

The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

2019 Volume 15, Issue 9 September 2019 (Whole #176)

Gerry Fortin announces upcoming retirement from LSCC Presidency

John Frost wins Ahwash Literary Award!

Liberty Seated Collectors Club Rocks Rosemont

By Len Augsburger, VP, LSCC

With attendance exceeding 40 members, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club held its annual meeting at the ANA's 2019 World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, IL on Thursday, August 15, 2019.

Luminaries in attendance included Norma McCloskey, wife of former club president John McCloskey, and Greg Rohan of Heritage Auctions. The meeting commenced with our usual group photo capably snapped by ace photographer Rich Uhrich (now "retired" from the coin business but still enjoying coin shows). Group introductions followed with the midwestern region of the county more represented as expected.

President Gerry Fortin covered highlights of the previous year, beginning with the outstanding exhibits presented at the Seated Fest II event at the February Baltimore show. The Premier Membership Medal program has concluded and we (Continued on next page)



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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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Liberty Seated Collectors Club Rocks Rosemont

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thank Jeff Ball for expertly coordinating this offering. We held, for the third time, the Liberty Seated class at the ANA summer seminar in Colorado Springs, CO in June, with more than half the attendees joining LSCC at the conclusion of the course. The recent Gobrecht Journal was an expanded, 60-page edition produced by Editor Bill Bugert with outstanding contributions from a number of writers.

The Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award for 2018 was presented to John Frost for his research into the Barber family archives. Although more typically associated with "Barber" coinage, William Barber was responsible for the 20-cent piece and Trade dollar designs that are long-associated with Liberty Seated coins. John was the overwhelming first choice among voters, winning more than twice the votes of the second-place article. Not only did John write several articles on this subject (in the Gobrecht Journal, the journal of Barber Coin Collectors Society, and The Numismatist), he also coordinated multiple exhibits of archival materials generously loaned by the Barber family.

Secretary-Treasurer Dale Miller continued the meeting with the annual report. Membership is up over the last two years, an exceptional trend in an era when many numismatic organizations are challenged to find new members. Multi-year membership has increased from 34% to 43% of the club in the last two years, a further strong showing of dedication from the membership. The treasury is in fine shape with a year's operating expense in the bank, in addition to the reserve set aside for paid-ahead memberships. Expenses for the year did exceed revenues, but this was due to a number of one-time items, most notably Seated Fest II, for which the club allocated funds to security and table space.

The club once again had a club table during the ANA show, with the LSCC regional team hosting. Exhibits included Bill Luebke's set of XF45 CAC trade dollars, selected half dimes from the Steve Crain collection, and a number of Liberty Seated error coins. A big thanks to everyone who served at the club table, as this takes time away from hunting for coins on the bourse floor. I stopped by several times and had many enjoyable conversations. In addition to the ANA club table, the regional team had a presence at over 20 events in the past year, including educational presentations and club tables. To this strong public presence goes much of the credit for the growing membership roster.

Gerry continued the meeting with discussion of the club constitution update. We need to take care of a few housekeeping issues, including formalizing the 2-year election cycle, officially detailing the Hall of Fame process, and creating a board of directors to better reflect the current club leadership. Proposed changes will be distributed to the LSCC membership in advance of a fall ballot for official acceptance.

Finally, Gerry announced his retirement as LSCC president as of December 31 of this year. The club will have an election this fall, with announced candidates for president (Len Augsburger) and vicepresident (Dennis Fortier). Gerry has served the club for five years, walking in the giant footsteps of John McCloskey, and the club has prospered with an energized and growing membership and leadership team. We thank Gerry for his service and will have more to say about this at the November Baltimore LSCC meeting.

The meeting followed with a retrospective of Gene Gardner's collecting career beautifully delivered by Greg Rohan of Heritage Auctions. Greg was obviously close to Gene and walked us through his association with Gardner during the acquisition and selling phases of the collection. A video of Greg's presentation will be made available in due course, for which we thank David Lisot and his ever-present video camera. This is a presentation not to be missed, and we thank Greg for allowing this to be taped and presented on the LSCC website. Greg's presentation concluded the LSCC annual meeting for 2019, and we will see you next year at the ANA convention in Pittsburgh.



LSCC Photos from the ANA



2019 ANA LSCC meeting group photo (composite of two images by Rich Uhrich).





Norma McCloskey at LSCC club table (at left). 2019 club dinner (above).



In Gettysburg on the way to the ANA (at left) - Dennis Fortier and John Frost join Bill Bugert for lunch.

John Frost receiving the Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award [Editor - I have been assured that this is him] (at right).

All photos (except group photo) by Dennis Fortier.





John Frost receives Two ANA Awards!

In addition to the 2018 Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award for John's article, "In Search of the Forgotten Liberty Seated Engraver William Barber" in *The Gobrecht Journal*, John took home several other literary awards for his research on the Barbers.

The article, "Reimagining the Barbers," which appeared in the August 2018 issue of *The Numismatist*, was selected by a panel of judges to receive two awards from the ANA: the second-place Heath Literary Award (images at upper right and below), and the second-place Wayte and Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award (at right) for original research in U.S. numismatics. The Heath award included an engraved bronze medal and a certificate. The Raymond award included a certificate.

In addition, John won the 2018 David Lawrence Literary Award from the Barber Coin Collectors' Society, for the article "In Search of Charles Barber."

[Editor-John literally works night and day for the LSCC and the numismatic community. He is a tremendous asset to our club and we are delighted he gained some recognition.]











ATTENTION ALL COIN COLLECTORS

SUPPORT U.S. CONGRESS HOUSE BILL - H.R. 3757

CALL, EMAIL OR WRITE YOUR U.S. CONGRESSPERSON

COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM - This legislation, H.R. 3757, "1921 Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin Act" will require the United States Mint to produce two U.S. Silver Dollars (Morgan and Peace Dollars) dated 2021.

COIN DESIGNS - These two silver dollars will be minted from the original design work of George T. Morgan and Anthony de Francicsci. The only change will be the date to 2021.

METAL CONTENT - The coins will be not less than 90% silver.

COIN SIZES - They will be as the original sized silver dollars in uncirculated and proof finishes.

COST - The pricing has yet to be determined. **40% of the surcharges will go back to numismatics** through the American Numismatic Association as directed by law. Since the restart of the Mint's commemorative coin program in 1982 coin surcharges have supported many worthy causes and projects. This will be the first time that the surcharge funds will be used to support numismatics.



https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative





Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The Compass Point Reverse

A few years ago, I received a series of comments and questions regarding the cause of an often, but not always, circular die defect seen in the exact geometric center of the Liberty Seated quarter reverse design. The defect has alternatively been called the "Broken Stripe" reverse and the "Compass Point" reverse since it was first reported. It appears only on the reverses of Philadelphia mint quarters from the years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858. I ended up preparing a rather detailed review of what had been previously written about it. That review was published in the *E-Gobrecht* in May 2015. The column concluded by stating "...the mystery behind the die defect known as the "Broken Stripe" or "Compass Point" was all but conclusively solved by the work reported in 1998 by Craig Sholley*. The feature might more accurately be called a "Centering Mark" and is, quite simply, an engraving mistake. The defect was most likely present on all dies prepared from 1836 – 1858, but appears only on coins produced from dies for which the typical repair was inadequate."

One obvious question: If there were centering marks, repaired and otherwise, on all reverse dies from 1836 to 1858 would there not be the same on obverse dies? If so, has any evidence been discovered? I have not, despite looking at a large number of Liberty Seated quarters, seen evidence of centering marks on an obverse.

Then, almost five years later (two months
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Figures 1 and 2. 1842-O Briggs 3-D Quarter dollar with and without the obverse circular defect.



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ago), I received a call from Roy Ash. He had located an 1842-O quarter with a circular defect in the center of the obverse design. It was not a high-grade coin and might be post-mint damage, but was clearly worth some investigation. I found the coin doubly interesting because it is Briggs 3-D die marriage, a very rare but not very well-known variety with a transitional reverse. It is called "transitional" because the eagle's claws on the reverse are open like the 1838-1840 quarters and notably different than all other 1842-O reverses.

Careful examination under magnification of up to 40X resulted in some disappointment when the defect appeared clearly to be post-mint damage. But, checking my example of the same die marriage still left some question regarding the presence of a repaired die defect at the same location. Figures 1 and 2 show the two examples, one with and one without the circular defect. Figures 3 and 4 show close up images of the area of interest. Though very old and toned over, the defect has the appearance of having been made after the coin was struck. The same area of the coin without the defect (a circulated coin grading XF40) does not show anything conclusive. The highly magnified examination doesn't reveal an obvious defect, but also

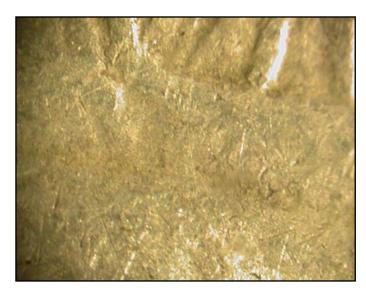
doesn't eliminate the possibility that there is an incompletely repaired defect in that location on the die used to strike the obverse.

This month we have a question without an answer. Frustrating perhaps, but also a new variety / feature to look for on those early date seated quarters.

Happy hunting!

* The Cause for the Broken Stripe Quarter Reverses. Craig Sholley. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 73 November 1998, pages 19-23 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 5* pages 389 - 393).





Figures 1 and 2. 1842-O Briggs 3-D Quarter dollar with and without the obverse circular defect.

Close up images of the center dot areas.





Auction Newsby Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

The 2019 American Numismatic Association coin show was held in Chicago from August 13-17. Two major companies, Heritage Auctions and Stack's Bowers Galleries, had live auctions during the show and on-line auctions for several days afterwards.

Stack's Bowers Galleries. Even though the Stack's Bowers auction included thousands of coins, only a few Liberty Seated coins were sold. However, it did include a nice selection of Trade dollars, several of which are listed below, and a major rarity, an 1876-CC double dime. In addition, this auction also included the Taraszka collection, which was the finest and only complete die variety collection of early gold eagles (1795-1804) ever assembled.

1876-CC	Double dime	PCGS	MS65	\$456,000	
1851	Half dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$1,560	WB-8, misplaced date
1873-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$3,360	
1873-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$3,160	
1873-S	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$1,320	Norweb collection
1878-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	VF30	\$1,920	

Heritage Auctions. The Heritage auction had a nice selection of scarce to very rare Liberty Seated coins that were sold. An 1853-O dime with a gold CAC sticker brought a strong price as did two "no drapery" quarters without any CAC sticker. There were three 1847/6 half dollars all in early die states with the 6 and other digits visible. Two examples of the 1873 no arrows open 3 half dollar, another rare and popular variety, were also sold. Numerous better date Liberty Seated dollars were in this auction including an example of the prohibitively rare 1870-S. This is the Miles-Queller coin, one of only nine known examples. The final major Liberty Seated rarity is a proof 1884 Trade dollar that was once part of the legendary Norweb collection. This date has historically been lumped with the clandestinely produced 1885 proof Trade dollar, but research indicates that it was legally minted and released as described in the exceptional Heritage lot description: https://coins.ha.com/itm/trade-dollars/silver-and-related-dollars/1884-t-1-pr63-pcgs/a/1298-3778.s?ic4=ListView-Thumbnail-071515



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1853-O	dime	PCGS gold CAC	MS63	\$7,800	F-105
1838 ND	quarter	PCGS	MS62	\$3,600	
1840-O ND	quarter	PCGS	AU58	\$2,160	
1854-O	quarter	NGC	VG8	\$840	Huge O
1856-S	quarter	PCGS	XF40	\$1,110	
1870-CC	quarter	NGC	XF40	\$33,600	Briggs 1-A
1847/6	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$7,500	WB-9
1847/6	half dollar	ANACS	impaired	\$5,160	WB-9 AU50 details
1847/6	half dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$14,400	WB9
1873 NA	half dollar	PCGS	VF35	\$3,720	No arrows, open 3
1873 NA	half dollar	NGC	AU58	\$13,200	No arrows, open 3
1851	Seated dollar	NGC	MS63	\$39,600	
1870-S	Seated dollar	NGC	XF40	\$324,000	
1871-CC	Seated dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$8,700	
1873-CC	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU53	\$38,400	
1858	Seated dollar	PCGS	PR63	\$19,200	
1884	Trade dollar	PCGS	PR63	\$336,000	

LSCC Meets in Dublin, Ohio

by Gerry Fortin

Friday, August 30, 2019, was an excellent day with well attended LSCC regional meeting in Dublin, Ohio.

Bittersweet is the best way to describe hosting the 2019 CONA regional meeting. Friday's session was my last as LSCC president. Since all attendees, except Dale Miller, were not present at the Chicago ANA annual meeting, it was decided to share that meeting's presentation. After introductions and a group photo (thank-you to Gerry Tebbens), Gerry and Dale reviewed the healthy status of our fine organization and the topics that were



discussed at the annual meeting. Two of the attendees immediately signed up for club membership! The following is the CONA meeting's group photo with the two new club members to my immediately left.



Seated Shorts

PCGS now attributing Liberty Seated Half Dollars by Bill Bugert's Die Variety Registers

I received an email from Steve Poliquin at PCGS that they are now using the WB-#s variety attribution numbers from the first five volumes of *Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties*. That includes all the mintmarked half dollars as well as the P-Mint halves from 1839-1852. A major Liberty Seated half dollar collection will soon appear at auction and will use these numbers. [*Editor*]

In the "What is it?" Category

From Vicken Yegparian, Vice President of Numismatics, Stack's Bowers Galleries: Hi Bill. Have you ever seen one of these? This is seems to be a trail strike of it in tin or "white metal." The reverse side is the same image but flattened out, and it is struck over what appears to be the design for an 1894 Barber half dollar obverse.

[Editor—If you know what this is, please email me and I will pass it on toe Vicken.]











Regional Newsby Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

John Frost wins Ahwash Literary Award!

Over fifty members and guests attended the LSCC annual club meeting at the ANA in Rosemont, IL. Norma McCluskey (John McCloskey's widow) was at the meeting and everyone was pleased to see her. It was a busy meeting with a good deal of club business to attend. Others, I expect, will cover club business in this issue so we will concentrate on Regional business here. John Frost out did himself this year putting together a collage of memories from a successful year of regional activities for the power point presentation.

John Frost won this year's Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award for his article on William Barber, "In Search of the Forgotten Liberty Seated Engraver William Barber", Gobrecht Journal Issue # 132. John won with a runaway 81 votes; the second place article garnered 34 votes.

John's article, "Reimagining the Barbers," which appeared in the 2018 volume of *The Numismatist*, was honored with the second-place Heath Literary Award, and second-place Wayte and Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award for original research in U.S. numismatics. Congratulations and well done John.

Greg Rohan of Heritage closed out the LSCC ANA meeting with an emotional, heartfelt remembrance of Gene Gardner.

Club table staffers Carl Feldman, Joe Casazza, Dave Earp, and our displayers Ken Seholm and Bill Luebke were able to do some shopping on Tuesday before the ANA opened to the public. Several nice coins found new homes before the public even had a chance to see them. <u>That's the benefit of working the club table.</u>

The LSCC club display at the ANA featured Bill Luebke displaying his set of fabulous Trade Dollars, all XF45 CAC, and Ken Seholm displayed some of Steve Crain's Half Dimes he had just added to his collection. At the last minute and very welcome addition to the display featured some amazing Liberty Seated errors from the Harry Smith collection. Three new members were signed up along with one returning member. Three club shirts were also sold. It's nice to see more and more members wearing their club shirts at the meeting and on the bourse floor.

The club dinner at Park Tavern was enjoyed by all. The food was almost as good as the camaraderie. It was a busy week but very enjoyable.

CONA, The Ohio St Coin Show, August 30-31, is concluding as of this writing. The LSCC meeting scheduled for Friday August 30th from 9 AM to 10 AM was hosted by club President Gerry Fortin.

The Long Beach Expo September 5-7 with feature the usual club dinner at Rock Bottom Brewery Thursday night at 6:30pm. West Coast Regional Director Brian Cushing will host the club table.

The Regional Team is still in need of a Central Region Director. Anyone in the region who would like to join our team is urged to contact Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com.





The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

What Series Should I Collect?

The entire Liberty Seated series is a daunting thing, and most collectors quickly hone in on one or more denominations to narrow the hunt. I decided on quarters early on, partly because Q. David Bowers had written somewhere that Liberty Seated quarters were undervalued. Fortunately for me, he turned out to be correct. Each denomination has it quirks, and hopefully this will provide some assistance in deciding where to go.

Half Dimes: A short series (70 coins), and the most affordable. Personally I don't like half dimes a lot, because they are small coins and hard to view without a loupe. Many collectors feel likewise, but, if you are a *contrarian*, this might be your thing. The Steve Crain half dime die variety reference collection is now online and provides a good guide to the varieties in the series (https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollection/514182).

Dimes: The scope expands for dimes, quarters, and half dollars, with over a hundred coins in each set. Each set has a large number of common dates, meaning that you'll be able to make steady additions for quite a while. There is something to be said for this, since it's easy to lose interest when not making regular purchases. With respect to die varieties, the dimes have the best documentation available (http://www.seateddimevarieties.com), so if you like doing attribution work all you need is a few dimes, a glass, and a computer.

Twenty-Cents: I've told John Frost many times that twenty-cent pieces are ugly. Liberty looks like she's lost all her teeth. Even John admits it was a rush job on the part of the engraver William Barber (not his fault – blame the management). In any case,

with such a limited series (four years of production), it is virtually mandatory to become a die variety specialist if you want to spend a long time pursuing these. John's definitive guide (http://www.doubledimes.com), written with Lane Brunner, has all the documentation necessary in this regard.

Quarters: Naturally, I think this is the most interesting Liberty Seated series, with a good balance of rarity, multiple price points, and varying strike characteristics throughout the series. Coins are reasonably large and are starting to "pop" more than lesser denominations with good luster and toning. This series also represents a *challenge* – taking ten years to complete the set is completely reasonable. Note, a good percentage of the cost will be allocated to the 10 or 12 most difficult dates, so one should look at a great number of pieces before jumping in to the more challenging part of the series. Larry Briggs' book on Seated quarters is the best print resource, but not available online.

Half Dollars: I might pick the half dollars if starting over again. There are some beautifully toned pieces out there, and, with large mintages, supply is good. These were the workhorses of commerce, and, if the Mint had a large quantity of silver to process, the half dollar represented the most efficient way to do it (because the amount of silver in a Liberty Seated dollar was slightly more than twice that of the half dollar, it was better for the depositor to get half dollars back). You still have to contend with 100+ date and mintmark combinations, but if you are interested in Liberty Seated coins, you've already signed up for some difficulty! Bill Bugert has made available four

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volumes of his massive Liberty Seated Half Dollar Encyclopedia, in addition to the work on the series he coauthored with Randy Wiley in 1993 (https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/booksbyauthor/361).

Dollars: This is another tempting series. There are many fewer issues, about 45 in the Red Book set, but the price per coin is higher. However, these are big, impressive coins. The non-collecting public will always find a lustrous Liberty Seated dollar more "interesting" than a worn 1874-CC dime. The flip side of the large size means that surface problems will be more obvious, and original, pleasing examples are elusive. Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing's die variety analysis o f this series is online http://www.seateddollarvarieties.com (this is a good place to thank all the authors who have made their work freely available – the effort involved to produce this research is substantial).

Trade Dollars: A small series with 25 dates and mintmark combinations from 1873 to 1885. Like the twenty-cent pieces, they don't do a lot for me aesthetically. Varieties abound and are not completely documented, so if you like trying to discover new things, this is a good series. Prices are a bit less than comparable Liberty Seated dollars. The series has never gotten a lot of respect from the numismatic community, partly since they were demonetized in 1876. A variety guide for the series is sorely needed, but, in the meantime, one can consult back issues of the *Gobrecht John meantime*, wustledu/library/publisherdetail/2096).

[Editor—I choose Trade Dollars.]

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We have a large inventory for all denominations of Liberty Seated coinage.

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LSCC Calendar

August 29-31, 2019. **LSCC regional meeting and educational program. Dublin, OH.** CONA Ohio State Coin Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin (Columbus), OH. Now history—see write up on page 9.

September 5-7, 2019. **LSCC table and social**. **Long Beach, CA**. Long Beach Convention center. Club table on the bourse floor. Thursday night LSCC-BCCS social, 6:30 PM, at the Rock Bottom Brewery hosted by Brian Cushing.

October 1, 2019. Articles and advertisements for the Fall issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* due to LSCC Editor and Publisher, Bill Bugert.

October 4-5, 2019. **LSCC club table, regional meeting, and educational program. Manchester, NH.** New Hampshire Coin Expo, Doubletree Hotel Conference Center. Regional meeting with educational programs Friday, October 4 at 2 PM.

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



Stories from the Club Table

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

At the Mount Kisco club table a club member came up to me with a question about a half dollar. It was an 1882 Liberty Seated half dollar, one of the Ultralow mintage years. He wanted to know if it was a business strike or a proof. It was in a PCGS holder marked as a business strike.

At the club table we get questions like this all the time. How would you grade this coin? Has this coin been cleaned? Is this coin genuine? Part of our function at the club table is to assist members and the public in understanding all aspects Liberty Seated coinage. Sometimes we have to give bad news. It's all part of the duty to our club pledge.

Well I had to give this club member the bad

news. The Proof 1882 Liberty Seated half dollar has two eights in the dentils. When I looked for them, the digits were there in the dentils. I was however able to give him some good news. As PCGS guarantees their work he could get his money back from them. That's an advantage when buying expensive coins. Buy coins graded by one of the big four grading services that guarantee their work so if the mistake is theirs you won't take a financial hit.

If you've got a question on a Liberty Seated coin, stop by a club table at the next show when we are in your area. If we can't answer it, we usually can direct you to the correct party to answer the question.

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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

National Positions

Publications Editor

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

Carl Feldman

carlscoins@gmail.com Membership Chairman

John Frost

john.frost@doubledimes.com Education Director

Dennis Fortier

ricajun@msn.com Team Leader, Regional Directors

Jeff Ball

jeffballphoto@gmail.com Director, LSCC Southern Region

Vacant

Director, LSCC Central Region

Brian Cushing

bpcushing@gmail.com Director, LSCC Western Region

Joe Casazza

jsazza236@gmail.com 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 website: www.lsccweb.org
LSCC email address: lscc@lsccweb.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.

<u>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.</u>

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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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