

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



Antrim 1844 built during the Liberty Seated Design Era
Both are of a Classic Design

1839-O
Dime



1875-CC
Dime
See Page 9



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:*

*Arturo Armendariz
William Denby
John Sourbeer
Ryan Stephenson
Bobby Young
Erik Witz*

*There are currently
1045 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 February issue of the E-Gobrecht, your monthly dose of all things Liberty Seated. The beginning of the year brings the dues renewal period on the LSCC calendar, and I'd like to make a special appeal to all members who have not yet renewed.

If you have not done so already, please forward your \$30 annual dues to Dennis Fortier at 215 Pomeroy Drive, Crossville TN, 38558. Alternately, dues may be paid via PayPal at LSCCdues@gmail.com (please include an additional \$2 processing fee if using PayPal). Members who do not renew by March 1 will miss out on the Spring issue of The Gobrecht Journal, and replacement copies may not be available. ...*Len Augsburger*

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Editor's View From the Rim

Shifting Over

Next month, E-Gobrecht readers will begin to see a gradual shifting over of some of your favorite columns and other articles to be published in The Gobrecht Journal going forward.

Be sure to renew your LSCC membership or become a member if you wish to continue seeing valuable information about the various Liberty Seated denominations.

E-Gobrecht at least for the time being will begin focusing mostly on monthly and timely Club news and updates, coin show events, reader contributions that are short in nature, and the like.

E-Gobrecht will continue to be as it has been as “complimentary” to the general numismatic hobby for those who wish a free subscription, and continue to be sponsored by the LSCC.

If you really enjoy the topics of Liberty Seated coins, you should continue receiving or begin receiving The Gobrecht Journal as a benefit of Club membership.

The next issue of The Gobrecht Journal - Spring 2022 is due out in March and there are always 3 large format, glossy, jam-packed issues each year. It is definitely a keeper for your reference library. ➡

The Liberty Seated Collectors Club is reaching its 50th year in existence in 2023 which says something special about its staying power in the hobby and its membership! ...PK





Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

LSCC Back to Spartanburg

The South Carolina Upstate Coin Show in Spartanburg, SC will be held on February 18-19 at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium, 385 N. Church Steet. It's been a year or two since the Regional Team has been to Spartanburg, and with the current state of the market, it should be a good show. John Frost and Dennis Fortier will host the Club table. John will display some Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia and some cool Barber stuff on behalf of the BCCS. The Education Program will be "Why You Should Collect Barber and Liberty Seated Coinage" and "Grading, Pricing, Demand and the CAC Effect" presented by John Frost.

50th Anniversary shirts will be available at the show. The order for over-sized shirts and the new Club jackets (pre-order only) has been submitted to Minuteman Press and hopefully will be arriving to individual homes within the month.

The FUN show was a good time. We had thirteen members and guests at the Club dinner, and twenty attendees at the Club meeting the next morning. Carl Feldman and John Frost gave an interesting presentation on their Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia display that everyone enjoyed. The Club table was as busy as ever

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Regional News cont.

with members and show attendees admiring the Dollar Exonumia display that was 40 years in the making. Four new members were signed up at the show. Five 50th Anniversary shirts were sold and two more 50 Anniversary Jackets were ordered.

It was wonderful to see so many old friends! The next major show will be Baltimore in late March.

The Houston Money Show, January 21-22, had John Frost hosting the Club table (thanks to Dick Osburn). John gave a talk on “Why You Should Collect Barber and Liberty Seated Coinage.” There were a dozen people at John’s talk.

February 4-5 saw John and Dennis at the Ft. Loudon/Smokey Mountain annual coin show in Knoxville, TN. Knoxville is a regular on the Regional Team program. It is always a good show and a pleasure to see our friends from Tennessee. Knoxville was the last show the team attended in 2020 before the Covid shutdown. John displayed his Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia this year. The Educational Presentations were “Why You Should Collect Barber and Liberty Seated Coinage”, “My Favorite and Underrated Barber Coins”, and “Grading, Pricing, Demand, and the CAC Effect” by John Frost.

Coming in April, the Regional Team will be at Central States. This is another large regional show and the team is glad to have the opportunity to be there again after another long hiatus due to Covid. Ken Otto, Craig Eberhart, Len Augsburg, and Dennis Fortier will host the Club table. The Education Program has yet to be determined, but should be an excellent hobby learning experience.

(Continued on next page)



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Regional News cont.

Just in... Images from Feb. 5th in Knoxville, TN

Dennis Fortier, LSCC VP covering the combined LSCC & BCCS Tables



Top Case: Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia,
Double Dimes, Type coins

Left Case: Coin Glass, Medals from William
and Charles Barber

Collections provided by John Frost
& Dennis Fortier

(END)

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*

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

***February 18-20 52nd Upstate South Carolina Coin Show** at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium, Spartanburg, SC - Club Table and Educational Program (Host: Dennis Fortier & John Frost)



Note: Updates provided as they become available, but always check the organization's show website for further details and any last minutes changes.

***March 31—April 2 Whitman Baltimore Spring Coin Expo, Baltimore Convention Center (Hall A-C, Baltimore, MD** - Club Meeting on Friday morning at 9 a.m. in Room 301, Club Dinner on the Thursday evening before at 6:30 p.m. at the Pratt Street Ale House, LSCC/BCCS Club Table, Educational Program to be announced (Hosts: Len Augsburger, Dennis Fortier, John Frost & others)

Central States is back again this year later in April.

Upcoming Major Coin/Currency Auctions for Liberty Seated Collectors

February 6, 2022 - "John McCloskey Variety Collection Showcase Auction" online only by Heritage Auctions (<https://coins.ha.com>) (Refer to website for full details)

April 5-8, 2022 - "Spring 2022 Showcase Auction" held in conjunction with the Whitman Baltimore Spring Coin Expo, but to be held in Costa Mesa, CA & online. Includes Capped Bust and Liberty Seated half dollars from the Abigail Collection, Part II. by Stack's Bowers Galleries. (<https://www.stacksbowers.com>) (Refer to website for full details)

LSCC Member Application Form at:

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





*** LSCC Club Auction Donation Announcement ***

2022 Annual Meeting during Summer ANA Convention

Donations and consignments are requested 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 ricajun@msn.com to donate or consign.

Press Release: Newtown Collection Sale - Part 2

The lead GFRC Online Auctions 2022 auction event features a two-part Newtown Collection sale with a combination of Liberty Seated dimes and half dollar lots. After a foray into Liberty Seated half dollar die varieties, including a near complete 1861-O die variety set as sold in the Part 1 Sale, the time has come for our top consignor to convert his recent project into fresh capital for upgrading his core passions; well advanced Liberty Seated dime and half dollar date and mintmark sets. **Bidding for the Part 2 Sale begins on Saturday February 5 and closes on the following Saturday, February 12.** The online auction can be found at:

www.seateddimevarieties.com/auction.html See two Cover Page images from this sale.

For fans of the GFRC website and Open Set Registry, the Newtown Collection's Liberty Seated half dollar set is at the top of the leader board while the Seated dime collection is positioned third below the Tom Bender and Gerry Fortin Collections.



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Gerry Fortin 207-329-9957
gerry@seateddimevarieties.com



Long Time LSCC Member Michael Fey Acquires the Numismatic Assets of Leroy Van Allen

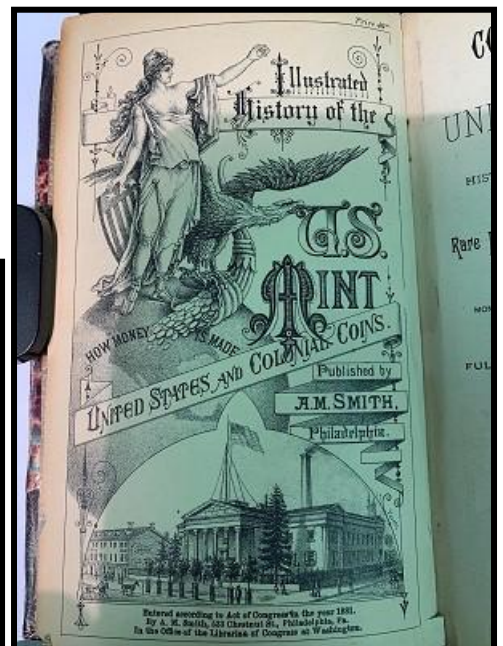
Michael S. Fey, Ph.D., of Rare Coin Investments (RCI), a longtime active member of the LSCC & BCCS recently acquired the Numismatic Assets of Leroy Van Allen for an undisclosed sum. The assets included all of Mr. Van Allen's intellectual property which includes his landmark reference book, "The Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of Morgan & Peace Dollars", and 17 monographs, the most popular of which is "Wonders of Morgan Dollars". Included was approximately 18,000 photos of Morgan and Peace silver dollar VAM numbered varieties (VAM is an acronym for Van Allen-Mallis varieties).

Also included in the sale was Van Allen's cancelled U.S. dies and collars, and fabricated dies and punches which were used as models to prove his theories on overdates and over mintmarks, as well as about 100 autographed books from his reference library, some dating back to the late 1800's.

The sale also included approximately 425 rare Morgan and Peace dollar die varieties, errors, rotated dies, about 700 Buffalo nickel die varieties and rotated dies, and a variety of U.S. and foreign coins.

According to Michael, "This marks the passing of a torch to a new generation of dedicated specialists who intend to continue Leroy's efforts to research, catalog and educate dealers and collectors on Morgan and Peace silver dollars". Furthermore, "Leroy realized that it would be problematic to continue so he passed the torch on. I plan to donate time and money to continue Leroy Van Allen's legacy in the form of a newly created non-profit organization "The Institute for Silver Dollar Education and Research with an Executive Director and a silver dollar Who's Who of Advisory Experts."

Liberty Seated collectors will be pleased to know that Leroy Van Allen did have some Liberty Seated material in his collection including a low grade Type Set and a few contemporary counterfeits for reference. He had an extensive library of antique numismatic literature including a rare edition of "Illustrated History of the U.S. Mint by A.M. Smith. There is a circa 1760's brass money scale (see images).



(Continued on page 17)



The Auction Realm

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

February 2022 Sales Activity

In his column this month, Len Augsburger covered some of John McCloskey's most valuable coins sold in January by Heritage Auctions. More of McCloskey's coins will be sold in February and will be covered here next month.

Several Liberty Seated coins were recently sold that demonstrate very strong demand. A few auctions brought prices that are multiples of what they would have sold for two years ago as shown by several examples below. The 1866 half dollar has the "rare" gold CAC sticker that places it in an unknown price range. A well-known dealer once told me that the gold bean is worth more than any upgrade he has ever seen. Most "retail" pricing guides are not keeping up. If you are selling or buying, recent auction prices from reliable companies are probably an even better choice than usual for determining value.

Attributions are mine while rarity ratings come from books by Larry Briggs and Bill Bugert/Randy Wiley.

Date	Denomination	Grading Service	Grade	Auction Price	Company	Apparent Die Marriage, Rarity
1840-O	quarter	ANACS	AU53	\$1,140	Heritage	B 2-C, R3+
1853-O	half dollar	PCGS	AU50	1,800	Heritage	WB-21, R-3
1853-O	half dollar	PCGS	AU53	1,744	Great Collections	WB-16, R-3
1860-O	half dollar	PCGS CAC	AU58+	1,260	Heritage	WB-10, R-3
1866	half dollar	PCGS Gold CAC	AU55	2,316	Great Collections	unknown
1860-O	Seated dollar	PCGS	MS61	4,320	Heritage	unknown
1860-O	Seated dollar	PCGS	MS62	3,240	Heritage	unknown

A couple of months ago, I guessed that certification fees would go up. NGC raised their fees effective February 1 with the standard grading fee now \$40. PCGS has not raised theirs. Historically, PCGS has raised fees at the beginning of the year, which I hope they will continue to do. Perhaps more burdensome is that both NGC and PCGS are estimating much longer processing times with NGC at 80 days for U.S. coins and PCGS at 60 business days for regular/standard service. Three months of waiting?!

**Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht****David Lange, Research Director, NGC (LSCC #488):**

I'd like to add something to Len Augsburger's column about "Coins Without Mintmarks" (Jan. 2022).

The confirmation of the 1840 Reverse of 38 half dollar being a New Orleans Mint product should indeed be credited to Wiley and Bugert, but I played a small role leading to this conclusion that has been overlooked in all accounts of the discovery.

The November 1985 issue of The Gobrecht Journal included my article titled "Small Diameter New Orleans Half Dollars 1840-1842". In it I described how the diameters I measured for my half dollars of those years had confirmed that the Philly halves were universally greater in diameter and fit quite tightly into my album, while the O-Mint halves eased into the openings without a struggle. The sole exception to the former was the 1840 R38 variety, which measured the same diameter as the New Orleans coins.

Now, I didn't come out and state that the 1840 R38 half dollar was struck at New Orleans, but I did provide sufficient hints that I could have at least proposed the idea. Unfortunately, I lacked enough die marriages to link that variety to a coin actually bearing the O mintmark. Instead, I concluded simply that the collars had been milled at each individual mint to suit its unique needs, accounting for the size difference between the coins.

[Additional response after further correspondence with Editor]: The difference in size is less than a millimeter, so this would not be evident in a photo (if taken). Also, I no longer have the coins. My point in writing was not to initiate another article, but merely to point out that the ultimate conclusion about the 1840 R38 half dollar was evident earlier than it was proved.

Jim Hirtle (long time dealer, collector & author):

Mr. M's Fabulous Out-of Circulation Coin Collection... Those of you who have read my book "How to Sell Your Coin Collection for the Most Money" will already be familiar with this story, but it is so typical of coin collecting in the 1920s and 1930s that I will repeat it here so modern day collectors can get the flavor of collecting out of change.

Mr. M worked for a carnival. He spent some twelve hours a day performing necessary tasks on the lot, but after all the locals had left for the day, Mr. M got to check all the coins they had left behind. Yes, as an avid collector, he got to see every coin that people had spent all day long.

Change in the 1920s and 1930s was very different from what you see today. Even in the 1930s, Liberty Seated coins were still seen in circulation and they were all there for a sharp-eyed guy like Mr. M to pull out of change and he did, by the hundreds. When he retired, this guy had bags (and I mean bank bags) of Indian Head pennies that he had collected over the years. His collection included full sets of Indians (including the 1856 Flying Eagle), V Nickels and Barbers. (I never saw any silver dollars. Probably too expensive as a dollar was a lot of money in those days).

This man had a coin collection that any modern collector would kill for and every single coin had cost him exactly face value. READ AND WEEP!!! [Editor's Note: A few new copies of Jim's book still exist. They are available from the author for \$14 postage paid. "Read more and Weep more". I read it from cover to cover.]

**Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht cont.****Rich Hundertmark (LSCC #2347):****My FUN Show & the Heritage John McCloskey Sale...**

As I write this article on the final Thursday of January in seasonally cool North Carolina, I can finally claim closure to my FUN Show activities. Why might you ask? Today, FedEx arrived with my Heritage winning lot, an 1835 NGC \$5 AU53 ex-John McCloskey collection Half Eagle that will fit very nicely into my 19th Century type set.

The acquisition of this coin really began when I listened in on Len Augsburg's December 7th LSCC Zoom Call that focused on the McCloskey Collection Heritage sale to kick off at FUN. Mentioned in the call was the sale of the McCloskey Classic Quarter & Half Eagles. As I had previously acquired a 1835 Quarter Eagle for my type set, the McCloskey sale represented a great opportunity to acquire the complimentary Classic Half Eagle denomination.

After the Zoom call, I continually checked the Heritage site for the on-line auction catalog which I first viewed in mid December. My notes revealed an initial list of 18 coins as possible Half Eagle type set candidates, ranging in grades EF45 to AU58. This was a very wide spectrum, but I wanted to initially cast a wide net and while doing so thoroughly, further research price, population and variety rarity pre-sale.

The breakout of potential coins by grade distribution looked like this:

XF45, 6 coins
AU50, 3 coins
AU53, 2 coins
AU55, 4 coins
AU58, 3 coins

So opportunities abounded with my primary grade focus of AU53-AU55 as the Quarter Eagle in my type set is a lovely 1834 graded PCGS AU55. My thought was to match this grade level or go one grade lower for a nice Half Eagle.

Heading into the auction, I was met with some unexpected crosswinds; Omnicron had started to rear its ugly head and Heritage sent out a notice right before the show that live bidding would not take place on site, but rather the auction would be moved back a week post-show to their Dallas offices (but the live viewing sessions would still be held). Thank goodness!! I had done my homework and was eagerly anticipating viewing the McCloskey Half Eagle lots live and in the raw (so to speak).

I arrived in Orlando Tuesday evening, a quick takeout dinner, early to bed, an early 6:30 wake-up, shave, shower and off to the OCC for 8AM lot viewing. Heritage registration was easy, and discussion with the on-site representative resulted in changing my shipping method to FedEx (my USPS confidence has waned).

The viewing of the McCloskey lots was an absolute learning delight. I had reviewed the McCloskey Half Eagles in great detail, many of the varieties were easily identifiable, the lots in hand generally nicer than the photos. I did note one coin with a scratch not described in the catalog or visible on the photograph, that coin was immediately DQ'd (disqualified).

(Continued on next page)

**Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht cont.**

After the viewing I decided on my strategy, I would bid first an 1835 AU53 HM-2, R3 that I liked very much. The obverse has distinct die clashing below the ear and the coin has nice original surfaces with amber gold toning highlights. If this bid failed, I had 2 more candidates to bid on, an 1836 in AU50 and an 1837 in AU53, each with nice original surfaces.

When the live bidding occurred on the Friday following FUN, I was lead bidder going in, I was bid up another increment and then won the coin.

Success!!! My pre-auction homework had definitely paid off.

Adding the McCloskey pedigree on my new Half Eagle is a bonus. Some (actually many) pedigrees mean very little to me. The McCloskey pedigree is special because of John's expertise and variety attribution work in the series.

I would also like to reinforce the value of the LSCC, in this case the Zoom call was great shared information and was clearly the catalyst for my auction success.

Finally, if you are a new collector and haven't viewed in person, I encourage you to do so. There is nothing quite like going through boxes of rare coins and comparing coins for strike, eye appeal and originality. It's a great learning opportunity.



**1835 \$5 HM-2 NGC AU53
Half Eagle - John McCloskey Collection
Heritage FUN Sale January 2022**



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

McCloskey Collection - Part I

The first offering of the John McCloskey collection was sold by Heritage Auctions on Friday, January 14. The sale was originally scheduled for January 7, to be held as a live event at the Orlando FUN show, but COVID concerns caused a one-week postponement, and the sale was instead held online. In this column we'll review the top ten coins from the sale...

1856-D \$2.50 XF45 NGC CAC. This piece realized \$66,000, a strong price for a dated gold piece. This is a low-mintage issue, with 874 examples struck, of which 50-60 pieces are estimated to survive. Remarkably, only two coins are certified by CAC. Collecting an entire Liberty Head gold series is attempted by only a few. More numismatists elect to collect by Mint, and the Dahlonega collectors clearly showed up when this piece crossed the block. This example was weakly struck – typical for the issue – but the originality was all there.

1870-CC \$10 VF25 NGC. The Carson City Mint struck 1,644 examples of the 1870-CC ten, with an estimated survival of 60-75 coins. The allure of the Carson City Mint coinage is strong, evoking all the mythology of the Old West and its position in American popular culture. The first year of issue (1870), a low mintage, and the presentation in gold, all combined to form a numismatic winner. This piece sold for \$63,014.40. The odd cents in the price realized make me wonder – would Heritage still ship the lot if you short-paid them by 40 cents?

1870-CC \$5 VF25 NGC CAC. This piece, which pairs with the 1870-CC \$10, sold for \$45,600. The Heritage catalog description noted a mintage of 7,675 pieces and an estimated population of 120 pieces. CAC has certified 26 pieces in all grades. This is by far the key to the Carson City \$5 set and attracted a corresponding price. In the current market, any CAC-certified early Carson City gold piece will create substantial bidder activity.



1842-O 25c Small Date AU58 NGC. Finally, a Liberty Seated coin. This piece sold for \$31,200, demonstrating strength in the condition census Seated quarter market. This piece appears to be the third finest known, behind the Gardner (MS63) and Kennywood (MS61) coins. The catalog description speculates that McCloskey cherry picked the coins, and this seems like a good possibility. John did not widely exhibit his coins, probably a wise choice if you've just picked off a condition census piece from an unsuspecting dealer!

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1871-CC 25c Cleaned NGC Details VF. (image on previous page) An exceptionally rare piece, this one sold for \$15,600. This piece presents well despite the stated impairment, with bits of grey retoning scattered on both sides. Perhaps a hundred examples exist, and only a handful show up in the market every year – these tend to be tightly held. John no doubt felt a problem coin was better than none at all, and it's virtually certain he originally acquired this piece for much less than the winning bid.

1874-CC 10c Arrows F12 NGC. (image below) There is a lot to like about this coin. Its status as the key Seated dime issue is obvious, featuring the all-important CC mintmark. Almost as important is the legacy aspect of this piece – John published it in the Gobrecht Journal in 1986, so it likely was in his collection for a long time. Secondly, John's focus for most of his collecting career was on the Seated dimes, which he began collecting in the 1950s. This example realized \$20,400. While not the highest-grossing piece in the collection, I feel this one captures the collector better than most other pieces in the collection. This is probably a good place to point out that all the coins offered by Heritage were slabbed by NGC in special holders recognizing the McCloskey pedigree. Some are bound to be cracked out in time, but I hope the winner of this piece chooses to keep it in the NGC plastic with the special insert.



1797 10c 13 Stars, JR-2, VF25 NGC CAC. John's collecting focus was first Seated coinage, then Bust coinage, then 19th century U.S. gold. This year (1797) represents the second year of the Draped Bust dime issue and comes in two Guide Book varieties – 16 star or 13 star. Combined mintage was 25,361 pieces, with 12 examples of the 13-star variety certified by CAC. This choice example realized \$16,800.

1872-CC \$10 VF20 NGC. Returning to the Liberty gold series, this piece sold for \$16,800. This is another low-mintage CC issue, with 4,600 struck. Although not approved by CAC, this is a decent example with even gold surfaces and no major issues. Indeed, the cataloger described the coin as revealing “seemingly unimprovable eye appeal.”

1836 \$5 HM-9 AU50 NGC. We now move to Classic Head gold. This piece realized \$15,600. The cataloguer noted only six known examples of this die variety, of which this was the discovery coin and finest known. Classic Head gold was John's “white whale,” which he always wanted to publish but never finished. Daryl Haynor had access to John's notes and honored John by using HM (Haynor/McCloskey) numbers to catalog these die marriages in his recent, award-winning book on Classic Head gold.

1838-D \$5 HM-1 AU50 NGC. Another example of Classic Head gold, this piece realized \$15,600. This is a scarce Dahlonega issue with a mintage of 10,583 pieces. The Dahlonega Mint struck Classic Head \$5s only in this year and examples in all grades are highly prized. As typical, curls and stars are softly struck and not fully defined.

That's it for the top ten, which in total realized \$306,614.40. The next group of McCloskey coins sells on February 6, and we'll back next month with further observations on the McCloskey collection.

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1871-CC 25c Cleaned NGC Details VF. (image on previous page) An exceptionally rare piece, this one sold for \$15,600. This piece presents well despite the stated impairment, with bits of grey retoning scattered on both sides. Perhaps a hundred examples exist, and only a handful show up in the market every year – these tend to be tightly held. John no doubt felt a problem coin was better than none at all, and it's virtually certain he originally acquired this piece for much less than the winning bid.

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Of special note are just some of the books in Leroy Van Allen's library:

1993 Hard bound: "The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars" by Randy Wiley & Bill Bugert

1991 Soft bound: "The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters" by Larry Briggs with his personal note to Marilyn Tiernan (past Coin World Collector's Clearinghouse Editor) and Leroy Van Allen

1885 Hard bound: "Visitors Guide to the U.S. Philadelphia Mint" by Smith with over 1900 fine engravings and pictures

1885 Hard bound: "History of the United State Mint" by Evans with pictures of Seated coinage and 1890 Hard bound: "History of the United State Mint" by Evans with Latest Official Tables

1893 Soft Bound: "On the Use of Silver as Money in the United States" by Burnham

(END)



NGC-certified McCloskey Collection that was Featured in the 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 were offered on January 14.

The centerpiece of the collection was 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](#)



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

An Old Friend Returns



1859-O Liberty Seated Quarter PCGS AU53 CAC
Image Courtesy of Gerry Fortin Rare Coins

Building a collection, not entirely unlike life in general, is an exercise in decision making. The number and kind of decisions are literally infinite. Buy. Don't buy. Sell. Don't sell. Go to the show. Don't go to the show. This dealer. That dealer. Etcetera... The cumulative effect of these decisions is what makes each collection, and each collector, unique. A feature (and a bug) of the collection building process is that some decisions will be mistakes. And the decisions that end up being regrettable are, by definition, only apparent in retrospect. No one wants to feel, or to be, wrong. Seasoned "advanced" collectors, however, get that way by making and learning from mistakes. From taking the risks of being wrong. The result is that over time they make fewer bad decisions and experience less fear regarding the mistakes they do make. Good judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement.

The rather general, philosophical discussion above has its underpinnings in personal experience. Purchased coins that should not have been, at least at the price paid. Coins not purchased that should have been, especially at the offered price (never that low again). Coins held tightly within the collection

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that should have been divested. And, by far the most painful, and educational, for me, coins that should not have been sold but were. One of my first lessons in how thin the market and population of choice seated quarters really is came in 2009-2010. I received a catalog from Heritage and, as usual, opened it to the seated quarters. Only to find four coins I had sold in the previous 24 months listed for sale at auction. I will spare you, and myself, the detailed analysis of what they brought at auction versus what I was paid for them.

There have been several specific times, with up to three kids in college at once, that I have failed to manage resources as effectively as I'd have liked and ended up selling coins to raise cash. In retrospect, it would have been better to borrow the money and keep the coins, but I have remained disciplined about not using money I don't have to buy, or to keep, a luxury item like coins. There are a good number of coins I've sold in three specific groups that are unique and apparently irreplaceable and, consequently, have multiplied in market value since being sold. I will focus on one of those.

The 1859-O quarter pictured at the head of this column was spotted in a dealer's case at a show in 2006, certified as AU55 in an old, small, white ANACS holder. It was purchased for what felt like way too high a price at the time. After 11 years as part of my core Liberty Seated Quarter collection, cross over to PCGS AU53, and CAC approval it was consigned to Gerry Fortin Rare Coins (GFRC) in 2017. It sold quickly for notably more than I had originally paid. I have not seen an 1859-O that I consider its equal. Even my own PCGS AU58 / CAC example of the other die marriage does not equal the color and eye appeal of this AU53 specimen. At least it does not appeal to me in the same way that this coin does.

Four years after that sale, the coin came back onto the market in a GFRC auction. Now, I had an interesting decision to make. I had sold it to raise cash. Four years later my cash position was clearly better than it had been. I still had a better (higher graded) example. But...I still had not seen an example of the issue that I find as appealing and really wanted to place the coin back in my collection. So, I bid strongly and purchased the coin in the auction. I expect that I have set two different price records while purchasing the same exact coin. And I don't regret it.

(END)**Announcement: Call for LSCC Hall of Fame Nominations for 2022 (Due by April 15)****Send to: Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com or 215 Pomeroy Drive, Crossville, TN 38558**

Nominator _____ LSCC Member Yes / No

Nominee _____ Provide the following information to assist with selection:

Time as LSCC Club Officer or Leader / Position

Collections Built, including grade and as many specifics as possible

Published Writings (Liberty Seated Books, Articles, etc.)

Club Contributions (promoting or assisting the LSCC in its mission)

Numismatic or LSCC Awards

Miscellaneous Data that might add to Nominee's consideration & Nominators Comments



Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #2



Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the
Seated Half Society

February 2022, Issue #2

Current Membership - 21



1839 No Drapery Pr-62 Liberty Seated Half Dollar (image courtesy of HA.com)

In This Issue:

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***Where's Waldo (Or, Where is Bill Bugert and What is He Up To?)**

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***Liberty Seated Carson City Half Dollar and Liberty Seated Chopmarked Coinage
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*** SHS New Logo**

*** Feature Article – “The Rodney Dangerfield Coin”**

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #2**

SHS President's Letter

Welcome to the second installment of Half Crazy, the SHS's electronic newsletter for Liberty Seated Half Dollar enthusiasts. When we began this club, we hoped that there might be some interest from "Half Dollar guys." Well, I'm pleased and proud to announce that interest has exceeded our expectations. I'm hearing from collectors from all over the country who are interested in joining the SHS. Some who don't as yet qualify, and some who more than qualify. We're trying to arrange to get the latter audited, and into the club as soon as possible. Those that as of yet do not qualify, now have a new goal to attain.

At the top of this newsletter you will see our club's new logo. It was designed by LSCC artist Jim Macor. Jim has done so much for the LSCC; Gobrecht Journal covers, Membership medal and the upcoming 50th Anniversary medal. We are grateful to him for lending his artistic skills to help us brand our new club.

As you will read later in this publication, the formation of the SHS was announced in the E-Sylum. I'd like to thank Wayne Homren for including the announcement of this exciting new club in The Numismatic Bibliomania Society's electronic newsletter.

Also, at the top of this page you will see an 1839 No Drapery Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollar. I have chosen to feature (after the first November 2021 issue's 1878-S show piece) the first issue from each Mint in this first full year of the SHS. They will be featured in order of U.S. Mint or Branch mint opening; 1839 Philadelphia (February), 1840 New Orleans (May), 1855 San Francisco (August), and finally 1870 Carson City (November). I chose a proof coin for this issue because it was most likely one of the very first Liberty Seated Half Dollars ever produced. Also, I wanted to give the proof collectors some special attention.

A reminder, the membership application and excel spreadsheet can be found on the club webpage: <http://lscweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml> which is on the LSCC website. The excel spreadsheet is for prospective member convenience to insure you will qualify for membership before arranging for an official membership audit. We don't want to waste your time or that of the auditors.

Dennis Fortier
SHS President

Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All who qualify are welcome. We hope you will join our association and become a founding member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier
Seated Half Society President
ricajun@msn.com

Verne Pitman
Vice-President
vwpitman@gmail.com

Also, see November 2021 issue for club By-laws and Audit information, or the club website.

(Continued on next page)

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #2**

E-Sylum Takes Notice of a New Club

In the November 21, 2021 issue of the E-Sylum, the announcement of the formation of the *Seated Half Society* that appeared in the E-Gobrecht and the Gobrecht Journal was propagated in the E-Sylum.

The E-Sylum is the weekly electronic newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Wayne Homren, Editor, also took notice of the Gobrecht Journal in that edition.

It seems we are not the only ones excited about this new club!

In the Spring 2022 issue of the Gobrecht Journal, Dennis Fortier will publish the results of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar San Francisco Branch Mint Survey he has conducted throughout 2021. For the full survey results, there is still time to join the LSCC or renew your membership if you haven't already done so.

Where's Waldo (Or, Where is Bill Bugert and What is He Up To?)

I received permission to update all of you on Bill Bugert's progress with his die variety series "A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollars, Philadelphia Mint, Volume 6, 1856 to 1873NA."

Bill is working diligently to get Volume 6 completed. It is an exacting process that is very time consuming getting every photo and every write-up just so. He has hopes of having it ready in time for this summer's ANA Convention. There are over two-hundred die varieties for the period being covered.

Upon completion, Volume 6 will be electronically published on the LSCC website. I am sure Bill feels it is appropriate to give this update in the SHS's Half Crazy. After all, a club for the Liberty Seated Half Dollar enthusiast was his dream.

Liberty Seated Half Dollar, San Francisco Branch Mint, Survey Completed

In the Fall issue #142 of the Gobrecht Journal (November 2021), the results of the Club survey of Liberty Seated San Francisco Half Dollars was published. This marked the first time a survey was conducted focusing on one Branch mint. There were 49 participants in this survey. With the die variety work Bill Bugert has been doing since 2009, it has become necessary to take a closer look into die varieties, and expand on the basic information usually gathered in one of these surveys.

The format used was, first, to complete the date and grade portion of the survey for a full accounting of the Liberty Seated San Francisco half dollars in each collection. Next, members could at their choosing fill out

(Continued on next page)



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the die variety portion of the survey which focused on Rarity 5 and above die varieties.

With this new format it was possible to examine rare die varieties to ascertain if their rarity rating was justified or if a lowering of that rating was possibly called for. In this survey, four die varieties were found to be possible candidates for lowering of their rarity rating.

2004 was the last time this Branch mint survey was conducted. In that survey, 83 members participated. In comparing the survey results from 2004 to this new survey with just 59% of the participants; it was apparent that rare dates have a greater focus for members today. Members reported more of almost every rare issue than were reported in 2004. It is likely that the internet is a boom to collectors in locating these rare dates.

Since the 1878-S Liberty Seated half dollar is the undisputed key to the entire series, it was especially gratifying to see more examples in this survey than in any other previous survey. With Bugert's "Registry of 1878-S Half Dollars" it was possible to determine each 1878-S reported in the survey by exact "BB" number to identify the specific coin.

A new portion of the survey was to rank all complete "S mint" collections. They were ranked with and without the 1878-S. Seven collections were reported as being complete with the 1878-S, and fifteen collections were reported complete without the 1878-S.

A total of 1,814 coins were reported. Surprisingly, 67% of the coins reported were raw. Of the 596 certified coins reported, 80 or 13.4% were CAC certified. Just seven collections reported over 75 coins (25 needed for a complete date set), overall totaling 1,099 coins.

Survey of Carson City and Chop Marked Liberty Seated Coinage

This year a survey of Carson City half dollars is planned as well as a survey of Chop Marked Liberty Seated coinage, including half dollars. The LSCC has never done a survey of chop marked coins before. It is hoped that the response will be worthwhile. The survey form will be in the March issue of the Gobrecht Journal (#143) coming out next month. Responses must be received by July 31 for inclusion in the survey results to be published in November.

1843-P
(image courtesy
of Bing)



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Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #2

A Rogues Gallery of Chop Marked Liberty Seated Half Dollars

continued from previous page images
("Upcoming Gobrecht Journal Teaser")



1859-S Chopmarked obverse and reverse)
(images courtesy of HA.com)



1859-S Carl Feldman Collection



1862-S WB-2 (R-5) The Dennis Fortier Collection
(images courtesy of Bill Bugert)



1870-CC (images courtesy of HA.com)

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Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #2

The full gallery (so far) of chop marked Liberty Seated halves will be in the March issue (#143) of the Gobrecht Journal. Some of these coins are cleaned. All but one of the auction coins sold for a meager amount. The internet photo coins are unknown as to provenance. The 1870-CC sold for \$3,995.

If anyone has any information on any of these coins, or if you have a chop marked Liberty Seated half, please contact me and send photos to ricajun@msn.com, I would like to expand upon this Rogues Gallery.



SHS's New Logo

Thanks to The LSCC's resident graphic designer, Jim Macor, the SHS now has its own Logo! We are very pleased and proud to have this excellent symbol for our new club. Many thanks Jim! Shirts anyone?

Feature Article

The Rodney Dangerfield Coin

1849, WB 6, Dramatically Double Date Half Dollar

(Another "Upcoming Gobrecht Journal Teaser")

"I don't get no respect." That was Rodney Dangerfield's famous catch phrase. Currently, the 1849 Dramatically Double Date Liberty Seated Half Dollar, one of the great die varieties of the series, is not listed in any price guide. Why this is the case can only be speculated about. Market appearances for the 1849 DDD have been infrequent compared to the 1847/6 and 1873 No Arrows Open 3, which are equally rare.

The 1847/6 and the 1873 NAO3 are still listed in the price guides. This non-listing of the 1849 DDD has, I believe, lead to price declines for this issue over the last ten or more years. Collectors with little pricing to guide them have been uncertain as to its value.

Though the 1849 DDD has had far fewer appearances in the market place than the other two die varieties, it is still possible to gauge current pricing with careful study. As to value, when comparing the 1849 DDD to

(Continued on next page)



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the 1847/6 and the 1873 NAO3, the 1849 DDD is a bargain. All three of these important die varieties have approximately 60-70 surviving examples.

In the next issue of the Gobrecht Journal (March #143), I have an in-depth study of market appearances for the 1849 DDD as well as a suggested price guide to assist members in bidding with confidence. This pricing guide was put together by Bill Bugert and myself. If you are not a member of the LSCC, it is not too late to join and enjoy this kind of in-depth information.

Request for content

Any publication is only as good as the content it gets from its members. Articles, stories and photos are welcome and encouraged. Please submit to this editor, Dennis Fortier at: ricajun@msn.com.

(END)

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Ads must include Liberty Seated coins and/or related material.

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Send Ad Artwork or Wording & Payment by the 25th of the month for the next issue by directing inquires to Len Augsburger at: leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com



Reeded Edge Halves

“Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars

by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

Most Recently, I read through the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) INDEX and came across an article by Jules Reiver that appeared in the J R Journal, in their May 1986 issue.

Every Liberty Seated Half Dollar collector should read Jules’ “The Gobrecht Bust Half Dollars”. Jules was JRCS #006 and the greatest die variety collector ever (in my opinion)! Everyone that reads his article will come away thinking “I didn’t know that”.

His article can be found in Newman Numismatic Portal under JRCS, Vol. 1, No. 2, pages 20-22.

Jules also wrote the “Variety Identification Manual” (VIM)’s for Bust Half Dimes (1984), Bust Quarters (1987) and Reeded Edge Half Dollars (1988).

His work on Reeded Edge Halves started when Heritage Numismatic Auctions asked him to attribute Reeded Edge Halves and Bust Silver Dollars in the 1986 “Mid Winter ANA Auction” in Salt Lake City. He purchased several Reeded Edge Halves from that sale.

The thing that caught my eye in his “The Gobrecht Bust Half Dollars” article was that Capped Bust Halves from 1807 to 1836 have 7 stars on the left obverse and 6 stars on the right while Reeded Edge Halves (Gobrecht Halves) have 6 stars on the left obverse and 7 stars on the right.

Later, he pointed out 2 common 1837 die marriages. The first has a bar under the top serif of C in AMERICA on the reverse (see photo at top of next page).

This die variety is known as “Inverted G instead of C in AMERICA”. In 1988, Jules called it 1837 JR-16 when he had his VIM printed. Later, Dick Graham called it 1837 GR-7 when his book “A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars 1836-1839” was printed, in 2012.

The second 1837 die variety has a depressed hole in the upper left portion of the shield on the reverse (see photo at bottom of next page).

Some collectors call this “A Shot in the Back” or 1837 GR-2. Jules called it an 1837 JR-12 when his VIM was printed in 1988. It is rated R-3 (201 to 500 known) by Dick Graham.

If you search for either 1837 GR-2 or 1837 GR-7 long enough, you should find one without paying a premium. They can be found unattributed. These die varieties are also fun to collect in various Die States. They come in Prime, Early Die State, Middle Die State, Late Die State and with CUDs.

In the E-Gobrecht, December 2020 issue, I wrote an article entitled “Reeded Edge Halves are NOT Capped Bust Halves” and thought they should be called “Pre-Liberty Seated Halves”. After reading Jules’ article, I now think they should be called “Gobrecht Bust Halves” or some other name that makes it clear that they were the first coins to have reeded edges. Numismatic News calls half dollars from 1807 to 1836

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1837 GR-7 PCGS AU details Reverse with Circle Showing Inverted G



1837 GR-2 Raw VF30 Reverse with Circle Showing Depressed Hole

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“Capped Bust Half Dollars” and half dollars from 1836 to 1839 “Bust Half Dollars” in their coin prices section. They do not mention “Lettered Edges” or “Reeded Edges” in ANY category.

I consider having “Capped Bust Half Dollars” from 1807 to 1836 as the equivalent of having “Indian Cents” from 1859 to 1909 and having “Liberty Seated Half Dollars” as starting “Lincoln Cents” in 1910. “Liberty Seated Half” collectors are missing the 1909-S VDB of Lincoln Cents by not having “Gobrecht Bust Half Dollars” from 1836 to 1839. And yet most, “Gobrecht Bust Half Dollars” are no more expensive than Liberty Seated Half Dollars.

There are 56 known die marriages of “Gobrecht Bust Half Dollars”. 38 are common, rated R-3 or lower. Since August 2019, I have been publishing Newsletters of the “38 Most Common Reeded Edge Half Dollars” every month by email. My Newsletters contain large photos and other information to help you attribute them.

Currently there are over 100 interested collectors that receive this information free. The January 15th Newsletter had photos and information on the 1838 GR-10 die marriage.

If you would like to receive this information, please send your name and email address to:

Jim Koenings at Bustcoin1@verizon.net

Happy Hunting!

(END)

Important Reminder: 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.



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

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

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Direct inquiries 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.

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org
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.

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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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