



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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LSCC's Annual Meeting!

The LSCC's annual meeting was conducted on Thursday, August 3, 2017, from 9-10 AM at the ANA's World Fair of Money in Denver, CO (group photo at the bottom of this page). There was a club activities update, financial report, and annual awards ceremony (see next page). The Club table was on the bourse floor and staffed by club members. John Dannreuther (aka "JD") fielded audience questions on all aspects of Liberty Seated coinage. Meeting minutes will be in the Fall *Gobrecht Journal*.

John Frost video and audio recorded the complete meeting and he posted the recordings on the LSCC website. The link is on the home page or on the "Recordings of Meetings" page: <http://www.lscweb.org/Recordings.shtml>.

Constitution and By-Laws Revision Passes Unanimously

In order to qualify for 501(c)(3) status, a substantial revision to the LSCC Constitution and Bylaws was necessary to better specify the organization's financial procedures and to emphasize the organization's research and educational purposes. Emailed to all *E-Gobrecht* subscribers in late July, this revision passed at the annual meeting. Complete details will be published in the Fall issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*.

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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.



LSCC Annual Awards Presentation

(complete details will be published in the Fall Issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*).



John Frost (above right) receiving the President's Award for Merit, a new special honor, from LSCC President Gerry Fortin.



Len Augsburger (above right) receiving the 2016 Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award from LSCC President Gerry Fortin for his article entitled "Circulation of Liberty Seated Coinage at the Turn of the 20th Century."



Bill Bugert (unable to attend the meeting) was inducted into the LSCC Hall of Fame.





Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

The American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money was held from August 1-5 in Denver, Colorado. As part of the show, major auctions of US coins were held by Stack's Bowers Galleries on August 1 and 3 and by Heritage Auctions on August 2 and 4. Internet only auctions followed these floor auctions in subsequent days. I attended a number of the auction sessions, reviewed many of the Liberty Seated coins and have added some comments based on my notes made during lot viewing.

Stack's Bowers 2017 ANA Auction. A limited number of Liberty Seated coins were sold in this auction with a preponderance of higher grade "common" dates. Better dates included an 1854-O Huge O quarter graded AU55 by NGC that sold for \$11,750. This Huge O quarter is not rare in lower grades but becomes quite scarce in EF and rare in AU. No uncirculated examples have been graded. An 1839 no drapery Liberty Seated half dollar graded PCGS EF45 sold for \$1,410 and an 1845-O half dollar graded PCGS AU58 also brought \$1,410. The finest of four known 1853-O no arrows half dollars, which was graded PCGS VF35, sold for \$517,000. The second finest known half dollar of this date is a VG8, which appears to represent the largest numerical grade difference between the finest and second finest known coins of any regular issue U.S. coin. A popular variety, a Confederate States issued 1861-O half dollar, graded ANACS VF20, brought \$940. Several better date Liberty Seated dollars all graded by PCGS were sold as follows: 1861 VF35 \$1,762; 1862 VF30 \$1,645; 1863 EF40 \$1,880; 1865 MS61 \$2,115; and 1865 VF25 \$998. An 1871-CC dollar graded AU55 by NGC brought \$18,800.

Heritage 2017 ANA Auction. An 1843-O dime graded PCGS VF20 sold for \$881. A well-worn example of the first Carson City dime issued, an 1871-CC graded PCGS CAC FR02 with the date virtually

unreadable, brought \$1,292. One of the three confirmed Branch mint specimen 1876-CC dimes graded NGC SP65 sold for \$47,000.

A nice selection of better date Liberty Seated quarters were in this sale. An 1840-O Large O with drapery quarter in PCGS CAC MS64 sold for \$19,975. An article on this die marriage and this specific coin was written by Jack Marston and published in the November 1995 issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*. When Jack obtained this coin, it was in a PCGS MS63. It was and still remains the finest known coin of this die marriage. Two PCGS graded 1847-O quarters were sold in this auction: an MS62 for \$7,050 and a VF35 for \$646. An 1858-S quarter graded by PCGS as AU53 brought \$5,875 while another better date San Francisco issue, an 1868-S graded PCGS VF30 sold for \$616. An 1878-S quarter graded AU58 by NGC brought \$1,527.

Several better date Carson City quarters were also sold:

1870-CC PCGS VF30	\$21,150
1872-CC PCGS VF35	\$8,225
1875-CC PCGS MS64+ CAC	\$7,931
1875-CC PCGS VF20 CAC	\$822
1878-CC AU58 CAC	\$898.

As with the quarters, there were some better date Liberty Seated half dollars in the Heritage auction. An 1840 (O) medium letter reverse sold for \$1,468. This half dollar was listed as the WB-12 die marriage which is a Rarity-6 according to Bill Bugert in his *Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties Volume III* but this coin appears to be WB-4 die marriage which is an R-3. Nevertheless, the medium letter reverse Liberty Seated half dollars are in high demand because they have been proven to be a New Orleans coin without a mintmark and many collectors consider

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them a one-year type coin. Two 1851 half dollars each graded PCGS EF45 were sold for \$1,351 and \$1,704. Two 1852-O half dollars graded by NGC were sold: an AU55 for \$1,645 and an AU58 for 3,055. The rare 1855-S half dollar issue was represented by a PCGS MS62 example which brought \$58,750. Three 1871-CC half dollars graded EF45 were sold: the NGC coin brought \$3,055 and the two PCGS examples sold for \$3,312 and \$2,350. The last Carson City half dollar in the sale was an 1878-CC graded NGC VF35 that brought \$3,290.

A nice selection of better date circulated Liberty Seated dollars were sold including the following coins:

1854 XF45 PCGS	\$5,875
1855 XF45 PCGS	\$5,170
1857 XF40 PCGS CAC	\$2,820
1859-S XF45 PCGS	\$1,938
1861 AU53 PCGS	\$3,290
1862 XF40 PCGS	\$2,820
1863 XF40 PCGS	\$2,230
1864 XF40 PCGS	\$1,410
1870-CC AU58 PCGS	\$12,925
1870-CC XF40 PCGS CAC	\$4,112
1872-CC XF40 PCGS	\$4,465
1872-S AU50 PCGS	\$2,585.

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Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

John Frost receives Presidents Award at the Annual LSCC meeting. As members around the country know very well John Frost is the life-blood of the Regional Program giving of his time, expertise, and personal

expenses to a degree no one ever thought realistic to expect from a club volunteer. John as a club ambassador has brought a quality of professionalism that reflects admirably on the LSCC. Additionally, his role as Educational Director lends support to our Regional Teams efforts to educate the numismatic community about Liberty Seated coinage.

I can think of no one more deserving of this award than John. Heartiest congratulations to John from all of us on the Regional Team.

The Ohio State Coin Show is in full swing as of this publishing so Central Director Stephen Petty will have his report for us in next month's column.

The Long Beach Expo is September 7-9. West Coast Regional Director Brian Cushing will host the club dinner at the Rock Bottom Brewery on Thursday night September 7th. Check with Brian Cushing on the time. Bob Clark will host the club table at the show once again. Stop by and see what Bob has on display and show him any new purchases.

With the official end of summer many club members turn their attention once again to coins. Liberty Seated coinage continues to attract strong interest in the hobby. The Regional Team endeavors to shine a light on our club and Liberty Seated coinage, not only for the benefit of club members but to promote Liberty Seated coinage in general.

LSCC Calendar

August 31-September 3, 2017. **LSCC Regional meeting and Educational Forum. Dublin (Columbus), OH.** Ohio State Coin Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel Dublin, Dublin, OH. A LSCC meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 1st, at 9 AM in room 183. Stephen Petty will be presenting on Liberty Seated dollars at the Friday meeting and repeating it again on Saturday.

September 7-9, 2017. **LSCC table and Social. Long Beach, CA.** Long Beach Expo, Long Beach Convention Center, Hall A, 100 South Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802. Bob Clark will staff the club table which will be located on the bourse floor. Also, there will be a combined LSCC/BCCS social at the Rock Bottom Brewery on Thursday, September 7th, time TBD. Brian Cushing is coordinating the social.

October 1, 2017. Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #130.



From John Frost (in the center of the photo at the ANA). Even though we had very little traffic at the club table (back-back-back corner of the room behind the postal truck!), this was one of the only interesting things that happened there. The attached photo is me discussing and showing the 1872-S counterfeit Liberty Seated half dollar with Beth Deisher (left) and Kathy McFadden (right). Beth Deisher is the retired editor of *Coin World* and is now leading an anti-counterfeiting drive for ICTA (Industry Committee for Tangible Assets). Kathy McFadden is the Executive Director of ICTA and a fixture at many coin shows.

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

1840-O Liberty Seated Half Dollar WB-3, Large O, R5



1840 was the first year of mintage for the 'new' Liberty Seated half dollar design at the New Orleans branch mint. The WB-3 die marriage is only one of the many interesting possibilities to be found among the 855,100 coins produced.

The primary obverse diagnostics for the obverse are numerous 'rust lumps' and some light die polish lines in Liberty's lower skirt area and arm. A



slightly re-punched 8 may not always clearly present.

The reverse is most certainly "where the action is" for this WB-3 die marriage:

From the left side denticles at about K-9, a substantial die crack crosses the T in UNITED,



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through the eagle's left wing and legend into the end of the arrow.



From the upper right side denticles at K-2, another strong crack crosses the M in AMERICA, into the eagle's right wing and down to the edge of the shield.

Finally, the die cracks split in the feathers of



the eagle and arrow with one crack just touching the top of the H in HALF before exiting the denticles at K-7 and the other going through the stem of the olive branch before bisecting the D in DOLLAR and exiting in the lower denticles at about K-5.

Diagnostics courtesy of *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume III, New Orleans Branch Mint 1840-O to 1853-O NA* by Bill Bugert.

Images courtesy of PCGS TrueView with this example graded XF-45.

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The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Information Is Where You Get It

As collectors we gather information about our coins from a multitude of sources, and all of these play a different role in the collecting experience. Collectors chasing coins on a bourse floor deal with much data that is never recorded and only orally shared between collectors and dealers. Who owns what? Who needs what? Which dealer has a buyer lined up for the coin I want to sell? How strong or weak is the market? The answers to such questions constantly change, and are best learned by maintaining a level of engagement with dealers and other collectors.

As project coordinator of the Newman Numismatic Portal (<https://nnp.wustl.edu>) I am more focused on written materials and am constantly adding new resources to what is now the largest online American numismatic library. In addition to published materials we've also pursued archival sources and I'm excited about our content from the U.S. National Archives. Heretofore, the effort required to access this material was substantial – one needed to travel to a distant city and visit their facilities during normal business hours. Documents had to be called for, read, and copied for later study. Repeat visits were often needed as one learned where the more useful documents were located in the archival collection. The Newman Portal now includes approximately 50,000 pages of such material, much of it scanned under the direction of R. W. Julian (working under a grant from the Central States Numismatic Society). More recently, Roger W. Burdette has been contributing scans from Branch Mint correspondence for the 1830s and 1840s.

The branch Mint correspondence is fertile ground, and if you are so minded, I encourage a few hours browsing these 19th century ledgers (<https://>

nnp.wustl.edu/library/archive_detail/520560). The handwriting is generally legible and usually not difficult to decipher – though I do recommend a large monitor and use of full-screen mode. You'll get a good feel for what the Mint and Treasury department considered important at the time. Interestingly, this doesn't always intersect with our modern concerns. The LSCC and its members have devoted tremendous study to die varieties and progressions and, in truth, we know much more about die varieties than the coiners who actually manufactured these objects. Mint officials at the time were more concerned with die preparation and shipment than in keeping track of which dies were paired in a given year – in other words, they cared more about steady production and the daily demands of a coinage factory.

Other concerns included gold production, administration of annual assays, Mint personnel, and occasional emergencies such as the yellow fever that plagued New Orleans throughout the 19th century.

These archival materials are in handwritten form, and will perhaps be transcribed in the future, although the sheer quantity necessitates a good deal of time and effort. Electronic transcriptions may eventually assist with this task. For now, we are living in an in-between period where one can view original documents online, and that is an important first step. Archives won't tell you the difference a Fine-12 and Fine-15 Liberty Seated quarter dollar but they can make your collecting experience richer, particularly if you already have an interest in the why of coins and wish to dig deeper.



Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

Collecting Liberty Seated Quarters by Die Marriage

Collecting any series by die marriage is a big project. Look no further than Gerry Fortin's Liberty Seated dime web-book or Bill Bugert's series of books on Liberty Seated half dollar die marriages for convincing evidence of the required effort. The challenge of collecting quarters in similar fashion is even greater for four reasons: 1) availability of coins; 2) price of coins; 3) a very small active collector community sharing research; and 4) Larry Briggs' book *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (Lima, OH 1991) represents the most recent effort at cataloguing Liberty Seated quarter die marriages. To be fair, Briggs' book is an important and impressive compilation of information but knowledge of coins and photography has advanced considerably in the past 30 years.

One approach to Liberty Seated quarter die marriage collecting is to divide and conquer. That is, pick a particular issue or issues that are interesting and focus on those. The question then quickly becomes: "Which issues could I collect by die marriage?" That question immediately leads to another important distinction between Liberty Seated quarters and the other series, dimes, and half dollars in particular. A relatively large number of quarter issues have three or fewer die marriages. I find, and I assume many others do too, that a "set" consisting of 1, 2, or 3 coins is not sufficiently challenging to provide the joy of the hunt for which most collectors are looking.

So, how do you pick interesting issues to collect by die marriage? It is helpful, when thinking about each date and mint mark as its own potential die marriage set, to group coins according to mint: Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Carson City. The Philadelphia issues are the least studied, the most plentiful, and the hardest to attribute. Briggs, and most students of the series since, have focused on issues with mint marks either due to the practical utility of mint mark location as an aid to attribution, or because many Philadelphia mint quarter issues have either a single die marriage, or an impractically large (and often unknown) number. A collector seeking a lifelong project

could attempt a die study of 1853 arrows and rays quarters, or 1876 quarters, or any of the other issues with mintages of over 10 million.

Looking for fun and interesting die marriage sets by eliminating Philadelphia issues, and mint marked issues with three or fewer known marriages, leaves only 17 candidates.

Date / mm	# known Pairs	Date / mm	# known Pairs	Date / mm	# known Pairs
1841-O	6 to 8	1856-O	7+	1877-CC	>12
1842-O LD	8	1856-S	6	1877-S	>12
1843-O	6	1857-O	10	1878-CC	4+
1844-O	9+	1875-S	5+	1888-S	6
1853-O	12	1876-CC	>15	1891-S	6+
1854-O	9+	1876-S	>12		

The table illustrates that 4 of the 17 issues are very high mintage with an unknown number of die marriages (">" sign). Some others with the "+" signs have an uncertain number of known die marriages; the "+" follows the number identified in Briggs' book and indicates that one or two additional die marriages have been found. The "6 to 8" notation for the 1841-O indicates that Briggs' catalogued 8 die marriages but almost 14 years into collecting an 1841-O die marriage set I have only confirmed 6 of the 8.

I have, at one time or another, attempted sets of all of the no motto quarters on this list, as well as the 1846, 1847, and 1849 Philadelphia issues. I have never tried to collect any with motto quarters by die marriage. The most personally interesting have been the 1843-O, 1847, 1853-O, 1856-S, and 1857-O. The most frustrating, and most in need of further research, have been the 1844-O and 1854-O.

I hope Liberty Seated quarter enthusiasts have found this note interesting, and that it has given you some ideas about interesting die marriage sets. Happy Hunting!



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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/>.

Liberty 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 1-714-872-2772.

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LSCC Mission

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

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org

LSCC email address: lscweb@lscweb.org

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

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

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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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