

E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Stepping back in time to a bygone era of the Liberty Seated coin design period both far and wide...

The Upstate Coin Show in Spartanburg, SC represented by Jeff Ball





A police presence is always welcome at shows by both dealers and collectors.

E-G's 16th Year	3
7 10 th Fear	
The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger	2-3
President's Message- Welcome New Members & News	3, 27
Half Dime Variety List by Dale Miller & Clint Cummings	4- 10
Half Dime Find by Ken Camilleis	8 & 11
Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson	12
1858 Quarter Clash by Rick Snow and Steve Feltner	13- 18
1870-S Dollar on NCIS by John Frost	19- 22
Stories from the Club Table by Dennis Fortier	22
Regional News by Dennis Fortier	23- 24
Hall of Fame & ANA Summer Seminar Announcement	25- 26
2020 Regional Events Calendar / Schedule	27- 29
LSCC & Publication Information	30

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 free 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.





The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

American Circulation Coinage Prior to the Coinage Act of 1857

The American Numismatic Society (ANS) recently launched a podcast, *The Planchet*, and the first episode will be of particular interest to collectors of Liberty Seated Coinage. Prior to the Coinage Act of 1857, which ended the circulation of foreign coinage as legal tender in the US, a whole host of world coinage was used in the United States, as the Liberty Seated coinage of this period was not sufficiently ample to meet all the needs of commerce.

Andrew Reinhard, ANS Publications Director, hosts the podcast, and the first interviewee is Jesse Kraft, assistant curator of American coinage at ANS. Kraft recently completed his PhD studies at the University of Delaware, and his doctoral thesis focused on American circulation coinage prior to 1857.

Many of the coins in the U.S. came from Mexico, part of the Spanish empire at the time, and English, French, Portuguese, and German coinage was seen as well. But the Mexican coinage was the most prominent, especially the silver eight reales or "pieces of eight." Any commercial transaction might involve a bit of arithmetic, as exchange rates for all of these currencies varied over time. Exchange charts were common, and people were forced to become adept at making the necessary calculations. This was nothing new and was even worse with the use of paper money, which tended to devalue more than "hard" money. Eighteenth century arithmetic books are highly focused on exercises related to these conversions. The difficulty of constant conversion is best illustrated in modern times by the United Kingdom conversion from fractional (pounds / shilling / pence) to decimal coinage in 1971, which caused more than a bit of irritation among those used to the "old ways."

The coins in America followed immigration patterns – if the Germans and Irish were coming to the U.S. in large numbers in the 1830s and 1840s, their money came with them, and so the mix of circulating money was by no means constant. The flow of foreign coinage into New York was such that a U.S. Mint was considered for that city, but this never came to fruition. As foreign coins came into the U.S., much of it was recoined, and this was the basis of the U.S. Mint collection, today held by the Smithsonian. Adam Eckfeldt, U.S. Mint coiner, and others had the pleasure of cherrypicking choice specimens for nothing more than melt value as depositors brought in gold and silver for conversion to U.S. coinage.

Of all foreign currency, Spanish American silver remained the most popular and was accepted throughout the world, so much so that the Spanish eight reales coin was used as the basis for the U.S. silver dollar. Interestingly, the acceptance of Spanish coinage changed as colonial Spanish states became independent in the 19th century – without the mother country behind the weight and content of the coinage, people distrusted the product of the new republics.

The Act of 1857 also changed the copper standard for the cent, marking the transition from large to small cents. This greatly simplified one's coin purse – and the result was a more uniform and standardized set of coins. This also worked against the counterfeiters – it was easier to slip a bad coin into circulation when the variety of circulation coinage was extensive, and people were not able to carefully scrutinize so many different coins.

E-Gobrecht #181

A typical coin purse of the 1840s might contain English halfpennies, worn Spanish silver, coins cut in halves or quarters, and perhaps a few "clipped" pieces, which could be relatively valued depending on how much of the coin remained. Counterfeits were an ever present danger, and counterfeiters were incentivized by the bullion value of silver and gold coinage —

something not seen in modern times, as counterfeiters

now focus on paper money.

If you want to understand a bit more about the coins circulating in America during this period, you will do well to stream or download this 50-minute podcast, which may be accessed at http://numismatics.org/planchet/01-01/.

President's Message

Welcome to our <u>April</u> issue of the *E-Gobrecht*. A big shout-out goes to Editor Paul Kluth who was in the hospital for most of March, and is still in rehab. He'll be fine, but it is not an overnight process. Despite his hospitalization Paul has continued to work on the *E-Gobrecht*, as will be plainly seen in this month's issue. Complicating all this is the wifi situation that Paul has had to deal with, which is not nearly as capable as

what he has at home. This all comes in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, not the best time to be in need of medical care. So you can see that our editor had gone above and beyond. Feel free to send a few words of encouragement to Paul at egobrecht@msn.com, or consider submitting an item for the next issue. Be well and stay mighty!

...Len Augsburger

Welcome to the following new LSCC Members this month:

Mevin Blough, John Dietrich, Dr. John Fuseler, Terry Gucciardo and Charles Jonath

Making News This Month

Regarding Last Month's Article by Dennis Fortier "Stolen Coins"

Regarding "Stolen Coins", I have been lucky so far. Ebay has been the wild west with some sellers choosing not to insure or have signature confirmation. I haven't had a regular carrier in many years and delivery is sometimes after 7 PM.

Last year an item from David Lawrence was placed in my mailbox without my signing, though the website said I did. Fedex deliveries are more regular and often within a 30 minute time window. Some require a mailbox next to the street and the best solution is a mail slot into the house or garage (Post Office won't allow that usually).

I track shipments online so I can be there ready and waiting. Porch Pirates seeking Amazon packages are the big problem with few real solutions.

Keith Scott (LSCC-2005)



Proposing a Major Variety List for Liberty Seated Half Dimes

Dale Miller and Clint Cummins, April 2020

There are substantial variety lists for seated dimes, quarters, and half dollars. However, there does not appear to be an extensive list for seated half dimes, even though that series has numerous and very different interesting varieties. Our hope is that this article will provide impetus for creation of such a list that would gain acceptance and considerable usage in the collecting community.

We emphasize that the list provided with this article is only a very early draft. Our reason for presenting this list through the E-Gobrecht is to provide an opportunity for other collectors to comment on the general concepts behind the construction of this list and the inclusion or exclusion of particular entries.

In preparing this article, we consulted with some additional collectors who are very knowledgeable about seated half dimes. Ken Seholm, and Alan Welty were particularly helpful. This list reflects all of the information received so far.

In creating a list like this, it is wise to start with larger conceptual issues. In looking at various lists of seated and bust varieties shown on Gerry Fortin's Open Registry, we see them compiled in various ways. Some are major variety sets, which include the most prominent and striking varieties, but not all varieties. Entries in these major variety sets may include a particular feature, such as mintmark size, which may be present in several die pairings for the particular date and mintmark. However, they may also include specific die pairings or particular die states within a particular die pairing.

Then, there are complete variety sets, which include all known varieties, down to the level of all specific die states. These sets are seen in the bust coinage, where the series runs are shorter and the total number of entries is lower. For bust coinage in the Open Registry, these are labeled as ultimate sets. However, for seated dimes, the term "ultimate set" is used differently. Here, the set includes significantly more varieties than the "Top 100" set, and it includes at least one entry for every date and mintmark, but it only includes about 15% of all identified seated dime varieties.

In some lists, the entries are mutually exclusive, meaning that any given coin will fit at most one slot. Other lists include some entries that are fairly broad, such as a particular mint-mark size found in several die varieties, followed by one or more entries that are limited to a very specific die variety or die state. The various sets also differ as to whether proofs are included.

The lists also vary as to whether any effort is made to control difficulty level. Some lists contain all the most distinctive varieties, regardless of difficulty level, while in other lists, varieties that are exceedingly rare are not included. It is important to note that some varieties, initially thought to be extremely rare, have since been determined to be more available, as more examples have been discovered. In excluding items due to difficulty, it is best to exclude varieties that have been known for a long time, providing sufficient data to get a good understanding of the rarity level.

The list presented here is conceptualized as a major variety list. It is designed to include the most important and distinctive varieties but not include those that are more arcane, subtle, or difficult to attribute. In particular, only the most visible and prominent of the many available repunched date varieties are included. This list does not reach to the level of an "ultimate set" in either of the ways in which that term has been used, in that the list includes only the most prominent varieties and does not include at least one entry for every date and mintmark.



The entries are not mutually exclusive. For example, there is an entry for any 1840-O with no drapery, and then specific entries for mint-mark sizes and the transitional variety. There is nothing magical about the number 100 for the number of entries. However, early drafts came close to that number, so we adjusted the list to provide exactly 100.

We created a list that spans a wide range of difficulty, but we did deliberately exclude the very rarest items. For example, the 1843 proof with the triple punched date was not included since, typical of pre-1858 proofs, only about three are known, and they are five figure coins. The draft list of 100 varieties is appended with a list of 8 items that are significant varieties but considered too rare to be on this list.

Attention was given to including as many different kinds of interesting varieties as possible in the list. For example, we included the 1848 V-9, for which the distinctive feature is its date position.

Liberty Seated Half Dime Top 100 Variety List

#	Date	Mintmark	V #	Description	R
1	1837		1-2	Tall Pointed 1, aka "Large date"	
2	1837		4-7	Flat Top 1, aka "Small date"	
3	1837		1	RPD 1837 SS	
4	1837		2	Obverse Crack: cap to 8:00	
5	1838		1-2	Rusty arm, aka "Small stars"	3
6	1838		10a,10b	Reverse crumbled / spalled die left of MERIC	4
7	1839		2	RPD 39 NE	
8	1839	О	1	Large O, RPD 9 S, Rev Crack	5
9	1839	0	2-13	Small o	1
10	1839	О	2-3	RPD 19 S	2
11	1839	О	1,10,11	RPD 9 S	4
12	1839	0	2b,2c	Shattered Reverse, RPD	3
13	1839	0	3a	Rotated, RPD	4
14	1839	0	4e	Heavy Rev die break	6
15	1839	0	5	Shattered Obverse	3



<u>Liberty Seated Half Dime Top 100 Variety List Cont.</u>

16	1839	О	7a,7b,13	Obverse crack: 1 in date to elbow	6
17	1839	0	9a,9b	Rev cud in dentils above D S	5
18	1840	0	1-6,9-11	No drapery	3
19	1840		7,8	With drapery	
20	1840		6,6a,6b	Bisecting Vertical Obverse Crack	
21	1840	0	1-4,6,8-11	No drapery	
22	1840	0	5,7	With drapery	
23	1840	0	1,8,11	Large O	
24	1840	О	2,10	Medium o	
25	1840	О	3-5,7,9	Small o, closed bud	
26	1840	0	6	No drapery, open bud, transitional	
27	1841		2b,2c	Long obv and rev cracks	6
28	1841		6,6a	MPD 1 or 4 right of pendant	3
29	1841	О	3,4	Medium O	
30	1841	О	1,1a,2,5,6	Small o	
31	1842		1a	Shattered Reverse	
32	1843		2,2a	Shattered Reverse #1: T3 to left ribbon	3
33	1843		5,5a	Bisecting Horizontal Obverse Crack, 7:30 to 3:00	4
34	1843		6	RPD 1843 S	4
35	1843		7,7a	Shattered Reverse #2: E2 to 4:30	5
36	1844		3,3a	RPD 184 SN	
37	1844	О	1,1a,1b	Medium O	
38	1844	0	2,2a	Small o	
39	1844	0	2a	Rotated -170, Small o	
40	1845		5	RPD 1845 NW	3
41	1847		1	RPD 18 S	4
42	1847		6a	Best of the 3 Shattered Reverses: crack on left side	6
43	1848		1,1a,1b	Large Date: date overlaps base	3
44	1848		5	Bisecting Horizontal Reverse Crack: E1 to C	
45	1848		6,6a	Shattered Reverse #1: N to A1	
46	1848		7,7a	RPD 48 W, Rotated -15	3
47	1848		9	Shattered Reverse #2: E1 to C, Date far right	
48	1848	0	1,1a,3,3a,3b,6,7	Large O	2
49	1848	О	2,8	Medium O	3
50	1848	0	4,4b,5	Small o	4
51	1848	0	<u>1a</u>	Reverse Cuds above ED and CA	6
52	1848	О	2	RPD 48 W	4
53	1849		1	Overdate #3: 1849 / 864 E, 184 touch base	4
54	1849		2,6	Overdate #1: "9 / Far 6"	3
55	1849		4,5	Overdate #2: "9 / Near 6"	3
56	1849		8,8A	RPD 1 N 9 S	4



<u>Liberty Seated Half Dime Top 100 Variety List Cont.</u>

57	1850		1a	Heavy Rev die break: TES tops	6
58	1850	О	1-3,5-6	Large O	3
59	1850	О	4	Small o, Rotated -15	5
60	1850	О	2c	Reverse Cud: dentils below U	5
61	1850	О	3a	Reverse Cud: tops of UN	6
62	1852	О	2b	Obverse Crack: Star 1, then up and down arm	6
63	1853		1	No Arrows	
64	1853		2-40?	Arrows	1
65	1853		8a	Reverse Cud: tops of UNI	6
66	1853	О	1	No Arrows	3
67	1853	О	2-21	Arrows	2
68	1853	О	15,15a	Bisecting Vertical Obverse crack	6
69	1854		1	High date: date overlaps base	
70	1854		8	Shattered Reverse	
71	1854	О	2	Bisecting Horizontal Reverse Crack: T1 – E3	
72	1855		3	Bisecting Horizontal Obverse Crack: 9:00 – S13	
73	1855		4a	Bisecting Horizontal Reverse Crack: N – M1	
74	1855		7	DDO, 7 th horizontal stripe in shield	
75	1855	О	2 b	Heavy Reverse Break: right stem	
76	1856		9a	Rotated -90 to 180	
77	1857		1a	Rotated 170	
78	1858		5	Short pole	
79	1858		9,9a,9b	Over Inverted Date	
80	1858		10,10a	RPD 1858 N	
81	1858	О	1b,1c	Short pole	5
82	1858	О	3a	Reverse Cud: right ribbon to C	5
83	1859		1	RPD 1859 S	
84	1860		4	DDO UNITED W	3
85	1860		7,7a,7b,7c	RPD 18 S 60 N	3
86	1860		7,7a	Rotated 13 to 60, RPD 18 S 60 N	4
87	1861		5	RPD 61 S	
88	1861		6	DDO UNITED W	
89	1862		7	RPD 1862 N	
90	1865		1	Rotated 11 - 45	
91	1865	S	1,1a	RPD 86 S	3
92	1865	S	4	RPD 18 N 65 S, Bisecting Reverse Crack K10 – K4	3
93	1869	S	2	RPD 1 NS 8 N	
94	1871	S	4	RPD First 1 S	4
95	1872		4	DDO pendant S, RPD 18 S	
96	1872		6	DDO pendant and RICA SW	
97	1872	S	1,2,7,10	Small s, Above Bow	1



Liberty Seated Half Dime Top 100 Variety List Cont.

98	1872	S	3,8,9	Small s, Below Bow	1
99	1872	S	4,4a,4b	Micro s, RPD 1 SS, 1872 N, MPD 18 at pendant	3
100	1872	S	3,3a	MPD at bottom of skirt, RPD 18 S	2

Great, but Too Rare for the Top 100

#	Date	m	V	Description	R
1	1839	o	7b	Heavy rev die break, obv crack	7
2	1841		9	Bisecting Stepped Reverse Crack	7
3	1843		10	RPD 1843 SS, proof only	7
4	1848	0	4b	Reverse Cud: above ME	8
5	1848	0	5	Rotated -20, Small o	7
6	1858	О	1c	Reverse Cud: left ribbon to A3	7
7	1859		t1,t2	Transitional pattern, no UNITED STATES, proof only	7
8	1860		t1,t2	Transitional pattern, no UNITED STATES	4

Ken Camilleis submitted this 1849 Half Dime that he found while metal detecting most recently on April 5. Half Dimes are not found under the ground very often.





Whole story continued on page 11.



Major Variety List for Liberty Seated Half Dimes Continued

Dale Miller and Clint Cummins, April 2020

1844 V-3, 3a: RPD 184 SN



V-3: Obverse 3.1 - RPD 184 SN

Reverse C.1 – no cracks [plate] Reverse C.2 – crack F1

V-3a: Obverse 3.2 – lapped



Apparently the die was lapped between V-3 and V-3a to remove the under digits in the fields. The overdate is still visible in V-3a on top of the 1 and 4, and within the 4. The last 4 appears to be more distant from the dentils, but this is a result of the lapping which made it much shallower.

Rarity: R-?, ? examples back to List

Top 100 Half Dime Varieties #36



Major Variety List for Liberty Seated Half Dimes Continued

Dale Miller and Clint Cummins, April 2020

The following is a link to the Clint Cummins & Frank J. Pedersen Liberty Seated Half Dime Attribution Guide, which includes a spreadsheet listing the draft 100 varieties and a PDF file showing each of the 100 varieties and how to attribute them:

https://sites.google.com/view/clintcummins/half-dime-attribution-guide

We desire and invite your feedback and suggestions as we move toward achieving a generally accepted list. We would be particularly interested in your responses to the following questions:

- Do you agree that there is a need for a Liberty Seated Half Dime Variety List that is more extensive than the limited variety list currently on the Fortin Open Registry?
- Do you believe that this draft list has too many entries, not enough entries, or about the right number of entries?
- Do you believe that the draft list is too difficult, not difficult enough, or at about the right level of difficulty?
- Are there any important Liberty Seated Half Dime varieties that you are aware of that are not on the draft list and that we should consider for inclusion?

Whoever responds and gives feedback will be contacted again later when we get to the final editing, and will be given the opportunity to give opinions on the final list of what will and will not be included.

Please send your feedback and responses to Dale Miller at dalecta@gmail.com and Clint Cummins at ccummins@sphereinstitute.org.

Our hope is that after considerable feedback, discussion, and refinement, a list like this might make it into Gerry Fortin's Open Registry and other generally accepted variety lists.

Dale Miller & Clint Cummins





Auction News April 2020 by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

See you next month, but don't miss the important auction results in the March E-Gobrecht

The Story behind Ken Camilleis's Half Dime Find while Metal Detecting

"On the morning of Sunday, April 5, in the wake of COVID-19, I wasn't going to let this scourge stand in the way of one of my favorite leisurely pastimes. I suited up with a surgical face mask, goggles over my bifocal contacts, and sterile gloves, and started swinging my metal detector over an open clearing, partially bordered by a stone wall perhaps assembled in the 1700s.

I'd found a couple of old British coppers and a coin silver thimble here on Ground Hog Day, and a few 18th/19th-century copper buttons last fall, but so far I wasn't finding much of anything this time ... a couple of modern pennies, shotgun shells, nails and slag. At 10:10, more than an hour and a half into the hunt, my Minelab Equinox 600 gave a pretty good signal. I made a 'minor surgical incision' into the earth to extract the target. It was only 3" deep in the packed earth, and I used a pinpointer to locate the target. When the dirt was out of the hole, the pinpointer sounded off on a very small round object. At first I didn't realize it was round and flat, and thought it may have been just another piece of slag.

Then I saw a silvery reeded edge, and knew I had a half dime!

"I couldn't tell whether it was a Seated or Capped Bust design, since the coin was in a caked-up ball of earth about the size of a small marble or gumball. I took a little plastic bottle of water I keep in an apron for this purpose, and sprayed the dirt off the coin. I first saw the reverse of Seated with no mint mark. Then the obverse still had some crud near the date so I couldn't see it clearly with my sweaty goggles. There was nobody in sight, so I took them off, rubbed the coin gently with a baby-wipe, and there I could see it ... 1849!

I continued to detect until 11:30 without finding any more coins or anything else exciting, but that '49er made my day! In this condition, being bent, dinged and corroded, it's not worth a great deal as a collector's item, but it's just the serendipitous historical thrill of finding something untouched by human hands for perhaps a century and a half. It's also the first time in 48 years of metal detecting that I've ever found an 1849 U.S. silver coin of any denomination... silver from the year of the Gold Rush!"

...Ken





Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

Adding to the Story of the 1858 Quarter with a Reverse Flying Eagle Cent Clash – Unique!

Fishermen tell fish stories. Coin collectors tell coin stories. The percentage of coin business conducted virtually via the internet, and the decline of shows over the past 20 years, seems to have slowed the "tall tales" somewhat. After all, you can always check the online auction archives to verify prices and grades, and sometimes even to attribute varieties based on high resolution photographs. And, coin stories, like fish stories, are best told in person. But one of the appeals of shows is still the chance to both show-n-tell and swap stories with fellow collectors. The stories that I hear, and tell, often involve quarter varieties. That possibly has something to do with this column. So, it was about 5 years ago at a Baltimore show when I first heard that a collector had found an 1858 quarter with a reverse flying eagle cent die clash. It was a story that wasn't THAT credible. With no coin, no photo, and not even a collector's name, the response was along the lines of, "either show me something or just have another beer." The rumor did not go away. A year later the story surfaced again, this time the coin was going to be on the floor at a dealers table. After hanging around and checking back for a good part of the day, only a photo appeared at the table. The photo wasn't conclusive, but it certainly made it seem possible, or even probable, that there were actually 1858 quarters with a flying eagle cent die clash.

A couple of years went by without any further information. Then late in 2018 I received a series of emails that concluded with a reference to the TruView image and an opportunity to purchase the coin. Now, I currently own a large number of seated quarters. Not a shock to anyone given the column title and publication, but it's still a big number. Many of those coins are esoteric varieties and coins that are desirable only to other variety nuts due to being low grade, unattractive, or with problems; the sort of coins that have been called "coins for the cause." Translation: "I'm financially buried in them and knew that the moment I bought them." That is a choice and not a complaint, but not being independently wealthy there is a distinct limit to how much money I can tie up for the sake of variety research. The asking price was just a little too close to my annual coin budget and I was compelled to pass and use the money for other purposes. The fact is that it is nearly impossible to accurately value an esoteric and nearly unique coin like this one. There's an amount I would pay for it, but it is informed by 15+ years of buying quarter varieties and knowledge of what I already have tied up in them, not a guess as to what it might be worth to another collector at this time.

A couple of months later, the coin showed up in on online auction with an opening bid well below the previous asking price – and passed. I made a post-auction-buy offer at its maximum value, to me, and was immediately rejected. The next month it appeared in a second online auction at a different firm at about the same opening bid. It passed again and was offered for sale at a fixed price equal to the opening bid. Someone got an offer accepted while I was traveling on business and before I could make another offer to purchase the coin. I'm not sure where it currently resides. I put it on my list to feature in the column at some point and went on with doing whatever it is that I do. Then...e-Gobrecht editor Paul Kluth forwarded me the April 2019 edition of Longacre's Ledger, which I do not usually read and does not usually feature Seated coinage. The April 2019 issue was an exception, it contains two great articles about the 1858 quarter with a reverse flying eagle cent die clash. The articles contain information I do not have and provide analysis which I have not done. I have nothing to add that I haven't included in my personal story above, so the Longacre's Ledger articles will be reprinted with permission in this e-Gobrecht. Next month, I will revisit and update information about the much better known and more extensively studied 1857 quarter with a reverse flying eagle cent die clash. Enjoy!



1858 Quarter clashed with a cent By Richard Snow



PCGS Coin Facts: 1858 25C FS-901 Rev Die Clash w/ Rev of FE 1C #631695 AU58

The above coin is a beautiful AU58 graded by PCGS. It was first offered in Legend's January, 19, 2019 Regency sale, Lot# 145. It was listed with a PCGS number #631695 and Cherrypicker's Guide listing number as FS-901.

What we have here is an 1858 Seated Liberty Quarter with a clash mark on the reverse from a Flying Eagle cent. The catalog description gives a bit of history about the coin. It was discovered by David Berryhill, who works for Americana Rare Coins in Folsom, CA. The story about his find is highlighted below in a story by the shop's co-owner, Steve Feltner. It was shown to John Dannreuther, Fred Weinberg and Bill Fivaz. All agreed with the attribution. Bill Fivaz assigned a Cherrypicker's number on the fly and John Dannreuther got PCGS to assign a coin number to the variety.

The die pair was listed by Larry Briggs as die pair 2-B. He noted the following about the dies: **Obv 2:** Irregular Date, **Rev B:** Heavy die clash above both eagle's wings and within the shield. Die scratch runs down from eagle's armpit.





Clashed die. Image reversed to show E in correct orientation



Selective die burnishing

Below is a reversed image of the overlay showing where a cent having the same clash would likely show it. This has not been found yet and may not exist.

Curiously, there is selective die burnishing on the lower right half of the coin from 2:00 to 7:00. It is possible that the clash was so strong that it was noticed and parts were effaced prior to the die being put back into production. Is this die with heavy erosion in selected areas the earliest die state?

Overlay of cent image (reversed)

over the quarter





This is an interesting variety, more are certainly out there to be found and the corresponding cent would be a neat find as well.

I don't think this was an intentional error or a fancy piece made for profit. Just as in the 1857 multi-denominational clashed dies, the clash likely happened when the dies were being changed out.



Overlay of cent image with the quarter image (reversed)

In the die changing process, the press was turned once to check the spacing between the dies. This is more imperative when changing denominations, say from cent to quarter. The clash occurs and the spacing is corrected. Accidentental or intentional, the variety is pretty cool.

Article complements of the Fly-In Club from its Longacre's Ledger (April 2019)





Finding the 1858 Clashed Quarter By Steve Feltner

For most of us in the numismatic community, a once in a lifetime coin find comes around, well, once in a lifetime. For me, the recent discovery of a previously unknown variety of Liberty Seated Quarters, was my once in a lifetime. After the FUN Show in January, 2017, I returned home to Sacramento, CA. After being at my coin shop, Americana Rare Coin, for around 5 minutes, my business partner, Glenn Holsonbake, handed me an 1858 Liberty Seated quarter. and very enthusiastically exclaimed, "tell me what you see!".

Exhausted from travel, and being a little under the weather, I looked and said, "just tell me what you're seeing". Glenn, still enthusiastic, said, "look in the shield, doesn't that look like a clashed die?" I grabbed my loupe and examined the coin. To my sur-prise I saw some very clear letters both in and around the shield. I told Glenn that I would research it more the next day. The next morning when I showed up to the office, I was met by our employee David. It was at this point that I was told the whole story behind the quarter.

E-Gobrecht #181



About a month previous, David had received a collection of coins from a friend in New York. Since they knew he worked at a coin shop, they trusted him to liquidate the collection which consisted of a few thousand dollars. A month later they sent him a few raw coins as a thank you for all of his help. One of the coins that they had gifted to him was an 1858 Liberty Sseated quarter. David looked at the coin and couldn't tell if it had been cleaned or if what he was seeing were die polish lines. He took the coin to Glenn who said he believed they were polish lines, but to have me look at it after I returned from the FUN show. This discovery excited David as it meant that the coins value was over \$100. David, having access to high resolution photography equipment, decided to take close up pictures and see if he could determine cleaning versus die polish from them. After blowing up the photos he noticed some abnormal die issues on the reverse. Pouring over the photos more, he noticed what he believed to be font serifs. He then showed this to Glenn, who suggested it may be a clashed die. But, since there was nothing on the obverse design of a Seated quarter matching the clashed letters, they were stumped.

David decided to do a Google search of Seated quarter clashes and discovered that there is a known clash on 1857 Seated quarters with a reverse clash of a flying eagle cent. This particular clash is known as FS-901. David then took a reverse photo of a flying eagle cent and superimposed it onto the reverse of the photo of the quarter. To his surprise, they matched perfectly! He showed this to Glenn who suggested that the coin could actually be a new discovery. After scouring the internet and a few numismatic books, they came to the definitive conclusion that none had been reported on 1858 quarters!

At this point it became my personal mission to get this coin into a PCGS holder and attributed. I knew that the first step would be to have the coin determined authentic by John Danreuther, one of the founders of PCGS and a numismatic scholar. I took the photos that David had taken and sent them via email to John. He responded within hours and was very excited about the prospect of this discovery. I agreed to take the coin with me to the next major coin show so that he could view it in person. At the Long Beach Expo in June, I found John and showed him the coin. Within half a minute he determined the clash to be authentic and invited me to go with him to the table of Fred Weinberg. Fred took a look at the coin, and much like John, determined very quickly that the coin was authentic and was the first of its kind that he had seen. This was a very important moment because the two numismatists required by PCGS to "bless" this coin had just done it. For the next 10 minutes we sat at the table and decided what should be on the PCGS label. Fred wrote on the PCGS form that he had personally verified the coin, and signed off on it.

Fast forward a few weeks and the coin was returned to us in an AU-58 PCGS holder with the die clash recognized. I knew that the last and final piece of the puzzle would be having the FS (Fivaz-Stanton) number recognized as a variety. I was able to obtain the email of Bill Fivaz from a good friend and sent him all of the information. He responded very quickly and gave it a new FS number. We then took the coin, added the new FS number onto a PCGS submission form, and sent it for its final time to have it added to the label.



In the middle of June I took the coin with me to the ANA's Summer Seminar as I knew there was a class focused on Liberty Seated coinage. I met up with John Frost, one of the instructors for the class, and explained what it was and gave him all the photos that he would need to show to the students of the class.

He was very exited about the discovery and that he was one of the first people to hear about it. His report after the class was that the coin was met with a lot of excitement and wonderment over how and why it was produced.

Having talked to many different people on the subject, the only conclusion that I can come to is that the coin was absolutely a premeditated production by a mint employee. What myself and multiple others have come to believe is that this particular Seated quarter reverse die was either about to be, or was, retired. The reason we believe this, is the die would have to be completely altered to do a strong clash and if a large number were produced, the employee could get caught, or more of this particular clash would likely have been found. What I have come to believe is that a mint employee who was working at one of the presses saw an opportunity to make a unique coin. Whether or not he was the same employee to clash the reverse of the 1857 Seated quarters with the reverse of a Flying Eagle cent as well is a possibility. He likely took out the obverse die that was currently striking coins, and replaced it with the reverse of a Flying Eagle cent. After striking the two reverse dies together a time or two to ensure that some design elements were transferred, he would have then placed the Seated obverse die back into place. How many coins he struck with the clashed dies is unknown. This could be a unique piece that was discovered by accident almost 160 years after it was produced, or it could have some siblings out there waiting to be found. Only time will tell. The exciting thing about this is the knowledge that there are other major varieties out there in a collection, baby food jar, desk drawer, etc. just waiting to be discovered.

Article complements of the Fly-In Club from its Longacre's Ledger (April 2019)

Thank You! Fly-In Club!



1870-S Liberty Seated dollar featured on *NCIS*, or was it? by John Frost, LSCC #2005

One of the TV shows I watch on a regular basis is the CBS show, *NCIS*. I record it each week on my DVR, so it is there when I have time to watch it. As a collector of Seated dollars, the episode of February 18th, entitled, *Ephemera*, was a special one. On Wednesday the 19th, two different friends called me to ask me if I had seen it (I hadn't yet). They told me the 1870-S dollar was featured, so I watched it immediately when I got home.

It was a good storyline, but I knew things would be strange when the long-lost coin made its first appearance. But I didn't realize just how strange it would get. The coin was slipped out of a normal paper envelope, and Gibbs was told it was a rare coin, 7-figures, and when he examined it, the reverse was clearly not right. It was a concoction that looked reminiscently like a U.S. silver eagle reverse. By the way, all images here are cropped snapshots courtesy of CBS, used without permission.



First appearance – not the correct reverse!

While they were correct when they said the 1870-S dollar was extremely rare and one of the more valuable coins in the world, they weren't correct about everything. In the show, they stated 12 were known and this was the 13th. Now there are actually 9 known, but some references had used the number 12 in the past, so they get a pass for that. Finally, we got to see the entire coin once NCIS photographed it, displayed several times on computer monitors. The obverse was also a concoction made for the show (see composite image below).



The NCIS version of the 1870-S dollar



When Kasie, their forensic specialist, comes into the room to tell them the coin is genuine, we have our first continuity error, but it was only visible for a second. The tablet in her hand with a coin image on it showed an actual With Motto Seated dollar reverse. It quickly disappeared behind her in the shot, so unless you paused and/or used slow-motion, it would be easy to miss.



Tablet shows actual reverse design

Then immediately we are shown the previous image with both concocted sides of the show prop. Some of my friends were aghast at how carelessly the "7-figure" coin was being handled, and it alternated from being in a KoinTain type holder, and just being manhandled.

It is explained to the viewers that the reason the coin is so rare is the "tiny S" on the back of the coin. Of course, the real 1870-S actually has a small S, but the show prop that she points to has a very large S, almost as large as all the other letters. Something tells me the dialogue was written when they were planning to use a photo of a real 1870-S, and not this prop.



Not a small S!

Then flashbacks to the coin's origin and history contained other notable continuity errors that only a numismatist would catch.

The coin is pictured on the shelf of the original owner (back in 1970), and you can barely tell that the coin on the shelf is a real Seated dollar with the standard Liberty Seated design, not the *Whistler's Mother*-like figure on the prop.

(Continued on next page)





Looks like a real Seated dollar

So, the coin seems to switch back and forth between a real Seated dollar and their prop piece. Then the final continuity error is visible to all Liberty Seated collectors. During another flashback, the sailor is accosted by police, who empty his pockets, putting the dollar coin on the hood of the car. It is clearly a real Seated dollar.



And if you have high-definition TV and pause the playback, you can see it is actually an 1871 dollar!



While I am not sure why they didn't just use a real 1870 dollar, and photos of an 1870-S, it did make me pay close attention to the details during the episode. Perhaps they didn't have the license to use actual 1870-S photos? Perhaps they asked the prop shop to make an 1870-S silver dollar token, and the person accidently hacked up William Barber's design for the 1870 "Standard Silver" pattern? (photo from Heritage Auctions).



William Barber's "Standard" design

I'm sure we'll never know, but it was entertaining. Plus the 1870-S Seated dollar got a lot of good press.

If you didn't see the episode, it will surely be rerun during the summer sometime.



Enjoy!

Stories from the Club Tableby Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Coin Dealers are joining the LSCC in ever greater numbers. There are as many opinions about coin dealers as there are coin dealers. Personal experience is the prime mover in these opinions. Some good and some bad. There is no denying that coin dealers are a vital part of the hobby.

Dealers are for the most part honest people trying to make a living by providing a service. In days gone by, the local coin dealer was one of your best resources for acquiring the coins needed to complete a collection. Today, there are many more options thanks to the computer age. Dealers are not only a part of that, but are competing with it and in it as well. Going to where the collectors are (LSCC?) is a wise business move. Beyond the business motivation many dealers see the value in a quality series related Club like ours. The *Gobrecht Journal* and the *E-Gobrecht* are two of the best club publications in the industry. This is a remarkable attraction for national and regional dealers to join our Club and be a part of this experience.

Dealers can't know everything, but having a source of knowledge about scarce and highly desirable coins at your fingertips is not only convenient but a savvy business move. Growing dealer connections also can be beneficial for the membership. You never know where that next rare date that you need will pop up. If the coin dealer is a member of the LSCC there is a kind of trust that can't be bought and needs to be nurtured on both sides of the deal.

When purchasing a Liberty Seated coin from a coin dealer that is new to you why not ask him or her if they are a member of the LSCC. If they are you might find a warmer business relationship. If they are not, it might plant the seed for them to join.





Regional Newsby Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

April—Regional Program on Hiatus

The coin show circuit has virtually shut down due to the coronavirus. Coin clubs and other coin gatherings are by and large non-existent as well. So where does that leave the Regional Program? In a word – nowhere. Over the last two weeks almost every coin function on the Regional Program calendar has canceled or rescheduled.

The most difficult aspect of all this is our lack of member comradery leaves us feeling like each of us is stranded on a deserted island waiting to be rescued. Even keeping in touch with club friends doesn't make up for the time spent together at a coin event or show.

On-line auctions and coin sales should pick up as this is for most the only way to feed the need for filling a hole in your collection. Our country, our club, the hobby, and we hope all of us will get through this national time of concern.

Check the club website regularly for show updates. Stay safe, stay healthy, and spend some time enjoying your coins. The entire Regional Team looks forward to seeing all of you at a show when this is over and the world returns to normal.

Of greatest interest at the up-coming Baltimore Coin Expo LSCC meeting; John Frost will give a new presentation titled, "Grading, Pricing, Demand, and the CAC Effect". Further details below. Don't miss it!

The Regional Team spanned the length of the country this month. From the central area to the east coast and then out to the west coast. We start with John Frost and Dennis Fortier in Knoxville, TN Jan. 31-Feb 1.

March—Grading, Pricing, Demand, and the CAC Effect

The Smoky Mountain Coin Club and the Ft. Louden Coin Club combine to put on a delightful show every first weekend in February. The LSCC has been fortunate to attend this fine little two day show for the last six years. One new member was signed up, a well-known dealer from Crossville, TN. John Frost gave a talk on Friday and Saturday on Half Dimes.

Southeast Regional Director Jeff Ball arranged, on short notice, to get a club table at the Spartanburg, SC coin show Feb 14-15. Here is Jeff's report:

"I had a nice visit to Spartanburg. The Upstate Coin Show is a well-attended regional show with a variety of dealers. LSCC was the only national club in attendance. We were mostly unknown to attendees. But isn't that why we do these shows? Now more collectors are aware of LSCC.

We had one new member sign up for 2 years. Many kicked the tires. Around 3 current members stopped by the table. A handful of ex-members dropped by and said they need to renew. The table featured the last two Gobrecht Journals with the Steve Crain article highlighted.

A collector presented an 1874 CC dime for review. It was in a flip and he expressed concern about authenticity. Story was vague on acquisition. We reviewed many online resources including Gerry Fortin's and I shared with him that the mint mark did not look authentic. I later heard this same collector sharing with a dealer that he was skeptical of the advice I had given him and wanted to continue to explore the authenticity of the coin. It's a crazy world. (The last thing collectors want to hear is that their



Regional News—Cont. by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

prized coin is a fake - DF)

Todd (Mazzola) stopped by for a visit and shared that he lives near Dennis (Fortier). We had a nice visit. I had a very long talk with a YN about Liberty Seated coinage. He collects coins from China and Japan, but wants to get into classic U.S. He had a beautiful collection. I also had a chance to share and discuss with a former member the half dollar series civil war mintages utilizing Bill Bugert's online PDF."

Brian Cushing our West Coast Regional Director held court at the Long Beach Coin Expo Feb. 20-22. Here is Brian's report:

"It was a small, yet hearty group. A lot of dealers I normally see there didn't attend (probably opting for Atlanta). We had a great time at the Rock Bottom Brewery (it was myself and two Ralph's!-what are the chances?!?). Best part- I collected a membership application and check, I think my first! Dr. Gene Bruder helped to man the booth with me, but we both left early. I left flyers at the table for Saturday."

Thank you to Dr. Bruder for his assistance in Long Beach.

Coming up this month is Baltimore: The Whitman Coin Expo is always highly anticipated. Many club members come in from all over the country for this - one of the largest shows in the country, and one of the best attended club events on the calendar.

The club functions begin with **our Club Dinner, Thursday night March 19, 6:30 pm at the Pratt Street Ale House.** Separate checks, private room, ordering off the menu, and convenient to the convention center. So join us for some exhilarating comradery and get your time in Baltimore off to a grand start.

Next we have **our Regional Club Meeting on Friday, March 20 at 9 am.** The Baltimore meeting is often well attended. This particular meeting is one you should not miss. There will be a short presentation on the recent theft thru the mails of some Liberty Seated coins that by way of impudent laziness on the part of the thieves and alertness of a local coin dealer was quickly solved.

Of greatest interest; John Frost will give a new presentation titled, "Grading, Pricing, Demand, and the CAC Effect". This presentation will correspond with John's article in the March issue of the Gobrecht Journal. Having had the privilege of reading a draft of this scholarly article you won't want to miss this presentation.

The display at the club table will support John's presentation. Stop by and see us.

Mansfield Coin Club annual show - Willimantic, CT, March 29. This is one of the best regional shows in New England. It is well run and always fun. Joe Casazza, John Frost and Dennis Fortier will be manning the club table.

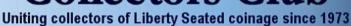
Thank you to the many members of the Regional Team that make it possible for the Club to span this great land from coast to coast. This month in particular displays the contributions of different members doing their part to bring the LSCC to as many parts of the country as possible.

Note: Time is short to keep your membership up—to-date and not miss the next important issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*. Send your dues to Club Treasurer Dale Miller, or renew thru PayPal.





Liberty Seated Collectors Club





Important Reminder



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 2020 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).

This year's inductee will be announced at the LSCC 2020 annual meeting.

The nominations must be received no later than April 15, 2020 and are due to the HoF Chairman, Bill Bugert, at **wb8cpy@earthlink.net** or via postal mail at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927 or at (717) 337-0229.



















Image from the recent Knoxville, TN Show where the LSCC had a strong presence.



Reminder

Register now for "The Legacy and Coinage of Father-Son Mint Engravers William and Charles Barber" at the

ANA Summer Seminar, June 29-July 2!





William Barber

Charles Barber

With all of the recent publicity and interest regarding the engravers William and Charles Barber, Glenn Holsonbake and John Frost will be offering a class at the 2020 Summer Seminar at the American Numismatic Association (ANA) in Colorado Springs entitled, *The Legacy and Coinage of Father-Son Mint Engravers William and Charles Barber*. The course will be offered during Session 1, June 29-July 2.

This course will explore the history and coinage designed by 5th and 6th Chief Mint Engravers, William Barber (1869-1879) and Charles Barber (1880-1917). This hands-on class will study in detail all 6 circulation coin series bridging from the late 19th into the early 20th century. This includes William Barber's Trade dollars and twenty-cent pieces, along with Charles Barber's Liberty nickels, Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars.

In addition, we will explore the patterns and mint medals created by these prolific engravers, along with their designs of commemoratives and coins of other countries that were made under contract with the U.S. Mint. Seminar #11: The Legacy and Coinage of Father-Son Mint Engravers William and Charles Barber.

The course is limited to 15 students, so register early!

The Summer Seminar catalog is available on the ANA website at www.money.org/summer-seminar.



LSCC 2020 Regional Events Schedule Cont.

* Details Mostly Finalized

CANCELLED: *March 19-21 Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo, MD at the Baltimore Convention Center - Club dinner TBD, Club table, Club Meeting & Educational Program on Friday March 20 at 9:00 a.m. (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

CANCELLED: *March 29 Mansfield Coin Show, Willimantic CT on Sunday at the Prospect School - Club table (Hosts: John Frost, Dennis Fortier)

RESCHEDULED: June 11-13 **Spring National Battlefield Coin Show, Gettysburg, PA at the Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Ctr.** – TBD with a presence by LSCC Members

CANCELLED: *April 10-11 New Hampshire Coin Expo, Manchester NH at the Doubletree Hotel - Club table, Club Meeting & Educational Program on Saturday at 12 p.m. (Hosts: Joe Casazza, John Frost, Dennis Fortier)

CANCELLED: *April 17-18 Bay State Coin Show, Marlboro MA at the Best Western Royal Plaza - Club table (Hosts: Joe Casazza, Dennis Fortier)

Note: Updates provided as they become available.

(Continued on next page)

LSCC Auction Announcement

Donations and consignments are wanted to support club efforts Liberty Seated Coins, Exonumia, and Books are wanted by June 1st in time for the ANA Annual Club Meeting

Please contact Club VP Dennis Fortier at <u>ricajun@msn.com</u> to donate or consign.



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LSCC 2020 Regional Events Schedule Cont.

* Details Mostly Finalized

CANCELLED: April 22-25 Central States Numismatic Society Convention, Schaumburg (Chicago) IL at the Renaissance Convention Center Hotel – Club Meeting TBD (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

May 3 Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club Annual Coin Show, Norwich CT - Club table (Hosts: Dennis Fortier, John Frost)

May 16-18 **Garden State Numismatic Association (GSNA), Somerset NJ** - Club table, Educational Seminar (Hosts: John Frost, Carl Feldman)

June 4-6 **Long Beach Expo, <u>Long Beach CA</u>** - Club table (Hosts: Brian Cushing, Bob Clark)

June 5-7 Raleigh Money Expo, NC at North Carolina State Fairgrounds - Club table (Hosts: Dennis Fortier, John Frost)

June 13 Mt. Kisco <u>Coin & Collectibles Fair, Mt.</u>
<u>Kisco NY</u> - Club table, Educational Seminar (Hosts: TBD)

June 18-20 **Whitman Baltimore Summer Expo, MD** at the Baltimore Convention Center – LSCC Meeting only on Friday at 9 a.m. (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

July 9-11 **Summer FUN, Orlando FL at Hall WE1** - Club meeting only (Hosts: TBD)

August 4-8 ANA's World's Fair of Money, Pittsburgh PA at David Lawrence Convention Center – Important LSCC Annual Meeting & various Educational Programs, Club table, Club Dinner, all TBD (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers & Members)

Note: Updates provided as they become available.

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LSCC 2020 Regional Events Schedule Cont.

* Details Mostly Finalized

September 3-6 (Labor Day Weekend) **Ohio State Coin Show, Dublin (Columbus) OH** – Club Meeting, Club Dinner "**New**" (Host: Dennis Fortier)

September 17-19 **Long Beach Expo, Long Beach CA** - Club table (Hosts: Brian Cushing, Bob Clark)

September 25 - 27 **Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) Annual Coin Show, Fredericksburg VA** - Club table, Educational Program (Hosts: John Frost, Dennis Fortier)

October 29-31 **PAN Fall Coin Show, Pitts-burgh/Monroeville PA** – Club table, Educational Program (Host: John Frost)

October 2-3 **New Hampshire Coin Expo, Manchester NH** - Club table, Educational Program (Hosts: Joe Casazza, John Frost)

November 12-14 Whitman Baltimore Fall Expo, MD at the Baltimore Convention Center - Club table, Club Meeting & Educational Program on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

December 13 Mt Kisco Coin & Collectibles Fair, Mt. Kisco NY - Club table, Educational Seminar (Hosts: TBD)

Note: Updates provided as they become available.

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LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of 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, please correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer listed on this page.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to Bill Bugert, Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor.

<u>Submissions</u>, <u>correspondence</u>, <u>information and comments for this digital publication (*E-Gobrecht*) are actively encouraged from its subscribers and may be sent to Paul Kluth, E-Gobrecht Publication Editor.</u>

To be added as a "free" subscriber to *E-Gobrecht* or removed from the mailing list or to change your email address, please send an email message indicating your preference in the subject line to: e-gobrecht@msn.com

Wanted: Submissions 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 a favorite coin, variety, neat find, nice cherrypick, happening at a coin show or local club, Liberty Seated coinage at 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 column writer to submit material of interest to others. "This is your monthly digital publication. It is what you make of it!"

Please be sure to quote the E-Gobrecht and the LSCC as its contents are not copywrited. Use it contents freely.