

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

See Page 5 about these “Stellar” coin images





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:*

*Doug Bohlman
Dan Cassia
Jeremy Eaton
William Harkins
Glenn Magelssen*

*There are currently
1357 active
Subscribers to
E-Gobrecht & counting
including **295+** local
coin clubs across the
country*

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 May edition of the E-Gobrecht. Blooms are appearing here in Chicago (later than in other parts of the country) and the earth is waking up from its annual hibernation. Fetching the coin-related items from the mailbox no longer requires an overweight parka, and wildlife is again out in the open, causing their usual disturbances to residential real estate.

Fortunately the LSCC stays more active year round, and we have a dynamic team of volunteers, including your E-Gobrecht editor Paul Kluth. Enjoy this month's issue, and we'll see you again next month ...*Len Augsburger*



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Editor's View From the Rím

And now a Special Outreach to Editors of Local Coin Club Newsletters...

It has long been recognized that local coin clubs across the country are generally focused on growing interest in the numismatic hobby within their communities, providing a social activity for members and sharing knowledge and experiences among colleagues besides the typical buying, selling and trading of coins and currency among members.

Three other areas of endeavor in particular always seem to be a top priority for most clubs whether they are small or large in membership size, regional in nature, or are of a specialty area focus (like Liberty Seated series collecting).

The #1 Priority always seems to be getting more members of the club engaged in actually helping out with administrative responsibilities on a consistent basis. Usually it is just a few members or officers who do most of the work for the club and not enough other members come forward to volunteer and help out. Also, too few members tend to provide the educational programs needed for others to enjoy.

The #2 Priority is of course attracting young people to the club as members. This priority is certainly the #1 for the numismatic hobby overall if the hobby is to endure well into the future. It is even a bigger priority than say fakes & counterfeits, overgrading & grade-flation, and coin doctoring.



The #3 Priority is the important need these days for local clubs to have a viable website and club newsletter for its members. At times, clubs struggle with finding a capable member with the time, desire and ability to create and manage their club website, and to find the same capable type of member to publish their club newsletter.

Like all these priorities, there are challenges! But putting together a club newsletter with fresh information and engaging articles each period, not to mention its design and layout can be a difficult task for the chosen volunteer given the responsibility.

There may be a general hobby support solution for club newsletter editors on the way... please read further details on page 15.

...PK



On the Front Cover of this month's E-Gobrecht

There actually must be something to it?... that the colors in the universe as seen through the Hubble Space Telescope can match the natural toning and rainbow patina on attractive, original high-grade Liberty Seated Half Dimes!

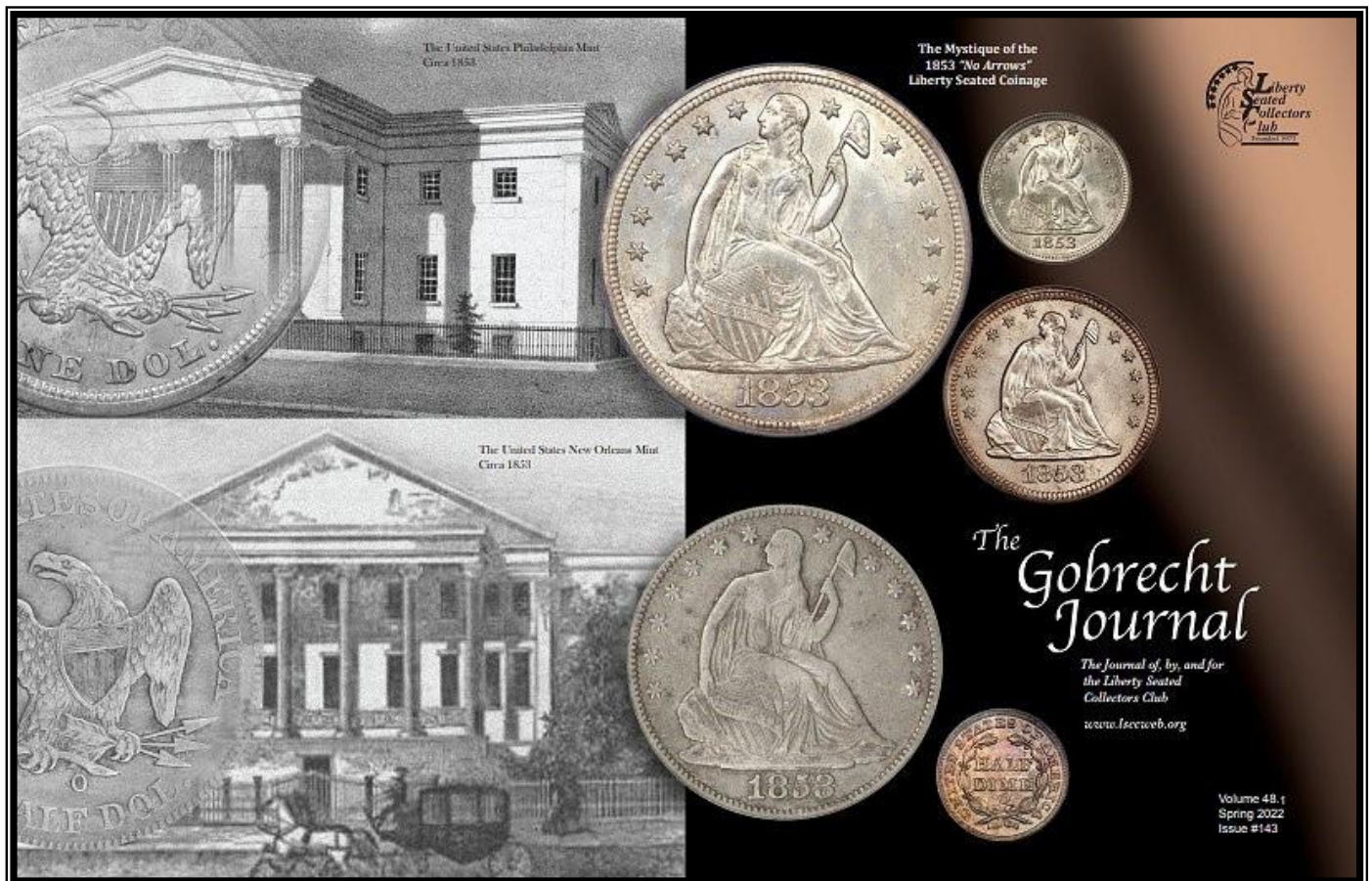
“Stellar” (and literally speaking)... are these two Half Dimes from the Alan Welty Collection:

An 1861 V-1 NG MS-67 w/ both obverse & reverse images

An 1838 V-5 PCGS MS-63 w/ both obverse & reverse images

Half Dimes are only small in comparison to the universe, not our admiration of them as a highly collectable 19th century U.S. coin denomination!

Btw, that is the ‘Ring Nebula’ in the far distant background so many lightyears away.



(Continued on next page)



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Central States is Back!

The recent Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS) show, resuming after a three year pandemic-related break, has always been one of my favorite events on the annual coin calendar. In his later years John McCloskey attended only two major shows each year—this, and the ANA summer convention. As a result, the LSCC has always had a strong presence here, and this year was no exception. Dennis Fortier capably managed the Club table (shared with the Barber Coin Collectors Society), which was sandwiched between the Chicago Coin Club and the American Numismatic Society, and traffic was active throughout the three-day convention.

CSNS is a low overhead event for me. I live 25 minutes away, the parking is free, and it's a short walk from the parking lot to the show floor. No dank parking garages or long walkways are involved, and the CSNS organizers ensured the constant presence of a manned squad car in the parking area. It really doesn't get much easier than that.

The only hiccup encountered was a python-length registration line on Thursday morning, which took about 20 minutes to get through. A distraught dealer, who had flown in for one day, greeted me upon entering the convention center and asked me if the line was really that long. Sadly it was. CSNS President Mitch Ernst did his best and personally apologized to many of those waiting. Other than that, everything was smooth sailing, and I have no doubt the CSNS staff will work out the kinks for next year. It should be noted that this year's event was essentially built from scratch, as the CSNS board had transitioned to a new show management team, headed by Larry Shepherd.

Once inside the show, action was abundant, and every dealer I spoke to reported healthy activity. The exhibit highlight was the Heritage Auctions display of the Tom Bender collection, which will be offered at the summer ANA. Tom exhibited highlights several years ago at Seated Fest II (held March 2019 in Baltimore), including the unique 1870-S half dime, which was on display here as well. The Bender collection includes a strong selection of important Seated coinage (I could mention the 1870-S half dime and stop there) that is especially notable for Carson City pieces. Great Collections also had an exhibit, combining an 1804 dollar, 1913 nickel, 1894-S dime, and 1943 copper cent. While none of the coins were Liberty Seated, it's difficult to walk by such a group without taking a long look.

We held the LSCC Club meeting at the usual appointed time of 9am on Friday. I counted 25 people in the room, a good turnout for this event. Lianna Spurrier captured the Club meeting on video, which will be posted in due course. I presented on my collection of First Steam Coinage



(Continued from previous page)

medals, which were also on display at the LSCC Club table (see page 11). The 1836 commemorative piece, engraved by Christian Gobrecht, marked the introduction of the steam press into the Mint, an important step forward in the technology of our national coin factory. Several variants of the medal exist, with varying dates and compositions. I've had fun collecting these over the last 15 years or so, and was fortunate to acquire the collection of a like-minded enthusiast at the 2021 Summer FUN show.

The show ended (for me) on Saturday afternoon with a brief chat with the always-engaging Brad Karoleff, who reported that Heritage Auctions would be making gifts to both LSCC and the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) in memory of John McCloskey. It was a fitting and welcome tribute, all the more so because of John's traditional presence at the CSNS show.

(END)



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Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

The LSCC Keeps Getting Invited to Coin Shows

July was expected to be a fairly quiet month for the Regional Team with just Bay State on the calendar. At Central States however, we were approached by the organizers of the July Cincinnati show. Our participation in the presentation program was being solicited. After personal arrangements were made, it was agreed to attend the show with a Club table and an educational program.

May will see Dennis Fortier at the Gallatin, TN show May 20-21. Dennis will display Carson City Half Dollars at the Club table and give a presentation on Liberty Seated Carson City Coinage.

April was a super busy month as you will see below:

April 8-9: The Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show, Dalton (GA) Convention Center. Ken Otto and Dennis Fortier represented the Club for the first time at this fine regional show. Ken displayed some of his Liberty Seated Half Dollars for the first time.

April 15-16: The New Hampshire Coin Expo, Manchester, NH. Joe Casazza the Northeast Regional Director (The NERD) hosted the Club table. Mark Archambeault, a Carson City specialist, displayed some amazing Carson City coins and exnumia.

(Continued on next page)

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Regional News cont.

April 28-30: Central States Numismatic Society Convention and Coin Show, Renaissance Schaumburg, IL. Club President Len Augsburger hosted the Club table and educational forum. Ken Otto, Craig Eberhart and Dennis Fortier also manned the table. The show was well organized and a pleasure to attend. Len displayed some high grade Liberty Seated Quarters as well as a fine collection of 1836 Steam Press tokens. Len also gave an informative presentation on these same Steam Press Tokens.

May 1: The Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club Annual Show, Norwich, CT. LSCC member and Seated Half Society Vice-President Verne Pitman hosted the LSCC Club table. Verne displayed Liberty Seated Half Dollars, the Ultra-low Mintage years 1879 thru 1890, as well as the four collectable regular issue Twenty-Cent pieces, the Double Dimes of 1875-1876.

50th Anniversary gold polo shirts are very popular and selling quickly. Get yours soon!

Photos from the recent CSNS Convention in Schaumburg, IL



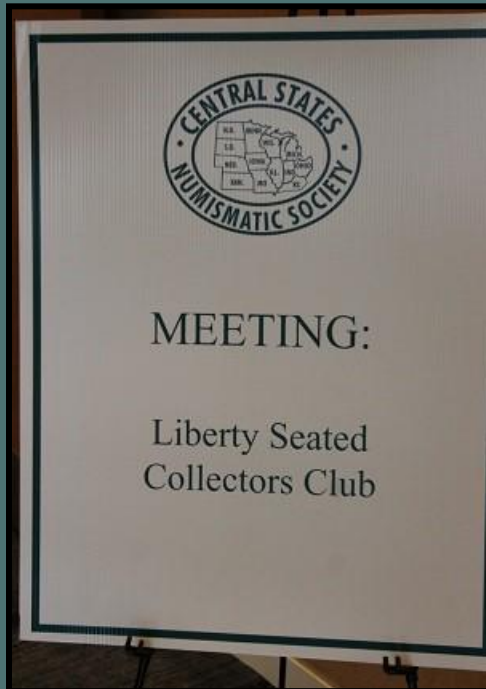
That 50th Anniversary Gold is getting contagious! Some familiar faces in that group.

Images on next page show an engaged audience with the speaker, and Club signage and banner.



Regional News cont.

LSCC images from the recent
Central States Numismatic Society Convention



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Regional News cont.

Club Table views and more



(Continued on next page)



Regional News cont.

Club Table views and more



(Continued on next page)



Regional News cont.

And more views



David Kahn of David Kahn Rare Coins, one of the perennial favorite dealers among L.S. collectors



Long Registration lines on Thursday



Lianna Spurrier of Numismatic Marketing who videotaped the Club meeting and Len Augsburg

Previous page images: Len's exhibit of First Steam Coinage medals and LS Quarters

Set of 4 CC LS Dollars at the table of Legend Numismatics

1878-S LS Half offered by Kedzie Coins

Mega-rarities exhibited by Great Collections including a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel, an 1804 Dollar, an 1894-S Barber Dime and a 1943 Copper Cent

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LSCC Upcoming 2022 Regional Events Schedule

** Details Mostly Finalized*

*** May 20-21 The Gallatin Coin Show, TN** at the Gallatin Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Avenue - Club Table and Educational Program (Host: Dennis Fortier)

June 9-11 Whitman Baltimore Summer Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore MD - Club Meeting and other TBA. No Club table.

July 7-9 F.U.N. Summer Convention, Orlando, FL - Full details to follow.

July 29-30 Baystate Coin Show - Full details to follow.

August 16-20 ANA World's Fair of Money, Rosemont (Chicago), IL - Full details to follow.

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



*** 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.

LSCC Member Application Form at:

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





**New Networking Group for
Editors of Local Coin Club Newsletters
Presented by Paul Kluth, Phil Vitale and Greg Burns**

For about a year now, there has been a small group of newsletter editors from various coin clubs across the country that have shared amongst ourselves our published monthly newsletters, and shared both ideas & tips for improving the product of our efforts for the benefit of club members and improving our own skill sets with the publishing tools at hand.

It is also a way to share news and educational articles relevant to our own clubs that might only get published locally, but worthy of a larger audience for those authors.

This all started because Phil Vitale, President of the Albuquerque (NM) Coin Club and Editor of their monthly club newsletter "Pocket Change" presented a class for the ANA Educational Forums on the serious topic of improving Club Newsletters. Pocket Change also won "Best Club Publication" from the ANA's Literary Awards before the pandemic.

Here's the big question: As a club newsletter editor, would you be interested in being a part of this group? We could have periodic Zoom Meeting conference calls with training, troubleshooting and great idea sharing on topics of importance to you with the goal of making your job as an editor a little easier.

In addition to myself and Phil Vitale, Greg Burns, Editor of the "California Numismatist" for CSNA & NASC, Len Augsburg of the Newman Numismatic Portal and other club editors are interesting in supporting such a specialty group as organizers and mentors. Organizing ideas are flying off the shelf!

If interested, contact Phil Vitale at moneyman75x@outlook.com
or Paul Kluth at e-gobrecht@msn.com

(END)

**JRCS Zoom Meeting this month for all
U.S. Bust Coin Series Enthusiasts - Educational Program**

Wednesday, May 18 7:30 pm EST

Besides updating collectors on what is going on with Bust Coins in this vibrant coin market with Brad Karoleff, Steve Herrman will give a talk about the new book published by the Bust Half Nut Club - "Die State Progressions for Capped Bust Half Dollars, 1807-1836" (First Edition)

Also, if you like cuds and terminal die states, there will be an update about the Bust Cud Project

All are Welcome! To sign up and to get the Zoom meeting link, please email:

jrcsweb2@gmail.com



The Auction Realm

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

'Abigail Collection' of Liberty Seated Half Dollars

On April 5, Stacks Bowers Galleries auctioned an extensive selection of Liberty Seated half dollars from the Abigail collection. Unless I missed a coin or two, twenty half dollars were graded as choice AU (AU55 or AU58) and all sold for strong prices. These coins are listed below along with the values as published on the PCGS website in early April. Many of the coins sold for prices comparable to the PCGS values, coins with CAC green beans generally sold for more than the PCGS values, and a few sold for exceptionally higher prices. These included the 1840-O, 1857-O and 1864-S that brought prices comparable to MS63 retail values.

At the recent Central States Numismatic Society Annual Convention, I had the opportunity to talk with Mark Feguson about the PCGS Price Guide. He regularly reviews recent auction prices for PCGS coins, including Seated half dollars, and updates the PCGS Price Guide as needed. This auction might precipitate some additional PCGS price increases!

Date	Variety	PCGS Grade	Sale Price	PCGS Retail Values			
				AU55	AU58	AU58+	MS60
1840-O	WB-5	AU58+ CAC	6,600.	750.	1250.	1750.	2500.
1842 small date	WB-6	AU55	780.	900.	1250.	1500.	1750.
1842 med. date	WB-14	AU58 CAC	1380.	750.	1000.	1100.	1250.
1842-O med. date	WB-4	AU58	1800.	1250.	2000.	2250.	2500.
1844	WB-13	AU58 CAC	1080.	550.	750.	800.	900.
1846 tall date	WB-17	AU55 CAC	900.	850.	1400.	1500.	1600.
1846-O med. date	WB-1	AU58	2160.	750.	1500.	1750.	2000.
1848	WB-13	AU58	1920.	1000.	1250.	1350.	1500.
1853	WB-101	AU55 CAC	1140.	1100.	1500.	1600.	1750.
1854	WB-101	AU55 CAC	528.	500.	600.	650.	750.
1857-O	WB-6	AU58+ CAC	4200.	800.	900.	1000.	1750.
1859-O	WB-5	AU58 CAC	900.	500.	650.	700.	900.
1860-O	WB-7	AU55 CAC	660.	500.	650.	700.	750.
1864-S	WB-1	AU58 CAC	3840.	1750	2000.	2250.	2500.
1870-S	WB-4	AU58 CAC	5280.	1250.	2250.	2500.	2750.
1871-S	WB-5	AU55	720.	600.	1000.	1100.	1250.
1875	WB-101	AU58 CAC	1080.	400.	450.	475.	500.
1876	WB-101	AU58 CAC	1020.	400.	450.	475.	500.
1878	WB-101	AU55 CAC	1050.	600.	650.	675.	700.
1884	WB-102	AU55	1080.	1600.	1750.	1800.	1850.

One group of coins I missed this month was the Karl Moulton 1849 Reference Collection. These U.S. coins were sold in the April Stack's Bowers Collectors Choice Online Auction. His collection included 90 lots of 1849 coins, 25 of which were Liberty Seated coins.



LSCC returns to ANA Summer Seminar!

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the ANA Summer Seminar is back and the LSCC is presenting two classes at this premier event, one during each session. Summer Seminar is held adjacent to ANA Headquarters at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

Session 1 is June 18-23 and Session 2 is June 25-30. Both classes have limits on the number of students, so reserve early. The course catalog and registration information may be found at the ANA website, www.money.org/summer-seminar.

Session 1 - June 18-23 - Course #9

Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage (back by popular demand!)

This course features interactive discussions on many topics, including the history and development of Liberty Seated coinage, evolution of the designs, and grading, including the nuances between series.

The core of the class features a deep dive into each of the seven series: half dimes, dimes, twenty-cent pieces, quarters, halves, and both Liberty Seated and Trade dollars.

These deep dives entail *hand's on inspection* of many coins in all grades in all series, and will include in-depth discussions into collecting strategies, key dates, major varieties, and variety attribution. Historical perspectives on various topics will be offered throughout the course. Students will have access to both reference materials and sit-down guidance from instructors throughout the course.

Instructors: John Frost (LSCC Education Director), Len Augsburger (LSCC President) and Craig Eberhart (Auction column, noted New Orleans coinage expert).

Session 2 - June 25-30 - Course #32

The Legacy and Coinage of Father-Son Mint Engravers William and Charles Barber

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

Deep dives entail *hand's on inspection* of many coins in all grades in all series, and will include in-depth discussions into collecting strategies, key dates and major varieties.

In addition, we will explore the patterns and mint medals created by these prolific engravers, along with their designs of commemoratives and coins of other countries that were made under contract with the U.S. Mint.

Instructors: John Frost, LSCC Education Director and Barber Coin Collectors' Society President, and Glenn Holsonbake, Americana Rare Coin.

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



Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #3



Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the
Seated Half Society

February 2022, Issue #3

Current Membership - 26



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

1840-O MS-63 Liberty Seated Half Dollar (image courtesy of HA.com)

In This Issue:

SHS President's Letter

- Carson City Survey underway
- Chopmarked Survey underway
- The Case of a Strange 1872-CC Half Dollar
- Ranking the Most Important Die Varieties of The Liberty Seated Half Dollar Series
- Feature Article – Guest Columnist, LSCC member Edward Van Orden:
Two New Die Varieties Discovered at PCGS, The 1843-O WB-19 and the 1867-S WB-11.

(Continued on next page)

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #3****SHS President's Letter**

Welcome to the third installment (second of 2022) of Half Crazy, the SHS's electronic newsletter for Liberty Seated Half Dollar enthusiasts. The SHS continues to roll with enthusiastic Liberty Seated Half Dollar collectors lining up to be audited for membership. Our only hold up is arranging for audits with our far flung LSCC members. The current SHS membership total is 26. That was my personal goal to be reached by the end of 2022, which means we are way ahead of schedule.

As our membership grows it becomes easier to find an SHS member in the area of a prospective member so the audit can be conducted more conveniently. I am happy to say that each SHS member that I have contacted to do an audit has readily agreed to do the audit.

What a pleasure it is for us to audit these fine collections. And the prospective SHS member has the pleasure of showing his collection. Taking it out for some air so to speak. How often do we get to do that? These fine (expensive) collections we have built seldom get seen.

At the top of the first page you will see an 1840-O Liberty Seated Half Dollar, the first year of the New Orleans Branch Mint. As I stated in the last issue of Half Crazy, I am featuring the first issue of each of the four mints this year. Philadelphia started us off in the last issue, and San Francisco will be honored in the next issue.

This month we have our first guest columnist. LSCC member and PCGS numismatist Edward Van Orden has agreed to and provided a fresh write-up on the two new Die Varieties that were discovered at PCGS earlier this year.

Bill Bugert has written a piece about the SHS in his up-coming book, "*A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Vol. VI, Philadelphia Mint 1856 to 1873 No Arrows Open 3*". His dream of a Seated Half Dollar club, that was contagious to me, is a reality and he couldn't be more pleased. Especially since he doesn't have to do the work! We'll forgive him though, as he has, and is, doing so much for our Seated Half Dollar collecting pursuits and the coins we love.

A reminder, the membership application and excel spreadsheet can be found on the LSCC 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 LSCC members who qualify are welcome. We hope you will join our association and become a founding member of the Seated Half Society.

(Continued on next page)

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #3**

Carson City Half Dollar Survey Underway

In the March issue of the Gobrecht Journal, the survey form for Carson City Half Dollars was sent to all LSCC members. This is the second survey in the planned series of Half Dollar surveys by Mint. In addition to the basic ten coin set there are thirty-two Rarity 5 die varieties listed for members to complete. Carson City coinage has a loyal following and it is hoped that this will result in a larger response from LSCC members.

As in the San Francisco survey we plan to list and rank complete (ten coin) collections as well as any special die variety collection submitted. The San Francisco set had the famous 1878-S, the Carson City set has its own special issues: the 1870-CC, 1874-CC and the 1878-CC. These three are some of the most difficult issues of the entire series after the 1878-S.

The deadline for submission is July 31. Please take the time to respond to this fun and informative survey.

Chopmarked Liberty Seated Coin Survey

Also in the March issue of the Gobrecht Journal was a survey form for all denominations of Liberty Seated coinage with Chopmarks. The Trade Dollar is famous for them, but other denominations of Liberty Seated coinage are also known with chopmarks. Liberty Seated half dollars are scarce with chopmarks, and Liberty Seated Dollars are rare with them. We hope to discover other denominations with them if they exist.

This is the first time the LSCC has done a survey of chopmarked coins. It should be exciting.
The deadline for submission is July 31. Please take the time to respond to this fun and informative survey.

The Case of a Strange 1872-CC Half Dollar

This strange 1872-CC Half Dollar was shown to us at Central States, across the Club Table. Note the "W TO," Sun-bleached(?) onto the coin. No it is not on the slab, it is on the coin. One theory is a piece of white paper with typing on it, was placed over the coin while it was in the sun. The Sun toned the coin through the white paper, while the black type interrupted the toning process and left the letters untuned.



(Continued on next page)

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #3****Ranking the Most Important Varieties
of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar Series****A Coin Box of 20**

(Based on Rarity, Notoriety, and Eye Appeal)

1. **1853-O No Arrows and Rays** - 4 known (Not Collectable)
2. **1842 Small Date/Small Letters** - 4 known (Not Collectable)
3. **1849/1849 Dramatically Doubled Date** - est. pop. 60-70. One of the three great collectable varieties of the series.
4. **1847/6** - est. pop. 60-70 (EDS with the under date). Another of the three great collectable varieties of the series. It is also has a double die obverse.
5. **1873 No Arrows Open 3** - est. pop. 80. The third of the three great collectable varieties of the series. A combination of two design changes made this short lived design possible and also rare. The Closed 3 looked to some like an 8. It was decided to open the 3. Soon after the first minting of the Open 3, a weight change led to Arrows being added next to the date. Owing to that weight change, many of the Open 3 No Arows half dollars were melted before being issued.
6. **1874-CC Railroad Track Reverse** - est. pop. 50. The 1874-CC is a rare issue to begin with. There are approximately 300 total survivors for this date. The Railroad Track Reverse represents 17% of that meager total.
7. **1875-S Micro S** - est. pop. 50-60. Rare and popular.
8. **1876 Large over small date** - Low R-6 perhaps high R-5. Visible even in low grade. Popular.
9. **1842-O Small Date** - Two R-5 die marriages. Most consider both are necessary for a complete set.
10. **1840 (O)** - A mule, Seated Obverse paired with Bust Reverse. Two die marriages one R-6 and the other R-4.
11. **1844-O Double Date** - Moderately scarce, extremely popular. Iconic variety of the series.
12. **1841-O Baseball Die Crack Reverse** - Est. pop about 50. Rare and popular.
13. **1861-O CSA Obverse** - Common, but historic and popular.
14. **1846-O Tall Date** - Most consider it necessary for a complete set.
15. **1846 Over Horizontal 6** - Popular

(Continued on next page)

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #3**

16. **1865/1865 Double Date** – Very Scarce and sought after.
17. **1873 Quad Stripe Double Die Obverse** – Scarce
18. **1874 Large over Small Arrows** – Scarce
19. **1866-S No Motto** - Available in all grades below XF, but necessary for a complete set
20. **1839 No Drapery** – Common, overpriced due to type collectors, but necessary for a complete set.

Feature Article

Two New Liberty Seated Half Dollar Die Varieties

By Edward Van Orden

"Every day in the PCGS grading room is another day of potential opportunities to discover a new variety. Recently, a near-complete set of circulated Liberty Seated half dollars came in for attribution. Seeing a set of any series is always fun, but considering the number of die varieties that already exist in the Liberty Seated half dollar series gives one a tad more hope that maybe, just maybe, there's at least another one out there that hasn't been spotted yet. Equipped with Bill Bugert's books (all of which he generously posted at <http://www.lscweb.org/BillBugertBooks.php>, we eagerly plunged into the set and were able to match virtually all of them to a known die combination. There were two, however, that prompted a second look: the 1843-O and the 1867-S.

For the 1843-O, we matched the mint mark placement to that of "Reverse E" (WB-10, WB-11, and WB-12). We also matched the die cracks at "DO" and "D ST" present on a later die state (LDS) used for WB-11. In our correspondence with Mike Perkins, he wrote, "For a die sequence, I would say that the reverse die is after WB-11, but before WB-12 due to the state of the die cracks." The date, however, did not quite line up with any of the obverses associated with these varieties ("Obverse 6" [WB-10], "Obverse 7" [WB-11], and "Obverse 5" [WB-12]), so we curiously looked through our database to see if perhaps we had an unattributed example of this die pairing. To our delight, we found one – and with matching obverse die crumbling from 7:00 to 2:00, to boot!

Next up was to check the '43-O obverses in Bill's book to see if there was a match. When we got to WB-16, the date on the submitted coin appeared to line up with that of "Obverse 9." The upper die crack on the rock support connected to the drapery (under the lower left half of the shield) as well as a die polish line directly below the sandal also matched. The crumbled obverse rim and two die polish lines in the 7:00 to 2:00 area, however, were not pictured, suggesting that perhaps the unattributed and submitted coins may have been a later die state than that photographed in Bill's book. Fortunately, in our correspondence with Bill, he confirmed, "The date placement is the same and a few die lines

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confirm it. The die cracks are not all there, but that is to be expected with different die states. I listed the latest die state I knew in my book." So, with Bill's and Mike's approval, we had a new die marriage: WB-19 (9-E)!

Now for the 1867-S. The degree to which the "S" was rotated clockwise and the horizontal die line through the eagle's left wing made it easy to identify the "A" reverse. It also appeared to be a late die state (LDS) with the die crack from the eagle's right wing tip through the arrow shafts. Since "Reverse A" is only used with die variety WB-1, one would expect to see "Obverse 1" (also only used with WB-1). The date, however, did not line up. With "Obverse 3," however, the date seemed to line up perfectly and the die crack through the foot and base was there. There was also a notch/inner die cud in the drapery above the top-left center of the shield. We went through the PCGS database and found two other coins with not only the same notch but also with the identical date placement as well as the die crack through the foot and base. Could we have stumbled upon another new die combination? As with the 1843-O, we reached out to Bill and Mike to see what they thought. Mike emailed back, "I would say that this marriage falls in between WB-1 and WB-3, as the obverse is an earlier die state than WB-3 but the reverse is a later die state of WB-1." Bill responded with, "I think it is a 3-A also. Nice-looking coin, and it will be assigned 1867-S WB-11 as a new die marriage."

How about that! Not one but TWO new Liberty Seated half dollar varieties! Perhaps something like this won't happen again for quite some time here at PCGS, but then again... it could happen today.

Special thanks to Steve Feltner, Phil Arnold, Bill Bugert, and Mike Perkins for their expertise, and enthusiasm!

Edward Van Orden , LSCC #2750

Detailed Images with Key Attribution Diagnostics on next page.

All Photos courtesy of PCGS

Request for content

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

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1843-O WB-19



1867-S WB-11



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Apparently a Lack of Information

“Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars #4

by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

PCGS Registry has a category entitled “Capped Bust Half Dollars Reeded Edge Basic Set, Circulation strikes 1836-1839”. Under “Current Finest List” it lists 23 collections with the Number 2 Set containing the following:

1836 Reeded Edge	=	MS64
1837 Reeded Edge	=	MS66
1838 Reeded Edge	=	MS65
1839 Reeded Edge	=	MS65
1839-O Reeded Edge	=	MS66

For a comparison, the Number 13 Set contains the following:

1836 Reeded Edge	=	F15
1837 Reeded Edge	=	VF30
1838 Reeded Edge	=	VF35
1839 Reeded Edge	=	VF35
1839-O Reeded Edge	=	F15

And the Number 23 Set had:

1837 Reeded Edge	=	AU53
1838 Reeded Edge	=	AU55
1839 Reeded Edge	=	XF45
1839-O Reeded Edge	=	XF40

The positioning depended on a point system where the rarer dates like 1836 and 1839-O received more points than 1837, 1838 and 1839 so if you were missing 1836 you lost a lot of points. Higher grades also affected the point system.

Every LSCC collector should have at least an 1837, 1838 and 1839 Reeded Edge Half.

Lack of information appears to be the biggest problem in collecting “Gobrecht” Reeded Edge Halves. Since August of 2019, I have been sending Newsletters of the “38 Most Common Reeded Edge Half Dollars every month. Last month (April) I suggested LSCC members look for the 1837 GR-5 die marriage (Very common). I saw at least 6 specimens offered on eBay. The obverse of 1837 GR-5 is important since it was previously used on 3 other die marriages.

If you would like to learn more about “Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars, I suggest the following:

1. Sign up for my Newsletters by sending me your name and email address to:

Bustcoin1@verizon.net

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2. Buy the following die marriages:
- A. 1837 GR-5 (discussed in April)
 - B. 1838 GR-11 or GR-12 (see photo below)
 - C. 1839 GR-4 (will be discussed in June)



1838 GR-11 and GR-12 Reverse

On the above specimen, there is an obvious die break from the eagle's middle talon that goes between A and L of HALF, and continues to the rim. I saw (7) GR-11's and (3) GR-12's on eBay last month. Anyone signing up for my Newsletters, this month, will also receive Newsletter #34, that contained large photos and information on 1838 GR-11 that was emailed on February 15, 2022.

Happy Hunting!

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Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Leonard Augsburger
leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com

Vice President

Dennis Fortier
ricajun@msn.com

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jeffballphoto@gmail.com

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National Positions

Gobrecht Journal Publication Editors

Greg Johnson, John Frost
& Len Augsburger
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, (Ken Otto, at-large)
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

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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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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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