936. Unused coins were redeemed for cash in 1936. Times proved tough for the colonists and half of the original settlers left by 1940.



However, the local economy began to change in 1940, with the establishment of numerous military bases in anticipation of possible trouble in Europe. The military bases through various governmental entities proceeded to buy goods from the colonists. For some families, this proved to be too little, too late. By 1948, only 31% of the original colonists were still there. By 1965, only 10% of the original colonists were present.

Although, the colonists faced many hardships, those that remained proved that the lower Matanuska Valley was a wide, flat, and very fertile environment. The colony formed a cooperative to market their produce and dairy products. The modern military bases of Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson Army Base, just outside of Anchorage, benefited from the colony. I resided in Anchorage and at Elmendorf Air Force Base from 1968-1974. The bases are now known as Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson and are considered to be a desirable posting. The cooperative ultimately disbanded in the 1980's when developers began to buy up land for future projects such as malls and homes. The remaining farms continue to grow world record produce such as 90-pound cabbages, 30-pound turnips, and 35-pound heads of broccoli.

This famous colony is now located in what is known as the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. In 1985, sets of new "bingles" were issued to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the colony. The obverse with the denomination remained the same, however, a special

anniversary design was created for the reverse. The valley includes seven towns e.g. Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, Houston, Willow, Sutton, and Talkeetna. Palmer is the location of the annual Alaska State Fair. The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce has begun to reissue its own form of "Bingles." They are wooden, laser engraved tokens which are intended to be used like gift certificates. They are redeemable at any commercial establishment in Palmer. The tokens are issued in the \$5 and \$20 denominations. In 2020, \$30,000 worth of new "Bingles" were sold.

Old or original "Bingles" have acquired a following of their own. They have appeared at major auction houses from time to time. Third party graded coins are highly prized. The value of "Bingles" currently ranges from \$100 to \$325 for each of the aluminum coins depending on condition and denomination, to \$225 to \$425 for each of the brass coins also depending on condition and denomination. Complete sets or subsets command a premium. (2025 Red Book, page 445)



The author wishes to acknowledge the literary assistance of the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Banking and Securities; ExploreNorth Blog-Murray Lundberg, AlaskaWeb.org, Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce, and Wikipedia

# AMERICA'S FIRST SILVER DOLLAR, & SARAH VANDERVOORT

by Fred Garvin

The two-year production of the 1794 and 1795 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar Coin is one of the most coveted United States Minted Coins ever struck. The weight and diameter of the Flowing Hair silver dollar was based on

the internationally accepted Spanish Dollar. The mint's Chief Engraver, Robert Scot created the dies of Liberty, closely following the 1793 Liberty Cap, Large Cent. The newly formed nation had not yet fully established itself as a world superpower, even after a motley crew of morally convicted colonists handed over a plate of whoop-ass to a long-standing empire, with their second helping soon to follow. They knew their new national coinage would be scrutinized by the world, and took care in the production of their largest coin to date.

In preparation of the 1792 Coinage Act, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton conducted a study and series of assay tests focused on world coin silver content and the Spanish Dollar, as that was the coin the U.S. monetary system would be based. His report was submitted to Congress on January 28 1791, and the report can be found at *Founders Online*, under the title "Final Version of the Report on the Establishment of a Mint". A very interesting read for all coin enthusiasts. Hamilton's report included the 371 grains of silver and a total weight of 416 grains. His assay tests varied due to allowed deficiencies in weight and fineness at Mexican Mints, but recommended an 89.24% silver content. It wasn't until a few years after the passage of the Coinage Act, 1794, an issue



was realized by assayer Albion Cox and reported it to the Mint's first Director, David Rittenhouse. Cox believed the percentages of alloys would result in a more quickly

darkening coin if put into circulation. He suggested a new alloy percentage of .900, increasing the silver grains to 374.74 while maintaining the total 416 grains, however this change was non-compliant to the statute. The Mint's actions cost suppliers of silver about one percent of their deposit, and it wasn't until 1800 when all were reimbursed. Would less than a 1% difference, 3 grains of silver, really produce a more quickly darkening coin?

The new silver dollars were required to have a lettered edge, HUNDRED CENTS ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT on their 2mm edge. This was achieved through the use of Jean Castaings 1670's invention of his coin edge lettering machine. It was a slow and inexact process of edging, and many of these dollar planchets were overweight. Filing remedied the weight problem, but was it brought on by the alloy change? The 1795 mintage of 160,295 silver dollars had low weight issues, and silver plugs compensated. Wouldn't this affect the overall silver content? Only one 1794 is known to have a plug, and there is one 1795 known to have 2 plugs. Centered on obverse and the other is below the wreath on reverse.





It was recommended a wreath be placed around the Statue required eagle reverse, and fifteen stars on the Obverse representing each State of the Union. The 1794 mintage has a “close star” to the left of the date, and there are 2 varieties of the 1795 Reverse. The 2 Leaf, and the 3 Leaf below the eagles wings.

Officially transferred from the Chief Coiner, Henry Voigt on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1794 to the custody of Mint Treasurer Dr. Nicholas Way, the complete mintage of 1,758 silver dollars were then transferred to Mint Director

David Rittenhouse. The very next day, Rittenhouse gave one coin to the Secretary of State where he presented it to President Washington for inspection. Although these coins were found to be acceptable, they were poorly struck due to the man powered screw press used which was intended for coins no larger than a half dollar. Rittenhouse ordered all dollar coin production to cease until a more powerful press could be built for better striking. During this hiatus, a Boston paper, The Columbian Centinel first wrote about the new dollar coins in a November 26<sup>th</sup> 1794 article. In part stating, “The *tout ensemble* has a pleasing effect to a connoisseur, but touches of the engraver are too delicate, and there is a want of that boldness of execution which is necessary to durability and currency”.



2 LEAVES



3 LEAVES

The Flowing Hair Silver Dollar saw a production period of only October 1794, and then a restart in May of 1795 through September,

resulting in 162,053 minted coins in a total of six nonconsecutive months. Excluding the rarity of the 1804 Dollar due to a record keeping error, the Flowing Hair Dollar is the least minted, in the shortest time period of any U.S. Coin. On October 15<sup>th</sup> 2024, the U.S. Mint has released the 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flowing Hair Silver Medals. They sold out on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. These are .999 silver and are not billed as coins, most likely because the mint decided not to incuse the edge with face value lettering,



Liberty adhering closer to European numismatic standards. Speculators, Historians, and Numismatic Artisans have concluded the exposed cleavage on the Draped Bust achieves that goal.

which is unfortunate. However, there is a “230” Privy Mark on the Obverse, but only 1,794 of the 75,000 minted shall bear it, and only 230 of the 1,794 privy marked will include a hand signed COA by Mint Director Ventris C. Gibson. The 2024 Flowing Hair High Relief Gold Coin release is in a “To Be Determined” status.

If you were to look at the description paragraph of the Flowing Hair Dollar in your Red Book, you will see only the engraver Robert Scot is mentioned. So, who designed the Flowing Hair Dollar? The Mint’s website states both Rittenhouse and Scot designed the original, but is that really true? Focusing on the “Hooked Curl” feature of the original Flowing Hair Dollar, the 1793 Flowing Hair Half Cent, and



Large Cent do not seem to have similar “flowing hair”. Adding to this mystery, the designer of both cent pieces is *UNKNOWN*. Now compare the 1794 Liberty Cap Large Cent (1793-1796) and the designer is said to PROBABLY be Henry Voigt. Wait! What are they saying? Does anyone even know who designed America’s

First Silver Dollar?!



A lesser-known fact, in 1793 a yellow fever epidemic was widespread in Philadelphia. A young portrait painter and his wife had succumbed to the disease in September and

history was altered. Not to be confused with Joseph Wright of Derby, this Joseph Wright was George Washington’s first choice as America’s First Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, but sadly died before he could accept the position. Joseph Wright is credited with the Liberty Cap Large Cent (1793-1796), and the Half Cent Head Facing Left in other recorded documents. Robert Scot, First Chief Engraver by default, is credited as designer of the Draped Bust. We can only guess as to Joseph Wright’s design of America’s First Silver Dollar. There is really no concrete evidence, however, after looking at the unfinished portrait of Wright and his Family he was working on prior to his death, it seems his wife, Sarah Vandervoort, could have been the inspiration/model of his coin designs? Author Fabian H. Monroe

observes an “*uncanny resemblance*” with the 1792 Quarter Dollar pattern die trials and Joseph’s wife Sarah in his 1985 published book, *JOSEPH WRIGHT: AMERICAN ARTIST 1756-1793*. Wright did design the 1783 Libertas Americana Medal where it is believed his then girlfriend Sarah

Vandervoort was his model, and other Numismatist do believe Wright designed the 1792 Half Dime, although it too is labeled *Designer unknown*. All of these coins do depict a very similar model of Liberty. Sarah did have long flowing hair and a face he knew intimately, he could draw it blindfolded. Why not immortalize the mother of your children on a coin? Was a dying request to use his wife’s likeness on the First U.S. Dollar Coin adhered to by George Washington’s inspection? If he was to be the chief engraver wouldn’t it make sense his design would be used on such an important coin? Also, why did the coin change to the Draped Bust... a design of the Chief Engraver Robert Scot?



As always, I’m easy to find, approachable, and waiting for someone to yell, “Hey Garvin, check out my flowing hair!”

# THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S INFLUENCE ON US COINAGE

(Part 1)

By David Minnich

And so it was that on September 6, 1901, while attending the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, President William McKinley was shot. He died 8 days later. Thus, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt was thrust into the presidency and became our 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

Roosevelt's achievements were many. He considered himself a man of the people and was a hero in the Spanish-American War. He served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under McKinley. He desired to project America's image and power across the globe. An example of this is the deployment of the Great White Fleet which circumnavigated the globe between 1907-1909. Roosevelt was a well-travelled man.

Roosevelt was also a great admirer of classical art, including such art as embodied in ancient Greek coins. Roosevelt believed the impressive high-relief gold coins of ancient Greece and Rome were the pinnacle of numismatic beauty and style. After all, the American people had been carrying in their pocket's dimes, quarters and half dollars of the same bland, utilitarian design for years (the Barber series). Roosevelt thought it was time for a change.

He wrote to Leslie Mortier Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury: "I think the state of our coinage is artistically of atrocious hideousness. Would it be possible, without asking permission of Congress, to employ a man like (Augustus) Saint-Gaudens to give us a coinage which would have some beauty?" Shaw determined there were five coins whose designs could be changed without Congressional approval. These were the one-cent coin and four gold coins: \$2.50 Quarter Eagle, \$5 Half Eagle, \$10 Eagle, and \$20 Double Eagle.

Back then, the U.S. double eagle was used in international trade and was a logical choice for redesign. Longacre's Liberty Head double eagle was a fine coin but, it lacked the beauty Roosevelt wanted. Augustus Saint-Gaudens was the premiere sculptor of his day and a friend of Teddy Roosevelt. He personified the ideals of the American Renaissance. Saint-Gaudens was receptive to the invitation to redesign American coinage. This would be the first time someone outside of the U.S. Mint had designed a U.S. coin.

Saint-Gaudens agreed with Roosevelt's wish to design and strike a coin in high relief. After all this was a request from the President of the United States. High-relief



coins were considered ill-suited for commerce because they are more difficult to strike and do not stack properly. Saint-Gaudens wrote to Treasury Secretary Shaw, asking if a high-relief coin would be possible to produce at scale. Shaw met with Roosevelt to discuss the artist's question. President Roosevelt insisted on one thing, he wanted to have beautiful coinage. Shaw responded to Saint-Gaudens with the go ahead for a high-relief design.

Let's not forget that at that time Charles E. Barber was the U.S. Chief Mint Engraver. Barber had followed the progress of Saint-Gaudens' work and voiced concern over the proposed design. The high-relief design Saint-Gaudens was working on would be difficult to mint in the quantities needed. But when Saint-Gaudens' design was delivered to Barber, he hesitantly accepted it. At the time, the mint was busy working on new designs for the coinage of Cuba and the Philippines. Barber probably didn't want to waste time experimenting when he had so much to do already. However, dies were made and a handful of pieces struck. These pieces are known today as the Ultra High Relief Saint-Gaudens. While they were beautiful, as the president wished, there was a problem. Normally, a coin took a single strike to form. Each Saint-Gaudens piece took approximately nine strikes to fully bring out the details. This would not do.

Shortly after this failed attempt, Augustus Saint-Gaudens passed away. His assistant, Henry Hering was working on an updated,

lower relief version of the design but Barber did not know how to contact him. When Hering arrived with the new design, Barber immediately rejected it on the grounds the relief was STILL too high for regular production. But realizing the double eagle redesign wouldn't simply go away, Barber began work on a low-relief version of Saint-Gaudens' design.

As Barber continued to work on his design, Mint Director George E. Roberts resigned. Roosevelt nominated San Francisco Mint Superintendent Frank Leach to replace him. Roosevelt was aware of Hering's rejected design and the president gave Leach orders to create a second set of dies and begin production of the Saint-Gaudens double eagles based on Hering's updated model. 12,367 pieces were struck in high relief. These took approximately three strikes to complete. An improvement, but still too lengthy a process for a mint issued coin. Barber soon completed his modifications. With a low-relief design in place, production began in earnest. The mint coined 361,667 low-relief pieces that year (1907).

*In part 2 – Roosevelt and the missing motto 'In God We Trust' as well as the designs for the \$5 Half Eagle, \$10 Eagle and other tidbits.*

