

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



Old Railroad Bridge on a Cold day just after a Snowstorm resembles the dark crusty look on a Liberty Seated Half Dollar



← 1866



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:*

*David Durham
Mac Graham
Kurt Kopp
Christopher Lane
Dan Perkins
Jerry Sajbel
George Turner
Micah Uptegrove*

*There are currently
1049 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

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President's Message

Welcome to the March 2022 E-Gobrecht. You'll notice a few changes with this issue – we are shifting feature content toward The Gobrecht Journal and refocusing the E-Gobrecht on items of a timelier nature, including regional updates, auction results, and show reports. Speaking of The Gobrecht Journal, the current issue is rapidly moving through the editorial queue and should be in the mail within a couple weeks. Watch for it, and we'll see you again in this space next month.

Club officers are looking forward to seeing everyone at both the upcoming large, regional Whitman Baltimore Show later this month and the Central States Numismatic Convention near Chicago later in April. All events are listed on page 8. ...*Len Augsburg*

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Editor's View From the Rim

As Ironic As It May Seem...

Collectors of Liberty Seated recognize the historical relevance and lessons of the past as being significant to the current events of the present day, and the international crisis decisions being made every single moment.

Seated or Standing, Walking or her Head Profile, "Miss Liberty" stands for something so important that it can never be ignored or taken for granted. Freedom from tyranny and the rights to an individual's democratic existence and form of government must always be paramount in our minds and never forgotten.

The designs on our own nation's coinage represent a testament and a reminder that our freedoms, our democratic form of government, our peace and security came at a very high price over many years of political struggle and hardship. To not respect American history and not apply lessons learned from that history in our own Country and to a World in crisis is pure stupidity and a form of incompetence. Those who have not learned their own history and understand the lessons of the past, and not taken it to heart should take heed, and should never be in a role to influence or lead others, wouldn't you expect? ...PK

Reminder: Some of your favorite columns and articles are moving over to The Gobrecht Journal magazine including Greg Johnson's Quarter of the Month, John Frost's Double Dime column, Dick Osburn's L.S. Dollar column, and Jim Koenigs' Gobrecht Bust Half column. Don't forget to renew your LSCC membership or start your long overdue membership to get this great publication and member benefit.





Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Baltimore Buzz

It is time once again for the Whitman Baltimore Expo. One of the biggest and best shows of the season. As always, we will have a LSCC/BCCS Club table, meeting, and a Club dinner. This is a wonderful chance to reconnect with friends and fellow club members. You don't want to miss it.

The party starts with members casually stopping by the Club table on Thursday... the table display will be a nice selection of Carson City coinage. The Club dinner will follow that Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. at our usual haunt, The Pratt Street Ale House, diagonally across from the Convention Center main entrance.

Friday morning the show begins in earnest with the LSCC Club meeting at 9 a.m., in Room 301. The meeting will have Club updates and the educational portion of the meeting will be "Carson City Issues of Liberty Seated Coinage". The new Club 50th Anniversary shirts will be on sale (\$35). We have sizes Medium up to 2XL while they last.

(Continued on next page)



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Regional News cont.

The LSCC debuted at the Upstate South Carolina Coin Show in Spartanburg. What a marvelous mid-size coin show. Not only was the show well attended, but patrons were walking the bourse as late as 4:30+ on Friday with a closing time of 5 p.m. Dealers reported the show to be one of the best in some time.

John Frost displayed Charles Barber's personal collection of medals (some made by his father William Barber), as well as John's Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia. Dr. Eugene Bruder stopped by to admire John's display.

Three new LSCC members were signed up as well as two new members welcomed into the Seated Half Society. What fun auditing two fine collections of Liberty Seated half dollars.

(Continued on next page)

Reminder:

If your Annual LSCC dues expired in 2021 (the last Gobrecht Journal issue you will receive was from the past Fall, please renew for 2022 ASAP (and Beyond if you wish). The flyer included with that Fall Gobrecht Journal Mailing has all the details.



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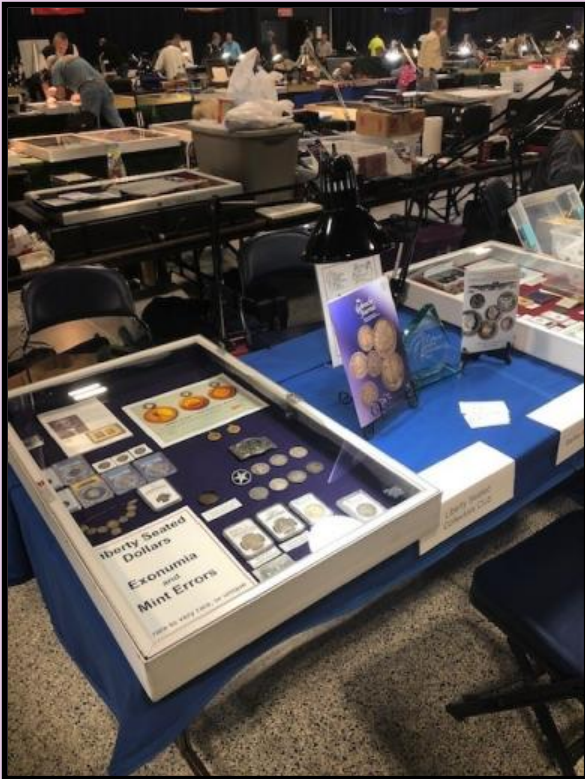
9 AM—6 PM, CST, weekdays



Regional News cont.

Photos from the recent Spartanburg, SC Show

Dr. Eugene Bruder, a long time LSCC member visiting with John Frost at the LSCC/BCCS Club table. Both Dennis Fortier and John coordinated the Club's presence at the two-day event and the Educational Program free to all show attendees.



LSCC Case displaying Liberty Seated Dollar Exonumia & Mint Errors



(END)



LSCC Upcoming 2022 Regional Events Schedule

** Details Mostly Finalized*

***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: “Caron City Coinage” (Hosts: Len Augsburger, Dennis Fortier, John Frost & others)



April 8-10 Georgia Numismatic Assoc. Coin Show, Dalton Convention Center, Dalton, GA - Club Table and Educational Program TBA.

April 15-16 New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo, Doubletree Hotel Downtown Manchester, Manchester, NH - Club Table and Educational Program TBA.

April 27-29 Central States Numismatic Society Convention (CSNS is back), Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL (Chicago area) - Club Meeting, Club Table, Club Dinner and Educational Program TBA.

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

Upcoming Major Coin/Currency Auctions for Liberty Seated Collectors

April 5-8, 2022 - “Spring 2022 Showcase Auction” held in conjunction with the Whitman Baltimore Spring Coin Expo, but to be held in Cosa 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)

Major Auctions by Heritage and Legend are scheduled for the upcoming CSNS Convention in late April 2022.

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.



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The Auction Realm

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

The John McCloskey Heritage Showcase Auction February 6, 2022

John McCloskey served as president of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club for about 40 years and, perhaps even more impressively, he was editor of *The Gobrecht Journal* for the same period. At one of the annual LSCC meetings a few years ago, John talked about his career as a college professor and his avocation as a numismatist. He considered himself to be a numismatist first and a professor second. His dedication to the LSCC was crucial to its survival and success.

John's coins were his research tools. He studied them in detail and authored numerous papers documenting his discoveries. Some of John's most valuable coins were sold in the January 2022 Heritage FUN auction, but the coins in this auction were the heart of his Liberty Seated studies.

All of the coins listed in the following table were from his collection. Many of these coins sold for strong prices because of their rarity and limited availability.

1839-O	half dime	NGC CAC	AU50	\$1,320	Small O
1839-O	half dime	NGC	AU details	\$2,640	Large O V-1
1846	half dime	NGC CAC	VG10	\$2,040	
1853-O NA	half dime	NGC	F12	\$840	No arrows
1864	half dime	NGC	XF45	\$1,440	
1865-S	half dime	NGC	XF45	\$780	
1866	half dime	NGC	F12	\$660	
1839-O	dime	NGC CAC	XF45	\$2,880	Huge O F-108
1844	dime	NGC	VF20	\$420	F-102
1845-O	dime	NGC	VF20	\$505	F-101b
1846	dime	NGC CAC	G6	\$600	
1856-S	dime	NGC	F15	\$840	F-101
1858-S	dime	NGC CAC	XF45	\$2,760	F-103
1863	dime	NGC	VF25	\$1,560	
1864	dime	NGC	MS62	\$3,600	F-102a

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1865	dime	NGC	XF40	\$2,280	
1866	dime	NGC	VF25	\$1,680	
1885-S	dime	NGC CAC	VF25	\$2,400	
1840	quarter	NGC CAC	XF45	\$1,140	B 1-A
1853 NA	quarter	NGC	F15	\$3,120	No arrows, B 1-A
1858-S	quarter	NGC	XF40	\$2,880	B 2-B
1861-S	quarter	NGC	VF20	\$1,920	B 1-A
1867-S	quarter	NGC	VF25	\$1,620	B 1-A
1891-O	quarter	NGC CAC	VF30	\$3,360	B 1-A
1840-(O)	half dollar	NGC	F12	\$480	Med. letters WB-4
1844-O	half dollar	NGC	F15	\$1,200	doubled date WB-16
1851	half dollar	NGC	VF30	\$1,800	WB-1
1852	half dollar	NGC	VF25	\$1,801	WB-2
1855-S	half dollar	NGC	G4	\$576	
1870-CC	half dollar	NGC CAC	G6	\$2,887	WB-2
1874-CC	half dollar	NGC	F12	\$2,640	WB-2
1878-CC	half dollar	NGC	VG10	\$2,640	WB-1
1856	Seated dollar	NGC	XF40	\$4,080	
1862	Seated dollar	NGC	VF25	\$3,120	
1863	Seated dollar	NGC	F15	\$2,040	
1864	Seated dollar	NGC	VF20	\$2,040	

(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

**Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht****Micah Uptegrove (LSCC #2827):**

I want to thank you all for welcoming me into the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. I am new to both the Club and collecting Liberty Seated coins. I have always had my great-grandfather's junk silver collections, but those, or at least the parts I inherited, were mostly worn Mercury Dimes devoid of any real numismatic value. Growing up, I always valued those coins nonetheless, but I didn't have any real means to acquire new coins or even know where or how to do so. So my coins remained locked away for many years until a friend recently re-introduced me to the hobby. My friend is only a collector by the very loosest definition of the word. He would be better described as a serial bargain shopper who bids on hundreds of auction lots and might happen to win one coin out of all those lots. I do make fun of him for that, but I do owe him for reintroducing me to the world of coins.

So in January 2020, I started bidding on junk silver lots myself; although I enjoyed winning more than just bidding. I made quick progress on some series like Mercury and Barber dimes, but I didn't really have any idea what existed before Barber coins. Then I was scrolling through an online auction and saw a 3-ring binder full of over 100 pre-1892 coins. There was a handful of Shield nickels, Capped Bust and old foreign silver coins, but the majority of the coins were Liberty Seated. I thought the collection was one of the coolest I had ever seen, and decided I had to win that binder. I also knew I probably would not have much competition because the one fact I have neglected to mention was that every single one of the coins had a hole in it. I had already learned that the world of numismatics is full of counterfeits. So I figured an album of holed coins would be the perfect way to get my hands on a lot of coins for cheap money. I also figured that it was unlikely that any holed coins would be counterfeits. Although, I've since come to know that is not always the case.

So I put in my max bid and hoped I would win the binder. Thankfully, I ended up winning it for less than \$3 a coin factoring in shipping and fees. So overnight my collection went from practically devoid of older coinage to containing the following: 1 Capped Bust half dollar, 4 Liberty Seated half dollars, 9 Liberty Seated quarters, 4 Capped Bust dimes, 19 Liberty Seated dimes, 5 Capped Bust half dimes and 38 Liberty Seated half dimes.

This served as a wonderful introduction to Seated coinage. I spent hours examining the coins and learning about common and rare dates for each denomination. It was great to be able to look at so many coins without spending much money. Holed coins may have lost most of their numismatic value, but that doesn't mean they have lost their historical value. They are still cool artifacts of American history and I was glad to own them. I still have a lot to learn about Liberty Seated coins, but I look forward to learning from all of you.

I wish I had found the LSCC earlier. I have already found The Gobrecht Journal and E-Gobrecht articles along with the other resources like Bill Bugert's published works to be immensely helpful. I want to thank you all for all the work you have done in creating this Club and its resources, and I look forward to interacting with all of you for many years to come.



Update on the Liberty Seated Half Dime Project

by Clint Cummins (LSCC #2614)

The Liberty Seated Half Dime project is progressing. As of February 7, 2022, here is the latest news I am able to report:

Finished is the 1841-O guide of about one week ago and it's up on the web page.

The goal is to finish about 2 guides per month. Much work has been done over the past 1.5 years including getting images for each die marriage and attributing coins from the photos.

Much "ground work" has also been done including the attribution of some very difficult dates like 1853, 1856 and 1857 that contain so many obverse and reverse die pairings, and not always good coin surface diagnostics to differentiate between the marriages.

The PDFs are still in the process of being created. Probably, the next guide out will be for the 1854-O, as I believe the die pairs have been figured out. No easy task.

[Editor's Note: As you can imagine, the Liberty Seated Half Dime attribution project is a monumental task, and Clint Cummings is creating a reference that is not only long overdue for the denomination, but which is eagerly awaited by all. It is certainly a labor of love. Thank you Clint!]



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



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

John McCloskey Collection Sale - Part II

This month we'll look at the top ten Seated coins sold in the February 6 auction of the McCloskey collection.

1856 \$1 XF40 NGC. This straight-graded piece sold for \$4,080. Coinage of Philadelphia Liberty Seated dollars was minimal in the 1850s, and outside of the 1859 issue, the highest mintage comes in 1857 with only 94,000 pieces. This was not a premium quality example, but, as they say, rarity never goes out of style.

1873-CC T\$1 AU50 NGC. The winning bid for this piece was \$4,080, or more precisely \$3,400 hammer if I'm doing the math correctly. I'll need to work on my 5/6th times tables. Of course, once I get proficient at that, the auction companies will once again increase the buyer's fee. How about this – just increase the buyer's fee to 100%, and then I can divide by two to get the hammer price. OK, enough ranting. The 1873-CC is one of the keys to the Trade dollar date & mintmark set, and clearly there is strong demand for this issue. This piece wasn't 100% original, but John liked rarity and probably did quite well with this purchase.

1864 10C MS62 NGC. The price for this one was \$3,600. This is a tough coin, especially in Mint State. Indeed, this is one of those issues where Mint State examples are preferable to Proofs. The dies are markedly clashed, which I don't care for – I prefer perfect dies. But, for the variety specialist, this is how they come. The dimes were John's first love, so if you bought only one coin out of the sale, this one has a lot going for it.

1891-O 25c VF30 NGC CAC. It took \$3,360 to win this O-mint quarter. Gotta love this one – rare date, choice preservation, and pleasing eye appeal, with no significant stains or spots. This reverse is slightly mottled – a matter of taste if you like it, but most will agree the coin gray obverse with light crust around the stars is a great look. One can't have enough coins like this. The CAC population is 38 pieces, an amazingly low number given the original mintage of 68,000 pieces.

1856-S/S 25c NGC Details VF. This piece sold for \$3,120. This is a quite popular variety, listed in the Red Book with hjg numbers in the price columns. Despite the pieces that were brought up from the *SS Central America*, the market for these remains healthy. I'm sure that John cherrypicked most of the varieties in his collection, and he had to have been happy with this purchase, despite the obvious cleaning.

1862 \$1 VF25 NGC. The damage on this one was \$3,120. You have to love the date, a Civil War issue with a low mintage of 11,540 pieces. The field hairlines on this example are unmistakable, but for those more motivated by history and rarity, the appeal here is obvious. This grade is also tough to locate – most Liberty Seated dollars come around XF and above, as these coins did not circulate widely. This was an unusual opportunity - try finding another straight-graded VF 1862 dollar!



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1853 25c No Arrows F15 NGC. Another coin that sold for \$3,120. Apart from the diagonal hairlines across the lower figure of Liberty, this is a decent example with even gray surfaces and light dirt in the protected areas. Despite supposed hoards (I'm aware of an actual hoard of 30 pieces that was slowly broken up some years ago), this issue has held up and is legitimately scarce.

1853-O 25c Arrows & Rays VG8 NGC. It took \$3,120 to win this lot. This was one of the off-center pieces in the collection, and I think the winning bidder got a good deal on this one, as off-center Seated quarters are virtually never seen. Congrats to the new owner! I'd love to see this one exhibited at an LSCC meeting?

1870-CC \$1 G6 NGC CAC. The winning bid here was \$2,887.20 all-in. This coin is a delight, with warm color and choice surfaces for the grade. It is hard to overstate the charm of well worn, rare Seated coinage that retains significant originality. You do NOT have to apologize for a low-grade coin when it looks like this.

1858-S 25c XF40 NGC. The all-in price was \$2,880. This is part of the 1858-1861 San Francisco run where coins get very tough in EF and above. Indeed, there is only one known Unc. for this issue, which I made Gene Gardner pay dearly for (and he was a gentleman about it, as he always was). This one was a nice example – not quite choice enough for CAC, but definitely on that spectrum.

1839-O 10c XF45 NGC CAC. One needed \$2,880 to take this one home. The large-O is a popular variety, and appears on the Top-100 list. Stars were hand punched on these dies – note how star 1 descends beneath star 13. This was a pleasing example, with coin gray color surrounded by gold and olive patina at the rims.

Well, that comes out to eleven coins instead of ten. The last two were tied at \$2,880 so they both made the cut. [Images of all these coins are available in the HA.com website archives. Go take another look.]

I'd like to close this out by giving props to everyone involved in this sale – Heritage Auctions, and the agents for the McCloskey family, Brad Karoleff and Stu & Maureen Levine. You hear stories in this business about how collections are not well handled, and heirs get the short end of the stick. This sale was handled just about perfectly. Everything was well documented and holdered for posterity. The catalog serves as the definitive record of John's collection, and it will not be hard to trace these coins. The timing of the sale was impeccable, into strong market conditions. While the in-person sale at the FUN show was cancelled, a big coin sale is a little bit like a wedding – you are guaranteed at least one thing will go wrong. That's OK – everyone cooperated to do right by John McCloskey, and the sale results speak for themselves.

(END)





An Overview

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

Most Liberty Seated Half Collectors are unaware of how easy “Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars are to collect. Most collectors can find:

1. 24 out of 25 known, 1837 die marriages
2. 15 out of 16 known, 1838 die marriages
3. 5 out of 8 known, 1839 die marriages

Some collectors avoid 1836 (the first year of the series designed by Christian Gobrecht) since it has a very low mintage and is slightly(?) expensive. (May cost over \$2,000 for a VF specimen.

The biggest challenge may be the fact that 5 of the 6 known die marriages of 1838-O and 1839-O can be very expensive. A PCGS MS63 specimen of 1838-O sold for \$504,000 in a Stacks and Bowers auction held in November 2019. The most common, 1839-O GR-1 die marriage may cost you \$1,175 (Red Book) for a VF20 grade (Red Book says it has a 116,000 mintage).

Some Liberty Seated Half Collectors already have an 1840 (O) WB-4 or 1840 (O) WB-12 in their collection. Both die marriages with an 1840 Liberty Seated obverse have been proven by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert to have a reverse that was left over from a “Gobrecht” 1839 reverse. They proved that it came from the New Orleans mint, but did not have an O mint mark on either side.

There are many “hidden treasures” in the 1836 to 1839 series of “Gobrecht Bust Half Dollars. Last night, I bought one in a Heritage Auction that will cost me \$264. As far as I can tell, it is only the 3rd known. I have found several other “hidden treasures” in this series.

Part of the problem has been collectors lacking information on this series. Jules Reiver wrote the first real book on this series in 1988. It was mostly word descriptions and collectors had a very difficult time and gave up. I know of maybe 3 or 4 collectors that may have continued.

I bought a copy of Jules’ book in November 2009 and with the help of Dick Graham, I believe my collection, today, is the most complete even though I am missing an 1838-O GR-1 and an 1839-O GR-3 (one known). Only one collector has all 56 die marriages. In 2012, Dick Graham printed his book “A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars 1836-1839”. Unfortunately, he only printed 325 copies at that time and had a friend print another 100 copies in January 2018. That reference book is now out of print and is difficult to locate a coveted copy.

In my opinion, the die marriage on the next page is one of those “hidden treasures”. It is one of those “naked eye” varieties where you can see the obvious recutting of the 2nd 8 at the bottom. In 12 years of searching, I have only found 4. It is only rated R-4 (76 to 200 known), but I believe it to be much rarer.



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1838 GR-16 PCGS MS62 Obverse (Image courtesy of HA.com)

Since August 2019, I have been writing monthly Newsletters on the “38 Most Common Die Marriages of Reeded Edge Halves”. My Newsletters contain large photos and interesting information on “Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars. The next Newsletter #35, will contain information on the 1838 GR-13 die marriage. If you would like to receive this information, simply send your name and email address to: bustcoin1@verizon.net

Happy Hunting!

(END)



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

National Officers

President

Leonard Augsburger
leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com

Vice President

Dennis Fortier
ricajun@msn.com

Secretary

Jeff Ball
jeffballphoto@gmail.com

Acting Treasurer

Leonard Augsburger

National Positions

Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor

Len Augsburger, John Frost
& Greg Johnson
leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com

E-Gobrecht Monthly Newsletter Editor

Paul Kluth
e-gobrecht@msn.com
P.O. Box 275
New Windsor, MD 21776

Membership Chairman

Carl Feldman
carlscoins@gmail.com

Education Director

John Frost
john.frost@doubledimes.com

Team Leader - Regional Directors

Dennis Fortier
ricajun@msn.com

Director - Southern Region

Jeff Ball
jeffballphoto@gmail.com

Director - Northeast Region

Joe Casazza
jsazza236@gmail.com

Director - Western Region

Brian Cushing
bpcushing@gmail.com

Director - Central Region

Dennis Fortier (Acting Dir.)

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.

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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