



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

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November 2019 (Whole #178)

LSCC In Baltimore This Month



The LSCC membership and guests have an opportunity to gather at the Whitman Winter Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD on November 14-16, 2019. Extensive club activities are planned including:

- Club members will staff a club table on the bourse floor at booth 915. John Frost and Dennis Fortier will exhibit a collector display.
- The regional meeting will be on Friday, November 15 at 9 AM in room 301. An educational program will follow an update on club activities.
- The Club no-host dinner will be on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM at the Pratt Street Pub.

The Baltimore LSCC regional meetings are always well attended with a great opportunity to see and talk “Seated Stuff” with others. Please try to attend.

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A word on email rejects...

Every month I get a few rejections on the *E-Gobrecht* that I email to the private distribution listing. Besides the usual rejections for an email address that doesn't exist (changed and I was not notified), almost always, the rejection comes from the yahoo.com internet service provider with notice that the receiver's mailbox is disabled.

If you are not receiving the *E-Gobrecht* and should be, send me a note and I will check your email address and any reject notifications I receive.

-Editor

The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning informal electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included on the last page.



Stories from the Club Table

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

The immense satisfaction of completing any denomination set of Liberty Seated coins is without question marvelous to see. I've worked with John Frost for ten years now and during that time he's been trying to finish his set of Liberty Seated Dollars, needing just the 1851 and 1852. It took John ten years and more to locate and procure these two rare issues.

I was with John when the 1852 walked up to the club table two years ago. Recently the 1851 became available from a friend; this completed John's Liberty Seated Dollar set. John displayed his complete set for the first time at Manchester in October. It was gratifying to see and hear the many accolades John received over his accomplishment.

The Liberty Seated Dollar set is one of the more difficult sets to complete with two key dates (1851 and 1852) that are well into the five figure range. Having a grand collection is a wonderful feeling, sharing it with members and collectors for them to enjoy and share your pride of ownership is profoundly rewarding. Working the club table brings many levels of reward, here is another one. Well done John.

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COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM - This legislation, H.R. 3757, "1921 Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin Act" will require the United States Mint to produce two U.S. Silver Dollars (Morgan and Peace Dollars) dated 2021.

COIN DESIGNS - These two silver dollars will be minted from the original design work of George T. Morgan and Anthony de Francisci. The only change will be the date to 2021.

METAL CONTENT - The coins will be not less than 90% silver.

COIN SIZES - They will be as the original sized silver dollars in uncirculated and proof finishes.

COST - The pricing has yet to be determined. **40% of the surcharges will go back to numismatics** through the American Numismatic Association as directed by law. Since the restart of the Mint's commemorative coin program in 1982 coin surcharges have supported many worthy causes and projects. This will be the first time that the surcharge funds will be used to support numismatics.



<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

A Bit out of the Ordinary

I dropped in on a coin show in Pennsylvania last week to find LSCC Education Director John Frost about 10 minutes into a presentation on Liberty Seated and Barber coinage. I was not aware that he was presenting that day and had not planned to attend his talk. You should. The talk was a well-presented and well-received overview prepared for people unfamiliar with the series. Despite a lot of time spent with Liberty Seated coins I still learned from it. One of the interesting things John did was to compare Liberty Seated and Barber mintages and survival rates with the ubiquitous and familiar Washington Quarter. The talk, and a subsequent conversation with John, got us around to an interesting question. What if a key date Washington Quarter was a Liberty Seated Quarter? Just how would it rank in terms of rarity and availability?

Issue	Mintage	PCGS Population	CAC Green Sticker
1932-D	436,800	7,099	315
1932-S	408,000	8,275	501

With mintages of just over 400,000 the 1932-S and 1932-D are the lowest mintage Washington Quarters by a large margin. Only the 1937-S at 1,652,000 joins these two issues with production below 2.5 million. The 1932-S issue has slightly lower mintage but higher survival, so for purposes of this comparison the 1932-D will be considered “the key” to the series.

Mintage. Liberty Seated collectors are, as a group, well aware that mintage and survival are different things; often dramatically different things. That said, a comparison of mintage numbers shows that 70 of 110 Liberty Seated Quarter issues have lower mintage than the 1932-D. It is also interesting to note that production of the 25 lowest mintage Liberty Seated Quarters *combined* totals less than the mintage of the key date 1932-D.

PCGS Population. There is a lot of nuance to interpreting PCGS populations. Specifically, comparisons can change dramatically if specific grade range, coin value, and resubmissions are considered. A simple comparison of total PCGS population is provided here in order to keep the point clear, and because detailed discussion would rely heavily on speculation and matters of opinion regarding biases in the data. The clear and simple point is that only 12 of the 110 Liberty Seated Quarters (shown in the table) have total PCGS populations above 500, while the key date 1932-D has 7,099 certification events. This total number of grading events is greater than the 6 *most* certified seated quarters combined; and greater than the 62 least certified Liberty Seated quarters combined.

Date-Mintmark	Total PCGS Pop.
1932-D	7,099
1853	2,273
1854	1,013
1877-CC	984
1861	941
1891	931
1876	922
1876-CC	767
1857	741
1858	691
1877-S	602
1877	558
1878-CC	532

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CAC Population. The comments above regarding the pitfalls of interpreting PCGS certification probably applies twice over for CAC approval. Nonetheless, here is a simple comparison of total CAC numbers. Again, the key date Washington Quarter has more CAC approved examples than the most common, and most CAC approved, Liberty Seated quarter. And similarly, to the mintage and PCGS population data, the 25 least CAC approved Liberty Seated quarter issues have a *combined* total CAC population less than that of the 1932-D.



What about common date Washington Quarters? In 1964, the combined output of Washington Quarters for the Denver and Philadelphia mints totaled more than 8 times the total mintage of the entire Liberty Seated Quarter *series*. That's right, for each Liberty Seated Quarter ever struck (during the entire 54 year span of production) there are more than eight Washington Quarters dated 1964.

I stand by my decision to sell my Washington Quarter set to fund Liberty Seated Quarter purchases.

Photos courtesy of Heritage Auctions.com.

Date-Mintmark	Total CAC Green Population
1932-D	315
1853	237
1876	121
1861	106
1854	101
1891	100
1877-CC	99
1857	94
1877	90
1858	86
1878-CC	73
1879	71

LSCC Calendar

October 29, 2019. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #136 postal mailed to all current members.

November 14-16, 2019. **LSCC table, regional meeting, educational program, and club dinner. Baltimore, MD.** Whitman Winter Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Dennis Fortier and John Frost will staff the club table on the bourse floor at booth 915. The regional meeting will be on Friday, November 15 at 9 AM in room 301; there will be an educational program after the club update. The Club no host dinner will be on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM at the Pratt Street Ale House.

All dates: see the LSCC website (www.lscweb.org) for additional events and details.



Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Back to Baltimore!

It is time once again to return to Baltimore for the Whitman Coin Expo. Please read further for the club happenings at Baltimore.

New Hampshire Coin Expo October 4-5. It is always a good time going to the New Hampshire Coin Expo in Manchester. We see so many good friends every year. There's catching up with friends, sharing new acquisitions, and revealing the direction of our collecting interests of the moment. Joe Casazza, Northeast regional Director, hosted the club table and Mark Archambault assisted. With great guys like that you're sure to have a good time with several new coins to share.

John Frost hosted the club meeting and gave the educational presentation on Liberty Seated Dollars; this program corresponded with the display at the club table of his complete set of Liberty Seated Dollars. There were 11 attendees at the meeting, that's the most we've had in a long time. Ernie Botte the show promoter understands the educational component to collecting and goes the extra mile to have a room for various meetings and education.

Many attendees and members appreciated John's accomplishment in completing his Dollar collection. Manchester has been the display sight of several magnificent collections: Gene Gardner's Dimes, Steve Crain's Half Dimes, Gerry Fortin's Dimes, Mark Archambault's Carson City Coins and Exonomia, and now John Frost's Dollars.

PAN October 18-19, John Frost's report. The fall PAN (Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists) show was held in suburban Pittsburgh on October 16-19 in the Monroeville Convention Center, a great facility for shows with easy access and plenty of free parking. We had a club table featuring the exhibit, "The

Many Faces of Liberty Seated," which showed the various changes to the engravings of the Liberty Seated figure, across the denominations, and as the subsequent engravers tried to "improve" the design for better striking, which usually backfired. Thus, the numerous subtypes within each denomination were on display along with enlarged photos.



The booth was in the new section of the floor dedicated to education, clubs, exhibits, and the YN areas. While traffic in our part of the floor was slightly less than in the dealer area on the bourse, it was higher quality traffic – people interested in education and clubs, and not solely looking to buy something. In addition to a couple new members and a polo shirt sale, we had some great information-sharing discussions with interested members of the public. Also, our education had caught on so well that there was entire new set of presenters of educational programs. So full, in fact, that we only had a single session available for a presentation (vs. 2 to 4 slots previously). The talk presented was "Why you should collect Liberty Seated and Barber Coinage" and it was a hit with the attendees. It was a new type of talk which contrasted low-mintage

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and scarce Liberty Seated and Barber coins with their much more common key date counterparts in more modern and popular series, such as Morgan dollars, Mercury dimes, Lincoln cents, etc.

PAN is a wonderful host organization, and we look forward to returning next October for the Fall 2020 show!

Whitman Coin Expo. Baltimore November 14-16. Baltimore is one of the high points of the coin season. Thousands of coins will change hands over those few days. John Frost and Dennis Fortier will host the club table. Stop by and say hello. New members please note the club table is an excellent place to become more than just a name and number on the membership list. There's also a good deal of expertise around the club table to be accessed should you have questions.

Club Dinner at Pratt Street Ale House November 14 6:30 PM. The club pays \$125 for a private room at this fine establishment. Ordering is off the menu and the staff graciously provides separate checks. It is one of the best club dinner venues on the circuit. The food and service are always excellent, and the private room makes for a party atmosphere where we can be ourselves and just talk coins. It's a fun time, don't miss it!

Club Meeting. The club dinner on Thursday night is followed by the club meeting on Friday morning November 15 at 9 AM. There are many moving changes happening within the club at this time so be sure to attend and be fully informed.

Club shirt sales, dues renewal, and member sign-up are just some of the services provided at the club table, stop by and take care of business.

Important Announcement for LSCC Members

This Fall with a mailer included in the current *Gobrecht Journal*, LSCC members are asked to vote on and approve the updated LSCC Constitution and By-Laws.

The club officers recognize that this is important to everyone so you have a chance to read them now as they are posted on the LSCC website at: <http://www.lscweb.org/Constitution.shtml>. Once on this link, you will see this header followed by the new By-Laws:

Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Constitution and By-Laws
Draft for discussion and approval - October 2019

You may also access the draft Constitution and By-Laws by going to the menu item under "About us" called "LSCC Constitution and By-laws."

Thank you.



The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Coinage Struck at New Orleans Under the Confederacy

From Roger W. Burdette comes this correspondence from the U.S. National Archives, related to coinage struck at the New Orleans Mint, while that facility was under Louisiana and Confederate control. On October 4, 1880, the Mint Director Horatio C. Burchard wrote to A. Loudon Snowden, the superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint:

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant enclosing a letter from Buffalo, relative to the striking of coins at the New Orleans Mint after that institution had passed into the hands of the Confederacy. The report of the Director of the Mint for 1861 states that “since the 31st day of January 1861, no report has been received from this branch.” Consequently the statistics at that Mint embraced nothing subsequent to that date.

The Coiner’s books however show some twenty-four deliveries of coin to the Superintendent from February 13th to May 30th, comprising \$254,820 in double eagles and \$1,101,316.50 in half dollars. I have replied to the letter enclosed in your communication.

This letter is on Newman Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/archivedetail/512703?Year=1880&take=50>.

The dollar amount gives the number of non-Union half dollars struck in 1861 – 2,202,633. In 2005 and 2006, Randy Wiley wrote the definitive articles on the 1861-O half dollar in *Gobrecht Journal* #94 and #97 (<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/514095> and <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/172>). Wiley quotes the 1887 Mint Director’s report, which gave a figure of 1,240,000 pieces struck under Louisiana authority and 962,333 struck under Confederate authority. Remarkably, these two figures add up exactly to the figure cited in 1880 – 2,202,633 coins total. It’s likely that the “Coiner’s

book” was consulted in 1887 when the Mint Director report was written.

So, what is this mysterious Coiner’s book, and what else can it tell us about 1861 New Orleans half dollars? Roger Burdette comments:

“It is probably the Coiner’s Journal which supposedly showed the production of each press for each day, plus details of each delivery. This was a companion to the Die Journal which showed similar details for every die used and the reasons for it being removed from service. That’s what I get from digesting multiple ‘thin’ references, but I have not located either journal. There are several letters of instruction to the mints to discard obsolete records. These begin in the 1850s and seem to be spaced about every 40 years. I have no data about what was destroyed until we get to the 1970s -- and even those are superficial.

The New Orleans Mint under Louisiana and Confederacy might be in NARA Texas (Fort Worth), or possibly in the Confederacy Treasury materials at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD -- I have not looked at either.”

Readers who live close to Fort Worth, TX or College Park, MD may be interested in making a field trip to the National Archives facilities in those locations. You might make an important discovery. This book, if it exists, would likely show the intermediate deliveries of 1861-O half dollars (and 1861-O double eagles) while the Mint was under Louisiana and Confederate control. It is possible, though not certain, that these deliveries would closely align with the production of the specific die pairs thoroughly analyzed by Randy Wiley article in *Gobrecht Journal* #94.



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Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

Heritage Signature Auction, October 17-24, Dallas. There were a number of better date Liberty Seated coins in this auction. As often happens, the CAC verified coins brought strong prices. An 1874-CC half dollar graded G6 CAC, which appeared to be an exceptional coin for the grade, sold for a price comparable to VG coins. A circulated example of the scarce proof-only 1858 Liberty Seated dollar, graded VF20 CAC, sold for a price almost as high as some AU and lower grade uncirculated examples.

1840-O WD	half dime	PCGS CAC	AU58	\$5,520.	With drapery
1858-S	dime	PCGS CAC	VF30	\$810.	
1860-O	dime	PCGS	VF20	\$1,620.	
1872-CC	dime	NGC	XF40	\$5,420.	
1842-O SD	quarter	PCGS	XF45	\$5,160.	
1864	quarter	PCGS	AU50	\$1,060.	
1847/6	half dollar	NGC	XF40	\$4,920.	WB-9, FS-301
1849	half dollar	NGC	XF45	\$1,500.	WB-6, repunched date
1856-S	half dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$1,051.	
1866-S NM	half dollar	PCGS	F15	\$751.	No motto
1874-CC	half dollar	PCGS CAC	G6	\$1,680.	
1859-S	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU53	\$3,600.	OC-1
1860	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU53	\$1,680.	
1872-S	Seated dollar	NGC	AU53	\$3,360.	OC-1
1858	Seated dollar	PCGS CAC	VF20	\$7,800.	OC-P1
1876-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$1,860.	Doubled die reverse

Legacy Auctions, October 24, New Orleans. This auction was limited to less than 200 coins, but it did include a proof 1838 Gobrecht pattern dollar (Judd-84). As a PCGS PR65 CAC coin it brought \$146,875. Several other high grade proof Liberty Seated coins were included in several, mostly original, annual proof sets.



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LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org
LSCC email address: lsc@lscweb.org

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are bargain priced at \$25 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the LSCC Publications Editor.

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Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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