



We have lost a GIANT in the hobby!



Cothran “Hugh” Shull, Jr.



Notable currency dealer and author Hugh Shull passed away in Lexington, SC on December 19, 2025. Hugh specialized in obsoletes and confederate notes. He was Life Member #6 in the SPMC and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018. He authored “*A Guide Book of Southern States Currency*” in 2007. A life member of the ANA, FUN and charter member of PCDA, he was named a numismatic Ambassador in 1992.

Personal Reflections

Hugh was the first paper money dealer I had extensive dealings with and he was my favorite. I got my first catalog from him in 1982 when I transitioned from a 20+ year coin collection (because I hated the way coins were going to TPG) and began a long collecting career of South Carolina Obsoletes. He was always very nice and went out of his way to teach me about the notes. I always enjoyed going to Memphis and just standing around listening to the good-natured banter between him, Don Fisher and Tom Denly, who were always on the sidewall next to each other laugh, tell stories and have fun.

Raiden Honaker of Heritage says “Describing the legacy of Hugh Shull and his incredible influence on paper money is difficult to put into words, as his involvement of over half a century undoubtedly changed and impacted our hobby for the better. Hugh was the definition of a Southern gentleman, and I consider myself very fortunate to have known him and called him my friend. We all owe Hugh our sincere thanks for his dedication to our wonderful hobby and for educating countless collectors throughout his many years. His passion and admiration for paper money is difficult to match, and he will certainly be remembered as a true legend. Thank you, Hugh. We miss you deeply.”

From Pierre and Joyce Fricke We were distraught upon hearing Hugh Shull’s passing on Saturday morning (December 20). We both saw this as a huge loss for the hobby as well as a great friend.

I met Hugh Shull at the 2002 ANA World’s Fair of Money in New York City. My first impression of Hugh was that he was the consummate southern gentleman with the most charming personality. I had already ordered from his catalog and was amazed at the breadth and depth of his inventory. We talked for a while about how to collect CSA paper money, and I traded a couple of things with him. I was a new collector in paper money, having started in 2001, and I sought his advice eagerly.

After discussing the new book for CSA paper money, I volunteered to take it on. Hugh was instrumental, helping make the 2005 and subsequent 2008 and 2014 books better than they would have been otherwise.

We always looked forward to seeing him at the Dalton, Greenville and Franklin TN shows and a group of us would meet on one of the nights at these shows to visit over dinner.

Hugh made paper money collecting more fun and interesting. His photographic memory was amazing. His fascinating stories drew a crowd at all the coin and currency shows. His depth of knowledge was unsurpassed so much that when he came up for consideration in 2018 to be inducted into the Society of Paper Money Collectors Hall of Fame, I supported it enthusiastically.

Robert Gill says My first dealing with Hugh was many years ago. At that time, I had just recently discovered Obsoletes and had made up my mind to concentrate on collecting them in sheet form. At that time, Hugh took phone orders only by recording, but for some reason, that day he answered the phone. I told him I was interested in the sheets, and would get payment out in that day’s mail. But then, for some reason, he said to me, “Now you’re sending the payment today... correct?” I told him yes. Then he said, “I’m going to trust you and mail them today.” From that point on, with trust and respect for each other, he and I set out on a venture of building an Obsolete sheet collection that he said many times would not be achieved again. And it was during the past year he found the rarest sheet that he ever did for me. And even more prideful for him, it was a South Carolina sheet!