



The E-Gobrecht

**Liberty Seated
Collectors Club**

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Seated Fest II Report by Dennis Fortier, LSCC Regional Director



Seated Fest II certainly raised the profile of the club. Many collectors, dealers, and hobby dignitaries made a point of finding the Seated Fest II booth to see the club's superb exhibit. The premier coin of the display was Tom Bender's 1870-S Half Dime - the one and only, unique 1870-S Half Dime! When dealers take time away from their tables to see a coin you know that coin must be special.

Many club members took time out of their busy schedules to present their fabulous collections. All seven series were well represented. Many rare and interesting issues and varieties were displayed for fascinated show attendees. Grateful thanks to Len Augsburger, Tom Bender, George Follmer, Dennis Fortier, John Frost (three denominations!), Darrell Low, Keith Poole, Ken Scholm, and Allen Welty for their club spirited efforts. Of note, there was something in the display for everyone. Very high-end coins and ultra-rarities on one side of the booth area, and collector-grade coins of all series on the other side - great coins, including rarities, that mere mortals without unlimited budgets might have hope of acquiring. We had excellent comments from countless visitors to the table regarding the circulated sets and key dates.

John Frost, LSCC Education Director, headed up the education component of Seated Fest II. John, Alan Welty (Half Dimes), Len Augsburger (Quarters), and Bill Bugert (Half Dollars) had between 15 and 20 attendees for the four educational seminars at the show. To recap; the educational presentations at Seated Fest II were:

1. Introduction to the LSCC and Liberty Seated coinage, Liberty Seated Engravers.
2. Liberty Seated Series: Liberty Seated half dimes, Liberty Seated dimes, Liberty Seated quarters.
3. Liberty Seated Series: Double dimes (twenty cent pieces), Trade dollars. Variety attribution, References for Liberty Seated coinage, both printed and online.

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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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4. Liberty Seated Series: Liberty Seated half dollars, Liberty Seated dollars. The Andrew Jackson-Sevier Flying Eagle Dollar.

Bill Bugert arrived in Baltimore with copies of *Gobrecht Journal* #134 hot off the press. Jim Macor provided another beautiful cover. Bill Bugert has done it again with another fabulous addition of the Journal. It seemed appropriate that the new *Gobrecht Journal* with its new cover should debut at Seated Fest II.

Alan Welty was able to complete his collection of half dimes at Seated Fest II. Tom Bender lent Alan his 1870-S half dime to place in his case for a few minutes. Alan took a photo of his complete collection for posterity (image at right).

Len Augsburger, Jeff Ball, John Frost, and the entire club leadership team should be commended for all their hard work in bringing Seated Fest II to fruition. The Whitman people must also be thanked for their support of the club's efforts. A great deal of planning went into bringing Seated Fest II to fruition.



Images from Seated Fest II





Images from Seated Fest II





Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

1856 Flag of 5 in the Shield

There is an aphorism that says, “If there is a reason that someone is your friend, he’s not your friend.” Whether you find that statement profound or just goofy, it speaks in some way to how little we know of our own motivations and decision-making. If you ask someone why he collects coins the only answer that seems to work is “because I’m a collector.” Likewise, the reason an individual picks one series to collect over another has no rational explanation; the particular collection is just “right.” The same idea extends to varieties, at least in my case. Some are favorites for no apparent reason. I am returning to one of my favorites this month for the simple reason that I like it and there are no rules imposed on the column.

Nearly eight years ago when working to formulate the Top 25 Liberty Seated Quarter Variety Set there were some decisions to make about which varieties to include. The details of the process were spelled out in the *Gobrecht Journal* article that introduced the set (*Gobrecht Journal* #111 July 2011). A couple of personal favorites were left off the list because of concern that including too many excessively rare varieties would make the set too challenging as a collecting goal. One of those excluded was the 1856 Flag of 5 in Shield, which is particularly interesting because a piece of a digit was punched into the obverse shield.

Bill Bugert was discovered this variety and initially reported in issue 52 of the *Gobrecht Journal* in November of 1991. The note and photograph are reprinted on page 382 of *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 4*. The variety is listed in *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (9-G), but without detailed information. In fact, only a single example, presumably the discovery coin, appeared in the 1993 LSCC quarter survey. [Editor’s note: After I found the initial coin, I quickly found another. Thinking it was not rare because I found two, I gave the discovery coin to Larry Briggs.] A total of 7 examples

of the variety were reported in the 2007 LSCC survey. It was added to the Top 25 Survey conducted in 2013 and published in 2014 (*Gobrecht Journal* #119 March 2014), along with a few other coins that almost made the list, and 10 examples (9 raw VF/XF examples and one certified MS) were reported.

Some esoteric varieties turn out to be far less rare than originally thought once collectors start looking for them. It seems that the 1856 Flag of 5 in Shield is not one of those. Not surprisingly the variety remains rare; it is a very obvious, naked eye variety that could not successfully hide from collectors for a long period of time. Despite that fact, I have not seen an example offered for sale in nearly seven years. The finest known, and only mint state, example sold at auction on June 6, 2010. It resides in a PCGS holder graded MS63 (shown below).



Image Courtesy of Heritage.



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Reflections on Seated Fest II



The Seated Fest II event took place at the Whitman Baltimore Expo, starting on Thursday, February 28 and wrapping up on Saturday, March 2. This event was the long awaited follow up to Seated Fest I, which occurred at the November Baltimore show in 2011. The good folks at Whitman Publishing supported both events, and we could not have done it without them. Many thanks to Lori Kraft and crew for booth space, cases, lights, signage, and a number of other late-breaking requests from your LSCC organizing crew. In addition to the exhibit space, this event included a well-received group dinner at the nearby Pratt Street Ale House on Thursday night, and four educational sessions presented by John Frost (and others) on Thursday and Friday. The LSCC ramped up security for this event, with a safe in the booth area, and onsite security personnel furnished by PPI, a firm that supplies security services to numismatic trade shows. This is simply common sense for an exhibit of this magnitude, and everything went off without a hitch.

The highlight of the exhibit area was the unique 1870-S half dime, a curious piece that came out of the middle of nowhere in the late 1970s. Part of the fascination of numismatics is that new things come out of the woodwork all the time. Sometimes they come out of ground, or from old-time collections that no one knows about until they are sold. A new half cent variety was recently announced, even though the series has been closely studied since production ceased in 1857. The 1870-S half dime walked up to a coin shop in the Chicago south suburbs and was purchased over the counter as a common date half dime along with other material of nominal value. Some years later I spoke with a person who had worked in a neighboring store. It was the custom among dealers in this area to tip each other off when deals walked in the door. If

someone was selling and soliciting multiple offers, the dealers did not wish to undercut each other. The person I spoke with could well have gotten a phone call that day, or a cigar box containing an 1870-S half dime, but their shop was not yet open! As they say, the early bird gets the worm.

In the scholarly area, John Frost announced at this show the first known photograph of William Barber, located in the Barber archives by its current custodian (the Trepagnier family, great-great-grandchildren of William Barber). Barber is of interest to us as the engraver of the 20-cent piece and Trade dollar. Again – the fun thing about numismatics is a constant stream of new information. It is a remarkable thing that a century-old photograph remained in the family for such a long period of time, without being published in the numismatic field. John Frost has taken care of that problem, and we thank him for that.

On exhibit were Liberty Seated coins of all denominations, so there was something for everyone. The half dimes were especially well served with Alan Welty's set, which averaged near-gem uncirculated preservation. George Follmer and Ken Scholm also exhibited half dimes, and between them and the unique 1870-S it was truly half dime heaven. The only regret I have from this event is that half dime specialist Steve Crain was unable to attend. Crain exhibited at Seated Fest I and I am sure was with us in spirit. I was so impressed with Steve's collection at Seated Fest I, not because it was the highest-graded set ever (it wasn't), but because it was the best curated collection ever. Steve knew exactly what he had, in minute detail, and created copious annotations on his coin holders. And he could explain most of it without referring to

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notes! I am so pleased LSCC has taken steps to begin the photography and documentation of his collection (<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollection/514182>).

Not to be neglected was the social aspect of Seated Fest II – hanging out with old friends and making new ones. LSCC takes this aspect of the collecting experience seriously – one shouldn't have to spend great deals of money in this hobby in order to have a good time. Wildly toned condition census pieces are always drool-worthy, but when we can't admire choice, eye-appealing coinage at all grade levels, we are missing something. So – when is Seated Fest III? We are

thinking two or three years down the line, but if you have any interest in exhibiting, it is never too early to let us know. To whet your appetite, here is pictured some goodness from the Pratt Street Ale House, which as I recall was divided about four or five ways, as we were all stuffed before dessert came around.



“Challenging Years” LSCC Survey Online

The 2019 LSCC survey on the most challenging years in collecting Liberty Seated coinage is now open for input on the LSCC website. Participation in this survey is open to LSCC members only (it requires reading the survey description, instructions, and example, as seen in the Spring issue of *The Gobrecht Journal*, Issue #134, on pages 38-40. You may use the LSCC website to respond to the survey.

Instructions for completing the survey form online:

- Read the article in *The Gobrecht Journal*, Issue #134, pages 38-40.
- Assign a number 1 through 10 in the box corresponding to the dates/years you pick as the most challenging. Assign the number "1" to the most challenging, and the number "10" to the 10th most challenging, and everything in between.
- Hit the **SUBMIT SURVEY** button at the very bottom of the page. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2019.

Your responses will be anonymized, however we ask each respondent to designate their name and Liberty Seated Collectors Club Member#, if known, so that we can ensure that you are a member. Your LSCC Member# can be found on your mailing label, or your membership card that was included with that issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*. Your email address is requested only so that we may confirm that we received your submission. Thank you for your cooperation and your participation!

Announcement on home page: <http://www.lscweb.org/>

Survey form: <http://www.lscweb.org/DifficultYearSurveyForm.shtml>

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org



Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

April Update

Jeff Ball Steps Up as New Southeast Regional Director

Jason Feldman, our long time Southeast Regional Director, has stepped down for personal reasons. We appreciate Jason's many years of service to the club and wish him well going forward.

Jeff Ball, who headed up the Membership Medal Program so well, has agreed to assume the duties of Southeast Regional Director. We look forward to working with Jeff and believe we can expect great things from him. Welcome aboard, Jeff.

Jeff is hitting the ground running giving a presentation, *"Introduction to Liberty Seated Coinage,"* to his local club.

Local clubs are the backbone of the hobby and, as a national specialty club, we need to make more partnerships with those local clubs. Not only to support them but also to raise the profile of the LSCC. This is an area where each member can do his/her part; by introducing collectors at your local club to Liberty Seated coinage and the LSCC.

There are several educational presentations available on the LSCC website and John Frost, our Education Director, will be happy to work with you on any presentation you wish to give.

Gettysburg, PA, April 5-6. John Frost and Bill Bugert will host the club table. Bill Bugert will give an educational presentation on *"The Bashlow 2nd Restrike Confederate Half Dollar."*

Manchester N.H., April 19-20. John Frost and Mark Archambault will host the club table and meeting. Their educational presentation will be *"Carson City Liberty Seated Coinage."*

Mansfield, CT Coin Club, April 22. Dennis Fortier will give a talk on *"Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia."*

"The Most Challenging Dates In Liberty Seated Coinage" survey, featured in the latest issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* (#134), is off to a roaring start. Almost 30 completed surveys have been returned already. This is a fun and easy survey, so take a few minutes and participate. There is a fast turnaround time on this survey, so don't procrastinate.



Dennis Fortier displaying his collection at the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club meeting on March 20, 2019.



Call for Hall of Fame Nominations

The Hall of Fame Committee composed of club members Len Augsburger, Bill Bugert, Tom DeLorey, Gerry Fortin, and Mark Sheldon wishes to inform the membership that we are accepting nominations for the Liberty Seated Collectors Club's 2019 Hall of Fame (HoF). Please consider honoring a noteworthy individual to this prestigious distinction for his/her contributions to the club and/or to the advancement of collecting Liberty Seated coinage.

Basic qualifications for club member nominees are significant advances in or contributions to at least one of the following four criteria:

- Numismatic Research on Liberty Seated coinage
- Numismatic Literature related to Liberty Seated coinage
- Collection(s) of Liberty Seated coinage
- LSCC Club officer (for at least five years).

Previous inductees to the HoF include Kamal M. Ahwash (deceased), John W. McCloskey (deceased), Alfred E. Blythe (deceased), Randall E. Wiley, Brian Greer, Gerry Fortin, Jim O'Donnell (deceased), Eugene Gardner (deceased), Jim Gray, Bill Bugert, and Len Augsburger. This year's inductee will be announced at the LSCC 2019 annual meeting.



The nominations must be received no later than April 15, 2019 and are due to the HoF Chairman, Bill Bugert, via email at wb8cpy@earthlink.net or via postal mail at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927 or to Bill via telephone at (717) 337-0229.

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LSCC Calendar

April 5-6, 2019. **LSCC table and Educational Program.** Gettysburg, PA. Gettysburg National Battlefield Coin Show. Bill Bugert will give an educational presentation on "*The Bashlow 2nd Restrike Confederate Half Dollar.*" Check LSCC website for exact details.

April 19-20, 2019. **LSCC table and Educational Program.** Manchester NH. New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo. John Frost and Mark Archambault will host the club table and meeting. There educational presentation will be "*Carson City Liberty Seated Coinage.*" Check LSCC website for exact details.

April 22, 2019. **LSCC Educational Program.** Mansfield, CT Coin Club. Dennis Fortier will give a talk on "*Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia.*"

April 15, 2019. Deadline for LSCC Hall of Fame Nominations to Bill Bugert (contact info on last page of this issue.)

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

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org

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Couldn't attend Seated Fest II in Baltimore? Attended Seated Fest, but want more?

Register now for *Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage*
at the ANA Summer Seminar, June 15-20!



Due to popular demand, the LSCC is once again offering this Liberty Seated course at this year's ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. This course features interactive discussions on many topics, including the history and development of Liberty Seated coinage, evolution of the designs, and grading, including the nuances between series. The core of the class features a **deep dive** into each of the seven series: half dimes, dimes, twenty-cent pieces, quarters, halves, and both Liberty Seated and Trade dollars.

These deep dives entail in-hand inspection of many coins in all grades in all series, and will include in-depth discussions into collecting strategies, key dates, major varieties, attribution, counterfeits, and authentication. Students will have access to both reference materials and sit-down guidance from instructors throughout the course.

A full week of Liberty Seated coinage, all day every day – what could be better! The ANA Summer Seminar Course Catalog is online. Seminar details and registration information are available at the ANA website, www.money.org/summer-seminar. This class is offered during Session 1, June 15-20.

Course #9 is a four-day class and sessions go all day. Breaks, meals, and evenings allow for networking and camaraderie with all students and instructors, and provide plenty of time to talk coins with people of all backgrounds and levels of experience, from morning to night.

Class size is limited to 18 students, so if you are interested in attending this class, register soon, as it is filling up!

Seminar #9: Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage

Instructors:

John Frost (LSCC Education Director)

Len Augsburger (LSCC VP and *Curious Collector* column)

Craig Eberhart (*Auction News* column, noted New Orleans expert)

We look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs!

9. Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage

Presented by leading experts in the field, this in-depth examination of Liberty Seated coinage will explore historical perspectives, key dates, collecting strategies, major varieties, grading, counterfeits and authentication. Each denomination in the series—half dimes, dimes, 20 cents, quarters, half dollars, dollars and Trade dollars—will be





Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

Heritage Signature Auction, March 14-16, Dallas. Several better date Liberty Seated coins were in this auction. The 1840-O half dime with drapery in an AU55 PCGS holder sold for the strong price of \$4,800, which was only \$720 less than the NGC MS61 sold at the last Long Beach auction. This relatively small difference, roughly 10 percent, seems unexpectedly low when considering the rarity of this date in uncirculated condition. However, examination of the macrophotographs may explain this difference: the MS61 appears to be flatter on the obverse high points than the AU55. It would not surprise me to see this AU55 coin in an MS holder at some future time.

1840-O WD	half dime	PCGS	AU55	\$4,800.	With drapery
1865-S	dime	PCGS	MS62	\$9,021.	F-103, repunched date
1860-S	quarter	PCGS	F12	\$2,160.	Briggs 1-A
1873	quarter	PCGS	XF45	\$1,802.	Briggs 2-B, no arrows
1878-S	quarter	PCGS	XF45	\$1,980.	
1850	Half dollar	PCGS CAC	XF45	\$1,080.	
1871-CC	Half dollar	NGC	VF35	\$2,160.	WB-6

PCGS Members Only Show, March 21, Las Vegas, Regency Auction 31 by Legend Auctions. The Liberty Seated coins in this auction were quite limited, but it did include two 1870-CC half dollars (listed below) and a spectacular collection of nineteen deep cameo "black and white" proof coins. Eleven Liberty Seated coins were included in this "Intense Cameo Collection."

1870-CC	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$16,450.
1870-CC	half dollar	PCGS	AU50	\$27,025.

The Spring ANA National Money Show, March 28-30, Pittsburgh, by Kagin's. A nice selection of Liberty Seated coins were in this auction including several better dates and a couple of my personal favorites, both one-year New Orleans type coins, an 1838-O half dime and an 1891-O quarter.



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1838-O	half dime	PCGS	VF30	\$804.	V-1
1858-O	dime	PCGS CAC	MS65	\$9,600.	
1858-S	dime	PCGS	VF20	\$720.	
1872-CC	dime	NGC	AU50	\$10,200.	
1859-S	Quarter	PCGS	XF40	\$6,000.	
1891-O	quarter	PCGS	F12	\$810.	
1871-CC	Half dollar	PCGS	VF35	\$2,400.	
1872-CC	Half dollar	NGC CAC	VF35	\$1,500	
1844	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$3,120.	
1870-CC	Seated dollar	PCGS	VF30	\$2,280.	

Upcoming Auction.

Central States Numismatic Society, April 24-30, Schaumburg IL, by Heritage Auctions.

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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.

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.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@earthlink.net.

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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