



E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

2024 Volume 20, Issue 3
March 2024 (Whole #230)

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



Celebrating Presidents Day, February 19, 2024





Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



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*E-Gobrecht's
20th Year
2014-2024*

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

*Marco De Maria
Troy Fullwood
Andrew Veety*

*There are currently
1484 active
Subscribers to E-Gobrecht
& counting
including **361** local coin
clubs across the country*



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 LSCC and 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 our “presidential-themed” March issue, in honor of the February 19 President’s Day. If we published an audio version of The E-Gobrecht, we’d be queuing up “Hail to the Chief” at this point. In this issue, John Frost has an article on William and Charles Barber’s connections to U.S. presidents, while I’m contributing the same for the Engraver Christian Gobrecht.

The Chief Engraver was traditionally appointed by the U.S. president, no doubt a point of pride for those so named. In modern times, the Mint Director selects the Chief Engraver directly. The work is the same either way, but it would be a lot more fun to come to work when you have a presidential appointment document hanging in your office! In any case, enjoy this issue and I will “see” you next month ...*Len Augsburger*

Next Zoom Meeting is on April 16, 2024 at 9 pm EST
Clint Cummins will be speaking about Liberty Seated Half Dime Varieties
Everyone is invited to attend: <https://wustl.zoom.us/j/5086565637>



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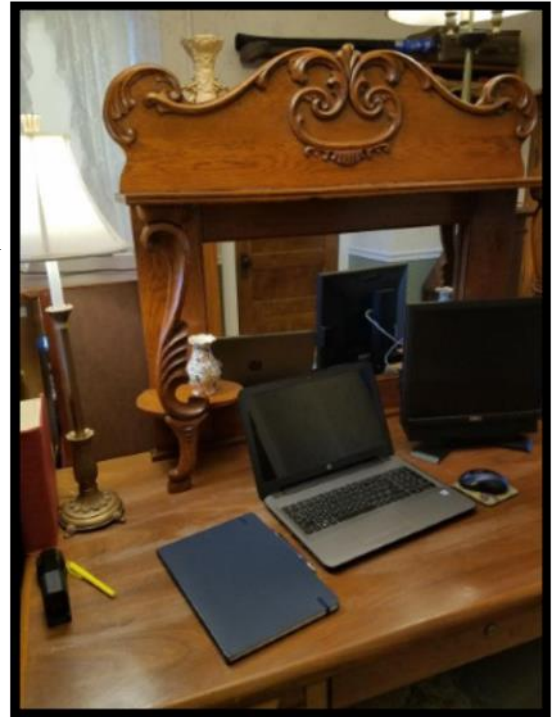
9 AM—6 PM, CST, weekdays

Editor's View From the Rim

Presidents Day ...PK

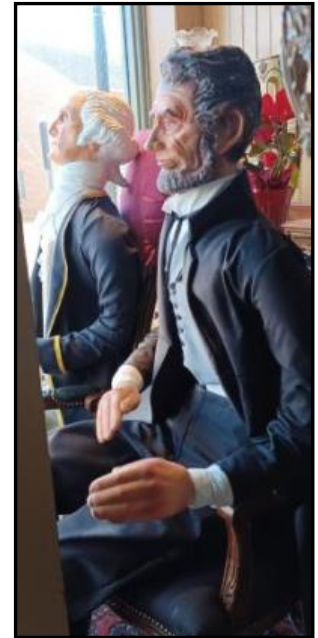
Last month our country celebrated an important, historical 'government' holiday on Monday, February 19th.

Despite being just another major retail & online Sales day event on the annual calendar, and a fortunate extra day off of work for Federal, State and Local government workers; it is an important time to remember all our U.S. Presidents who made their contribution to our country's heritage. Presidents like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Monroe, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, just to name a few, all significantly contributed to preserving our democracy and the freedoms we so often take for granted.



This month we focus just a little on remembering the importance of our heritage and the history of just a few U.S. Presidents from the perspective of Chief Engravers Christian Gobrecht and William Barber in their designs of U.S. Medals and Patterns.

See pages 7-14 in particular.





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Special Note: LCSS Annual Membership Renewals are now due,
if your membership expired in 2023.

(See your insert in the latest Fall issue of The Gobrecht Journal
and please don't forget to vote for the Annual Awards)

The new website which is now also functioning,
can be used by all members to pay their dues:

<http://www.lscweb.org/Renew.shtml>



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

Letter(s) to the Editor:**1848-O V-5 Liberty Seated Half Dime****by Stewart W. Jones, LSCC #052 & the ANA**

It was great to see the 1848-O V-5 Small o half dime in AU 58 on Page 26 of The Gobrecht Journal #148 written by Craig Eberhart. This is the die pairing where the small o is located left of center in relationship to the knot of the bow. It is substantially more rare than the small o that is well centered above the knot of the bow.

For years, I had wondered about the origin and ultimate destination of the Bill Harmon coin for this same date and die pairing. Bill's coin was a high grade piece but spotted on the obverse.

It is not surprising today that the piece was purchased by the late Stephen Crain at the Long Beach Heritage Auction in the Fall of 2005. The late Stephen Crain, to my knowledge, assembled the largest Liberty Seated Half Dime accumulation known in the hobby. He studied a great diversity of coins.

The V-5 die marriage is truly very rare in any condition and in AU 58 has no apparent rival. Regrettably, I have acquired just two lesser grade specimens in 50 years of searching. Oddly enough, I have actually owned more 1839-O Large O pieces than 1848-O V-5's. Coincidentally, the first better grade 1839-O Large O half dime I owned came out of St. Louis.

In May of 2023, I read my copy of the Numismatist and noted Craig Eberhart's fine article about the New Orleans Transitional Coins. I have often wondered whether the re-use of leftover reverses at the New Orleans Mint (both small and large O reverses) is somehow linked to periodic and ongoing outbreaks of yellow fever in the city.

But perhaps more intriguing is the use of inert organic solvents to remove the spots on the former Bill Harmon coin. I fully did not recognize the piece as the former Harmon coin.

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The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Christian Gobrecht & George Washington

Our editor asked for some "presidential" content this month, honoring President's Day on February 19. With respect to the Liberty Seated era, presidents didn't appear on our coins until 1909, the centennial of Lincoln's birth. Similarly, the bicentennial of Washington's birth led to the new quarter design in 1932. Christian Gobrecht's most significant presidential connection came in the form of his Engraver's appointment in 1840. Gobrecht's Mint appointment document, signed by Martin Van Buren, today resides in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Gobrecht's title was not "chief" Engraver, a title which came later, as the appointment document simply states "Engraver". The Mint was small enough at the time that most of the engraving work could be accomplished by a single individual.

Gobrecht's earlier connection to presidential culture comes in the form of three (or four?) copperplate engravings of George Washington. Washington was a popular seller, a good subject for aspiring artists. Rembrandt Peale made multiple copies of his famous "Porthole" depiction of Washington, a good living in the days when there was no easy way to reproduce works of art in color. The most significant of the Gobrecht Washington engravings is this so-called

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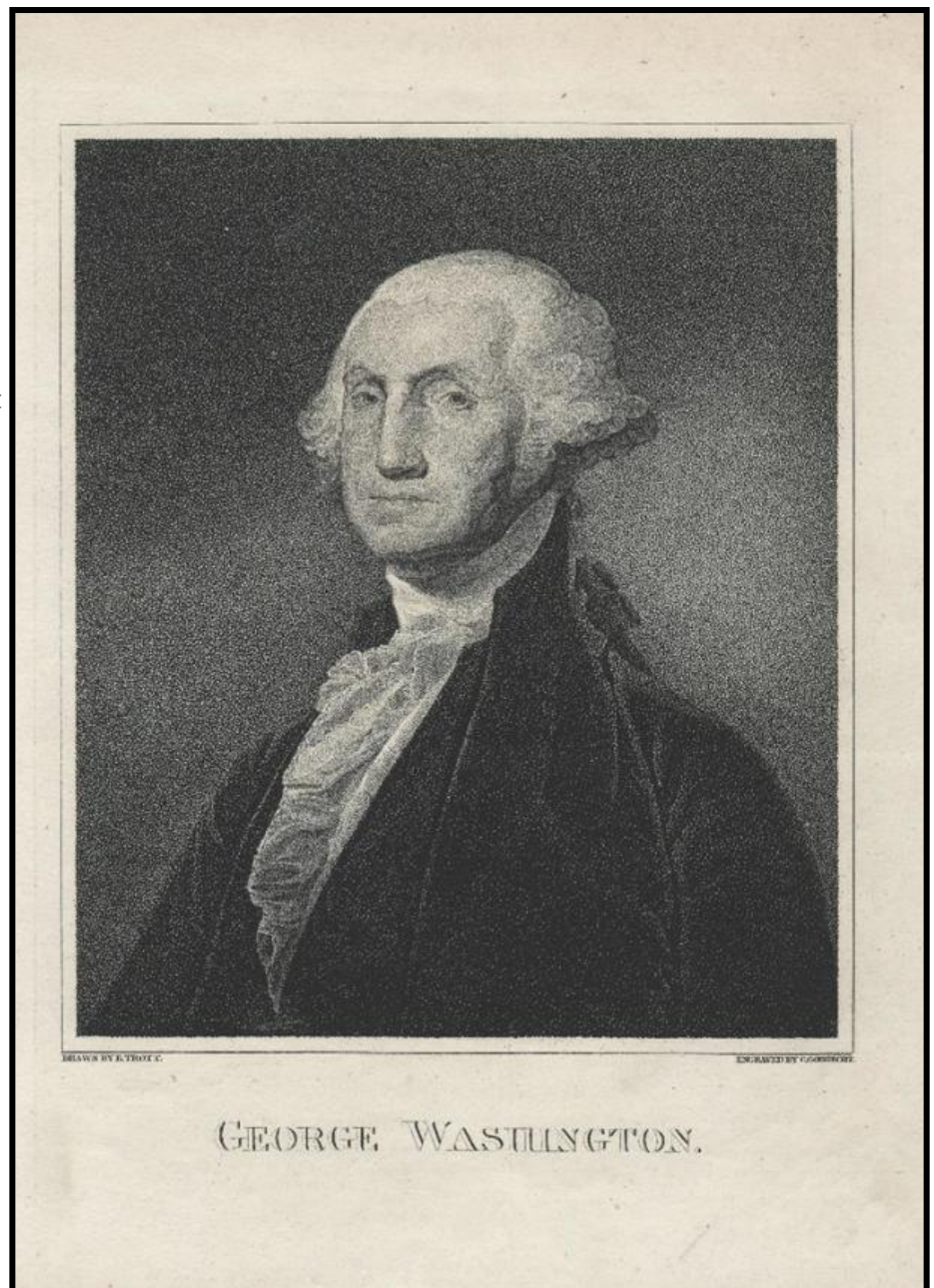
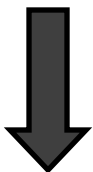


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"Athenæum Head" that dates to about 1820. The Athenæum Head, credited to Gilbert Stuart, is of course ubiquitous today from its adaptation on the one-dollar bill. If the Lincoln cent is the most reproduced medalllic work of all time (billions of copies every year), the Washington one-dollar bill might well be the most reproduced portrait on paper.

Notice in the lower left corner the artist's credit "Drawn by B. Trott." Gobrecht generally didn't do his own artwork, although he was certainly capable as a sketch artist. He preferred to work from finished art and then adapted that to other media, either print engraving or medalllic form. This Washington portrait appeared in the American edition of Rees's Cyclopedia, a multi-volume affair that was published serially from 1806 to 1820. The engraving served as the frontispiece for the first plate volume in the series.

Gobrecht's first engraving of Washington appeared in Baltimore, 1810, there published in John Kingston's New American Biographic Dictionary. Washington was naturally accorded the most print space in this collection of biographies. The engraving is signed "C. Gobrecht Sc [sculpsit]." This engraving is not Gobrecht's best work, which clearly improved over time. A copy of this print, donated by Roy Ash to the LSCC fundraiser auction in 2021, drew spirited competition between this writer and a leading collector of Washingtoniana, who drove up the final price to \$400.25. The odd 25-cents came when the auctioneer (Brad Karoleff) attempted to make the winning bidder bid against himself for a final increment. This writer allowed that he would pay \$400.25 but not \$425.

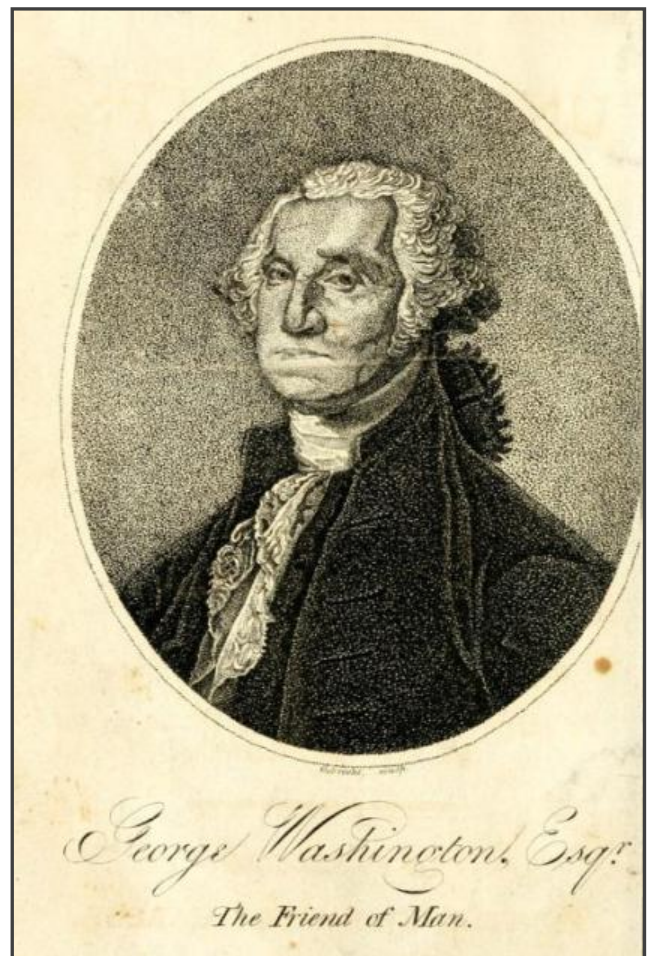


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Gobrecht tried again the following year, with this engraving that served as the frontispiece for *The Constitution of the United States According to the Latest Amendments*, published in Gettysburg, PA in 1811. This one is a bit more statesmanlike than the first attempt, although Washington seems a bit disgusted with the portraitist, as if to say "get this over with, I have more important things to do than sitting for a picture."



The final "mystery" Washington engraving comes in the form of the Hanover Numismatic Society club medal for 1972. The Hanover club issued an annual series of medals, from 1966 to 1980, honoring Christian Gobrecht who was born in Hanover, PA in 1785. All of these medals ostensibly draw from Gobrecht's work, but there are two pieces in the series for which I have not been able to locate the original sources. This 1972 medal possibly copies a Gobrecht engraving, but I am as yet unable to confirm this. Note that Washington is

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in profile, which suggests that this rendering was taken from a medal. However, there is no known Gobrecht medal that features Washington. The Hanover club is today defunct, so unfortunately there is no ready answer there. The hunt continues!



(END)

Famous Image: General Washington / painted by Gabriel Stuart, 1797; engraved by James Heath Historical engraver to his Majesty, and to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, from the original picture in the collection of the Marquis of Lansdown.



U.S. Mint Engravers & Presidents by John Frost - LSCC #2005

James Longacre and William Barber, and the Presidents



In keeping with this month's President's Day theme, Len Augsburg discussed Christian Gobrecht's efforts engraving presidents in the previous article. This article features the engravers who followed Gobrecht.

James B. Longacre (Engraver 1844-1869)

In Liberty Seated coinage, Longacre is best known for his "cereal wreath" reverses on half dimes and dimes beginning in 1860. From a presidential standpoint, I only know of Longacre's first pattern two-cent piece, which featured George Washington on the obverse and the motto, GOD AND OUR COUNTRY. As we all know, this design was not chosen. I guess we were not ready for presidents on our coinage, and would not be until 1909.



William Barber (served 1869-1879)

Now, it is William Barber's turn. And there are lots to choose from.

U.S. Mint medals

Under the tenure of William Barber, Mint Director H.R. Linderman wanted to ramp up the Mint's medal shop. A large number of medals began being designed and struck at the mint. One of the first was the very high-relief Lincoln "Broken Column" medal that remembered Lincoln and the assassination in 1865. This small medal ("medalet") was made in large numbers. In addition, a second medalet was struck, featuring Barber's Lincoln portrait on one side, and a portrait of U.S. Grant on the other, also made in large numbers.

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1869 Lincoln Broken Column medalet in silver



1869 Lincoln Grant medalet, showing the high relief

Also in 1869, the big event of the year was the completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point in Utah. William engraved the very popular 1869 Pacific Railroad Completion medal, with a portrait of the sitting president, Grant, on the obverse, and an ornate railroad theme on the reverse. In addition, the inaugural medal for U.S. Grant's second term was designed and engraved by both William and Charles Barber, with William's Grant portrait on the obverse. (Note: Charles was William's son and the U.S. Mint Engraver who later designed the Barber series of U.S. Coins struck between 1892-1916).

1869 Pacific Railroad Completion medal



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U.S. Grant Second Term Inaugural medal

In 1878, the centennial of George Washington's Valley Forge campaign was commemorated with a medal, designed and engraved by William Barber.



1878 Valley Forge Centennial medal

U.S. Assay Commission medals

These medals all relate to the U.S. Mint Annual Assay. The Assay Commission consisted of members appointed each year by the President, serving as volunteers. Beginning in 1860, Commission members were given a medal as a token of appreciation for their service, originally in copper, but in silver beginning 1867. Longacre's 1860-era medals featured a Liberty head motif, taken from some of his well-known patterns. William took over from there in 1868 for Assay medals, with Columbia, Moneta, or Archimedes featured though 1875. In 1876, however, Barber featured the bust of George Washington on the medal for the U.S. Centennial. This continued to 1878. Upon William's death in 1879, the team of Charles Barber and George Morgan took over.

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Charles Barber and George Morgan (after 1879)

This famous team created U.S. Assay Commission medals during the next 45 years, often (but not always) featuring a portrait of the sitting president. Presidents from Rutherford B. Hayes to Calvin Coolidge graced many Assay Commission medals. In addition, inaugural medals of many presidents were produced, including James Garfield and Chester Arthur (unfortunately both in the year 1881) and perhaps most famously, Theodore Roosevelt.

Another class of medal which often featured the portrait of the sitting president was the Indian Peace Medal.

Indian Peace Medals

Presidents sometimes gave medals as a sign of peace with Native American tribes, when signing peace treaties and at other events. Although the first issued was in 1801 by Thomas Jefferson, the Barber/Morgan medals featuring James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, and Grover Cleveland were perhaps the most famous of these issued during the Liberty Seated era.



(END)

Regional News

by Ken Otto, Regional Team Director, LSCC #2674

Looking Forward to Baltimore

The LSCC Regional team will be at the Whitman Spring Baltimore Expo to be held on March 21-23 at the Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The Club table will be hosted by John Frost, Dennis Fortier, Ken Otto, and Joe Casazza. There will be a Club dinner at the Pratt Street Ale House on Thursday evening, March 21 at 6:30 PM and the LSCC Meeting will take place on its traditional day during the show on Friday, March 22 at 9:00 am.

The LSCC Team will participate in the New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo which will be held on March 29-30 at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, New Hampshire. Joe Casazza, Northeast Regional Director, will host the Club table at this important regional show. John Frost plans to make an educational presentation at this show. The regional meeting and presentation will be held on Friday.

The LSCC Team will be at the Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show which will be held on April 19-21 at the Dalton Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, Georgia. This is the third year that the LSCC has participated at this large regional coin show. Dennis Fortier and Ken Otto will host the Club table.

The Regional LSCC Team will participate in the Central States Numismatic Association (CSNA) 85th Annual Convention which will be held on May 1-4 at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois. This is one of the best shows on the LSCC calendar and we will have a strong presence at this event. Club President Len Augsburger will preside at the Regional Club meeting and make an educational presentation for attendees. Dennis Fortier, Ken Otto, Len Augsburger and others will host the Club table.

* * * * *

Regional News cont.

The Regional team was at the Knoxville Coin & Currency Show in Knoxville which was held on February 2-3 at the Rothchild Catering & Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. Dennis Fortier and John Frost hosted the Club table. Dennis' report follows:

John Frost and Dennis Fortier made their annual appearance at the Smoky Mountain /Ft. Loudon Knoxville coin show. The appearance of LSCC is a staple at this well-run event. The LSCC has quite a few members and friends that look forward to seeing us each year at the show. This year marked the tenth year that the Club has participated in the show. John gave presentations on Carson City Liberty Seated coins and Barber coins at the show. Both presentations were well-attended and received. We re-signed a former LSCC member who had let his membership lapse.



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Regional News cont.

The LSCC team participated in the 2024 Charlotte Coin Club Annual Show which was held on February 9-10 at The Park Expo & Conference Center, 800 Briar Creek (corner of Independence Blvd.), Charlotte, NC 28205. John Lundsten and Jerry Sajbel hosted the Club table (shown below).



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Regional News cont.

Dennis Fortier reports that the Cookeville Coin Show held on Saturday, February 17 from 9 am - 4 pm at the Cookeville Community Center, 240 Carlen Drive, Cookeville, TN was well-attended and dealers were pleased with sales. The Cookeville Coin Club has worked very hard to make this local show a success. It was a sell out for dealer tables. I was lucky to get a Club table on the bourse thanks to a dealer no show. My Carson City Liberty Seated half dollars on display for attendees were a hit.



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Regional News cont.



(END)

Call for LSCC Hall of Fame Nominations for 2024 (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 any of the following information to assist with selection:

1. Time as LSCC Club Officer or Leader / Position
2. Collections Built, including grade and as many specifics as possible
3. Published Writings (Liberty Seated Books, Articles, etc.)
4. Club Contributions (promoting or assisting the LSCC in its mission)
5. Numismatic or LSCC Awards
6. Miscellaneous Data that might add to Nominee's consideration & Nominators Comments

Next LSCC Zoom Meeting is scheduled for:

April 16, 2024 at 9 pm EST

Clint Cummins will be speaking about Liberty Seated Half Dime Varieties

Everyone is invited to attend: <https://wustl.zoom.us/j/5086565637>

Please keep your subscription e-mail address current for E-Gobrecht 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.



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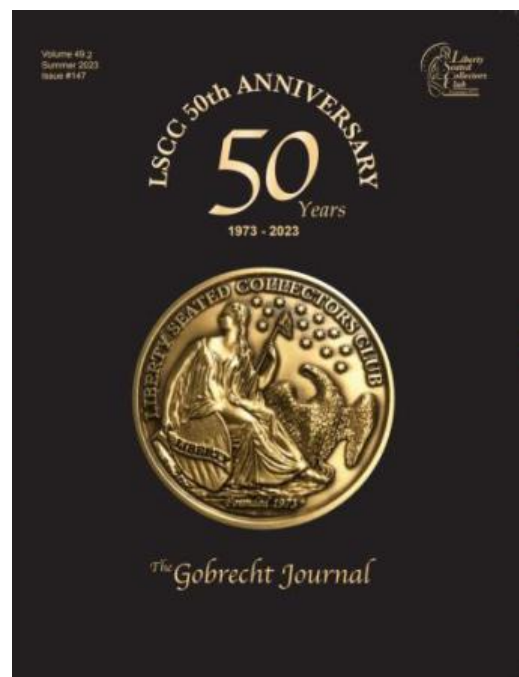
<http://www.lscweb.org/Education.shtml>

<http://www.lscweb.org/Recordings.shtml>

<http://www.barbercoins.org/Education.shtml>

<http://www.barbercoins.org/RRecordings.shtml>

If you have questions about what is best to share with your local club members, contact John Frost, LSCC Education Director & BCCS President at john.frost@doubledimes.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Name _____
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LSCC Member Application Form also at:

http://www.lscweb.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 Eberhart, Secretary
 P.O. Box 1386, Los Alamos, NM 87544**

LSCC 2024 Regional Events Calendar

** Details Mostly Finalized*

March 21-23 Whitman Spring Baltimore Coin & Currency Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD - LSCC Club meeting on Friday at 9 a.m., Club dinner, table and Education Program TBD. BCCS meeting and Educational Program hosted by John Frost on Friday afternoon.

March 29-30 New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo, Double-tree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, Manchester, NH - Club meeting and educational presentation held on Friday. Club table hosted by Joe Casazza and John Frost.

April 19-21 Georgia Numismatic Assoc. Coin Show, Dalton Convention Center, Dalton, GA - Club table hosted by Dennis Fortier and Ken Otto.

May 1-4 Central States Numismatic Assoc. (CSNA) 85th Annual Convention, Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, Schaumburg, Illinois - Club President Len Augsburg will preside at the Regional Club meeting and make an educational presentation. Hosts include Dennis Fortier, Ken Otto, and others. Club table and dinner also planned.

(More event details and addresses of show locations are in Ken Otto's Regional Report on page 15. Also see the LSCC/BCCS websites.)



Christian Gobrecht



(END)



William Barber

Attention LSCC Half Dollar Collectors
2024 Census for Capped Bust Reeded Edge Halves

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

As previously announced, the submission deadline for the 3rd Census of Reeded Edge Half Dollars is March 15th. The updated survey results are being printed in the June-July issues of both the JRCS Journal and the equivalent E-Gobrecht or The Gobrecht Journal.



This updated 2024 Census is important as it will determine new rarity ratings for all 56 known die marriages. All collectors are encouraged to participate.

For more information, please contact Jim Koenings at:

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.

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Director - Central Region

Dennis Fortier (email above)

Liberty Seated Collectors Club 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: lsccl@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 printed in glossy, full color. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, please correspond with Craig Eberhart, LSCC Secretary listed on this page.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in *The Gobrecht Journal* magazine may be addressed to Greg Johnson, 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.

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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, 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 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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