



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

2019 Volume 15, Issue 5

May 2019 (Whole #172)

LSCC at CSNS by Len Augsburger, LSCC VP

A group of approximately 20 members (not all pictured below) attended the LSCC regional meeting held at the Central States show in Schaumburg on Friday, April 26.

LSCC president Gerry Fortin and vice-president Len Augsburger chaired the meeting, which kicked off with member introductions and a group photograph. Len discussed upcoming LSCC activities (image at right), most notably the ANA Summer Seminar class on Seated coinage to be held June 16-19 in Colorado Springs, CO. Presenting at this year's Seminar will be John Frost, Craig Eberhart, and Len Augsburger. The class is nearly full, and potential attendees are encouraged to reserve their place now. Also mentioned was the video of the educational sessions presented at Seated Fest II (held at the March 2019 Baltimore show), which is available, courtesy of David Lisot, on Newman Numismatic Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/multimediatdetail/522852?Year=2019&take=50> and on the club website.



Group photo from the April 2019 LSCC Regional Meeting at the CSNS Show.

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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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Len further discussed photography of the Steve Crain half dime die variety reference collection, which is now online at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollection/514182>. Steve had about a thousand coins in his collection, and fully three-fourths of these are now in the online gallery. Ace photographer Steve Herrman will have the remainder done soon. Many people came together to make this happen, and we can thank Dave Perkins, LSCC, and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society for supporting this effort. Steve Crain's holder notes and Valentine attributions are preserved through this work, and, if you have Seated half dimes to attribute, this is a good place to start. Steve collected not only by Valentine numbers, but also by die states, and his collection represents the most comprehensive record to date of the Liberty Seated half dime die varieties.

The meeting concluded with Gerry presenting on 1843 half dollars with cracked reverse dies (image

below), relying on the slide set earlier created by Bill Bugert on this topic. This is a fascinating "collection within a collection," and the wide variety of cracks available for this issue presents a compelling challenge for the interested collector.



LSCC President Gerry Fortin discusses 1843 die cracked half dollars at the April 2019 CSNS Show.

Stories from the Club Table

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Manning the club table brings you into contact with all sorts of people. Recently at the Bay State show I was talking to an acquaintance I had known for several years. He does quite a lot of volunteer work for a regional numismatic organization. As we stood at the table chatting an older gentleman came up to view the display. He was wearing a Marine Corps hat so as a fellow Marine I said "Semper Fi," the traditional greeting from one Marine to another, and shook hands.

The guy I had been talking to said in surprise, "Oh you're a Marine, So am I." We talked about the time frame that we had each served. I said I got out just before Beirut (Lebanon). He said he was in Beirut when the Marine barracks was bombed.

In case you might not remember, Marines were sent to Beirut to secure the Beirut airport. The U.S. Marines were part of a multinational force sent to Lebanon in August 1982 to oversee the Palestinian withdrawal from Lebanon. On Sunday October 23, 1983 two truck bombs struck separate buildings housing United States and French military forces—members of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Lebanon—killing 299 American and French servicemen. An obscure group calling itself 'Islamic Jihad' claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Imagine my surprise and awe to find out someone I knew had been there and lived through it. He went through years of pain and multiple surgeries. The word hero gets tossed around a lot these days, and I'm sure this guy doesn't think of himself as a hero. He was just a Marine doing his job, serving his country, and bam, wrong place – wrong time.

However for the rest of us who served and escaped any permanent injury, it is extraordinary to know such a man and share the hobby of numismatics. You never know who will be on the other side of the club table.



Images from April 2019 LSCC Tables



John Frost and Paul Kluth at the Gettysburg PA show



Mark Archambault (above) and his CC display (below) at the Manchester NH Show



John Frost (above) and Bill Bugert (below) at the Gettysburg PA show



John Frost at the Willimantic Show



Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage

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





Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

The 1857-O Briggs 7-C

Last month's column featured one of the coins deemed too rare to include in the Top 25 Liberty Seated Quarter Variety Set. As a reminder for those who missed that column, missed the original *Gobrecht Journal* article defining the Top 25, or both, the Top 25 Set was originally defined in *Gobrecht Journal* #111 (July 2011). Some really interesting and personal favorite varieties were left out of the set due to concern that including too many excessively rare varieties would make the set too challenging as a collecting goal. The details of the selection process were detailed in the article.

This month's coin is another of those varieties left off of the Top 25 list for being too rare; the 1857-O Briggs 7-C with the top of "18" in the obverse denticles below the date.

The image at right shows the distinguishing feature of the variety; the tops of the digits in the lowest part of the obverse. The reverse, which also pairs with Briggs obverse 6 (very low date), is identified by several distinctive clash marks (image at right). The die pair had only recently been discovered and was described as "the rarest variety of the year" in Larry Briggs' *Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (Lima, OH 1991). It was not included in either the 1993 or 2007 surveys, but Larry

Briggs, in a December 14, 2007 article in *The Coin Dealer Newsletter Monthly Supplement* described the issue as "Rarest variety of the year... Presently only 3 coins known of this variety." 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. Eight (8) examples (6 raw VF/XF examples, one certified XF, and one certified MS) were reported.

Despite the attention the variety has gotten after appearing in Briggs book in 1991 and in the Top 25 survey in 2014, it remains rare and quite elusive. It is rather easy to attribute, leading to a speculative estimate that less than 25 examples exist. There have been very few examples offered for sale in the past six years. The finest known, and only mint state, example sold at auction on October 28, 2015. It resides in a PCGS holder graded MS63 (pictured above courtesy of Heritage).





The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271



This and That

- The Central States show rolled into town this week. *Convenient* is the word that comes to mind, as the show is only about a 30-minute drive for me, and the free parking at the convention center is only a couple minute walk from the bourse floor. Much easier than getting on a plane for the Baltimore or other large show. Big coin shows seem to constantly attract criticism for one reason or another, and the complaints about Central States are well-known. Not enough buying customers. They charge exhibitors. The host hotel is too expensive. The table fees are too high. All of that may be true to varying degrees, but from my view it was a good show. I was able to talk to people from dealers to collectors to content partners for my day job (the Newman Numismatic Portal), and there were lots of interesting coins on the floor to look at, such as the wildly-toned \$20 Liberty recovered from the *SS Central America* (dubbed the “Supernova”), or the so-called 1851-O Seated dollar (the subject of an upcoming article in the *Gobrecht Journal*, which sheds new light on this enigmatic piece). Visiting the show on a daily basis was no hassle at all and I started on Tuesday, having dinner with LSCC president Gerry Fortin. Club business was discussed over Thai food, a welcome departure from the typical expense-account type restaurant one finds around convention centers. Friday brought the LSCC meeting, which was well attended by local collectors as well as a few of the diehards who travel to many of the national shows.

- Photography of the Steve Crain half dime die variety reference collection continues apace, with 750 of the 1000 coins now available for viewing on Newman Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollection/514182>. The entire collection will be likely be completed before the next edition of the *E-Gobrecht*. Each coin, as well as the 2x2 holder contain-

ing Steve’s notes, is well-photographed by Steve Herrman. Hermann is primarily a Bust collector and maintains sales records of Bust half dollars by Overton variety. You can see his capacity for detail work is strong, and the photography of these half dimes is superb. Steve Crain also maintained a spreadsheet of his half dime collection, and notes from the spreadsheet are preserved in this online presentation. This photographic guide will serve as an excellent “go-with” to the Valentine or Blythe half dime books, and now enables attribution of a large number of half dimes for which the Valentine book was simply too confusing. Trying to attribute die varieties without ample illustrations is akin to navigating while blind. You are never sure if you are going the right way or not.

- The ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, CO is rapidly approaching and will take place June 16-19. John Frost, Craig Eberhart, and myself will be presenting the class on Liberty Seated coinage, our third go-round at this event. The class is close to sold out and any interested attendees should contact the ANA quickly (<https://www.money.org/summer-seminar/register>). This event is sort like a four-day coin show except without a lot of buying or selling coins. The weather tends to be nice, there are wonderful restaurants in Colorado Springs, and the “coin talk” flows liberally for the duration of the event. Students are enthusiastic and the pace of the classes is lively but not rushed. The logistics of the event are well run by the ANA, and their co-location with Colorado College enables them to offer what truly is a unique experience within numismatics. I’ve been both as a student and instructor and both experiences were equally enjoyable. It’s a big commitment in terms of travel and vacation time but most attendees are pleased they made the

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effort.

- An upcoming regional meeting of the LSCC will be held at the Baltimore show on Friday, May 24. How the Baltimore show got scheduled over Memorial Day weekend I have no idea, but so it is, and I may show up more out of the curiosity than anything else. Will there be tumbleweeds in the aisles? Dealers going

home three days early? Coins on sale at 90% off (seems unlikely)? I'm certain the organizers somehow got forced into a corner with the scheduling, and I am wish them well – the Whitman folks run a great show. In any case, Gerry Fortin will be running the LSCC meeting on Friday at 9am, and, if you want to see what a major coin show looks like on a holiday weekend, here is your opportunity!

SeatedFest II Videos now online!

Per John Frost, the recordings of SeatedFest II educational programs (videos shot by David Lisot, and hosted on NNP) are now available on the LSCC website, listed and viewable by topic. So, if you missed these, you can watch them at your convenience. See them here at:

<http://www.lscweb.org/Recordings.shtml>.



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Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Adding a Local Flavor to the Regional Program

The Spring shows have been well attended overall. The hobby continues to be resilient and the robust economy is fueling many collectors drive to pursue their numismatic passion.

The Regional Team is bringing Liberty Seated knowledge to local coin clubs and raising the profile of the LSCC. There are three presentations at local coin clubs that have happened or will happen next month.

We start with a report from new Southeast Regional Director Jeff Ball: *Tonight, was the LSCC "Introduction to Liberty Seated Coinage" presentation to the River City Coin Club, (West Virginia). There were 15 members present. The presentation was very well received with questions and comments during and after the presentation. I displayed 2018 Gobrecht Journals, Bill Bugert's Registry of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume V, Philadelphia Mint 1839 to 1852, Whitman publishing Liberty Seated Coinage and LSCC membership fliers and business cards. In addition, I displayed a small part of my LS halves collection demonstrating the 6 PCGS recognized sub-types. It was a very enjoyable evening.*

John Frost and Dennis Fortier hosted the club table at the annual Mansfield club coin show in Willimantic. Dennis showcased his 1878-S Liberty Seated half dollar at Willimantic. The show was very well attended with many old friends stopping by the table to see the display. An original Scott Restrike was seen in a dealer's case; a nice surprise.

Mark Archambault hosted the club table at

the Manchester NH show. Mark displayed his multi-denomination Liberty Seated Carson City collection. The crown jewel was his original Carson City Mint coin bag (Dollars) as well as a signed request from the chief coiner at Carson City for several dies. Joe Casazza and John Frost hosted the LSCC/BCCS meeting. The educational component was "*Liberty Seated Carson City Coinage*" to correspond with Mark's fine display.

John cherrypicked a nice 1861-O Liberty Seated Half Dollar WB-14 (103/104) before the doors opened to the public. **Ahh...the benefits of manning the club table!**

Dennis Fortier presented "*Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia*" at the Mansfield Coin Club meeting. There were approximately thirty members in attendance.

Pinch hitting for Stephen Petty, Gerry Fortin, and Len Augsburg hosted the club meeting at Central States. Len's meeting coverage is reported on pages 1-2 of this issue.

Next up on May 5th, Dennis Fortier will host the club table at the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club's annual show in Norwich CT. Dennis will be displaying several of his Liberty Seated half dollars at the show.

May 13 Dennis Fortier will be presenting "*Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia*" at the Bristol CT coin club.

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Garden State Numismatic Association (GSNA) May 16-18. John Frost, Joe Casazza, and Carl Feldman will be hosting the club table as well as education presentation on "The Fascinating Trade Dollar."

At the Whitman Baltimore Summer Expo, Gerry Fortin will host the club meeting Friday, May 24 at 9 AM. A brief club update and an educational presentation are expected. No other club activities are planned.

We still have club shirts available. Contact Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com for details. \$35 shipped or see a club representative at a show near you.

Last call for your vote to be counted on "The Most Challenging Years in Liberty Seated Collecting." This survey crosses multiple denominations.

All surveys must be received by May 15 so the results can be posted in the July issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*. You can fill out the survey on line at the club website. www.lscweb.org. It is fun and it's easy!



Central Regional Director Stephen Petty has decided to step down as Central Regional Director. Stephen has been a Regional Director from the early days of the Regional Program and has done a fabulous job in the role. The educational seminars he has offered over the years have been nothing short of scholarly. For personal and business reasons, Stephen has felt it was time to step aside and let someone else with more available time step up and help the club he loves so well. His contributions will be sorely missed. This is an opportunity for new blood to join the team and be a part of something special. Anyone from the central USA area interested in joining our team, please contact Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com.

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LSCC Calendar

May 5, 2019. **LSCC table. Norwich, CT.** Pawcatuck Valley Annual Coin Show. Dennis Fortier will be displaying several of his Liberty Seated half dollars at the show. Check LSCC website for exact details.

May 13, 2019. **Educational Program. Bristol, CT.** Dennis Fortier will be presenting "*Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia*" at the Bristol CT coin club.

May 15, 2019. **Survey Deadline.** "The Most Challenging Years in Liberty Seated Collecting." See *Gobrecht Journal* issue #134 or the club website (www.lscweb.org) for details.

May 16-18, 2019. **LSCC table and Educational Program. Manchester NH.** Garden State Numismatic Association Convention. John Frost, Joe Casazza, and Carl Feldman will be hosting the club table as well as education presentation on "*The Fascinating Trade Dollar.*" Check LSCC website for exact details.

May 24, 2019. **LSCC Meeting and Educational Program. Baltimore, MD.** Whitman Summer Expo. Gerry Fortin will host the club meeting Friday, May 24 at 9 AM. A brief club update and an educational presentation are expected. No other club activities are planned.

June 1, 2019. Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the Summer issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*.

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Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

Heritage Signature Auction - CSNS Show, April 25-28, Chicago/Schaumburg IL. I attended this show, as I try to do every year, and had several opportunities to gather feedback for this column. Normally I try to cover coins that are not readily available on the bourse floor, but it was suggested that I include some coins that are more type coins than rarities. This suggestion seemed reasonable so I will include the occasional common date that appears to be exceptional for the grade. A nice selection of circulated Liberty Seated dollars was sold, several of which are listed below.

1853-O	dime	PCGS	AU58	\$2,160.	F-101
1856-S	dime	PCGS	AU53	\$1,920.	F-101
1842-O SD	quarter	PCGS CAC	VF35	\$3,360.	B 1-A
1862-S	quarter	PCGS	AU53	\$2,280.	
1864-S	quarter	PCGS	VF30	\$1,680.	
1844-O	half dollar	PCGS	VF35	\$2,160.	WB-22 doubled date
1851	half dollar	NGC	XF45	\$1,440.	WB-2
1856-S	half dollar	NGC	XF45	\$990.	
1862-S	half dollar	PCGS CAC	AU58	\$2,880.	
1873 NA	half dollar	NGC	VF20	\$2,640.	WB-101, no arrows, open 3
1859-S	Seated dollar	PCGS CAC	XF45	\$2,640.	OC-1
1865	Seated dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$1,680.	OC-4
1866	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$2,160.	With motto (of course)
1873-CC	Trade dollar	ANACS	AU58	\$2,640.	
1878-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	VF35	\$3,120.	



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LSCC Mission

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

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

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

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

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

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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