

E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

2023 Volume 19, Issue 6 June 2023 (Whole #221)

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





1840 No Drapery PCGS MS 68 CAC L.S. Half Dime on page 10





Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

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Welcome to the following new LSCC Member(s) this month:

Evan Kopald

There are currently

1388 active
Subscribers to E-Gobrecht
& counting including
282 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 <u>not</u> 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 June 2023 edition of the E-Gobrecht, your monthly compendium of the latest Liberty Seated goings on. As always, a big thanks to Paul Kluth, our compiler-in-chief.



As I write this (Memorial Day weekend), the summer is approaching fast with the usual events on the agenda. We'll be offering the Liberty Seated class at the ANA summer seminar in a few short weeks, and of course the ANA convention in Pittsburgh follows in August. In the meantime, enjoy this issue, and I hope to see many of you this summer. ...Lew Augsburger





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Editor's View From the Rim

Personal Policy on Acceptance of Gifts as an Example for Others to Follow ...PK

"I had laid it down as law for my conduct while in office, & hitherto scrupulously observed, to accept no present beyond a book, a pamphlet, or other curiosity of minor value; as well to avoid imputations on my motives of action...". See Len's Column in this issue starting on page 11.



Liberty
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Collectors
Club
Posseled 1973
1973-2023

Large and bright tokens celebrating LSCC's 50th Golden Anniversary will be passed out during the Annual Meeting at this year's ANA Summer Convention in Pittsburgh or sent to members at no cost with their Summer Gobrecht Journal.









Seated and Bust coins our speciality, quality and eye appeal our focus.

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<u>Wanted</u>: Display collections and unusual Liberty Seated items for our 50th anniversary display at the Pittsburgh ANA in August. The Club needs Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, and Dollar collections... whole or part. Errors, varieties, books (especially Blythe's Half Dime book), or anything unusual is needed. Contact <u>Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com</u>



Barber Coin Collectors' Society



BCCS Club Meetings, Club Table and Educational Programs are routinely held at most of the LSCC coin show events, and their table is usually right next to the LSCC Table for your convenience.



Regional News by Ken Otto, LSCC #2674

Regional Team Leadership Changes/Start of Summer

As noted in the May issue of the *E-Gobrecht*, Regional Team member Ken Otto is taking over as Regional Team Leader from Dennis Fortier. Ken is a dedicated Liberty Seated collector and has been a member of the Regional LSCC team for several years. He is interested in all Liberty Seated coins with a particular focus on quarters and half dollars. It is a pleasure to take on this responsibility for the Club and I want to thank Dennis for his many past, present and future contributions to the Club. If any Club member has any comments or questions regarding LSCC regional activities, please contact me by email or phone.

As most of us know, there is a general slowdown in the coin market that occurs during the summer months as many industry participants take time off for vacations and other summer activities. Despite this general trend in the coin market, the LSCC Regional team will still be quite active over the next few months.

The LSCC Regional team will be at the <u>Tarrytown Coin and Collectables Fair</u> ("Coins, Coffee and Conversations") on June 3 at the Sheraton Tarrytown Hotel in

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Regional News cont.

<u>Tarrytown, NY, 600 White Plains Rd</u>. John Frost will host the Club table at this event.

Coming up on June 16-18 is the Raleigh Money Expo. at The Exposition Center (NC State Fairgrounds), 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC. John Lundsten will host the Club table at the Raleigh coin show.

During the last week in June, Len Augsburger, John Frost and Craig Eberhart will serve as instructors for a course entitled <u>"A Collector's Guide to Liberty Seated Coinage" at the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, CO on June 24-29</u>.

The first coin show that the LSCC team will be at in July is the <u>Alabama Numismatic Society Convention to be held at the Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 9th Ave., Bessemer, AL on July 7-9. Dennis Fortier will host the Club table at this event.</u>

The LSCC Regional team will be participating at the <u>Bay State Coin Show on July 28-29 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post West, Marlborough, MA</u>. This is the 60th anniversary of this coin show. John Frost and Joe Casazza will host the Club table.

The highlight of the LSCC regional summer activities will be at the <u>ANA Worlds</u> Fair of Money to be held in Pittsburg, PA (David Lawrence Conventional Center; 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd.) on August 8-12. In addition to hosting a Club table and participating in a Club meeting, the LSCC is planning to have a **50**th Anniversary Open House at this event.

* * * * *

LSCC participated in the <u>Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club's annual show in Norwich CT on May 7</u>. Verne Pitman hosted the Club table and displayed his New Orleans half dollars.

See image next page...



Regional News cont.



Vern Pittman New Orleans Half Dollars on display at the PVCC

Dennis Fortier set up at the <u>Gallatin show on May 12 at the Gallatin Civic Center in Gallatin, TN</u> which is near Nashville. The new LSCC "50th Anniversary" table cover (see the picture on next page) made its debut at the recent Gallatin coin show.

Here's Dennis's report from the Gallatin show: "Owing to a personal situation, I was unable to attend the Gallatin show on Friday. I set up on Saturday and was only there for two and a half hours when another situation arose and it was necessary for me to leave the show. This was very disappointing as I enjoy the show and look forward to seeing all my Tennessee friends there.

For the short time I was there, the new Club table cover made its debut, and as you can see from the photo it looks great. These table covers

(Continued on next page)



Regional News cont.

should make a real splash at the ANA; and beyond that with the Regional team.

Finally, I want to thank Ken Otto for stepping up and becoming The Regional Leader. I'm sure we all wish him every success and look forward to his contributions.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club "Rock Solid and well built for years to come"







The Auction Realm by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

May 2023 Activities - Bender Collection

The Bender Liberty Seated Half Dimes: The unique 1870-S half dime from the Bender family collection was sold in the January 2023 FUN auction for a bit more than three million dollars. However, it is not the only exceptional half dime in the Bender cabinet. Virtually every date in the series, and in the Bender Family Collection, is represented by one of the finest examples known. The Bender Seated half dimes in the May CSNS auction included other rarities and some high-grade examples as listed below:

1840 no drapery	PCGS MS68 CAC	\$42,000
1840-O with drapery	PCGS MS62 CAC	\$12,600
1846	PCGS MS63	\$43,200
1846	PCGS XF45 CAC	\$5,520
1853-O no arrows	PCGS MS65+ CAC	\$60,000
1855-O	PCGS MS67+ gold CAC	\$48,000

The Bender 1840 no drapery half dime is shown below.





Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Part V of the Bender Collection, to be sold in August, will include additional Liberty Seated half dimes. These coins can be viewed at the ANA's World's Fair of Money to be held in Pittsburgh August 8-12.





The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Christian Gobrecht Presents a Walking Stick to Thomas Jefferson

An extract from the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for 1921 sets the stage for this month's investigation:

"Samuel Sower was not the constructor of that watch on the head of a walking stick, which I mentioned in my other letter. Christopher Gobrecht, now of Philadelphia, an ingenious artist and engraver, was the constructor of that watch, Gobrecht was then engaged in the Baltimore foundry. Gobrecht presented that cane to Jefferson, while president. Jefferson offered to pay him for it. This affronted Gobrecht. But Jefferson informed him he accepted of no gifts, and on that ground could not receive it as a voluntary present."

Extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof, so let's dig in and ask some questions.

Who wrote this? The author was William McCulloch, a Philadelphia printer active in the early 19th century. The quote above appeared in McCulloch's correspondence with Isaiah Thomas, who wrote the two volume History of Printing in America in 1810. The extensive correspondence from McCulloch to Thomas was not published until 1921 in the American Antiquarian Society Proceedings.

Does the Isaiah Thomas volume include this story? It does not. This is not surprising as McCulloch was reacting to the Thomas volume and would not have repeated a story from Thomas.

Who was Samuel Sower? McCulloch identifies Sower as the owner of a Baltimore type foundry as of 1806 and indicates that Gobrect worked for Sower. This fits with the known facts – Gobrecht was born in Hanover, PA in 1785 (some sources give 1784) and worked for a short time in Baltimore before permanently moving to Philadelphia in the early 1810s. We know that Gobrecht delivered type punches to the Mint in the 1820s prior to his eventual appointment as second Engraver in 1836.

What do we know about walking sticks? Walking sticks were frequently topped with ornamental objects such as medals, or, in this case, a watch.

Is there related correspondence? The Founders Online site, which has captured extensive correspondence related to the Founding Fathers (including Jefferson), contains no mentions of Gobrecht, or Gobright (an alternative spelling sometimes seen). If Gobrecht's offer was in writing, it was not captured in Jefferson's extensive correspondence.



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(Continued from previous page)

Where was Jefferson at this time? Jefferson was president from 1801-1809. Was Jefferson visiting in Baltimore, or was Gobrecht in Washington? We have no indication of where this supposed interaction took place.

Is there a walking stick at Monticello? There is, and the documentation behind it is thorough (https://www.monticello.org/research-education/thomas-jefferson-encyclopedia/bone-walking-stick/). To summarize, Jefferson received the stick in 1805, which was "capped & painted with gold very handsomely embost [embossed]." It was a gift from John F. Oliveira Fernandes, a Norfolk physician and wine merchant (an interesting combination, this) from whom Jefferson had purchased wine for Monticello. Jefferson acknowledged the gift in writing on February 28, 1806 (https://founders.archives.gov/?q=fernandes&s=1111311111&sa=&r=16&sr=).

Did Jefferson have a policy on accepting gifts? On April 18, 1806, Jefferson wrote to Levett Harris (an American diplomat) "I had laid it down as law for my conduct while in office, & hitherto scrupulously observed, to accept of no present beyond a book, a pamphlet, or other curiosity of minor value; as well to avoid imputations on my motives of action...." (full text at https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/99-01-02-3593).

Did Gobrecht have other Presidential contact? In 1823, after the death of the Engraver Robert Scot, Gobrecht appealed, unsuccessfully, to President Monroe for the position. This written communication survives. The position of Mint Director has always been a political appointment, and political connections constitute valuable currency in that context.

The skinny: We can't say for sure, but I'm inclined to believe that Gobrecht did in fact offer a walking stick to Jefferson, who evidently judged the included watch as exceeding a "curiosity of minor value." Gobrecht may or may not have been motivated by politics, but having friends in high places never hurts.



LSCC Upcoming 2023 Regional Events Calendar

* Details Mostly Finalized

See More Show Details starting on Page 6...

* June 16-18 Raleigh Coin Club Annual Money Expo, Exposition Center, NC State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC - Host is John Lundsten, Club table with Liberty Seated coins on display

July 7-9 <u>Alabama Numismatic Society Convention</u>, Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 9th Ave., Bessemer, AL. Dennis Fortier will host the Club table.

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



Christian Gobrecht

(Continued on next page)

50 Years

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Name			
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Email			
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LSCC Member Application Form also at:

http://www.lsccweb.org/LSCC Membership.pdf

Fill in the above information and send this application with payment to:

New member join date	Amount Due	Full Color Gobrecht Journals To be sent to the new member
January thru March	\$30	3 (March, July, and November)
April thru July	\$20	2 (July and November)
August thru December	\$10	1 (November)

Liberty Seated Collectors Club c/o Craig Eberhardt, Secretary P.O. Box 1386, Los Alamos, NM 87544



LSCC 2023 Regional Events Calendar Cont.

* Details Mostly Finalized

July 28-29 <u>Bay State Coin Show</u>, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post West, Marlborough, MA. Hosts are John Frost and Joe Casazza at the Club table.

August 8-12 ANA World's Fair of Money annual

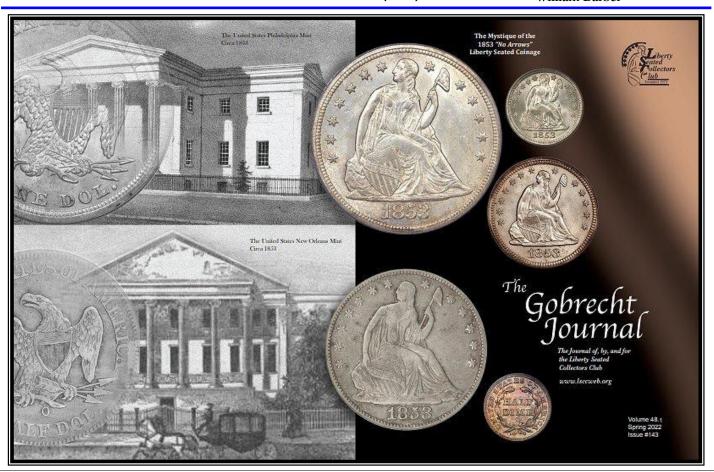
<u>convention</u> in Pittsburgh, PA - LSCC & BCCS annual meetings and major 50th Anniversary activities planned including an <u>Open House Celebration on August 11 at 3 pm in Rooms 408-409</u>. The LSCC <u>Annual Meeting will be on August 12 at 9 am in Room 326</u>.

September 25-27 (New) Westchester Annual Coin Show, Tarrytown, NY at the Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Road - Host is John Frost, Club table

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



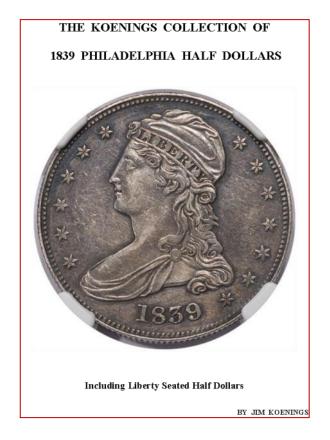
(END) William Barber





PRESS RELEASE (May 12, 2023):

New Book on 1839 Half Dollars is Now Available By Jim Koenings



The above photo shows the cover page of my new book on 1839 Half Dollars. To the best of my knowledge this new book is the only complete collection of all 15 die marriages for the year 1839. This book has all 8 known die marriages of 1839 Capped Bust Reeded Edge Half Dollars including the highest graded certified specimen of 1839 GR in NGC AU50. It also includes all 7 Liberty Seated Half Dollar die marriages.

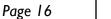
I have been a member of John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) since June of 1986 and a member of Liberty Seated Coin Club (LSCC) since November 2020. I bought my first Reeded Edge Half Dollar in November 2009 and by November 2017, I had 53 of the 56 known die marriages. Since then, I have become a very serious die state collector and believe my collection of Reeded Edge Halve is the most complete in the world.

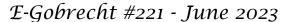
In August 2022, I purchased my first 1839 Liberty Seated Half Dollar, an 1839 WB-6 in PCGS XF45 in a Heritage Auction and hoped to find the remaining 6 die marriages in the same grade. That didn't happen. However, eight months later, I did find them in reasonable grades and they are now shown in my new book.

It has been 11 years since Dick Graham printed his book "A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars 1836-1839". Things change, rarities change and new information has been learned.

This book "The Koenings Collection of 1839 Philadelphia Half Dollars, including Liberty Seated Half Dollars" is my attempt to inform all collectors of the opportunities available for the year 1839. It includes numerous die states of 1839 die marriages including newly discovered information on 1839 GR-8's with greatly Rotated reverses.

(Continued on next page)







PRESS RELEASE CONT.:

The book also covers the history of previous authors and includes extra large photos of each obverse and reverse (6" in diameter). It is 8.5" x 11" and has protective Mylar covers along with spiral binding that allows you to open the book and lay it flat to see both pages of a particular die marriage. There are more than 71 pages plus indexes and a total of 65 extra large photos.

It is now available to LSCC members for \$39 plus \$4 for shipping and handling. Only 100 copies have been printed. If you would like a copy, please send a check or money order to:

Jim Koenings P.O. Box 2382 Riverside, CA 92516

If you would like your copy sooner, you can send payment of \$43 through Paypal to my email address of:

bustcoin1@verizon.net.

Happy Hunting and thank you!

(END)

PRESS RELEASE (June 2023)

By Weight, Not by Coyne - An Introduction to Chopmarked Coins W. Taylor Leverage

As the world opened up in the Age of Discovery, new trade routes were drawn across oceans, establishing the first truly global commercial networks. Luxury goods from China, European governments, and new trading powerhouses came together to lay the foundations for modern-day corporations and international politics. At the heart of this commercial revolution was silver, the only means of exchange that found acceptance at every port - massive quantities of the metal, taken from the Spanish American colonies and ports across the world, became the lifeblood of commerce around the globe, particularly in China itself.

Much of the silver that made its way to Southeast Asia bears marks of its time spent there - chop marks, private countermarks indicating acceptable silver content. Long dismissed by many collectors as simple damage, chop marks have since gained a much more consistent following as artifacts of trade, and both the diverse range of host types and the unique histories associated with them - both of which are found in this book - make them a fascinating area for collectors.

Featuring more than 300 images, *By Weight, Not by Coyne* explores the history of foreign silver in China and the coins that were actually used in trade, covering more than 35 countries and hundreds of types. The commercial and political context of each type is paired with rarity ratings and auction appearances, which makes the book a useful tool to both the researcher and the collector in this traditionally overlooked area of trading history.

Paperback, 269 pages, ISBN: 9798378776290 For more information, or to order, see: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C79L8GCT, W. Taylor Leverage, Tel: (410) 708-6795



'Gobrecht' Bust Half Dollars

Annoucement: 'Top 25 Rarest Reeded Edge Half Dollars & More by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

On January 15, 2023, I will start a New Series "The Top 25 Rarest Reeded Edge Halves", starting with the 25th Rarest and continuing monthly until I reach the No. 1 Rarest.

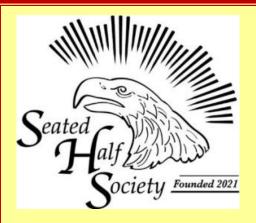
Other articles will appear in The Gobrech Journal from time to time, but not E-Gobrecht.

To learn more about Reeded Edge Halves or to ask questions, contact Jim Koenings below.

If you haven't done so, now is the time to sign up for our Complimentary Monthly Newsletters (past & present) by sending your Name and e-Mail Address to:

bustcoin1@verizon.net





Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the

Seated Half Society

Society hits Milestone of 31 Founding Members in first year



To receive the Half Crazy Newsletter for free and for further information about the SHS or questions about Liberty Seated Halves, please contact Verne Pitman or myself.

Dennis Fortier SHS President ricajun@msn.com Verne Pitman Vice-President vwpitman@gmail.com





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Dennis Fortier (email above)

LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: www.lsccweb.org
LSCC email address: lscc@lsccweb.org

LSCC Membership Information: Dues are bargain priced at \$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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