

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

*Chris'mus is a-comin' and the goose is gettin' fat
Please ter put a penny in th' old man's 'at
If yer 'aven't got a penny, well a haypenny will do
If yer 'aven't got a haypenny ~ well, God bless you!*

Even though Christmas just passed us by,
This old beggar's chant from Merrie Old England is
probably several hundred years old and is numismatic
only in the broadest sense, but it does reference two
British denominations now long gone - the bronze penny
which was the size of a half dollar and the bronze
halfpenny which was the size of a quarter. JH



← LSCC/BCCS Table
at the Gallatin, TN Coin Show
this past December

F.U.N is also
coming this
week...



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



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*E-Gobrecht's
18th Year
2014-2022*

*Welcome to the
following new LSCC
Members this month:*

*Seth Chandler
Steve DeFrancesco
David Nelson
Raymond Pastorek*



*There are currently
1038 active
Subscribers to
E-Gobrecht & counting*

Please keep your subscription e-mail address current as you could be dropped from the monthly issue if your email is twice rejected in a two-month period as non-active or non-existent.

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 U.S. Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this "electronic" e-mail newsletter from various sources "free of charge" as a general service to the membership and other subscribers with a numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available on a complimentary basis to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information for this publication can be found on the last page.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



President's Message

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the E-Gobrecht for 2022. The E-Gobrecht was first published by Bill Bugert in 2005, making this the 18th year of publication. All eyes this month will be on the first John McCloskey sale, to be presented by Heritage Auctions at the FUN show in Orlando, FL. The frontline coins will be featured in the first January 7th sale (now postponed one week to be held in Dallas, but the coins can still be viewed at the show), with a follow up sale closing February 6. Good luck with your bids, and I'll be back next month! ...*Len Augsburg*

The next LSCC Regional Meeting will be at F.U.N. on Friday, January 7, 9 a.m.



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Editor's View From the Rim

New Year & New FUN

Here it is January and with every New Year comes the start of F.U.N., one of the largest coin show events of the entire year. Coin and currency dealers alike and the auction companies all forecast their year based on whatever happens at this "Main Event". Is the coming year going to be a good one for the numismatic hobby or be not-so-good?

Of course anything can happen during the next 12 months that can change the economic climate in mid-stream... world events, the global economy, the pandemic, climate change, new legislation, the investment markets including commodity and precious metal prices, the Federal Reserve and so on. How accurate is your "Crystal Ball" this year?

Either way, Best of Luck to each of you in 2022 going forward and in your own predictions for whatever is important to you! May your year be even more fun than F.U.N.

* * * * *

[Even with 4 new members noted this month, E-G has the same number of total active subscribers because another 4 subscribers were dropped from the monthly emailing due to their email address being undeliverable for 2 or more months. We are always sorry to lose any subscribers no matter what the reason.] ...PK





Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

FUN Time Once Again

Welcome to a new year. The pandemic keeps slugging like a heavy weight prize fighter, but fortunately the coin industry is not going down for the count. FUN is still on track for a big coin extravaganza in Orlando, FL. The entire John McCluskey collection is going to be available for viewing at the show. This will be your last chance to actually see any coins you may have an interest in.

The Club Meeting will be held on Friday, January 7 at 9am in room N320F. The education portion of the meeting will be a photographic presentation and discussion of "Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia" by Carl Feldman and John Frost. This presentation coincides with the actual coins on display at the Club table. You will not want to miss it! At 12:15 pm on Saturday, January 8, Gerry Fortin will be presenting "An Overview of Liberty Seated Coinage: My Favorite Issues." The Club dinner will be held on Thursday evening, January 6, time and place are yet to be determined, but check with someone at the Club table on Thursday.

Full details about F.U.N. activities of the LSCC appear on page 8.
The next LSCC Regional Meeting will be at F.U.N. on Friday, January 7, 9 a.m.

(Continued on next page)



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Regional News cont.

Other Upcoming & Recent Shows

John Frost will be at the Houston Money Show, January 21-22 at the Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Road, Conroe, TX. Dick Osburn (table #306) graciously lends space at his table for the Club exhibit. Educational program not confirmed at this time, so check with John at the show.

The Knoxville Coin Show sponsored by the Ft. Loudon Coin Club and the Smokey Mountain Coin Club will be held on February 4-5, at the Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. John Frost and Dennis Fortier will host the Club table with a display of John's Liberty Seated Dollar Errors & Exonumia. John will also give an interesting talk on "Liberty Seated Dollar Errors & Exonumia."

Dennis Fortier hosted a Club table at Gallatin, TN on December 10-11. His display of Carson City Half Dollars and coin glass were well received. Dennis also gave a presentation on "Liberty Seated Coinage of Carson City."

Recently, it has come to my attention that Club member Keith Scott has been displaying Liberty Seated quarters and half dollars in the San Francisco area over the last few years. The LSCC presence out west has not been as strong as we would like. The Regional Team is grateful to Keith and any members who take the time to display Liberty Seated coinage at their regional shows. If you plan on doing so, please contact Dennis Fortier for materials and advertising of your presence at the show.

Also, Dennis plans to put in an order soon for 3X or larger 50th anniversary shirts and 50th anniversary jackets. If you have an interest, shirts are \$40 (mailed) and jackets are \$85 (mailed). Both are featured on the next page.

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Regional News cont.



E-Gobrecht wishes to thank both Dennis Fortier and John Frost, the Club's most ambitious and passionate ambassadors at many of the coin show events held around the country. They also present many of the educational programs related to the Liberty Seated coin series which can also be accessed and downloaded for local coin club use at their own meetings. Here they get to show off the new 50th Anniversary Jackets (black) and Shirts (yellow gold).

Dennis Fortier, LSCC VP will be hosting the Club Regional Meeting and providing Club updates and more at FUN (Friday, January 7 at 9 a.m.). Image shows Len Augsburger, President from Baltimore.

Carl Feldman and John Frost will be presenting the meeting's Educational Program on "Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia", some very neat dollars that you rarely if ever see these days.

Gerry Fortin, past President, dealer and L.S. Dime Expert will also be presenting an interesting Educational Lecture titled "An Overview of Liberty Seated Coinage: My Favorite Issues" on Saturday, January 8 at 12:15 p.m.



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Reminder: If your Annual LSCC Dues expire in 2021, please renew for 2022 (and beyond if you wish). The flyer included with your Fall Gobrecht Journal mailing has all the details.

Note: When using PayPal to pay your Club dues, please be sure to add \$2.00 extra to your Club dues amount to cover the convenience cost of using PayPal. Also, please use the "Friends" option on PayPal as it saves the Club other fees! Thank you.



LSCC Upcoming 2022 Regional Events Schedule

** Details Mostly Finalized*

***January 6-9 67th F.U.N. Show Convention 2022 (Florida United Numismatists)** "This show is renowned for being the bellwether event on the numismatic calendar. With over 1500 dealers, Heritage Auctions, exhibitors and over 10,000+ of the most avid collectors, the FUN show kicks off the year on a high note. Make your plans early to attend this monumental numismatic event!" Attendance is Free!

<http://www.funtopics.com/fun-convention.html>



F.U.N. continued: Club Meeting on Friday morning at 9 a.m. (January 7) in room N320F, Club Dinner on Thursday evening on January 6 & Club Table #974.

Education Program at the Club meeting will be "Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia" by Carl Feldman and John Frost.

Educational Lecture by Gerry Fortin on Saturday, January 8 at 12:15 p.m. titled "An Overview of Liberty Seated Coinage: My Favorite Issues".

(Hosts: Dennis Fortier, John Frost, Joe Casazza, Jeff Ball and others) *One of the largest attended shows of the year by LSCC members.*

Barber Coin Collectors Society (BCCS) Meeting at F.U.N. is Friday, January 7 at 3 p.m. Club table & Educational Program is John Frost's presentation about Charles Barber's coin designs for foreign countries including the Philippines.

John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) Meeting at F.U.N. has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

***January 21-22 Houston Money Show, Conroe, TX** at the Lone Star Convention Center - Club Table #306 and Educational Program (Host: John Frost)

***February 4-5 Knoxville Coin Show, Knoxville, TN** at the Rothchild Conference Center - Club Table and Educational Program (Host: Dennis

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Upcoming Major Coin/Currency Auctions for Liberty Seated Collectors

January 5-9, 2022 - "F.U.N. U.S. Coins Signature Auction including the select portion of the John McCloskey Variety Collection" to be viewed in Orlando, FL by Heritage Auctions. (<https://coins.ha.com>) (Refer to website for full details, actual auction will take place a week later in Dallas) An additional "John McCloskey Showcase Auction" will take place on-line on February 6.

LSCC Member Application Form at:

http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC_Membership.pdf





Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht



Jim Hirtle: “Regarding the rifled package (from last month’s issue) - Over the years, I have lost at least \$700 of coins in the mail. A postal clerk once told me confidentially that the Post Office hires felons so it is not surprising. Even registered mail is no longer considered safe.”

Dennis Fortier: “In last month’s issue of the E-Gobrecht, Richard Hundertmark had a disturbing article on theft in the mail. As a retired Letter Carrier, I would like to point out certain postal facts. That package should have been bagged with a signed (by a postal supervisor) stamped message informing him that the package was discovered opened in transit. The carrier left himself open to being responsible for the theft by not doing so. UPS also should not have accepted responsibility for delivering it as it opened them up to financial responsibility as well. Thankfully in this case it wasn’t a rare coin. Rich was smart to remove the word “coin” on the second attempt. A WORD to the wise!

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The Auction Realm

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

Time Out

Due to Holiday commitments and the upcoming FUN Convention, Auction Realm is on pause until next month. Back in February.

Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht

Keith Scott, LSCC #2006:

Here is something that ties into last month's issue as presented in Len's column: I discovered pattern coins in 2003 and find them to be a fascinating area. Starting with a J384, 1864 S.L. quarter with the alternative reverse and a mintage of 11, I was hooked.

The Judd reference book has been reviewed by myself cover to cover a few times, and the Pollock book has interesting essays and very complete auction records through 1992. There are quite a few collecting themes that should be chosen very carefully based on availability and budget. I like Legend as they offer the very best of high grade and eye appeal. Common themes include transitional designs such as large to small cents, new design prototypes, motto addition and new materials. See the 1943 cent materials that were alternatives to steel as an example.

Has anyone ever seen a 19th century coin made of leather? I'm still looking. Many dollar designs from the 1870's have achieved cult-like status and are really expensive. I decided to try for a set of 1870 die marriages in whatever metal was available. Most common are silver, copper, aluminum and nickel. I counted over 40 metals and alloys that have been tested. Of the 55 or so marriages, some are unique, some are unaccounted for so the total that is realistic is 48 to 50. So far, I am about a third of the way there.

All that's left is the waiting and bidding.

(From my collection is a U.S. mint produced prototype that covers Liberty Seated, transitional cents and has a great pedigree.)





The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Coins Without Mintmarks



A few coins in the U.S. series were struck at Branch Mints, yet bear no mintmark. The best known example is the 1922 Plain cent, which is actually a 1922-D cent with the D apparently polished off the die prior to striking. Within the Liberty Seated series, the 1866-S dime often comes without a mintmark, again due to die weakness. Such pieces are distinguished from the 1866 Philadelphia strike by the date position – the 1866-S will have a downward sloping date while the Philadelphia piece is closer to level. It's an important distinction, as the Philadelphia piece is scarcer. These two examples both relate to die polishing or die weakness and simply represent vagaries of the coining process. The 1840-O WB-4 Liberty Seated half falls into a different category (see image above) – this piece was flat out struck from dies that bore no mintmark to begin with. This coin came up during the LSCC Zoom call on December 7, when I incorrectly attributed this discovery to Randy Wiley. It was in fact a co-discovery by Bill Bugert and Randy Wiley.

Randy first discussed this variety in the November 1978 Gobrecht Journal. At that time he identified the reverse as that of the Bust half dollar. Randy pointed out a number of key differences between the Bust and Seated dollar half reverses, including the larger shield on the Bust half. This one is easy to see with the naked eye and doesn't require a microscope with measurement reticles. Further, the Bust piece exhibits three feathered arrow shafts, while the Seated coin reveals two. Randy referred to this piece as the "1840-R38" as the WB nomenclature had not yet been developed. In this article, Randy speculated that this reverse die had previously been mated with a Bust obverse but he was not aware of a confirming example.

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Bill Bugert continued the thread in the March 1987 Gobrecht Journal. Research in the National Archives uncovered the fact that the New Orleans Mint had five (Bust) reverse dies on hand in 1839, defaced four, and held over a single die for use in 1840. Note that for the Bust coinage, the mintmark appeared on the obverse die. The reverse die that was held over therefore did not bear a mintmark. Bugert theorized that the 1840 Seated half, with Bust style reverse, was actually a New Orleans product. The puzzle now was to confirm that the held over Bust reverse die was in fact used in New Orleans. As it turns out, there is no known 1839-O Reeded Edge half that uses this reverse, so that path fails. However, Wiley proposed that the “1840-R38” obverse might have been used on another 1840-O half dollar, and this was quickly confirmed. Indeed, this Bust-style reverse was used with two different Seated obverses from New Orleans, and today these are identified as the 1840-O WB-4 and WB-12 varieties – both New Orleans issues that do not bear mintmarks.

The New Orleans connection was thus discovered first through archival evidence that suggested the coin should exist, and then examining actual coins to prove that it did. To Bugert and Wiley goes equal credit for collaborating on this discovery. Two examples of this piece (both WB-4s) are being presented in the upcoming sale of the John McCloskey collection and may be referenced at the Heritage Auction site using the following links:

<https://coins.ha.com/c/image-preview.zx?id=63177011779> (NGC F12)

<https://coins.ha.com/c/image-preview.zx?id=63177011119> (NGC XF Details)
[images for this coin appear on the previous page]

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Reminder #2: It's LSCC dues renewal time again. If your Gobrecht Journal came in with “Last Issue” on the envelope, you will need to pay your dues so you won't miss an issue of the best Liberty Seated publication in the industry.

Please be considerate and respond soon. Our volunteers work very hard keeping your Club working and moving forward.

If your Annual LSCC Dues expire in 2021, please renew for 2022 (and beyond if you wish). The flyer included with your Fall Gobrecht Journal mailing has all the details.

50th Anniversary Shirt & Jacket Orders: Dennis Fortier is soon planning to put in an updated order for 3X or larger 50th Anniversary (yellow gold) shirts and (black) jackets. See images on page 7.

If you have an interest, shirts are \$40 (mailed) and jackets are \$85 (mailed). The jackets are lite and perfect for air-conditioned coin shows.

Contact Dennis at ricajun@msn.com to let him know of your interest prior to ordering. Mail checks (payment in advance) to Dennis Fortier, 215 Pomeroy Drive, Crossville, TN 38558 or contact Dennis at F.U.N.



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

December 2021 Column Review & Update

The year 2021 ended with what felt like a combination whirlwind and avalanche. Personal and professional (non-numismatic) objectives and deadlines collided in a mad scramble that featured spending the last two weeks of the year overseas. A trip that was planned and booked prior to the first mention of Omicron turned into an unintended adventure featuring government travel restrictions placed by both the United States and United Kingdom, extra airline rules, sparsely scheduled flights, many throat and nasal swabs, long layovers, wearing a face mask for 27 consecutive hours, and physically and/or mentally absent airline employees. I feel most fortunate to be home again without falling ill or getting stranded outside the US; and cannot recommend international travel as a worthwhile activity at this time.

There are two numismatic angles to this adventure. First, I had the opportunity to visit the Scottish National Museum in Edinburgh which includes an amazing display of coins from the years 1300 – 1700 (see large image next page). It is well worth a visit if you are in the neighborhood, even with mask mandates and incessant hand sanitizing. Second, last month's column was both hastily prepared and, in my opinion, as well as some others, rather incomplete. In addition to a simple lack of time to devote to the effort, the deficiency stems from a failure at one of the first tasks of a writer. Know your audience. Admittedly, that is difficult with respect to this column because there is so little interaction or feedback from readers. All the more reason to pay careful attention to feedback that is received.

Last month the column included an image of a counterfeit 1873-CC quarter that sold on eBay raw. Having looked at tens of thousands of Liberty Seated quarters at this point, as well as dozens of 1873-CC (with arrows) examples, it took only one quick look for my brain to "just say no." I did not take the time to think about and list the specific things wrong with the piece that give it away as a counterfeit. The feedback I received was that saying that it was counterfeit and showing the images was fine for experienced collectors, but that I did not describe the specific features that give it away as counterfeit for the benefit of folks newer to the hobby and/or the series. Interestingly, those making that observation and reaching out to me were quite experienced numismatists who did not personally need such an explanation. They were, however, doing a better job than I did of placing themselves in the position of a less experienced reader and asking some questions.

So, let's consider the specific differences between genuine examples and this counterfeit quarter in the interest of being more thorough, reviewing the important points for myself and other experienced collectors, and demonstrating the features for which to look at for collectors newer to the series. The most obvious differences to note on the obverse are the shapes of the stars and the date position. Note the misshaped stars on the counterfeit, especially along the left side of the obverse. Also, the date position of the genuine example is notably left of the counterfeit date position. The similar "red flags" for the reverse involve the mintmark, for which both size of the C's and their position are different. All genuine 1873-CC with arrows quarters were struck using the same reverse die and have precisely the same mintmark size and location. Another specific feature of the counterfeit reverse that is not obvious until one has looked at a number of lower

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grade examples of this specific issue is the wear pattern. Genuine coins have certain parts of the design that are in higher relief and wear first. Areas of the counterfeit have quite complete detail in areas that would be first to wear on a genuine example. Note specifically the eagle's right wing, left leg and the arrow feathers.

I hope this has added useful information, and perhaps insight, to last month's column. I am always looking for topics, questions, comments or suggestions with respect to this column. Please reach out to the editor with any of the above.



Scottish Coins from the Scottish National Museum in Edinburgh

12 Gold and silver coins

James VI
as King of Scotland
1567-1603



(END)



Liberty Seated Dollar News and Information

**by Dick Osburn, LSCC #717
and Brian Cushing, LSCC #2170**

1859-S



The 1859-S is a rare date in the Liberty Seated dollar series. The mintage was low and many were exported to the orient. Despite this the date is available with patient searching, in some cases more so than the mintage would indicate. Although, as will be seen below, the date is a condition rarity at both the high and low ends of the scale.

The availability by grade shows a curious feature. Based on statistics from the major third-party grading services the prevalent grades are VF-AU. Over 450 examples have been graded by PCGS and NGC. Of these only 14% grade below VF20, while less than 10% grade mint state. Very few examples circulated heavily, although the percentage for this date is still much higher than for the previous Philadelphia-minted dates in the 1850's. Even fewer were saved from circulation. The mint-state percentage is one of the lowest for any date in the entire series. Collectors seeking to complete a problem-free low to mid-grade set and those seeking coins in choice to gem mint state will both have challenging searches.

The finest known 1859-S is a single MS65 coin graded by NGC. The finest PCGS-graded example is a single MS64+, currently part of the D. L. Hansen Collection. NGC has graded none at the MS64 level. The two services have given a combined 13 coins a grade of MS63. In choice BU, this is one of the rarest dates in the entire series. Surprisingly, the date is very available in AU58, with a total of 36 coins receiving that grade from the two major services. Population statistics are as of October 2021.

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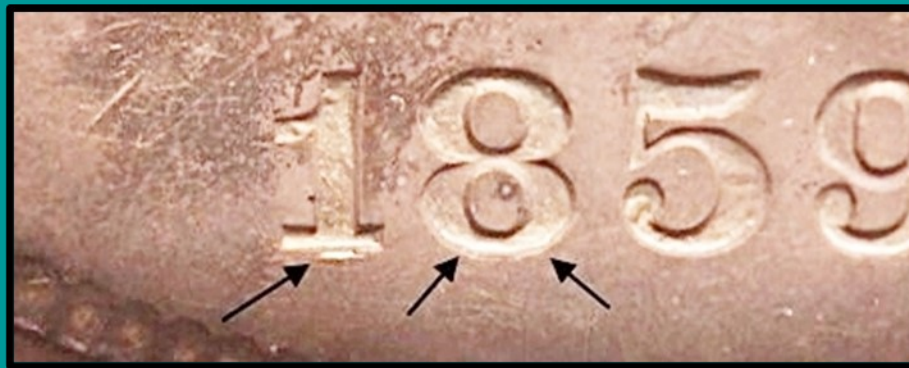
A fully struck 1859-S is a rarity. Almost all examples seen display at least minor weakness on the star centrals, and they're almost never seen without slight weakness on the feathers at the upper edge of the eagle's left wing. We've seen a few with well-struck stars, including the D. L. Hansen example, but can't recall ever seeing an example with a full strike on the left wing. 1859-S surfaces are occasionally frosty, but more often at least slightly proof-like. With two die pairs sharing the 20,000 mintage, the dies didn't wear enough to produce fully frosty examples.

Two obverse dies were paired with two reverses to strike the mintage for the year. The following table summarizes the known die marriages:

<i>Die Marriage</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Obverse Die</i>	<i>Reverse Die</i>	<i>Estimated Survivors</i>
OC-1	R2	1	A	650
OC-2	R4	2	B	150

We note that Breen (reference 3) listed two 1859-S varieties. Breen 5461 was described as "normal date". Breen 5462 was the "repunched 18". He rated Breen 5462 as "extremely rare". In reality both of the known die marriages are Breen 5462. They exhibit the repunching in early die states. Evidence of the repunching disappears as the dies wear and are polished. Examples with clear repunching are scarce, but not rare. They can be easily found with patient searching. The picture below shows an early die state of the repunching for OC-1. This coin is from our reference collection.

The photos that lead this article are courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com).
They picture a MS63 example that is one of the finest graded by PCGS.



Comments or suggestions for future articles are always welcomed. Our contact information:

Dick Osburn, 713-875-5860, dickosburn@comcast.net.

Brian Cushing, 410-571-4699, osburncushing@gmail.com

- References:
1. Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing, Seateddollarvarieties.com.
 2. Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing, Liberty Seated Dollars, A Register of Die Varieties, self-published in January, 2018.
 3. Walter Breen, Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins", published in 1988 by Doubleday, E. C. I. Press.

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Reeded Edge Halves
(Also known as Pre-Liberty Seated Halves)

“Gobrecht Bust” Half Dollars
by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

Most collectors refer to them as Reeded Edge Halves... what a FUN series to collect!

In the November 2021 StacksBowers Auctions, I tried to create some interest in this series by selling 29 different die varieties, including perhaps the worst known 1836 GR-1 as shown below:



1836 GR-1, PCGS Genuine Plugged – AG Details
(All images courtesy of StacksBowers Auctions)

“Medallic”). The other half has the reverse die in the Normal position. I know of only 5 collectors that have at least one of each. The coin on the next page coin has the reverse in the Medallic position. Both obverse and reverse is shown.

The coin to the left sold for \$408.00. The current Red Book lists the mintage of this coin as 1,200+. Dick Graham, who wrote the book “A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars 1836-1839” estimates the mintage to be closer to 25,000+. In late December 2021, I checked eBay and found 16 specimens available.

In this same Stack’s auction, another collector(s) added 8 more Gobrecht Half Dollars to the sale and I was the high bidder on the coin shown on the next page.

You might say “Why would anyone ever want this coin?”. First of all, the current Red Book estimates the mintage for 1839-O to be 116,000. There are 5 known die marriages for the year. Only 1839-O GR-1 is rated R-1 (over 1,000 known), and all others are R-4 (76 to 200 known) or rarer.

The 1839-O GR-4 die marriage is unusual for one big reason. Approximately half of the mintage has the reverse rotated 180 degrees (known as

Although there are 56 known die varieties for this series, anyone can start collecting them, today, and will be able to find all 25 die varieties for the year 1837 and all 16 die varieties for the year 1838. 1837 GR-25 is the rarest die variety for the year 1837. I sold a very attractive PCGS VG-8 in the StacksBowers Auction on November 22nd for \$1,320. 1838 GR-5 is the rarest die variety for the year 1838 and I sold a NGC Shipwrecked specimen that required you to put MS60 as the grade to verify the coin in NGC. It sold for \$1,440. When Graham wrote his book in 2012, there were only 3 specimens known. Today I have record of approximately 19 specimens. In other words, collectors have discovered 16 specimens in the last 10 years. More will be discovered.

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Anyone interested in learning more about Gobrecht Half Dollars 1836 to 1839, should send their name along with their email address to:

Jim Koenings at Bustcoin1@verizon.net

Currently, I have over 100 interested collectors that receive my free Newsletters. My next Newsletter #33 will be sent on January 15, 2022. It will contain information and large photos on the 1838 GR-10 die marriage along with other important information about die states and recent sales. Happy Hunting!

NGC-certified McCloskey Collection Featured in FUN Show Sale

NGC is proud to have certified more than 1,000 coins from the prestigious collection of John W. McCloskey, a renowned numismatic researcher. Heritage Auctions is offering these coins in two sales in early 2022, including the FUN U.S. Coins Signature Auction, where 136 NGC-certified highlights of the collection will be offered on January 7.

The centerpiece of the collection is an 1870-CC Eagle graded NGC VF 25. Struck in the inaugural year of the Carson City Mint. This issue is one of the rarest of all gold issues from that Nevada facility, which stopped issuing coins in 1893.

McCloskey co-authored some of the definitive books on early US dimes, including "Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837," which was published in 1998, and "Early United States Dimes 1796-1837: A Reference Book of Their Types, Varieties and Rarity," which was published in 1984. He also penned more than 200 articles for The Gobrecht Journal.

NGC is showcasing these and other McCloskey Collection coins in an image gallery on its website. To explore the gallery, go to [NGCcoin.com/McCloskey](https://www.ngccoin.com/McCloskey)

Nearly 900 more NGC-certified coins from the McCloskey Collection will be offered in a sale on February 6. All of these coins have been encapsulated with a special McCloskey Collection label that spotlights their important pedigree. NGC News



1839-O GR-4, PCGS Genuine Graffiti - Good Detail

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Liberty Seated Basics 101

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Issue XVIII - Counting Reeds

Introduction: One of the requests we often hear is for articles in club publications that reach back to more basic skill building. Members are at all different levels, and newer members are in some instances unfamiliar with commonly used terms in our little corner of the hobby. Mint production has changed over the last two-hundred +plus years. The Liberty Seated years (1836-1891) saw its share of production change during that time. Those changes came with a learning curve. A good deal of that learning curve had to do with the first few Branch Mints coming on line and Mint employee's at those Branch Mints needing to learn their craft.

Some of the topics already discussed include the following:

- Issue I - Weak Strikes (June 2020 E-G)
- II - Die Wear in (July 2020 E-G)
- III - Security/Home Safes (August 2020)
- IV - Security/Safe Deposit Boxes (Sept. 2020)

- V - Buying White Coins (October 2020)
- VI - Raw vs. Certified (November 2020)
- VII - Mintage vs. Survival Rate (Dec. 2020)
- VIII - Mintmark Sizes & Placement (Jan. '21)
- IX - Liberty Seated Oddities (February 2021)
- X - Die Lines & Lint Marks (March 2021)
- XI - Learning to Say 'No' (April 2021)
- XII - Covid, CAC and Market Change (May)
- XIII - Doubled Dies vs. Machine Doubling (Jun)
- XIV - The Cadillac Effect (July 2021)
- XV - Networking (September 2021)
- XVI - Chopmarks (October 2021)
- XVII - Changes in Collector Preferences (Dec.)

Additional topics will be discussed in future months.

"An Introduction to Liberty Seated Basics 101" also appeared in the *The Gobrecht Journal* Summer 2020, Volume 46.2.

Counting Reeds

Counting the reeds on the edge of a coin is becoming a lost art. Early Gobrecht Journal articles and many reference books published the reed counts for different issues from the various Mints. The Mints of the Liberty Seated time period were responsible for making their own collar dies; therefore, the reed counts at each Mint differed.

Many coins today are in Third Party Graded

holders which leaves the edge of the coin completely or partially obscured. This makes counting reeds impossible on such coins. We accept these coins as being genuine because the leading grading services guarantee that they are genuine. Have you ever wondered how the grading services ascertain whether or not a coin is genuine?

Reed counts are one of the ways they can do it. Added mintmarks have long been a criminal activity for the fleecing of unsuspecting collectors. Reed

(Continued on next page)

**L.S. Basics 101 cont.**

counts however, cannot easily be faked. Modern day counterfeiters making counterfeits from scratch, almost never take the time or trouble to use the correct reed count of the issue in question. Many coin collectors do not make the effort to learn about the coins they collect and are easily fooled.

Several years ago, I purchased (with the right to return) an 1864 half dime with a hole in it. The hole was located where the mintmark would have been if there was one. I sent the coin to Mr. Half Dime (Steve Crain) for authentication. At the time Steve's notes were not available, and I did not have Blyth's Half Dime book, so I had no reference to help me. Along with diagnostics Steve also counted the reeds and was able to determine that the coin in question was indeed the more valuable 1864-P half dime.

Many collectors, especially circulated dime and half dime collectors buy raw coins due to the fact that the cost of slabbing is prohibitive on most of these coins. Reed counting for these numismatists is an essential tool to avoid being taken by unscrupulous sellers. So how do you count the reeds on a coin and what tools do you need.

The tools needed are simple; a good 30 power microscope, proper lighting, the bell housing from an ordinary flashlight, a ledger, and of course the necessary reference material.

You first put the coin in the bell housing of the flash light and then place the bell housing under the microscope. Adjust the microscope to your eye. You will see the reeds of the coin reflected on the bell housing around the coin. Next locate a starting point on the edge of the coin. Something that sticks out such as a minor ding or smudge of dirt. Then you start rotating the coin slowly (very slowly) as you count the reeds.

This will take some practice as it is easy to lose count or miscount. It will be necessary to count the reeds more than once to be sure you have the

correct count. Once you have the correct count, and have checked it against your reference material, it is recommended that you enter the information in a log so it won't become necessary to redo the work later.

Another way to count reeds is to take a photo of the coin in the bell housing so you can see the reeding reflected in the housing. There is an article in the E-Sylum from 9/7/2008 (available on the New-
man Portal) that gives excellent advice as how to do this.

<https://nnpdev.wustl.edu/library/periodical/9728>

Reed counting is a skill that every numismatist should take the time to learn.

See images on next page...

Late Breaking Announcement:

Heritage Auctions FUN 2022 live auction sessions originally scheduled to take place at the FUN Show, January 5 - 9, 2022, have been postponed one week to January 12-16, 2022, to now be held at the Heritage Auctions Dallas Headquarters. The auctions will take place on the same day of the week and at the same time just one week later.

While the auctions have moved to Dallas the following week, Lot Viewing for the auctions will still take place at the FUN Show.

**Orange County Convention Center
North Concourse | Rooms 220BCD
9899 International Drive | Orlando, FL**

Monday, January 3 | 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM ET

Tuesday, January 4 - Thursday, January 6 |
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM ET

Friday, January 7 | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM ET

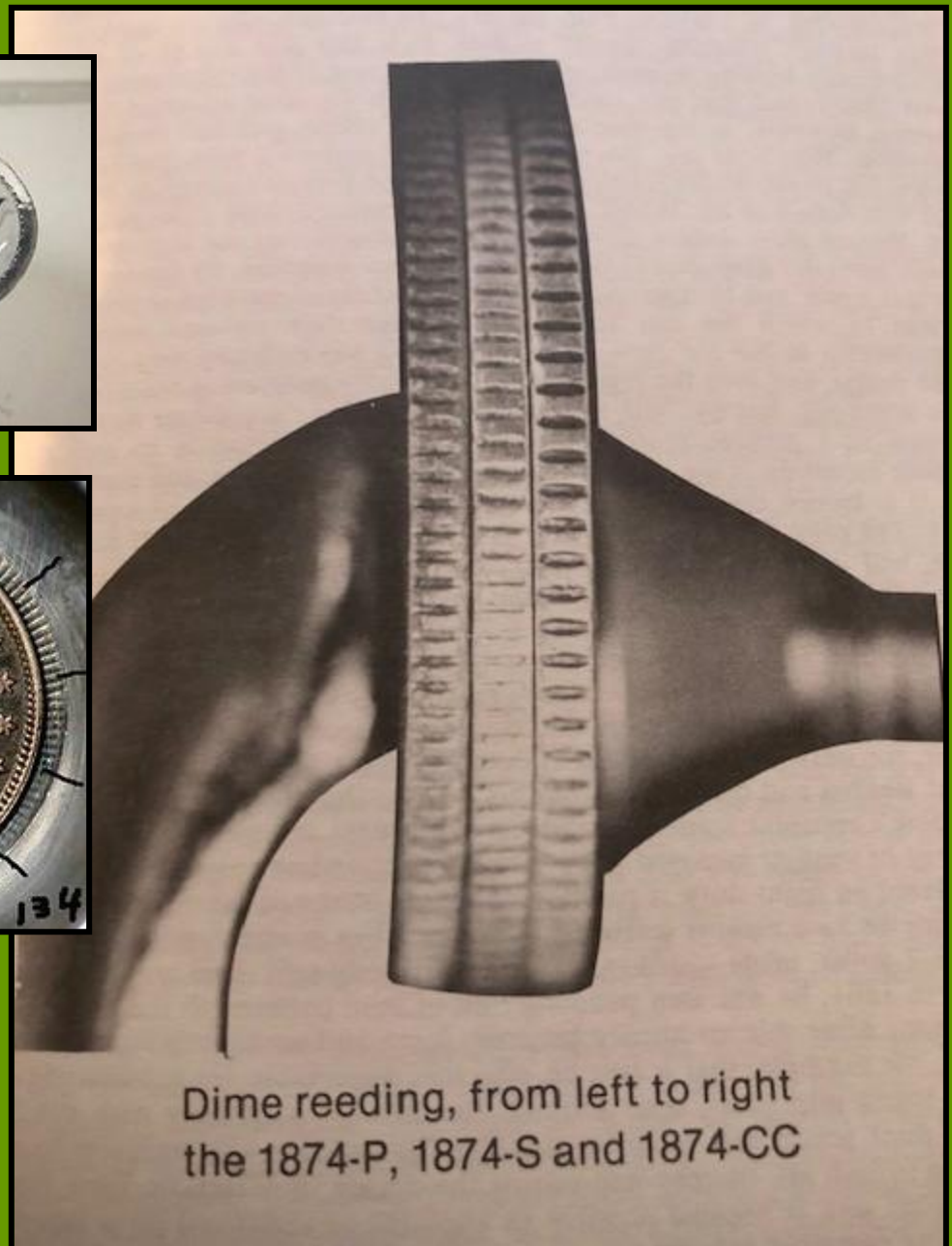
Saturday, January 8 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET



(Continued from previous page)

Left two images from E-Sylum (via Newman Numismatic Portal),
September 2008, Vol. 11, No. 36, Article 13
(Flashlight bell housing with coin placed in it, and
reeds reflected on the wall of the bell housing)

Large right image from Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume I
Article by John McCloskey, August 3, 1975
(Some pioneering work by John McCloskey showing
the different reeding from the various Branch mints)



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Cover of the 2021 Gobrecht Journals full-color 8 1/2 x 11 magazine

Below: Inside the Gobrecht Journal full-color, glossy pages

**Both “E-Gobrecht & Gobrecht Journal” display advertising rates
& E-Gobrecht classified ad rates available upon request**

Direct inquires to Len Augsburger at: leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com





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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.

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LSCC email address: lsc@lscweb.org

LSCC Membership Information: Dues are bargain priced at \$30 per year and include 3 packed 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 Jeff Ball, LSCC Secretary listed on this page.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* magazine may be addressed to Len Augsburger, Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor.

Submissions, correspondence, 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.

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!"

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