



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

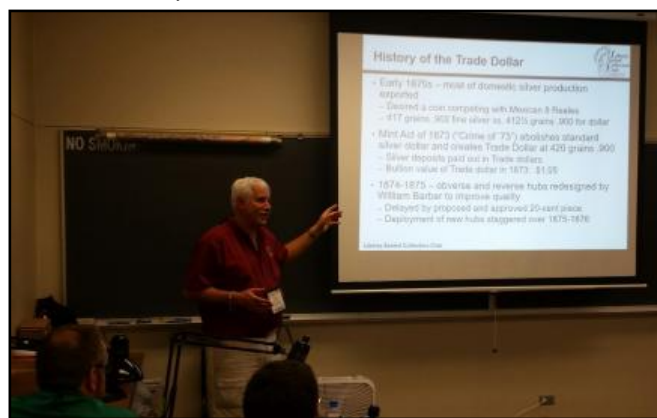
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July 2016 (Whole #138)

LSCC Wows Them at ANA Summer Seminar 2016 By John Frost, LSCC #2005, with Gerry Fortin and Len Augsburger!

After a year of planning and months of preparation, the class “Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage” made its debut at the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. The class, which ran Sunday through Wednesday this past week, was sold out and was a highly anticipated addition to this year’s curriculum offered to numismatists from all over North America.

The primary instructors were John Frost (LSCC Education Director) and Gerry Fortin (LSCC President). LSCC VP Len Augsburger was a “Guest Lecturer” for the class, but in reality played a major role in the success of the course, with numerous historical perspective presentations, as well as his deep dive on Liberty Seated Quarters.



John Frost on Trade Dollars

It was hard and tiring work, but the results were astounding. The students were interested and engaged, great discussions and questions were scattered throughout the week, and it would be difficult to imagine things going better.

The week began Sunday, with Len’s historical look at Bimetallism and Economics of Liberty Seated Coinage. We kicked off the series-specific

component of the class with the “deep dives” on Half Dimes and Dimes.

Each deep dive consisted of a half-day discussion on the history and overview of the series, major design subtypes, proofs and circulation strikes, plus ley, semi-key, important, and common dates. Grading and a discussion on the importance of strike

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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 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.



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was also included. Major varieties (with photos of many) followed, along with errors and exnumia, collecting strategies, degree of difficulty, value, and important references to aid the collector. Sample references were brought to the classroom, checked out from the ANA Library. Soup to nuts, everything imaginable about each series.

Each deep dive included a lengthy hands-on examination of coins from the specific series, including key dates, coins from the different subtypes, and notable varieties. These coins represented pieces brought to the class by John, Gerry, and Len. Each deep dive provided between 10 and 25 coins for students to examine and study. This hands-on time was designed to tie everything together for each of the seven Liberty Seated series and was a hit.

Monday, the second day of the class, focused on Double Dimes (twenty cents) and Quarters. Supplementing the deep dives included talks about the finding of the dies at the Carson City Mint (Nevada State Museum) and a historical look at Tokens and Medals related to Christian Gobrecht. And more coins to examine!

Tuesday morning featured the deep dive on half dollars, and a special discussion on 1861-O halves, arguably one of the most sought-after issues of the series. Len presented a look at the History of Liberty Seated Variety and Attribution Studies, which featured the evolution of references and knowledge, from the earliest days to the present.

The afternoon was an experiment – a look at

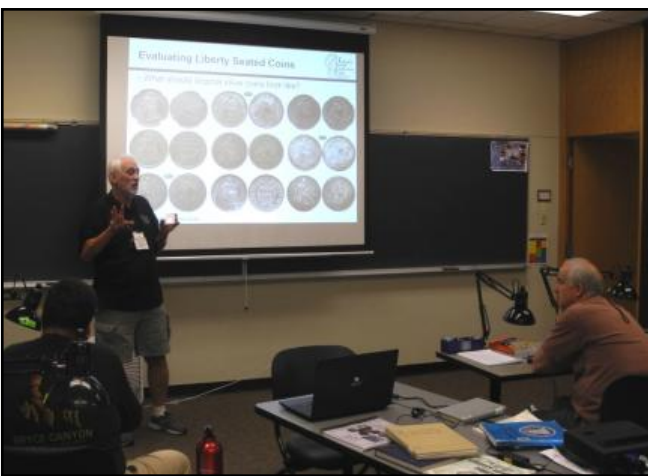
evaluating coins from a viewpoint of original surfaces and differentiating choice coins from those considered “market acceptable” which can be a term describing coins with problems that are not considered too significant to prevent grading by third-party grading firms. An exercise was conducted, where students in teams of two, ranked nine Liberty Seated coins in identical-grade XF45 holders, for highest to lowest value from a standpoint of originality, strike, and eye appeal. The afternoon was an eye-opening exercise for both students and instructors alike.



Len Augsburger on Liberty Seated Quarters

Wednesday, the final day, was Dollar Day, with the morning dedicated to Liberty Seated Dollars and the afternoon for Trade Dollars. Len also told the story of the Andrew Jackson-Earl-Sevier Flying Eagle Dollar (Gobrecht dollar) that was inadvertently sold and later recovered.

Feedback from the students was fantastic! We seemed to hit the mark, with the right mix of series information, historical perspectives, and hands-on examination of coins. And things worked like clockwork. We started on time, we finished each series just before lunch or ending for the day. We were never behind, never rushed, and covered all the key points we had intended.



Gerry Fortin on evaluating originality

At the ANA Summer Seminar, all of the students and instructors lunch together, network together, and have good times together. Word of mouth spreads opinions and evaluations of courses among students, because many students are looking for recommendations for courses to take at next year's Summer Seminar. Throughout the week, we had people come up

to us saying that they really want to take the course next

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year. Others simply said that they heard our class was really going well. When it was all over, feedback we received from long-time seminar attendees was that our class was the best first-time-offered class they had ever taken, and a couple said was the best ever for them period! And along the way, seven of our students joined the LSCC during the week (some others already belong).

It is hard to believe it is all over. We had great material. We had excellent support from LSCC members on series-specific content, especially Steve Crain, Bill Bugert, Dick Osburn, Brian Cushing, Carl Feldman, and John Coyle. And we had great students. We all learned a lot, and had a very enjoyable time doing it. And we were exhausted! But it was all worth it. We look forward to doing the class again next year and I think the class is almost half full already with other students saying they plan to take our course next year!



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**The Pre Long Beach Auction,
Goldberg Coins, June 5-6**

A limited number of Liberty Seated coins were in this auction with a few scarce dates. An 1852 half dollar graded PCGS MS63 sold for \$3,407. Several graded early Carson City half dollars were also available (1870-CC, 1871-CC, and 1874-CC), but the bids did not meet their reserves. An 1870-CC half dollar with PCGS VF details did sell for \$2,585.

**The Long Beach Auction,
Heritage Auctions, June 8-12**

The June Long Beach auction included a collection of coins that were assembled by the Rev. Dr. James McClure starting in 1860 and ending by 1932 with his demise. Apparently the collection has remained intact and essentially untouched since 1932 until recently consigned to Heritage. Numerous rarities, including many Seated coins, were present in his collection and are included in this Long Beach auction. This fresh material appeared to generate strong bidding.

An 1840-O with drapery half dime graded PCGS MS64, currently the finest known, sold for \$25,850. This coin had originally appeared in the Gardner June 2014 sale as an MS63 CAC and several subsequent auctions as an MS64. An 1846 half dime graded VG8 CAC by NGC sold for \$1,175. An 1846 dime graded NGC VF25 CAC sold for \$1,292. An 1865 dime (F-101b), considered to be R-6 by Gerry Fortin the current president of the LSCC and author of the Liberty Seated dimes web book, was graded NGC XF40 CAC and was sold for \$2,115. Both 1846 coins and the 1865 dime were part of the McClure collection. An 1872-CC dime sold for \$3,525 and was graded NGC VF30.

Two 1875-CC double dimes, both graded by PCGS, were in this auction. The AU58 sold for \$1,597 and the MS62 sold for \$2,820. Two 1854-O Huge O quarters were in this sale and also graded by PCGS. The VF20 sold for \$1,645 and the VF35 CAC sold for exactly twice as much at \$3,290. Even though both coins are graded VF and appear to be attractive and problem-free, the CAC sticker combined with the rap-

Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

idly increasing rarity of this variety in higher grades likely contribute to the large price difference between a VF20 and a VF35. An 1858-S quarter graded XF40 by ANACS sold for \$1,645. An 1873 closed 3 no arrows quarter was graded AU55 by NGC and sold for \$3,305.

An 1840-(O) medium letters reverse half dollar graded NGC MS62 sold for \$6,492. For many years the 1840 medium letter reverse half dollars were considered to be Philadelphia mint products. However, about 30 years ago, Bill Bugert, our illustrious Club editor, with the assistance of Randy Wiley, definitively demonstrated that they were minted in New Orleans (see *Gobrecht Journal* #38 or *The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume* #3 for more information). Three 1861-O half dollars, all with the CSA obverse die crack from the rim to Liberty's nose (WB-11) were sold: a PCGS XF40 for \$2,820, a PCGS XF45 for \$3,055, and an NGC AU details for \$1,880. Several scarcer Carson City half dollars from the McClure collection were also sold: an 1870-CC NGC XF40 for \$9,106; an 1872-CC NGC VF35 CAC for \$1,586; an 1873-CC no arrows NGC XF45 for \$3,055; an 1873-CC with arrows NGC MS63+ for \$17,625; an 1874-CC NGC VF30 for \$3,760; and an 1878-CC NGC F15 for \$1,938.

As with the Liberty Seated half dollars, many of the Liberty Seated dollars in this sale were from the McClure collection including three of the four Gobrecht dollars and most subsequent years through 1873. Some were improperly cleaned, but most were numerically graded and all were sold without reserves. As in other recent auctions impaired Carson City dollars were in this sale including two 1870-CCs, one 1871-CC, four 1872-CCs, and one 1873-CC. PCGS graded Carson City Liberty Seated dollars in this sale included an 1870-CC XF45 for \$3,407, an 1872-CC XF40 for \$4,700, and an 1873-CC VF30 for \$17,625. Two 1872-S graded dollars were sold: a PCGS VF25 for \$1,116 and an NGC MS61 for \$6,168.

Only a few circulation strike Trade dollars were in this auction, but most Carson City dates were present. An 1873-CC graded NGC AU53 sold for \$2,585 and an 1874-CC PCGS MS62 sold for \$4,347. The only 1878-CC Trade dollar in this auction came from the McClure collection. It was graded MS63+ by NGC with a CAC sticker and sold for \$54,050.



Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

The LSCC polo shirts are in. If you would like to order one, we now have a small stock of them for members to order. It is first come first served of course. Sizes in stock range from Medium to XXXXL.

Contact me at ricajun@msn.com for pricing and ordering information.

It is summer and the hobby usually takes a bit of a breather. The just concluded LSCC contribution to the ANA's Summer Seminar (see separate article in this issue) is the last major club activity until the ANA convention in August.

John Frost called and told me they signed up seven new LSCC members from the Summer Seminar class. John also hosted a club table at the Colorado Springs show and signed up an additional member.

Bob Clark and Brian Cushing teamed up to represent the club at the Long Beach Expo. Brian hosted the club dinner at the Rock Bottom Brewery. Bob hosted the club table and kept the club outreach going on the West Coast. Bob tells me one of the

original founding members of the club stopped by the club table and had many stories about the early days of the club.

Carl Feldman hosted a club table at the Ft. Lauderdale coin show in June.

July has only the summer Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo on the club calendar. The club activities are a bit subdued for the summer show. There will be no club table but Len will host the club meeting on Friday morning July 15 at 9 AM in room 301.



Polo shirt LSCC
embroidered design

LSCC Calendar

Week of July 4, 2016. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #126 postal mailed to all current members.

July 15, 2016. LSCC Regional Meeting, **Baltimore, MD**. Whitman Baltimore Summer Expo, Baltimore Convention Center. Friday morning, 9 AM, Room 301. No club table at this show.

August 10-12, 2016. LSCC Table and Annual Meeting. **Anaheim, CA**. ANA World's Fair of Money, Anaheim Convention Center, West Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA. Club table from August 10-12; LSCC annual meeting Thursday, August 11, 9 AM in Huntington B-C.

October 1, 2016. Deadline for articles and advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #127.



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

ANA Summer Seminar 2016

Along with Gerry Fortin and John Frost, the three of us conducted a four-day class on Liberty Seated coinage at the recent ANA summer seminar in Colorado Springs, CO. The ANA summer seminar is a two-week numismatic festival offering any number of classes taught by well-known industry figures. The grading classes (Level 1 and Level 2) are among the most popular, and specialty courses on other topics; for example, early American coppers or medals are also offered.

The ANA is physically situated adjacent to Colorado College and a cooperative arrangement extends the College facilities to the ANA. There is ample classroom space, food service, and housing onsite, so that everything is walkable and no transportation is needed. The ANA shuttles students and instructors to and from the airport to make things even easier. During summer seminar the ANA's regular hours are extended, so that access to the museum, vault, and library are just a few footsteps away.

I had taken the ANA grading class a few years ago, Gerry had taken counterfeit detection, and we felt that the time was ripe to offer a class on Liberty Seated coinage. LSCC Education Director John Frost took on the task of working with the ANA to make the necessary arrangements, proposed a course outline, and, in general, took care of all the logistics so that Gerry and I merely had to produce PowerPoint slides and arrive at the classroom on time.

Our course included deep dives into every coinage denomination. Lecture time was broken up by hands-on exhibition of coins from our own collections as well as coins that students brought in for examination. Interspersed with this were various historical discussions related to Liberty Seated coinage. My favorite topic was the economic relation of gold and silver in the 19th century and how this impacted the coinage.

On the third day we had an extended discussion on how to identify original surfaces on silver coins, led by Gerry Fortin. This was a valuable exercise which asked the students to rank a group of nine half dollars from the most original to the least. Gerry had John and I do this separately, with varying results depending on who you ask. Suffice it to say that Gerry and I were close, and, had I been given the correct instructions, would have had nearly identical results. Naturally, we all took away improvement points for next year!

Student feedback was most encouraging and we intend to offer this class again next year. The ANA will make announcements in *The Numismatist*, so keep an eye on that space next spring for further details. Class size is limited to 14 students, we had a full enrollment this year, and expect the same for 2017. Four days is certainly a large investment but the knowledge gained is more than worth it. The ANA also schedules other activities, such as day trips to the Denver Mint or Pikes Peak, which are pleasant diversions if you need a break from the constant "coin talk."

I learned a lot from listening to John and Gerry over the four days and the evenings were filled with much wine and spirited discussions of all things numismatic. There is something here for everyone, from the beginner to the seasoned collector and I highly recommend the ANA summer seminar for anyone interested in advancing their numismatic knowledge and grading skills.



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

1840 Quarter Dollar

This is the 71st consecutive monthly column in this space; or another way to put it is that next month will mark six years. When it began I told Editor Bill Bugert that I wouldn't have any trouble finding material for five years worth of columns. At first, I had an unwritten rule that I would not repeat topics. Then, about a year and a half ago when I realized that I had originally overestimated the ease with which I could generate new topic ideas, it became more of a guideline than a rule. It has become an increasing challenge to not revisit things I have already written about, so this month I am doing away with that restriction entirely. The rationale is simple. The only way this column could represent a truly redundant experience for the reader would be if: 1) someone actually reads it; 2) that same person read the prior column on that coin/topic; and 3) that person remembered the previous column (which could have been published more than 5 years ago). The probability of all three of those things happening seems quite low so I am going to commence revisiting some things that I already discussed in 2010 and 2011. If no one objects to a moderate amount of "recycling" I may even make it to 10 years.

I am going back to one of my favorite seated quarters, the 1840 Philadelphia issue last discussed here in the January 2011 column. The 1840 is a sleeper in the sense that it doesn't get much recognition, hasn't been written about in the *Gobrecht Journal* and is dramatically underpriced in the guides. It is a common problem with seated quarters that if they are not one of the many well-known rarities in the series they tend to get overlooked. That is especially the case for scarce and rare Philadelphia issues. One of the things that may draw attention away from the 1840 quarter in particular is the interesting varieties, including drapery and no drapery types, and the very rare with drapery large O transitional coin, made at the New Orleans mint that same year. Nonetheless, anyone working on

a seated quarter set can tell you that the 1840 is a very tough coin, especially in XF or better. This was first noted by Mel Hatfield in 1978 when he wrote of the issue, "...is not encountered often, especially in the XF and up category." (1)

The Liberty Seated Quarter Survey in 1993 resulted in the 1840 finishing as 21st rarest of the 58 Philadelphia issues (2). In addition to the 1881-1889 dates, the other Philadelphia coins that were less represented were the 1842 Small Date, 1842 Large Date, 1851, 1852, 1853/53 No Arrows, 1863, 1866, 1868, 1869, 1873 No Arrows Closed 3, and 1873 No Arrows Open 3 (another sleeper). The 2007 LSCC survey produced a similar result with the 1840 finishing 23rd of 56 P-mint quarters (3). The 1842 Small Date was not included in the 2007 Survey and the 1873 No Arrows was not split out into Open and Closed 3 varieties and so both dropped out of the top half. These two adjustments also reduced the total number of Philadelphia issues reported in the surveys from 58 to 56. The coins that moved from behind to ahead of the 1840 between the two surveys include the 1841, 1864, 1865, 1867, 1870, 1879, and 1880; those that went from less represented than the 1840 to more represented in club member's collections were the 1852 and 1863.

Another feature of the 1840 quarter is that most examples have problems, are unattractive, or both. Table 1 illustrates survival estimates along with TPG and CAC populations. It is clear from the numbers that a grade-able XF or better 1840 quarter can be considered a prize and an example meriting a CAC sticker is doubly so.

There are two varieties of the 1840 Philadelphia quarter; they are difficult to attribute using Briggs (4) because of an error in the book. The error is that the photograph labeled "New Hub Design Reverse 2-

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Table 1. 1840 Quarter Survival Estimates, TPG Populations, CAC Approvals

	G-VG-F	VF	XF	AU	MS
Briggs (4) est.	300	250	150	100	24
PCGS	5	15	11	23	17
NGC	1	5	8	18	13
CAC	0	1	2	4	2



▲ Reverse A (Figure 1) – “...”AM” of “AMERICA” touch at base. Long curved claws. Middle and last talons of both claws are long, curved and noticeably separated from each other....Vertical line #6 extends to the fourth horizontal line...A die scratch is in the dentils above and past last “S” of “STATES”. “



▲ Reverse B (Figure 2) – “...Thick letters in legend with base of “AM” and “RI” touching. Long curved claws. Middle and last talon of both claws are long, curved, and virtually closed, touching and nearly touching each other respectively. Tip of left talon on left claw curled and virtually touches berry stem....Vertical line #4 extends to horizontal line #5....A die scratch is in dentil over right serif of “U” in “UNITED”.”

(Continued from previous page)

B” is actually an example of the transitional reverse A. This is the same die that is pictured on the previous page and labeled as reverse A.

The keys to attributing the 1840 reverses are the eagle’s claws and the lettering in AMERICA. The shield lines can also be used to reliably distinguish the two dies in coins graded high enough for them to be visible. One should also note that the descriptions provided in Briggs’ book are quite detailed and accurate for these two dies – it is only the picture that is inaccurate.

It appears that no more than 20% of 1840 quarters are die marriage 2-B with the New Hub Design.

References

- (1) Hatfield, Mel. AN OVERVIEW: The Quarter Dollars of the 1840’s. *Gobrecht Journal* #12, July 1978.
- (2) Briggs, Larry. Results of the 1993 Liberty Seated Quarter Survey. *Gobrecht Journal* #59, March 1994.
- (3) Low, Darrell. Liberty Seated Quarter Survey Results. *Gobrecht Journal* #100, November 2007.
- (4) Briggs, Larry. The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters. Lima, OH 1991.



Cracked, Shattered, and Terminal by Benny Haimovitz, LSCC #2494

The 1839 New Orleans branch mint half dime offers a number of interesting die varieties. Anyone who has an interest in detailed information about the 1839-O half dime and more, should read Jack Marston's *Gobrecht Journal* article, found in volume thirty-eight, issue # 112 (November, 2011).

The V-5 die marriage shown here is considered common but becomes quite impressive in later die state with numerous obverse die cracks forming in multiple locations.



1839-O, V-5



▲ 1839-O Half Dime V-5. Obverse, die breaks at head and cap that runs through hair, along dress across Liberty's midsection to edge of shield.



▲ Obverse, die breaks at star 4 and arm



▲ Obverse, die breaks through star 1, rock, base, shield, and date.

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▲ Obverse die crack from rim through foot and across leg finally intersects with other die cracks at inner edge of shield by Liberty's leg.

Die state diagnostics courtesy of Jack Marston from his discussion of the V-5 die marriage in his *Gobrecht Journal* article with additional assistance provided by Steve Crain. Images courtesy of BluCC (Todd Pollock) with this example graded Mint State 64, CAC.



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The Strike Zone

by Rich Hundertmark, LSCC #2347

The Loupe Mix-up Court Case

“I worry about kids today not having time to build a tree house or ride a bike or collect coins. I worry that life is getting faster and faster.”
- Borrowed with appreciation from John Lasseter

As many may have read on the GFRC blog, I had an embarrassing situation earlier this month where I mistakenly took Gerry's loupe. Here is a picture of both of our loops side by side, and the below numismatic parody that I hope many will get a good laugh from.

=====

“My Cousin Vinny” Parody of the Spring of 2016 Coin Loupe Mishap – Final Courtroom scene

CAST

John M Frost as Mr. Wilbur the forensic (numismatic) expert

My Cousin Vinny as Vinny Gambini

Bill Bugert as the Defense Attorney Trotter

Diane Fortin as Mona Lisa Vito

Judge same as in movie

Gerry Fortin and Rich Hundertmark as co-defendants
William Robert Gambini and Stan Rothenstein

=====

Bill: Now, Mr. Frost, is this a photo of the two loupes belonging to the defendants?

John: Yes, they are the loupes.

Bill: And are these the lanyards belonging to the defendants, are you familiar with them?

John: Yes, I am.

Bill: Uh-huh. Could you elaborate, please, sir?

John: We compared the magnification of the 10X loupes at the GFRC office location. They're the same model and size loupes, the Bausch and Lomb 10X Hasting Triplet. They're the same size and loupe magnification.

Bill: Anything else, sir?

John: Yes, indeed. I also took sample pics of Twenty Cent Seated Liberty coinage under the loupes' magnification to validate the loupe's power.

Bill: What kind of equipment did you use to find this out?

John: I used a Hewlett-Packard 57-10A dual-column gas chromatograph with flame analyzation detectors.

Bill: Uh-huh. Is that thing turbocharged? (courtroom laughter)

John: Only on the floor models. (laughter)

Bill: Now, Mr. Frost. What was the result of your analysis?

John: The photographic analysis between the two lenses was found to be identical.

Bill: I-identical! No further questions Your Honour.

Judge: Thank you, Mr. Frost. Mr. Gambini (Vinny), your cross examination.

Vinny: Is it possible that two separate coin collectors could be using the Bausch & Lomb 10X Hastings Triplet model at the same time?

John: Well, Of course.

Vinny: Let me ask you this. What's the best-selling loupe model being sold in the United States today?

John: The Bausch & Lomb Hastings 10X Triplet Model loupe.

Vinny: And what's the most popular size?

John: The 1" silver loupe with black encased lens.

Vinny: The same size and model as the defendant's loupe.

John: But two identical lanyards with black with white lettering?

Vinny: Excuse me. What I'm askin' you is if the most popular size of the most popular type loupe is used by both defendants?

John: Well, yeah.

Vinny: Yes, Um, thank you. No further questions.

(Judge) The witness can stand down. Counsel?

(Mr. Bugert) Uh. Yeah. Prosecution rests.

(Judge) Mr. Gambini. Your first witness Mr. Gambini.

Vinny: Your Honour, the defense calls as its first witness Mrs. Diane Fortin.

Mr. Bugert: Oh, I object, Your Honour. This person is not on the witness list.

Vinny: This witness is a coin expert and is being called to rebut the testimony of John Frost. Your Honour, would you instruct the bailiff to escort Mrs. Fortin to the witness stand?

Bailiff: Hold up your right hand. Do you swear to tell

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the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
Diane Fortin: Yeah.

Vinny: Mrs. Fortin, You're supposed to be some kinda expert in numismatics. Is that correct?

Bill: I object to this witness. Improper foundation. I'm not aware of this person's qualifications. I'd like to voir dire this witness as to the extent of her expertise.

Judge: Granted. Mr. Bugert, you may proceed.

Bill Bugert: Now Mrs. Fortin, what's your current profession?

Diane: I own and operate a Paint and Frame store in Windham, Maine.

Now, in what way does that qualify you as an expert in numismatics? - It doesn't. - Well, in what way are you qualified? Well, my husband is a coin dealer. My son is the technology expert for the coin business.

Mrs. Fortin, your family's obviously qualified. But, uh... have you ever worked as a coin dealer? - Yeah. At Gerry's show table.

Bill: What'd you do at the table?

Diane: Show coins to customers, create invoices, cash management, inventory control, ...

Bill Bugert: OK. OK. But does being behind the table qualify you in loupe expertise?

Diane: No. Thank you. Goodbye.

Judge: Sit down and stay there until you're told to leave.

Vinny: Your Honour. Mrs. Fortin's expertise is in general numismatic knowledge.

It is in this area that her testimony will be applicable.

Now, if Mr. Bugert wishes to voir dire the witness....as to the extent of her expertise in this area,....I'm sure he's gonna be more than satisfied.

Bill: OK All right. All right.

Now, uh... Mrs. Fortin, being an expert on general numismatic knowledge, can you tell me...what was the price realized on the unique 1873-CC Without Arrows Dime in the June of 1995 Eliasberg Auction held in Boston?

Diane: It's impossible to answer.

Bill: Does that mean that you can't answer it?

Diane: It's impossible to answer.

Bill: Because you don't know the answer!

Diane: Nobody could answer that question.

Bill: Your Honour, I move to disqualify Mrs. Fortin as an expert witness.

Judge: Can you answer the question?

Diane Fortin: No. It's a trick question.

Judge: Why is it a trick question?

Vinny: Watch this.

Diane: Because the Eliasberg Auction occurred in New

York City not Boston and it was held in May of 1996 not June of 1995. However, at the NYC Auction the 1873-CC Without Arrows Liberty Seated dime was listed in lot #1198 as Gem Mint State MS65 or finer raw, with perfect obverse die and closed 3. A die crack through the mintmark begins to the left of the CC ending in the wreath ribbon. The dime was previously owned by William H Woodin prior to Mr. Eliasberg acquiring in November of 1950, the last coin acquired to complete the Eliasberg collection. The lot hammered for \$550,000 including the 10% buyers fee.

Bill Bugert: Well... Uh...She's acceptable, Your Honour.

Vinny: Your Honour, this is a picture taken of the two loupes side by side.

I'd like to submit this picture of the two loupes as evidence.



Judge: Mr. Bugert?

Mr. Bugert: No objection, Your Honour.

Vinny: Mrs. Fortin, it has been argued by me, the defense, that two sets of loupes are identical, does the defense's case hold water?

Diane: No. The defense is wrong. (courtroom murmuring)

Vinny: Are you sure?

Diane: I'm positive.

Vinny: How could you be so sure?

Diane: Because one loop has a Black and White "www.Money.org" lanyard and the other is a Black and White NGC.

Vinny: And is NGC the official grading company of the ANA?

Diane: They are!

Judge: Mr. Bugert

Bill: In light of the testimony the state would like to drop all charges!

Gerry (to Rich): 1st, you are a lousy fly fisherman, 2nd your column needs much improvement, 3rd, please don't ask to visit my office again

Rich: Got it!

Reference: Bowers and Merena May 20-22 1996 Louis Eliasberg Auction Catalog



LSCC Member in the Spotlight:

Kip Wills, LSCC #2511

by Tony Barreca, LSCC #2151

1. When did you first become interested in coin collecting and numismatics?

I became interested in silver coins at the age of 5, which was in 1970. That is when I began to notice the difference between silver and cupronickel clad coins. I still have my very first silver coin I saved. It is a 1937-P Mercury dime. At that point my collecting was any silver coin I could find and the school lunch cashier was my main source for them in my elementary school years.

Was there a specific experience or set of experiences that triggered it?

About 5 or so years later, I was given an assortment of Indian Head cents, Liberty Head nickels and Barber dimes from my great uncle. He saved them during his WW2 deployment to the Pacific from late 1944 to late 1945. I purchased my first Whitman folder after I was given the coins and thus began my serious "addiction" to coin collecting.

What series did you start collecting when you did?

Indian Head cents and Lincoln cents.

2. How did you initially become interested in Liberty Seated (LS) coins?

I initially became interested in Liberty Seated coins when I was in my teens. As all coin savvy teens do, I bought a copy of the current Red Book and the 1879-1890 half-dollars took on a particular allure for me even though I could not afford them.

Which LS denominations do you focus on currently?

Half dollars. I have completed an 1839-1891 date set, including the halves from 1879-1890 that I so desired when I was a teen. I am also focusing heavily on the Carson City half dollar issues.

Previously?

A date set of Liberty Seated dimes from 1882-1891.

3. Within the series of LS coins you focus on, do you consider yourself a variety collector? If so, what is your approach to variety collecting?

I consider myself more of a date and mintmark collector of Liberty Seated halves at this juncture of my numismatic journey. However, being an avid Capped Bust half-dollar by die marriage collector as well, I am beginning to dabble in Liberty Seated halves by die marriage.

4. How long have you been an LSCC member?

About a year and half, I do believe.

In your opinion, what are the main advantages of belonging to the club?

I love the publications and the wealth of information on the Liberty Seated series that the club provides. Well worth the dues.

5. Do you ever participate in Club activities?

Yes.

If so, which ones?

Meetings at major shows, like FUN and ANA.

Have you ever visited the Clubs message boards?

Yes, briefly.

Attended a meeting in person?

Yes.

Which activities could you see yourself participating in at a future time?

The next Liberty Seated Fest, wherever it may be located.

Have you ever actively recommended that a collector friend join the LSCC?

Yes.

6. If you could change one thing about the LSCC, what would

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(Continued from page 13)

it be?

Please try not to overlap the John Reich Collectors Society and Liberty Seated Collectors Club meetings at major shows.

7. In your collecting career, what was the greatest coup you ever pulled off when purchasing a coin?

The recent acquisition of an original surface PCGS AU50 1815/2 O.101 Capped Bust half dollar AND the acquisition of a very original 1886 Liberty Seated half dollar. The 1886 half completed my 1839-1891 Liberty Seated half date set. Thank you David Kahn and Brian Greer!

Your biggest mistake?

Not collecting Carson City coins much sooner!

8. Do you think of the hobby as being a form of investment as well?

I did more so with my collection of Double Eagles, but over the last decade my collecting across the board has taken a decidedly numismatic slant. I collect Capped Bust and Liberty Seated half dollars because of the very unique history behind each series, definitely much less so as an "investment."

If so, how do you approach your use of coins as an investment vehicle?

If I think of a coin as an "investment," I aim for as much originality as possible. Quality never goes out of style.

While we don't want to make anyone uncomfortable by getting too personal, it would be a real opportunity for your fellow club members to get to know you a bit if you'd also answer one or more of these optional questions.

What is/was your work/career?

Information Technology. I am a UNIX/Linux and VMware administrator for a large company in Michigan. I have been in the IT field for 21 years. Not bad for a Biology major from the University of Michigan, I figure.

What other hobbies/interests do you have besides numismatics?

I am an amateur astronomer.

What is your greatest or most memorable personal achievement?

Viewing and photographing the Venus Transit of 2012. It is when Venus traverses the face of the Sun as observed from Earth. If you wonder what I am talking about, I recommend Google!

Transits are very rare events. The next one will happen in December 2117, followed by December 2125. Then it is another 121 years to the next pair.

Here is one of the photographs I took on June 5, 2012, during the transit:





The Official Red Book

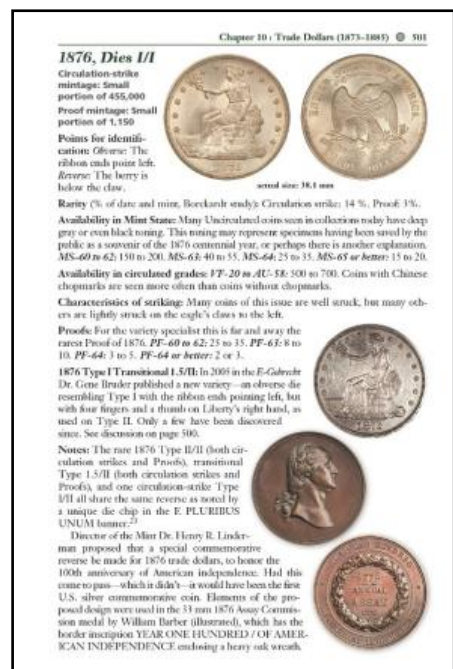
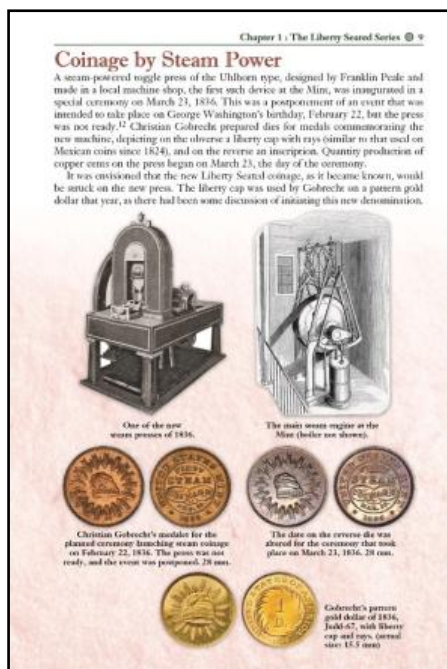
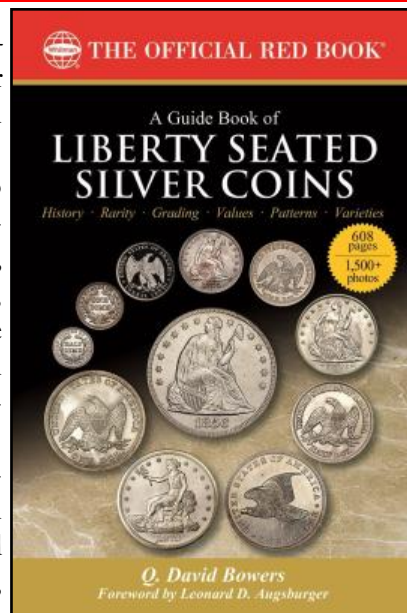
A Guide Book to Liberty Seated Silver Coins

Whitman Publishing announces the release of *A Guide Book of Liberty Seated Silver Coins*, by Q. David Bowers. The 608-page book (number 21 in the popular Bowers Series) is available from booksellers and hobby shops nationwide, and online (including at www.Whitman.com), for \$29.95.

Coins with the Liberty Seated design were minted from 1836 up to 1891. The motif was used on circulating half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and silver dollars, in addition to twenty-cent pieces, Gobrecht dollars, and, in modified form, U.S. trade dollars. The mints at Philadelphia, New Orleans, Carson City, and San Francisco were used to produce tens of millions of these coins. They were minted from the Hard Times Era through the nation's gold and silver rushes, the Civil War and its aftermath, and well into America's Gilded Age.

Today Liberty Seated coins are growing in popularity among U.S. coinage series, with many enthusiastic collectors and students. The Liberty Seated Collectors Club is among the hobby's fastest-growing specialty groups. Leonard Augsburger, vice president of the club, who wrote the Guide Book's foreword, stated that "Q. David Bowers offers both beginning and experienced numismatists a fresh perspective on collecting these fascinating silver coins."

Author Bowers provides colorful historical context for the coins, commenting on the American scene (and the state of numismatics) from 1836 to 1891. Then he covers all eight denominations that carried the Liberty Seated design, with a coin-by-coin catalog of more than 750 entries. Bowers discusses mintages, grading standards, auction records, keys to building a high-quality collection, and other factors important to collectors and investors. He describes each coin's availability in Mint State and in circulated grades; characteristics of striking; pattern coins for each denomination; production, release, and distribution; branch-mint coinage; Proofs; die varieties; shipwreck finds; conservation; and more. The book is illustrated with more than 1,500 images.





Coin Shipments from the Carson City Mint, 1875-1877 by Jim Laughlin, LSCC #876

The retirement of the fractional paper currency in the East necessitated all the Mints to gear up and produce large amounts of subsidiary silver coin to facilitate the exchanges in 1875-1877. There was an estimated, \$2 million in five cent notes, \$12 million in ten cent notes, \$1.5 million in 15 cent notes, \$10 million in twenty five cent notes and \$15 million in fifty cent notes outstanding to be redeemed. The following are a few period articles specific to the Carson City Mint that shows the great breath of the country where the "CC" coins were shipped to during this period; St. Louis to New York, Chicago to New Orleans, even Buffalo, NY. The San Francisco Mint was doing similar shipments of coin East during the same period. As with anything new that becomes old, references in the newspapers to coin being sent East for fractional currency exchange seems to have dropped off in late 1877 and I have not come across a specific one for Carson in 1878. There were 200,000 Carson City dimes struck in January 1878; 684,000 quarters struck in January and 312,000 in February; and 62,000 half dollars struck in February. These were the final dimes, quarters, and halves that Carson would ever strike, and probably destined for Cities East.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, April 27, 1875

Silver coins to the amount of \$100,000 was shipped from the U. S. Mint at Carson for Boston Friday night--\$50,000 in dimes and \$50,000 in half dollars.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, November 4, 1875

Carson, November 3rd...Coined during the month...Double Eagles \$250,000, Trade Dollars \$82,000, Half Dollars \$6,000; dimes sent East by Wells, Fargo & Co., \$12,000, and \$88,000 in half dollars. (No mention of to which City).

The State of Nevada conducted its own census in 1875 and interested readers can view the original article/table in Pioche Daily Record, Pioche, Nevada, December 21, 1875 available on the Chronicling America website. The population of Nevada in 1875 was 52,540. This was 10,049 more people than the 1870 Census tallied. In a short 5 years, One County though had lost 4,632 citizens while a different County gained 8,109 and another 5,039. The paper noted that the "White Pines excitement" was occurring at the time of the 1870 Census, and that is why the one county lost the 4,632 citizens. Appears people were moving back then. The Census included African-American and Chinese, but not Native American

(Continued on page 17)

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Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, December 27, 1875

The Carson *Appeal* of December 22nd says: At the Mint Treasury yesterday 50,000 dimes were received from the hands of the coiner. These will go to Boston, where 300,000 have already been sent and where 200,000 are yet to be go—the order being for 500,000. That's business of a novel sort—a sort of dime novel sort, in fact.

Pioche Daily Record, Pioche, Nevada, March 17, 1876

Two hundred and eight boxes of ten and twenty-five cent pieces are now stored at the Carson Mint ready for shipment to the East. Each boxes contains \$2,000, making a total of \$416,000. Sixteen of the boxes contain quarters, and the rest dimes. The Mint at present is running on two-bit pieces.

Here we have a written reference that Carson shipped small coin in boxes, each containing \$2,000 face value. No mention of canvas bags is made.

Pioche Daily Record, Pioche Nevada, March 22, 1876

Mr. Eckfeldt, an agent of the Treasury Department, is in Carson making an examination of the affairs of the Mint. A shipment was made by the Treasurer of the Mint of \$50,000 in dimes to New Orleans—the same being the first installment of an order for \$100,000 in dimes and \$100,000 in quarter dollars—for the Sub Treasury in that City.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, May 6, 1876

New York, Saturday, April 29, 1876...On Tuesday there was a queer scene at the great fashion house of Arnold, Constable & Co., it being the paying out of silver change instead of the ton grimy fractional currency. What a sight it was for a Californian, accustomed only to hard coin. How the crowd toyed with the bright halves and quarters, and flipped the shining new dimes and twinkling five cent pieces. What a childish delight did grown men and women exhibit in feeling, seeing and being tempted to taste the hard, ringing coin; and how the clerks did chink the coins down to hear them sing upon the walnut and marble counters.

A first hand account of silver coin being paid out in New York City. For most individuals it was the first silver coin they had seen since 1862.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, May 11, 1876

At Chicago, yesterday, the United States Sub-Treasury received from the Mint at Carson, Nevada, about \$100,000 in silver coin, which will be immediately put in circulation.

Pioche Daily Record, Pioche Nevada, June 24, 1876

We learn at the Carson Mint that \$200,000 in half dollars and dimes is ready for shipment to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, June 28, 1876

Transfer order have been issued for the shipment of \$200,000 from the Carson Mint to the Sub-Treasury in New York. It would seem from the amount of silver coin that is being shipped by our Mint alone, as though the people East were not averse to hard money.

Carson Daily Appeal, Carson City, Nevada, July 1, 1876

Coin Shipment—There was shipped last evening from the U. S. Mint at Carson, by Wells, Fargo & Company's Express, to the United States Treasurer at New York, two hundred thousand dollars in silver—one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in half dollars, and fifty thousand in dimes. During the past month there has been shipped from the Mint about five hundred thousand dollars.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, October 6, 1876

The Carson Mint returns for September: The shipment of subsidiary coin East during the month were as follows, being \$200,000 in excess of any former month's shipment: To Boston, quarters, \$100,000; Buffalo, half dollars, \$20,000; quarters \$20,000; dimes \$10,000, aggregating \$50,000; Pittsburg (assorted as above) \$50,000; New York City, quarters, \$80,000; dimes, \$20,000. Making \$100,000; Cincinnati, half dollars, \$50,000; quarters, \$30,000; dimes, \$20,000, aggregating \$100,000. New York City (assorted as above), \$100,000. Total of \$500,000....

Carson Daily Appeal, Carson City, Nevada, January 3, 1877

(Continued on page 18)



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Money Matters at the Mint---The shipment Eastward during the month of December were as follows: Cincinnati, O., half dollars, \$40,000; Washington, D.C., quarters, \$20,000; New York City, dimes, \$20,000; New Orleans, LA., Quarters., \$20,000; Chicago, Ill., dimes, \$20,000; Cincinnati, O., dimes, \$20,000; St. Louis, Mo., dimes, \$20,000; Baltimore, Md., dimes, \$10,000;

Total shipments.....\$170,000

Pioche Weekly Record, Pioche Nevada, May 12, 1877

In the month of March \$445,000 worth of dimes, quarters and half dollars were shipped from the Carson Mint, and in April \$470,000 worth. Twenty-five thousand of this was sent to the First National Bank of Montana, the first coins sent thither by the Government.

A very small amount of \$470,000 being shipped from Carson, went to Montana

Morning Appeal, Carson City Nevada, August 4, 1877

The Carson Mint shipped last evening, per Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express to the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia, the following denominations of subsidiary silver coins, for the retirement of fractional currency, viz: in half dollars, \$20,000, in quarter dollars, \$20,000, in dimes \$15,000, making a total of \$55,000. Looking into the Mint we cannot but compare the activity and bustle displayed therein to that of the interior of a bee-hive. All departments are employed to their fullest working capacity. The operations are conducted with a clock like regularity. In that institution exists no clashing or misunderstandings. The respective heads of the several departments are thoroughly familiar with the duties required of them and fully alive to the great responsibility which is attached to their trust. We are pleased to note that in the face of the intense heat which has oppressed this community the past month or so, the attaches of the melting department, where the thermometer stands 150 degrees during the working hours, have enjoyed their usual good health, which is rather surprising. Passing our humble opinion on the subject, we believe it scarcely possible that an institution like our Mint could be managed better than it is; in fact it is in excellent hands, from the Superintendent to the messenger. In addition to the Trade Dollar coinage, the Mint has re-

sumed the execution of subsidiary silver coins and fine silver bars, the latter article for export to China. Judging from appearances, the Mint will be kept more fully employed than ever heretofore.

Sacramento Daily Union, Sacramento, California, October 3, 1877

Coinage of the Carson Mint for September....\$138,000 in double eagles, \$7,000 in half eagles, \$53,000 in quarters, \$79,000 in dimes. Shipments---To Chicago, \$10,000 in dimes; to the First National Bank, Helena, Montana, \$1,000 in dimes.

Daily Alta California, San Francisco, California, February 15, 1878

...The shipments from the Carson Mint during the same period (1875-6, 1876-77) were \$5,468,496 of which \$3,020,000 went to Atlantic States, \$2,405,000 to the Mississippi Valley, and \$43,496 was for distribution on the Pacific Coast.

And in closing, an earlier 1871 article...

The Daily State Register, Carson City, Nevada, March 23, 1871

We heard of a boy the other day who accidentally swallowed a silver half dollar. They gave him warm water and tartar emetic, and anti-monial wine, and poked their fingers down his throat until the boy thought he would throw up his toe nails. After awhile a doctor came along who understood such cases. He administered a small dose of patent medicine, and in less than ten minutes the boy threw up the half dollar in five cent pieces.

In my third read of this, I finally picked up on the kid had probably never swallowed the half dollar in the first place but was quickly making any kind of "change" he could so as to get out of his predicament. Parents must have had interesting times before trips to the hospital and x-ray machines.

Sources:

California newspapers: California Digital Newspaper Collection, University of California, Riverside, <http://cdnr.ucr.edu>

Nevada newspapers: Library of Congress, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>



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David Finkelstein: www.djf-coins.com - raw and slabbed collector coins. Many coins have CAC stickers. Every coin is pictured. In addition to being an authorized PCGS, NGC and CAC dealer, I am a member of the PNG, ANA, EAC, LSCC, JRCS, and other regional/national organizations. Visit my website at www.djf-coins.com. Contact me at sales@djf-coins.com.

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Double Dimes – the United States Twenty-cent Piece, a new book by Lane Brunner and John Frost, available both as a web book at no cost, and a Print Edition. Spiral bound, 179 pages, nearly 400 photographs. The Print Edition is available from the authors at www.doubledimes.com.

Holt Rarities is Buying and Selling Liberty Seated, Federal, and Colonial Issue coins of all denominations. Check out our website at www.holtrarities.com or call (931) 581-1890. Brad Holt has collected coins for over thirty years and is a member of the ANA and LSCC.

Wanted to Buy. Collector of Liberty Seated Dollars wants engraved and/or counter-stamped (love tokens) or rotated reverses. All mints, any condition, holed OK. Carl Feldman: carlscoins@gmail.com or (973) 479-9956.

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Dr. Eugene Bruder is constantly updating his website, www.typecoins.com, which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. You can reach him at 402-475-0350 or email at: gene@typecoins.com.

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted. I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Brian Greer, well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>.

W. David Perkins - Large Selection of Gobrecht and Liberty Seated Dollars in Inventory. W. David Perkins, LSCC #790, has many Gobrecht and Liberty Seated Silver Dollars in inventory, including many better dates. Please contact Dave at wdperki@attglobal.net or visit his new website at www.davidperkinsrarecoins.com.

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Wanted to Buy, Seated Quarters for my personal collection. Prefer choice, original examples with attractive natural color and surfaces. Please feel free to offer me any coins and I will respond promptly. Doug Winter LSCC #10. Email address dwn@ont.com.

Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted. I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.



Liberty Seated Collectors
Club

National Officers

President

Gerry Fortin
wuximems@hotmail.com

Vice President

Leonard Augsburger
leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com

Secretary / Treasurer

Dale Miller
dalecta@gmail.com

Publications Editor

Bill Bugert
wb8cpy@earthlink.net
P.O. Box 242
Fairfield, PA 17320
(717) 337-0229

National Positions

Carl Feldman

carlscoins@gmail.com
Membership Chairman

John Frost

john.frost@doubledimes.com
Education Director

Dennis Fortier

ricajun@msn.com
Team Leader,
Regional Directors

Jason Feldman

jasonfeldman@gmail.com
Director,
LSCC Southern Region

Steve Petty

stephenpetty@sbcglobal.net
Director,
LSCC Central Region

Brian Cushing

bpcushing@gmail.com
Director
LSCC Western Region

Vacant—Director,
LSCC Northeast Region

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 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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