



# E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club

2020 Volume 16, Issue 5

May 2020 (Whole #184)

*E-G's*  
16<sup>th</sup> Year

*Stepping back in time to a bygone era of the Liberty Seated coin design period both far and wide...*



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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 free 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.



# Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



## President's Message

Welcome to our monthly "fix" of all things Liberty Seated, capably orchestrated by our Editor Paul Kluth. I enjoy reading the *E-Gobrecht* each month to learn the latest goings on, along with any observations our members wish to share. I am pleased to report that Paul I is now out of rehab, back at home, and feeling much better. Also noteworthy is that we are wrapping up our dues renewal season, and, if you have not received the Spring issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*, you should renew post haste! A couple renewal options are given at <http://www.lscweb.org/Renew.shtml>.

A big thanks to Secretary-Treasurer Dale

Miller for reaching out to the membership to ensure timely renewals.

As I write this we are in week 7 of the quarantine, but signs of life are now seen, as states announce various re-opening policies. I'm confident within a few weeks we'll be able to move about more easily, but we'll see continued limitations on large gatherings and other restrictions. The big question on everyone's mind is whether the ANA Annual Convention will happen in Pittsburgh in August. No one knows for sure, but LSCC has committed to a Club table if the show is held. Stay safe, and I hope to see you there! ...*Len Augsburger*

*Welcome to the following new LSCC Members this month:*

*Ray Cornell, Andrew Reiber and Col. Dennis Tucker*

*There are currently 981 active & invited Subscribers to E-Gobrecht. Should we say you are part of an elite group of numismatists!*

### **\* LSCC Auction Announcement \***

**Donations and consignments are wanted to support club efforts  
Liberty Seated Coins, Exonumia, and Books  
are wanted by June 1<sup>st</sup> in time for the ANA Annual Club Meeting**

**Please contact Club VP Dennis Fortier at [ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com) to donate or consign.**



## *Editor's View From the Rim*

### *Hard Times Are Here*

Taking a break from it all, current events are certainly something we do not want to focus on here. Everybody is getting enough of the hardship in their daily lives. For most Americans, these are troubled, hard times affecting every sector of their existence.

E-Gobrecht can be a temporary escape, an opportunity to enjoy your hobby and a passion. This is an underlying mission here!

E-Gobrecht is also unlike other publications in the hobby. It is free to anyone with an interest in receiving it. It only arrives in digital format, but you can print it out from the .pdf file or off the LSCC website. It is not commercial in nature where the publisher has strict deadlines in order to go to press and is a for-profit venture. There are no long lead times for articles and advertisers. Material in e-Gobrecht is very timely for a monthly publication. Advertising is inexpensive, but is only available to LSCC Members.



So picking up where I left off in February's View, E-Gobrecht can become a refreshing numismatic publication for all of us covering all kinds of 19<sup>th</sup> Century period history, art, money and economics related to the Liberty Seated coin design (*before and after, and both far and wide*).

Are ideas/topics brewing in your head for what you would like to see and possibly submit yourself to share with other readers? So many possibilities here... New topics are starting to appear each month.

Let us all make it happen at least for the sake of our escape! .... PK

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**\*Did you know that you can even submit images, collector stories and brief articles under a pen name or anomalously if you prefer? Your Editor would need to know who you are for integrity purposes, but that is it. The Editor can correct paragraphs, grammar and spelling if needed. Thank you!**

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***Footnote: Spot Gold Prices are hovering around the \$1700 /oz. range once again. Silver Spot Prices have been close to \$19/oz. in the past couple of months. This means increases to coin bullion values of collector coins impacted by fluctuating spot prices.***

# The Gobrecht Journal

The Journal of, by, and for  
the Liberty Seated Collectors Club

On the front page and featured in this month's issue of the E-Gobrecht *Newsletter* is the new annual design for the front cover of the **Gobrecht Journal**. As a member of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club you receive three issues of this award-winning Journal each year in the Spring, Summer and Fall/Winter.

The remarkable and beautiful Cover of this Gobrecht Journal was designed by Club member Jim Macor with coins from the Newman Numismatic Portal. Jim is a professional graphic design artist and supports the LSCC on many ventures.



**Newly  
Designed  
Annual  
Back  
Cover**

Edited by Bill Bugert, author of 5 Volumes of "A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties" for the San Francisco, Carson City, New Orleans, and Philadelphia Mints and with another volume or two in the works, the Gobrecht Journal is an ideal companion reference for the Liberty Seated series collector who also appreciates the obverse and reverse U.S. coin designs of that era by Christian Gobrecht.

Here are some snapshots of just a few of the great articles by various authors in the recently mailed Spring issue (Vol. 46.1 / #137):

### Rarity of CAC'd Mint State Liberty Seated Coinage – Information on Liberty Seated Dimes, Quarters, and Half Dollars by Date and Mintmark by Stephen Petty, LSCC #2077

Welcome to the third of three articles on the rarity of CAC'd Liberty Seated coinage; I hope you have been able to learn how many premium coins exist for the coins you may be collecting.

In the first article in this series of articles, an overview was provided of the rarity of CAC's Liberty Seated Mint State<sup>2</sup> coinage for all seven series:

- ▶ Liberty Seated Half Dimes (1837-1873).
- ▶ Liberty Seated Dimes (1837-1891).
- ▶ Liberty Seated Double Dimes - 20¢ (1875-1878).
- ▶ Liberty Seated Quarter Dollars (1838-1891).
- ▶ Liberty Seated Half Dollars (1839-1891).
- ▶ Liberty Seated Dollars (1840-1873).
- ▶ Trade Dollars (1873-1878).

coinage, by date and mintmark, were downloaded from the NGC website.

4. Populations for all PCGS and NGC Liberty Seated certified coinage, by date and mintmark and for circulated and uncirculated totals, by date and mintmark, were determined.
5. Populations of CAC green and gold Liberty Seated coinage, by date and mintmark and for circulated and uncirculated coinage, were totaled for each date and mintmark.
6. The ratio of CAC green & gold coinage to total PCGS & NGC certified coinage by date and mintmark and for circulated and uncirculated coinage, were determined.
7. The numbers of circulated and uncirculated coinage, by series, date, and mintmark were obtained from CAC.

Table 3 (continued). Rarity of CAC'd Liberty Seated Half Dollars.

50 ¢	Variety	% CAC'D (Green + Gold)			CAC Submissions			Ratio CAC Sub./PCGS & NGC			% Submissions CAC'D (Green + Gold)		
		Circ.	Unc.	Overall	Circ.	Unc.	Totals	Circ.	Unc.	Totals	Circ.	Unc.	Overall
1853	Arrows and Rays	5.91%	8.72%	6.57%	330	188	518	14.44%	26.44%	17.28%	40.91%	32.98%	38.03%
1853-O	Arrows and Rays	6.96%	16.39%	7.91%	83	22	105	15.20%	36.07%	17.30%	45.78%	45.45%	45.71%
1854	Arrows	5.36%	6.16%	5.55%	97	85	182	10.83%	30.80%	15.53%	49.48%	20.00%	35.71%
1854-O	Arrows	5.68%	9.71%	6.69%	168	144	312	12.40%	31.79%	17.26%	45.83%	30.56%	38.78%
1855	Arrows	3.93%	10.22%	5.90%	26	31	57	8.52%	25.05%	13.44%	46.15%	41.94%	43.86%
1855-54	Arrows	10.96%	13.33%	11.36%	17	27	44	23.29%	180.00%	50.00%	47.06%	7.41%	22.73%
1855-O	Arrows	4.51%	11.03%	6.41%	122	146	268	12.24%	35.78%	19.07%	36.89%	30.82%	33.58%
1855-S	Arrows	8.94%	40.00%	10.16%	36	5	41	29.27%	100.00%	32.03%	30.56%	40.00%	31.71%
1866		5.07%	10.78%	6.90%	29	36	65	13.36%	35.29%	20.38%	37.93%	30.56%	33.85%
1866-S		5.61%	2.58%	5.14%	27	9	36	12.62%	23.08%	14.23%	44.44%	11.11%	36.11%
1867		10.90%	11.48%	11.06%	44	24	68	28.21%	39.34%	31.34%	38.64%	29.17%	35.29%
1867-S		7.85%	1.96%	6.98%	46	19	65	15.70%	37.25%	18.90%	50.00%	5.26%	36.92%
1868		10.66%	9.43%	10.29%	25	20	45	20.49%	37.74%	25.71%	52.00%	25.00%	40.00%
1868-S		5.51%	21.21%	7.43%	36	18	54	15.25%	54.55%	20.07%	36.11%	38.89%	37.04%
1869		5.09%	11.29%	6.77%	49	51	100	14.67%	41.13%	21.83%	34.59%	27.45%	31.00%
1869-S		9.20%	9.09%	9.18%	32	15	47	19.63%	34.09%	22.71%	46.88%	26.67%	40.43%
1870		7.68%	14.06%	9.36%	40	30	70	19.70%	46.88%	25.22%	40.00%	30.00%	35.71%
1870-CC		10.71%	0.00%	10.23%	102	5	107	60.71%	62.50%	60.80%	17.65%	0.00%	16.82%
1870-S		8.00%	30.30%	11.54%	32	17	49	18.29%	51.52%	23.56%	43.75%	58.82%	48.98%
1871		7.06%	8.73%	7.52%	52	35	87	15.95%	27.78%	19.25%	44.23%	31.43%	39.08%

(Continued on next page)



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Some more partial snapshots from the Spring Gobrecht Journal...



**Grading, Pricing, Demand, and the “CAC Effect”**  
by John Frost, LSCC #2005

As many of you know, I am not a dealer, but rather a collector and educator – it’s what I do. I go to perhaps 20 coin shows a year, many of them representing the LSCC with club exhibit tables and/or educational programs. What I see from time to time, symptoms of the current coin market, makes me scratch my head. Much of this involves how coins are third-party graded and whether a coin is CAC approved, and the extreme demand for CAC-approved coins. Therefore, in this article I’ll cover a hodgepodge of topics, all related to each other. And it is intended to make people think about the market and how they navigate in it.

One topic that comes up at the LSCC table are values. How much do you think this coin is worth? This is often from somebody looking for an assurance that they made a wise purchase a few minutes earlier.

cult, exacerbated by the differences in third-party grading.

And then there is CAC – Certified Acceptance Corporation, a separate grading service that offers an opinion on their assessment of already-certified coins, rewarding superior coins with a green or gold bean.

I have seen a lot of behavior, both spoken and in online forums, as well as in actual practice, which warrants some thought. Last year, I had decided to write an article in the *Gobrecht Journal*, but was curious as to what the reaction might be. When we offered our “Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage” course at last year’s ANA Summer Seminar, I decided to try out the idea and take it for a spin as a new course module, interested in the feedback from the attendees. It was a fruitful discussion, I think, so I now present it to the LSCC membership.

The late Charles O. Browne, a friend, dealer, a former professional grader, and an excellent instructor, taught me a great deal. I was interested in the Advanced Grading class at the ANA Summer Seminar and he encouraged me to take the course. I told him that one of the things I was most interested in was learning how to recognize problem and doctored coins. He told me that it took lots of experience and if

**Mint Documents Relative to the 1877-S Trade Dollar**  
by R.W. Julian, LSCC #2394

1877-S Trade Dollar (Images courtesy of Stack’s Bowers).

It is not often that we find materials relating to a single issue of coins. The continuing addition of documents to the Newman Portal, however, has enabled researchers to find interesting records about various unpublished aspects of American numismatics. In the present case documents were found on the Portal site that relate to the 1877-S Trade Dollar. Those reproduced below are located in the archives of the Philadelphia Mint, Record Group 104, Entry 1, Box 110.

The discussion by Chief Engraver William Barber is especially interesting in

The message here is that if you are seriously interested in coinage of the Liberty Seated series of U.S. coins either as a collector, investor, Registry Set competitor, author or other numismatic publication editor, or as a professional in the coin market, —————>

You don’t know what you are missing by not getting the full-color Journal magazine mailed to you three times a year and not being a member of the LSCC!

**END**



## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### Gold For Gobrecht Collectors

I once asked John McCloskey why the *Gobrecht Journal* didn't include articles on Gobrecht's gold coins? Christian Gobrecht was responsible for engraving the Liberty Head gold coinage struck by the U.S. Mint from 1838 to 1908. John gave me a puzzled look and said that would be OK, but no one ever submitted such articles. I don't expect that to change, and for obvious reasons. Our club is dedicated to silver coinage sets that many collectors might reasonably be ex-

pected to finish, even if it takes 5, 10, or 20 years. You can spend a few hundred dollars a month and build a pretty nice collection of Liberty Seated silver over a period of years. That's not going to happen with these Liberty Head gold sets, where the price of bullion alone is a non-starter for most. But, when Bill Bugert asked me the other day what I was buying lately, I had to admit a few gold coins have been making their way into the bank box.

(Continued on next page)

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# Gold For Gobrecht Collectors cont.

This got started a few years ago as I had less and less faith in the government to reign in debt over the long term. Not gonna happen, and eventually it will take a devaluation of the dollar to make good our outstanding loans. Compounding the situation are future *obligations* beyond the existing loans – like state pension plans (my state, Illinois, has about \$130 billion of unfunded pension obligation), Medicare (beginning in 2026; existing Medicare will be able to cover only 91% of costs), and Social Security (sure to be “means tested” in my lifetime – I’m not counting on much). So, I’ve decided a few percent of the portfolio should be in gold, and I’ve been slowly accumulating type coins. My favorite design is the \$10 Indian, but unfortunately it’s everyone else’s too, and the numismatic premiums for typical examples are high.

Lately I’m more interested in the Liberty \$10 series. There are a lot of parallels to Seated coinage with which I am much more familiar. Immediately striking is the extensive nature of the series – running

from 1838 all the way to 1907. Consider that these designs appeared in the time of President Martin Van Buren, and remained in effect for nearly 80 years, until Theodore Roosevelt decided our national coinage needed a serious refresh. The series numbers close to 200 pieces, struck at Philadelphia (1838-1907), New Orleans (1841-1860, resuming 1879-1901), San Francisco (1855-1907), and of course Carson City (1870-1893). That’s a lot of coins!

Like Seated coins, there are a bunch of common dates and quite a few rare ones, which tend to be branch-Mint pieces. The key to the set is surprisingly a Philadelphia issue, the 1875, of which a hundred were struck, with examples today priced in six-figures. The CCs are ever-popular and perhaps a bit overrated but quite a few trade in the five-figure range. I have no illusions about doing a complete set, but perhaps someone will come along and do one of those “top-100” things, which might be a more attainable goal.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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1. *An extremely rare 1875 Liberty Head Gold Eagle (\$10) PCGS AU50 sold by Heritage Auctions Feb. 2020 in Long Beach (with their known roster of 11 examples known).*
2. *1846-D L.H. Gold Half Eagle (\$5) w/ High over 2nd D Mintmark (J17) PCGS AU58.*
3. *1907 L.H. Gold Quarter Eagle (\$2.50) PCGS MS65 in older green holder*



All Images this page  
Courtesy of Heritage  
Auctions, HA.com

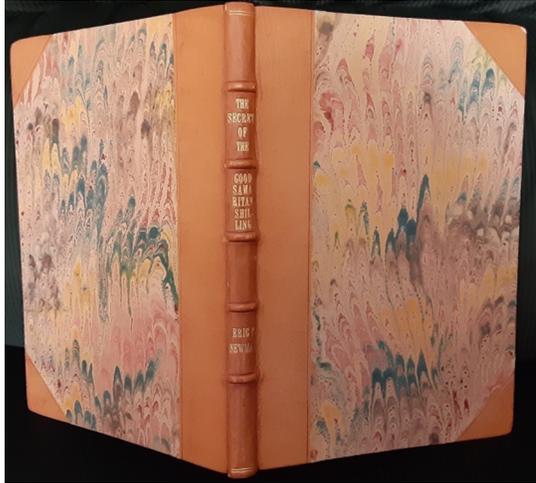
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## Gold For Gobrecht Collectors cont.

One learns quickly that gold wears differently than silver. We get rather spoiled with silver coins, where you can find lovely AU pieces with reasonable price points that have smooth surfaces and just a bit of wear on the knee and chest. You get spoiled with the toning also, which can come in all colors, some more “natural” than others.

Gold is a whole different story. For starters, it is softer and gets banged up more easily. Uncirculated pieces have more marks than you would not accept on a silver coin in the same grade. The range of toning is also more limited than what you find on silver pieces. Now everything is described as “yellow-gold”, “green-gold”, “orange-gold”, etc., perhaps with the occasional copper spot (from the gold-copper alloy) appearing on the surface.



For those of you who are book collectors there is an analogous situation.

*(Continued on next page)*

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# Gold For Gobrecht Collectors cont.

Calf leather is considered one of the most luxurious bindings, but, like gold, it marks up pretty easily. You can look at the book but not really handle it. Now what good is that? For this reason, many bookbinders will recommend morocco or some other more durable leather covering. However, if you want the “eye candy,” full calf it is.

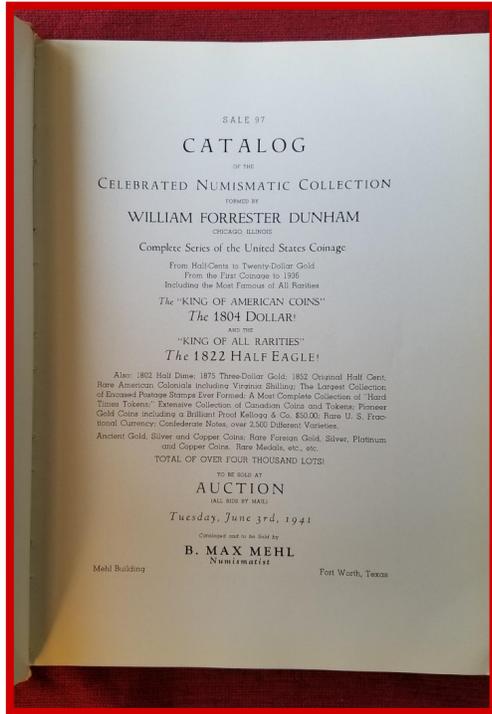
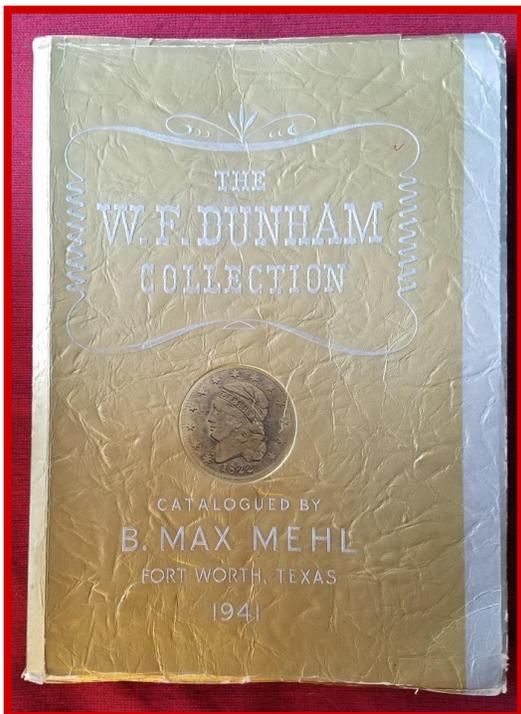
[Editor: The book pictured on the previous page looks to be quite an interesting read: “The Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling” by Eric P. Newman]

But back to gold... Another thing you notice in the *Guide Book* is that they don't give prices in grades less than VF20. There is no counting letters of LIBERTY here to see if your coin is Good or Very Good. By definition these coins circulated less than

small change, and, while they got nicked up, the designs didn't wear down. So from a design point of view everything is reasonably well-detailed, compared to a cross-section of Liberty Seated coinage. You don't have to settle for coins worn nearly slick, and they don't exist anyway.

But most importantly, a circulated, 19<sup>th</sup> century gold coin conveys much of the same charm as a Seated coin. They both tell the story of the rise and fall of silver and gold, and both reflect a bit of American commercial history. For collectors who appreciate coinage as a reminder of our past, a few gold coins will fit in just fine with the rest of your collection, even if you can't get a whole set of them. (END)

## From Deep In The Library Archives



**More about this important 1941 Auction Sale next month**



## LSCC 2020 Regional Events Schedule

*\* Details Mostly Finalized*

June 4-6 **Long Beach Expo, Long Beach CA** - Club table (Hosts: Brian Cushing, Bob Clark) (Status Note: Long Beach Convention Center Preparedness Letter dated March 11th: [http://www.longbeachexpo.com/documents/LBCC\\_Letter\\_VirusReadiness-03112020.pdf](http://www.longbeachexpo.com/documents/LBCC_Letter_VirusReadiness-03112020.pdf) [Long Beach Expo Kicks Off 2020 Show Year with \$50 Million Rare Coin Collection])

June 5-7 **Raleigh Money Expo, NC** at North Carolina State Fairgrounds - Club table (Hosts: Dennis Fortier, John Frost) [There are 7 Educational Seminars tentatively scheduled on Friday & Saturday, TBD]

**\*CANCELLED:** June 13 **Mt. Kisco Coin & Collectibles Fair, Mt. Kisco NY** - Club table, Educational Seminar (Hosts: TBD)

**RESCHEDULED To:** June 11-13 **Spring National Battlefield Coin Show, Gettysburg, PA** at the Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Ctr. – TBD with a presence by LSCC Members

**\*CANCELLED:** June 18-20 **Whitman Baltimore Summer Expo, MD** at the Baltimore Convention Center – LSCC Meeting only on Friday at 9 a.m. (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

July 9-11 **Summer FUN, Orlando FL** at Hall WE1 - Club meeting only (Hosts: TBD)

**August 4-8 ANA's World's Fair of Money, Pittsburgh PA** at David Lawrence Convention Center – Important LSCC Annual Meeting & various Educational Programs, Club table, Club Dinner, all TBD



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## **LSCC 2020 Regional Events Schedule Cont.**

*\* Details Mostly Finalized*

September 3-6 (Labor Day Weekend) **Ohio State Coin Show, Dublin (Columbus) OH** – Club Meeting, Club Dinner “New” (Host: Dennis Fortier)

September 17-19 **Long Beach Expo, Long Beach CA** - Club table (Hosts: Brian Cushing, Bob Clark)

September 25 - 27 **Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) Annual Coin Show, Fredericksburg VA** - Club table, Educational Program (Hosts: John Frost, Dennis Fortier)

October 29-31 **PAN Fall Coin Show, Pittsburgh/Monroeville PA** – Club table, Educational Program (Host: John Frost)

October 2-3 **New Hampshire Coin Expo, Manchester NH** - Club table, Educational Program (Hosts: Joe Casazza, John Frost)

November 12-14 **Whitman Baltimore Fall Expo, MD at the Baltimore Convention Center** - Club table, Club Meeting & Educational Program on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

December 13 **Mt Kisco Coin & Collectibles Fair, Mt. Kisco NY** - Club table, Educational Seminar (Hosts: TBD)

*Note: Updates provided as they become available.*

(END)

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## **Stories from the Club Table** **by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016**

### **Good News/Bad News**

Last month Jeff Ball commented on having to tell a collector that his prized coin was a fake. Not a pleasant task, but it is a part of the job. More often however we have the pleasure of telling someone their coin is good and original.

As a representative of the LSCC whether you are knowledgeable on a given series or not, the public perception is that we are experts. Professionalism is required at all times. We never pretend to know anything we don't know. If we don't know we usually can direct the person to someone who does know.

Often the question posed is variety identification. Here diagnostics, rarity, and value become paramount. I remember a few Baltimore's ago a dealer came to the table asking about the value of a given variety. The value of varieties can be very subjective. He was in the belief that the coin was worth several thousand dollars and had an offer in hand for \$2,200. To be honest it was a variety I needed, but was unwilling to match his current offer. So we told him he should take the offer because we thought it to be fair.

Every so often a non-collector unfamiliar with the Liberty Seated series will bring a coin to the table for an opinion. It's always gratifying when we are able to tell them what they have and provide an estimate of value. In every encounter it is necessary to be diplomatic, pleasant, and remember we are the face of the club. I cannot overestimate the extreme satisfaction working the Club table can bring.



# Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

**Attend or Not Attend  
That is the Question**

Washington is looking to open up the country. Faced with a choice - the decision has been made, and slowly the economy will be returning to normal. This decision, right or wrong, is not for discussion here. As numismatists we have been wondering if there would be any large coin shows this summer.

The ANA Summer Seminar has already been cancelled along with every coin show in May. Now comes **Long Beach Coin Expo (June 4-5), Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo (June 18-20), Summer FUN (July 9-11),** and of course the **ANA Convention (Aug 4-8)**. How quickly can things be up and running? Will these shows end up being cancelled? What is your enthusiasm for going to

a show under the circumstances? What will the virus situation be like as the summer progresses and the economy opens up? These are questions that can only be answered as the time comes closer to each of these shows.

Another question for dealers, attendees, and show promoters is what attendance will be like? While coin collecting is not essential to collectors, we can step away anytime we like, it is the livelihood of dealers and promoters. More than just coins, we numismatists enjoy the socialization of our fellow collector friends; I know I miss my friends. So, when do we come back to coin shows? This is *the essential question* each of us has to ask and answer to our own comfort level.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

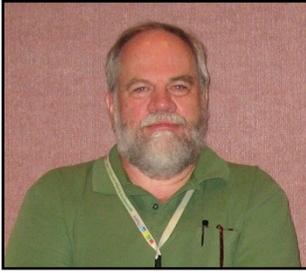
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New member join date	Amount Due	Gobrecht Journals To be sent to the new member
January thru March	\$25	3 (March, July, and November)
April thru July	\$20	2 (July and November)
August thru December	\$15	1 (November)

Fill in the above information and send this application with payment to:

**Dennis Fortier**  
P.O. Box 1841  
Pawtucket, RI 02862

Or Member Application at: [http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC\\_Membership.pdf](http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC_Membership.pdf)



## Auction News May 2020

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

### Central States Numismatic Society Heritage Signature Auction, April 23-26 in Dallas, TX

Based on auction prices, the overall US coin market seems to be somewhat soft, but exceptional coins continue to bring strong prices. However, the problem for many collectors is the inability to view coins in person. Heritage had exceptional photos of the coins in this CSNS sale, but examining the actual coins can make the difference between a strong bid and a "market" bid. Nevertheless there were a number of better date Seated coins sold in this auction. An AU58 1838-O half dime sold for almost as much as an MS62 CAC example. The AU example was a V-2 with die rust or spallation, which has been con-

sidered the scarcer die marriage, but I am not convinced this distinction will persist after Clint Cummins publishes the roster of 1838-O half dimes in his half dime attribution guide: <https://sites.google.com/view/clintcummins/half-dime-attribution-guide>.

A beautiful 1838-O dime in a PCGS MS-64 CAC holder, illustrated below \*, sold for a strong price. Several rare quarters and better date Liberty Seated dollars were also sold. Seven Carson City Seated dollars were in this sale including a problem free 1873-CC listed below.

1838-O	half dime	PCGS	AU58	\$6,000	V-2
1838-O	half dime	PCGS CAC	MS62	\$6,600	V-1
1840-O	half dime	PCGS	MS61	\$6,600	
1838-O *	dime	PCGS CAC	MS64	\$13,200	F-102
1846	dime	PCGS CAC	XF45	\$3,120	
1871-CC	dime	PCGS	VF35	\$9,000	F-101
1849-O	quarter	PCGS	XF40	\$5,520	
1860-S	quarter	PCGS CAC	F15	\$4,320	
1872-S	quarter	PCGS	F15	\$3,120	
1840-(O)	half dollar	PCGS CAC	MS62	\$5,520	Medium letters
1873-CC	half dollar	PCGS	VF30	\$2,100	No arrows
1856	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU53	\$3240	OC-1
1857	Seated dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$3,120.	
1861	Seated dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$3,240	OC-2
1873-CC	Seated dollar	PCGS	VF35	\$20,400	OC-1
1878-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$9,300	

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*"Dimes" Are Your Destiny*



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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**\* 1838-O Liberty Seated Dime (PCGS MS64 CAC) F-102 with beautiful toning**  
*Images courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com*

www.lccweb.org

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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## *The Lovely Little "Half Dime"*

### **Proposed Major Variety List for Liberty Seated Half Dimes**

Dale Miller and Clint Cummins, May 2020 Update

In last month's issue of the E-Gobrecht, we published an initial draft list of 100 major varieties for the Liberty Seated Half Dime series. Thanks to everyone who took the time to review the article and give us feedback and suggestions. We are looking for more comment before we move forward on this project, so if you have not yet done so, we would appreciate your comments on the proposed Half Dime Variety List. You may access the draft list from last month's article or use the link provided below.

The following is a link to the Clint Cummins & Frank J. Pedersen Liberty Seated Half Dime Attribution Guide, which includes a spreadsheet listing the draft 100 varieties and a PDF file showing each of the 100 varieties and how to attribute them:

<https://sites.google.com/view/clintcummins/half-dime-attribution-guide>

We desire and invite your feedback and suggestions as we move toward achieving a generally accepted list. We would be particularly interested in your responses to the following questions:

1. Do you agree that there is a need for a Liberty Seated Half Dime Variety List that is more extensive than the limited variety list currently on the Fortin Open Registry?
2. Do you believe that this draft list has too many entries, not enough entries, or about the right number of entries?
3. Do you believe that the draft list is too difficult, not difficult enough, or at about the right level of difficulty?
4. Are there any important Liberty Seated Half Dime varieties that you are aware of that are not on the draft list and that we should consider for inclusion?

Whoever responds and gives feedback will be contacted again later when we get to the final editing, and will be given the opportunity to give opinions on the final list of what will and will not be included.

Please send your feedback and responses to Dale Miller at [dalecta@gmail.com](mailto:dalecta@gmail.com) and Clint Cummins at [ccummins@sphereinstitute.org](mailto:ccummins@sphereinstitute.org). Thank you!



Major Variety List for Liberty Seated Half Dimes Cont.

**1848 V-6, 6a: Shattered Reverse #1: N to A1**



Frank J. Pedersen collection

**V-6: Obverse 6 – date center                      Reverse F.1 – Crack N – H – A1**  
**V-6a: Obverse 6 – date center    Reverse F.2 – Crack T1 – L stem [plate]**

Rarity: R-4?, 6+ examples [back to List](#)    [Another Example from the Attribution Guide website](#)

**Upcoming Major Coin/Currency Auctions**

**June 1-3, 2020** - “June 1 U.S. Coins & Currency” conducted by Ira & Larry Goldberg Auctions (On-Line only) (<https://www.goldbergcoins.com/>)

**June 4-8, 2020** - “Long Beach Expo U.S. Coins Signature Sale” by Heritage Auctions (On-Line only) (<https://coins.ha.com/>)

**August 1-7, 2020** - “Official ANA Worlds Fair of Money” (Annual ANA Summer Convention in Pittsburgh, PA) by Stack’s Bowers Galleries (<https://www.stacksbowers.com/>)



*Expecting A "Double Dime"?*

# Double Dime – 1875-CC BF-1

by John Frost, LSCC #2005 (May 2020)



This is the first in a series of a new quarterly column on the double dime or twenty-cent piece. Each article will highlight a specific issue, variety, or die marriage. The inaugural article features the first twenty-cent piece struck in Carson City, the 1875-CC BF-1, as detailed in the 2014 reference, *Double Dimes — the United States Twenty-cent Piece*, by Lane Brunner and myself, available online at [www.doubledimes.com](http://www.doubledimes.com). BF-1 refers to Brunner-Frost 1, the die marriage designator as described in our book.

Production in Carson City of the new twenty-cent denomination began in June 1875. During the month, only 3,290 pieces would be struck. The main problem was failure of the reverse dies. A total of two reverse dies were tried and both rapidly failed, by warping and in this case, also developing severe die breaks.

Something was clearly wrong, and production of the new double dime was halted until a remedy to the die breakage was found. The double dime would not be struck again at the Carson mint until late September!

June’s paltry mintage of 3,290 coins resulted in two rare die marriages. The first of these is the BF-1, the other being the BF-5, discovered only in January 2015.

Confirmation of the BF-1 die marriage is by the mint mark, with the Cs fairly close together and the first C is *below* the second feather fan. Also, both Cs tilt slightly to the right. The majority of 1875-CC coins have the first C higher and to the left of the second feather fan.



**1875-CC BF-1 mint mark  
with low first C**

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**Often-seen mint mark (high left first C)**

All but one of the known 1875-CC BF-1 coins are found with extensive die cracks. The first cracks to develop, a key to identification, are found at the word TWENTY, with a major break toward the rim at the Y. A bold crack also goes left from TWENTY through the star and continues on. Many other cracks develop, including inter-device cracks and radial die cracks in the right field.



**Die Cracks at and around TWENTY**

At the present time, only 16 examples of the 1875-CC BF-1 are known, two of which are in mint state. The most recently-discovered example, graded PCGS MS64 CAC, surfaced in the April Heritage auction and is now the finest known of the variety. It possesses the die cracks, boldest at or near the word TWENTY.

In addition to being the first double dime struck in Carson City, the 1875-CC BF-1 has one other remarkable thing going for it. It also happens to be an exact match to the reverse die that was dug up in an excavation next to the old Carson City mint in 1999, with the actual die cracks and breaks clearly seen on the die itself, even through the rust and corrosion.



**Recovered reverse die for the 1875-CC BF-1**

This die is on display at the Nevada State Museum (the old Carson City Mint), along with an example of the 1875-CC BF-1. The story was described in the Fall 2015 issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*, #124, in my article entitled, *Carson City – A Discovery, Another Discovery, and an Exhibit*. The story of the die and the subsequent match to the BF-1 can also be found on the following two web book pages:

<http://www.doubledimes.com/Anecdotes-CC-dies.html> or

<http://www.doubledimes.com/Anecdotes-Matching-die.html>

Happy Hunting!

(END)



## Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

### Revisiting the Known 1857 Quarter with the Reverse Flying Eagle Cent Clash

The last e-Gobrecht contained a great deal of information and commentary regarding the 1858 Quarter with Flying Eagle Cent die clash. It is an interesting, recently discovered, and very rare coin. This month's column is a return to the better known, but still rare, 1857 Quarter with Flying Eagle Cent clash.

The 1857 Liberty Seated Quarter clashed with a Flying Eagle Cent die was known prior to the publication of Briggs' "The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters" in 1991 and was cataloged in that book as die marriage 6-F. Interestingly, the 1857 Flying Eagle cent is known with clash marks originating from a Double Eagle obverse (Snow-7), from a Seated Half Dollar (Snow-9), and from a Seated Quarter dollar (Snow-8). It seems as though the Mint was either careless or deliberately "creative" with regard to the clashes found on 1857 coinage.

Attribution of the variety is not always easy. In addition to the usual characteristics of individual coins such as strike, technical grade, surfaces, luster and eye appeal, the strength of the clash also varies between examples. Apparently due to striking pressure, and/or die wear after the clash, even coins with similar strike characteristics and grade can have clash marks with notably different definition. Examples in lower grade (right image in VF), with weak clash marks, or with too much embedded dirt and crust can be quite difficult to attribute.

Examples in high grade, with strong clash marks, or with clean surfaces are attributable with the naked eye if the collector knows what to look for and how to look for it. A coin in hand, rotated under an appropriate light source, will show distinctive clash marks above and below the eagle's left wing and just to the right of the eagle's neck. The key is the light source and rotating the coin under that light source in just the way it should be done to check for surface hairlines. The reverse of the quarter has parts of the Flying Eagle Cent design showing above and below the left (facing) wing, above the right wing and within the shield. As mentioned above, attribution is easiest on high-grade coins and the most obvious clash mark, which can consistently be identified on coins in VF or better condition, is above the left wing.





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Photography is another matter entirely. Attempting to capture the clash marks in a photograph or detect them in a dealer’s online listing can be beyond challenging. It can be so difficult to get the clash marks to show clearly that the photographs with this column have the clash marks enhanced with lines drawn in Photoshop. As anyone who has tried coin photography knows, that which can be easily seen with binocular vision and movement under a light source can be maddeningly difficult to capture with a single, stationary lens and fixed light source.

The 1857 Liberty Seated Quarter with Flying Eagle Cent clash was included in the “Top 25 Varieties” described in Gobrecht Journal #111 (July 2011) and the subsequent survey reported in Gobrecht Journal #119 (March 2014). Only 6 of the 53 collectors who completed the survey owned an example, but those 6 reported a total of 15 pieces: 7 in VF, 5 in XF and 3 in AU. The majority of known pieces are not surprisingly VF or better due to the difficulty in attributing low grade examples, giving the issue a very high average grade for a Seated Quarter variety.

PCGS certifies and attributes the 1857 quarter with Flying Eagle Cent Clash as Coin #146037. Since the survey was conducted in 2013, the total number of certified, attributed pieces has risen from 5 to 23 (as of 4/26/2020) with the finest known a PCGS MS64 example.

**Certified, Attributed 1857 Liberty Seated Quarters with Flying Eagle Cent Clash**

	AG/G/F	VF	XF	AU	60	61	62	63	64	Total
NGC	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5
PCGS	3	4	6	4	0	0	0	0	1	18



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



**1857 Liberty Seated Quarter with Reverse Die Clashed with Flying Eagle Cent  
Finest Known Example (Briggs 6-F, FS-901) PCGS MS64, Ex: Bill Fivaz  
Images Courtesy of Heratage Auctions, HA.com**



## *The Halves' And Half Not's*

# The Coins of 1870 San Francisco: A Collector's Point of View

by D. Jeff Schneider, LSCC #532

Do you want a Liberty Seated coin from San Francisco dated 1870? There are still mysteries about what happened at this mint in 1870. I can't answer those questions. I am interested in what is available from here in 1870 and is it affordable?

We know there were no non-silver subsidiary coins made that year per Mint records. Could we be surprised in the future? There were a few thousand smaller gold coins made and almost a million Gold Double Eagles made. However, all gold coins are pricey, especially Double Eagles.

This leaves us with the Liberty Seated silver coins which we are most interested.

The mystery deepens here. We know the mint had received dies for all of the Liberty Seated coinage, but where are the coins?

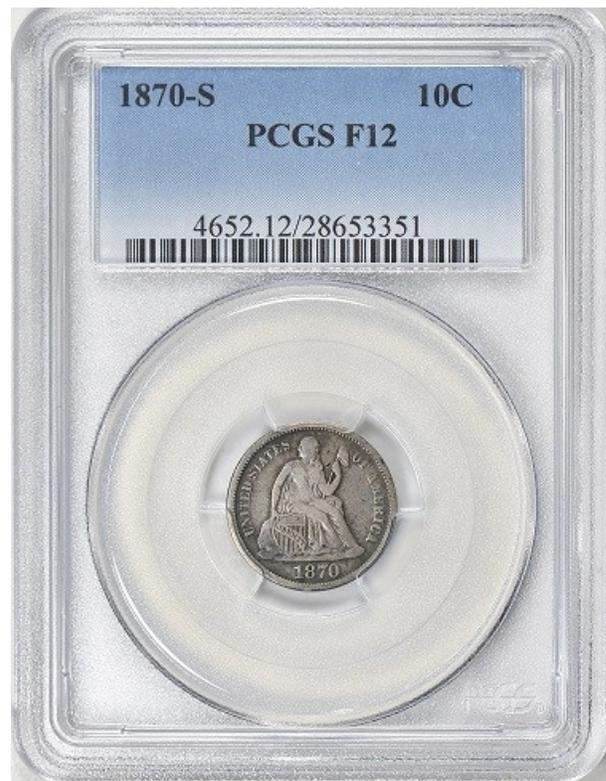
Would you like to purchase a half-dime? Good luck. Only one has appeared and that occurred in recent history. Records do not show any made for circulation.

How about an 1870-S quarter. Sorry, none have been found yet. Mint records do not show any struck for circulation. There was supposed to be one in the cornerstone of the mint.

If you have very deep pockets (six figures or more) and are lucky, you might acquire an 1870-S Liberty Seated Dollar. Nine are known to exist in circulated grades with two or three in Mint State according to "A Guide Book of Liberty Seated Silver Coins" by Q. David Bowers. Again, records omit this coin. This book indicates a "Circulation-strike mintage: 300 or fewer".

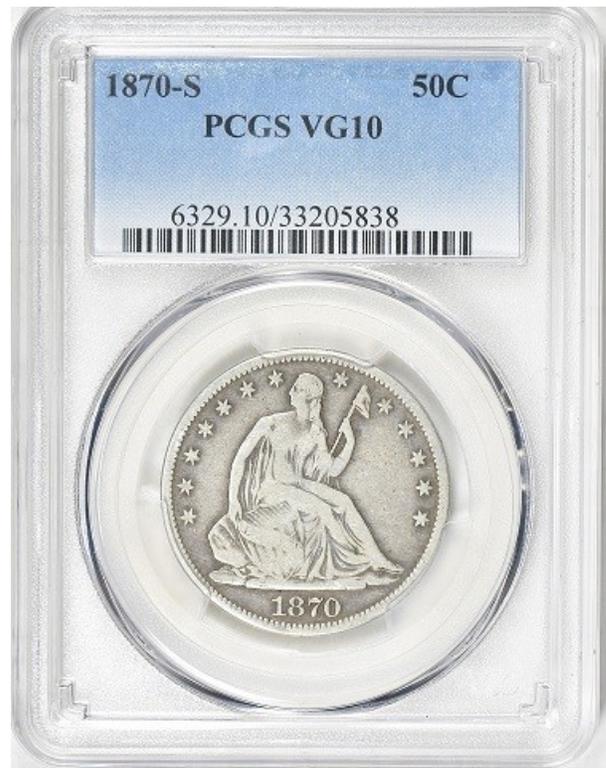
Let's look for a dime from 1870 San Francisco. There is some luck here, but these are very scarce. Records show 50,000 were produced. Most of the ones available are in lower grades. Q. David Bowers states that EF and better are rare. He also states that almost all of these were probably exported to China.

Values in the ANA's the Numismatist ([www.coinprices.com](http://www.coinprices.com)) March, 2020 issue lists the values in the hundreds of dollars in the lower grades.





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Our last chance is the 1870 S Liberty Seated half-dollar. **BINGO!** Finally, there are some available for a reasonable price. The Mint states a million were produced. However, Q. David Bowers again states these are scarce especially in higher grades. Although, even in Good condition, the Numismatist for April, 2020 lists the value at \$81.

When looking at collecting any coin, you first must “read the book” according to the experts. Liberty Seated Silver coins were minted 1836-1891.

You must look at what is available as opposed to what the original mintage is. There are many instances where the availability is low as well as the price. In other cases, the coin is available but the price is steeper.

Having stated all of the above, it still may take some digging to find one of these two coins. I could only find one 1870-S dime sold through Great Collections in the past several years, a VF details one for \$555 in 2016. And one half-dollar sold this year in XF-40 for \$242. There were about 25 sold in the past several years.

Pictures are from Great Collections

[www.greatcollections.com](http://www.greatcollections.com)

[More information is available from the Liberty Seated Collectors Club @ [www.lscweb.org](http://www.lscweb.org) and its online newsletter the E-Gobrecht.]



## Newman Numismatic Portal Remains Active During COVID-19 Epidemic

Like most of the country, Newman Portal ([nnp.wustl.edu](http://nnp.wustl.edu)) has transitioned to “all remote” status, with Newman Portal staff now completely working from home. Scanning operations are on hold, as our multiple scanning centers (Washington University in St. Louis, the American Numismatic Society in New York, and various National Archives locations) are all closed for non-essential operations. However, site additions and updates remain healthy, with a variety of new content being added electronically. While the current circumstances are grim in human and economic terms, the concept of making information broadly available electronically remains our defining rationale.

In the meantime, we continue to accept electronic contributions, which may be directed to Len Augsburger at [leonard.augsbuger@wustl.edu](mailto:leonard.augsbuger@wustl.edu). Recent contributors include Q. David Bowers, David Lisot and Lianna Spurrier. You might have old photographs to share or works you have published and wish to make available on Newman Portal. Much of our collection has been built electronically since the public launch of the site in 2016, and this trend will continue. One recent electronic addition is the *Official Register of the United States*, built from public domain sources and incorporated into NNP. This resource (<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/536877>), published serially from 1816-1959, provides lists of U.S. Mint and Bureau of Engraving and Printing employees found nowhere else in consolidated form.

We encourage publishers to consider Newman Portal as a potential outlet. We’ve already heard from one coin club that has committed to making their next print issue freely available online, as a response to the COVID-19 epidemic. We encourage other organizations to do likewise.

National Archive additions will continue at least

through May, as our primary contributors (Roger Burdette and Nicole Fry) work through their backlog. Nicole Fry has been processing the U.S. Mint general correspondence series (National Archives record group 104, entry 1), with 185 of 203 volumes in this group currently completed. Along with contributions from R.W. Julian, Newman Portal has now scanned over 100,000 pages from this key National Archives series (<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/archivedetail/515202>).

Internally, we’ve launched a historic newspapers project that extracts and transcribes numismatic articles from U.S. newspapers and journals, primarily from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although not yet posted on the site, this database is growing daily and remains the primary focus of NNP staff member Kelli West at Washington University in St. Louis. If you have old articles at hand, or even just citations, feel free to submit them.

At the American Numismatic Society (ANS), Lara Jacobs has been working through the business correspondence of Philadelphia dealers S. H. & H. Chapman, c. 1880-1935. This numbers thousands of letters and cards, which are processed through the letter R. Although this work is on hold, we anticipate a rapid conclusion to this project when the ANS reopens.

We encourage everyone in the numismatic community to continue to follow national directives to help fight this epidemic. Many coin clubs have moved to virtual gatherings, with good success reported. We look forward to seeing everyone in person again, but, in the meantime, feel free to explore, utilize, and contribute to Newman Portal. As always, inquiries may be directed to me at [leonard.augsburger@wustl.edu](mailto:leonard.augsburger@wustl.edu).



Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club

### National Officers

#### President

Leonard Augsburger  
[leonard\\_augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto:leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com)

#### Vice President

Dennis Fortier  
[ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)

#### Secretary / Treasurer

Dale Miller  
[dalecta@gmail.com](mailto:dalecta@gmail.com)

### National Positions

#### Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor

Bill Bugert  
[wb8cpy@earthlink.net](mailto:wb8cpy@earthlink.net)

#### E-Gobrecht Digital Publication Editor

Paul Kluth  
[e-gobrecht@msn.com](mailto:e-gobrecht@msn.com)  
P.O. Box 275  
New Windsor, MD 21776

#### Carl Feldman

[carlscoins@gmail.com](mailto:carlscoins@gmail.com)  
Membership Chairman

#### John Frost

[john.frost@doubledimes.com](mailto:john.frost@doubledimes.com)  
Education Director

#### Dennis Fortier

[ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)  
Team Leader  
Regional Directors

#### Jeff Ball

[jeffballphoto@gmail.com](mailto:jeffballphoto@gmail.com)  
Director  
LSCC Southern Region

#### Vacant

Director, LSCC Central Region

#### Brian Cushing

[bpcushing@gmail.com](mailto:bpcushing@gmail.com)  
Director  
LSCC Western Region

#### Joe Casazza

[jsazza236@gmail.com](mailto:jsazza236@gmail.com)  
Director  
LSCC Northeast Region

## LSCC Mission

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

LSCC website: [www.lscweb.org](http://www.lscweb.org)  
LSCC email address: [lsc@lscweb.org](mailto: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, please correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer listed on this page.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to Bill Bugert, Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor.

Submissions, correspondence, information and comments for this digital publication (*E-Gobrecht*) are actively encouraged from its subscribers and may be sent to Paul Kluth, E-Gobrecht Publication Editor.

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### ***Wanted: Submissions 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 a favorite coin, variety, neat find, nice cherrypick, happening at a coin show or local club, Liberty Seated coinage at 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 column writer to submit material of interest to others. "This is your monthly digital publication. It is what you make of it!"*

*Please be sure to quote the *E-Gobrecht* and the LSCC as its contents are not copywrited. Use it contents freely.*