



E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

2024 Volume 20, Issue 7
July 2024 (Whole #234)

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



1838 "Gobrecht Bust" Reeded Edge Half Dollar courtesy Jim Koenings



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:*

*Larry Dreyer
Bruce Seligsohn
Rick Viola*

*There are currently
1491 active
Subscribers to E-Gobrecht
& counting
including **355** 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

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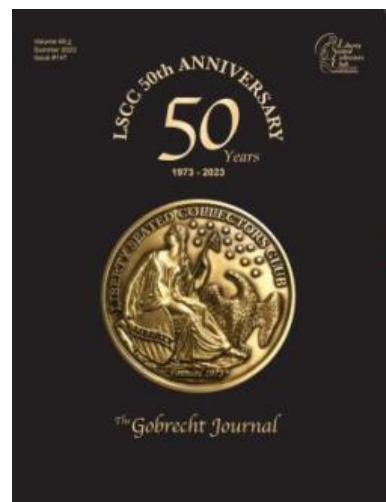


President's Message

Welcome to our July edition of the E-Gobrecht. As always, a big thanks to Paul Kluth for putting together this monthly helping of all things Liberty Seated.

In past years, the summer brought a slowdown of the coin market, but in the Internet Age, the offering of coins online continues unabated, creating a virtual 24/7 coin show. This brings opportunities such as the “cherrypick” that I discuss in my regular monthly column this month.

May all of our readers do as well! ...*Len Augsburg*



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Editor's View From the Rim

ANA Convention and the LSCC Annual Meeting ...PK

Scheduled for August 6-10 is this year's ANA Summer Convention, the largest numismatic event of the year in the U.S. And again, both the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and the Barber Coin Collectors Society will hold their Annual Meetings during the event. See specific details on page 12 & 25.

The LSCC will have their meeting on Thursday, August 8 at 9:00 am in Room 12. Besides the usual surprises and education program about "Christian Gobrecht" at the meeting, and a chance to socialize with like-minded collectors, there are always the Club tables on the bourse floor to mingle around and see neat exhibits, a Club Dinner in which anyone is invited to attend and further meet folks, and all the other side activities that go on during such a large event.

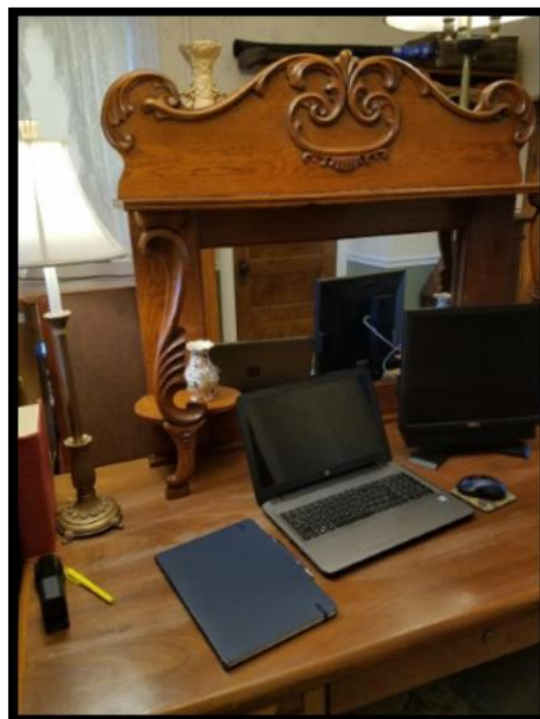
By the way, the ANA Convention is typically when most of the other national specialty clubs have their annual gatherings. There is so much a collector can do during the week... Bibliomania Society, John Reich, Early American Coppers, Fly-In, CONECA, TAMS, 'Bank Notes', and representation by the Newman Numismatic Portal just to name a few. The ANA is for the young and old, and for the beginner and seasoned collector alike.

The Gobrecht Journal celebrates its 150th issue with the Summer publication. Read more and see what's in store for members to read about on page 24.

John Frost, author of the popular and incredible Double Dime reference book gets to see one of his favorite rarities come to the auction block during the ANA this summer. Also see page 24.

What a story that begins on page 17 with a contribution from an E-G subscriber.

LSCC Member Application Form is at:
http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC_Membership.pdf



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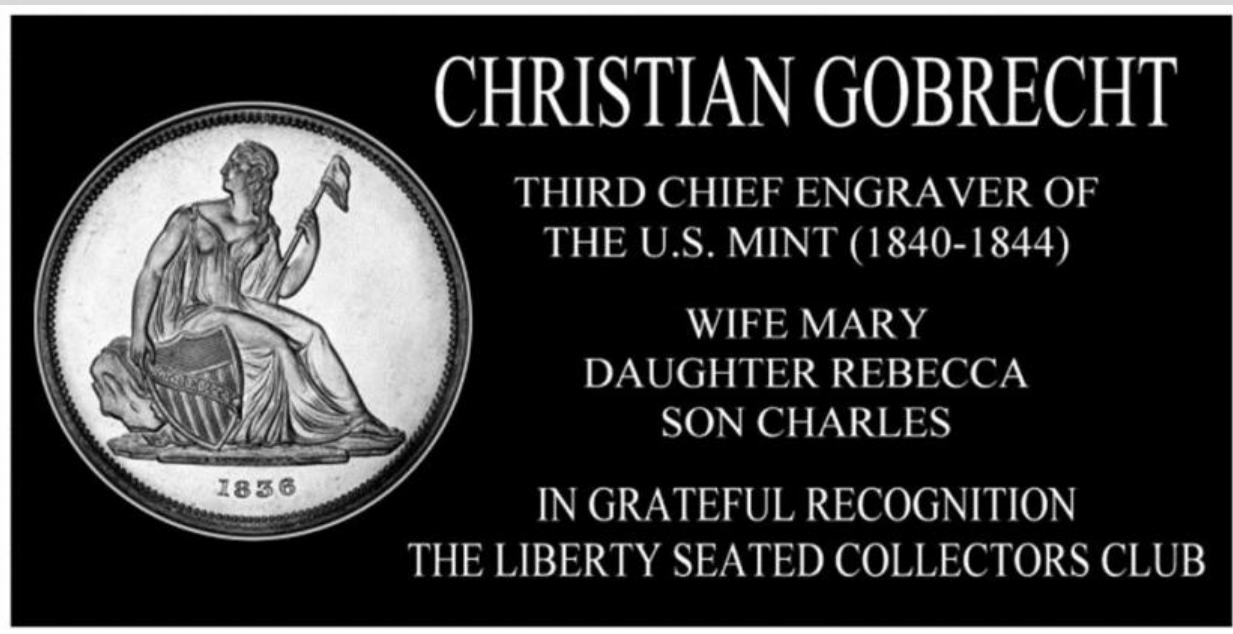
Call Rich at (973) 271-2615

Christian Gobrecht Grave Marker Unveiling

Wednesday November 13, 2024, 1 PM

Lawnview Cemetery
500 Huntington Pike
Rockledge, PA
Lot 136, Section B, Grave 97

The Liberty Seated Collectors Club Leadership Team encourages all of our members and friends to join us in honoring Christian Gobrecht at the unveiling of this new grave marker recognizing his contributions to American coinage.



Grave Marker Proof



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The gangs all here at last year's LSCC Annual Meeting at the ANA Summer Convention.
Join in the fun and don't miss the activities again this year in August.
Both the Liberty Seated and Barber Coin specialty clubs have events planned.



**Barber Coin
Collectors' Society**
Founded 1989



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.



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

A Cherrypick and A Caution

Before I jump into this month's topic, I must extend congrats to Dave Schaefer, who recently cherrypicked an 1840-O With Drapery Large-O 25c on eBay.com. As reported in *Coin World* (July 8, 2024), Schafer noted "This is one of those unattributed and raw eBay Buy-it-Now finds under the 'right place/right time' scenario. Many of us have probably perused eBay at some point during a solitary vacation moment. This was my situation recently as I reviewed eBay with no expectations, until this somehow dropped in my lap. At the time I tapped the 'BIN' [buy it now] there actually was one 'watcher' for the listing – go figure! Seller's pics have a light gold-ish cast to them, my pics are truer to the coin's actual cleaned / bright / scratched look in VF detail. Despite the issues, I'm more than pleased." Indeed, as the buyer's price was reported as "less than \$80." Schaefer estimates the value of the coin in the \$2,000 - \$2,500 range.

And now for a caution. Let's jump back to Gobrecht Journal nos. 94 (2005) and 97 (2006), which contain the foundational articles by Randy Wiley on the 1861-O half dollars (both articles are freely available online, at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/2096>). In the first article, "Die Marriages of 1861-0 Half Dollars," Randy laid out the emission sequence for the

(Continued on next page)

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15 different die marriages of this issue, detailed each obverse and reverse die, and established a flowchart for making attributions. The Bugert Encyclopedia, covering Liberty Seated die marriages, included the same information in 2013. So far, so good.

The following year, Randy published “Coining Authority and Rarity for Die Marriages of 1861-0 Half Dollars” in Gobrecht Journal #97. With access to the SS Republic hoard of 1861-O half dollars, Randy was able to make estimates regarding the rarity of each of the 15 varieties for the issue. Excepting the Confederate States of America half dollar (of which four examples are known), Randy identified the first two varieties, W-1 and W-2, as the toughest of the set, with each numbering about 1% of the total emission. Randy then makes reference to the 1887 Mint Director’s report, which provided data as to the number of half dollars struck under each of three coining authorities for this issue (United States: 300,000 pieces, Louisiana: 1,240,000 coins, and CSA: 962,833 examples).

Given the overall distribution and the relative population of each of the 15 varieties, Wiley then proposes the coining authority for each of the die marriages. This is certainly a reasonable approach, but one need look no further than Wiley’s Table 4 to see the problem with the edge cases. For the W-04 variety, the data suggest 85,506 pieces struck under Union control, and 248,741 coins struck under the auspices of the state of Louisiana. For W-09, we get 179,373 Louisiana coins, and 42,426 Confederate pieces. And yet, today’s market identifies all W-04 pieces as issued by Louisiana, and all W-09 examples as coming from the CSA.

At the conclusion of the article, Wiley notes that his coining authority assignments for each issue are subjective. We simply don’t know that the SS Republic die distribution matched the original production. We don’t know that the coiner automatically changed the dies when the administration of the Mint changed. Indeed, why would a Louisiana or Confederate coiner change a lightly worn die when the only ready source of new dies was the Philadelphia Mint?

I should be clear that I greatly admire these two articles. However, today’s market has turned Wiley’s subjective evaluation into certainty. While Randy was explicit in identifying the coining authorities as subjective, the market today is in a different place. W-1s and W-2s are always U.S. pieces, W-3 to W-8s, are always Louisiana pieces, and W-9 to W-15s are always attributed to the CSA. The market likes the certainty of making these assignments even if they can’t be completely proven.

Collectors like the straightforward breakdown, and the popularity of forming 15-piece variety sets for this issue is undeniable. I would urge everyone involved to reread Randy’s masterful articles and to think carefully about blindly jumping from a variety attribution to a coining authority.

Images from last month
as referred to in the first
paragraph on page 8.



(END)

COIN WORLD

[Noticing details leads to great buy for collector \(coinworld.com\)](https://www.coinworld.com)

**Additional Coverage by COIN WORLD on the
“1840-O WD Liberty Seated Quarter Large O Find
by Dave Schaefer”
By Paul Gilkes, Senior Editor**

Access the two Links

**Additional Coverage by COIN WORLD:
IN the NEWS**

**“Gobrecht’s grave site to get marker -
Liberty Seated Collectors Club plans unveiling of engraved granite stone”
by Paul Gilkes, Senior Editor
Contributed by Dennis Fortier and Len Augsburger**

<https://www.coinworld.com/news/us-coins/gobrecht-s-grave-site-to-get-marker-from-lscc>

COIN WORLD also offers their free e-newsletter subscriptions on specialized topics such as U.S. Coins, World Coins, Paper Money and Precious Metals, etc. Readers can sign-up easily if you access one of the links above after checking out the excellent expanded coverage.

Regional News

by Ken Otto, Regional Team Director, LSCC #2674

Preparing for the Summer ANA Show in Rosemont

The summer season of coin shows was kicked off in June with the LSCC Regional Team participating in the Whitman Summer Baltimore show and the Raleigh Coin Club's annual show in June. Several important regional coin shows will be conducted during the month of July and the regional team plans a major presence at the ANA World's Fair of Money show in Rosemont in early August.

The LSCC team will participate in the Missouri Numismatic Society Coin Show to be held July 18-20 at the St. Charles Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, MO. The Club table will be hosted by Ed Terneus and Micah Uptegrove.

The Regional team will participate in the Bay State Coin Show which will be held on July 26-27 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West (Rt. 20 West), Marlborough, MA. The Club table will be hosted by Joe Casazza and John Frost.

New this month is the following announcement from member Keith Scott, (LSCC #2006) in California:

"I wanted to advise the membership that the Fremont California Coin Club is having its 49th annual Coin Show on July 27 & 28. Hours are 10 to 5 Saturday and 10 to 4 Sunday. Location is the Elks Lodge, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont, CA. There's free parking, free admission, and security.

I've gone to extra lengths to attract LSCC members by setting up a special table for the Clubs. On special display will be my collection with either Liberty Seated quarters or half dollars and others (see picture next page).

There are extra chairs and A/C in case of heat. Bring a drink, food, and anything you would like to share for show and tell. To be honest, I'm tired of show and tell from local club meetings of shiny new things from the Mint (lol)!

Regional News cont.

Pictured is Keith Scott's Standup Display of Liberty Seated Coins where you can easily see both the obverse and reverse (on the backside) of each coin.



As a matter of background, the only LSCC meeting I have attended in the past was the 2005 ANA Convention in San Francisco where I joined the LSCC. Unfortunately, club shows in my area are being attacked on a number of levels. Venues are extremely expensive, and an aging and diminished number of club members are unwilling to take on management of a show, not to mention setting up tables, chairs, and electrical.

It doesn't help that sales tax rules discourage out of state dealers. I hope to have the space filled with 36 dealers. Please join us in CA... *Keith Scott, President, Fremont Coin Club*"

(Continued on next page)

Regional News cont.

The Largest Event of the Year: The LSCC team will participate in the ANA World's Fair of Money which will be held August 6-10 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 North River Rd, Rosemont, IL. This is the largest coin show during the year and the LSCC will again have a major presence at this event. There will be a Club meeting and a Club dinner is planned. The Club table will be hosted by Len Augsburg, John Frost, Dennis Fortier, Ken Otto, Joe Casazza, John Lundsten, Carl Feldman and others.

The LSCC Regional team will participate in the annual Central Ohio Numismatic Association (CONA) coin show on August 29-31 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH. This is a very well run and well-attended regional show that the LSCC has had a major presence at for several years. The Club table will be hosted by Stephen Petty, John Frost and others.

* * * * *

The Regional team participated in the Whitman Summer Baltimore Expo on June 13-15 at the Baltimore Convention Center. There was a Club meeting which was led by Len Augsburg on Friday, June 14. Len's report and the group photo from the meeting follows:

"A small group of stalwarts attended the LSCC meeting held in conjunction with the June Whitman Baltimore show. The June installment of the Whitman Expo is traditionally lightly attended, and this year's representation was no exception. Following member introductions and LSCC announcements, a spirited discussion regarding the various aspects of rare coin demand followed. By group consensus, the June 2025 Baltimore show will be a breakfast event, to be held at David and Dad's café at 115 N. Charles Street.



(Continued on next page)

Regional News cont.

The Regional Team participated in the Raleigh Money Show which was held on June 21-22 at The Exposition Center, NC State Fairgrounds. The Club table was hosted by John Lundsten and Ken Otto. John gave a presentation on collecting Barber coins. Overall, the Raleigh event was well run and seemed to be enjoyed by most participants. One new member was signed up at the show and one existing member extended his membership.



(Continued on next page)

Regional News cont.

The photo on the previous page was the exhibit at the Club table at the Raleigh Money Show. It included the combined Liberty Seated Dollar collections of John Lundsten and Ken Otto.



Also, above is the picture of the LSCC/BCCS display case from the June 21-22 Raleigh Coin Show. Inside the case is a date and mint mark set of 41 Liberty Seated Dollars and nice sets of Barber Quarters & Halves.



Regional News cont.

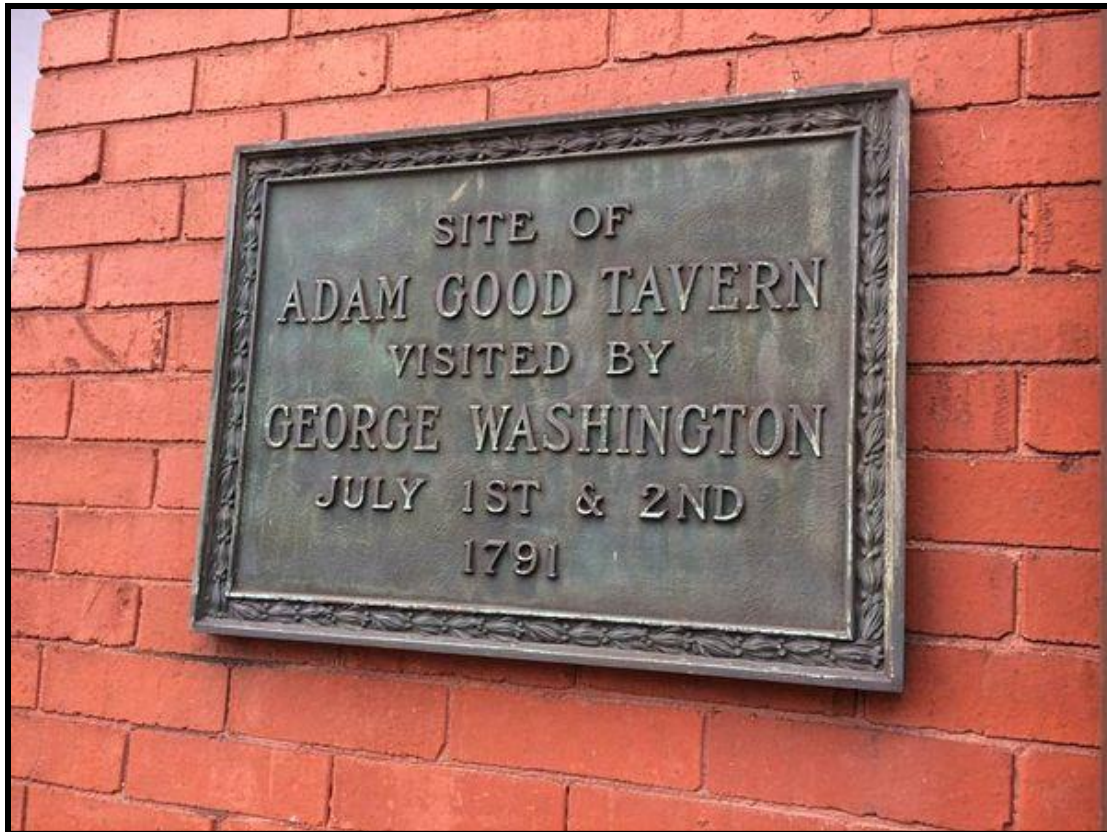
Dennis Garstang (LSCC #481) recently gave a presentation on Liberty Seated Dollars at the Johnson County (KS) Coin Club.



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**233 Years Ago on July 1 & 2
George Washington was on a mission
in America heading to Philadelphia on horseback
To help Preserve Our Democracy**

(btw he was also determined this trip to set up the first U.S. Mint
in Philadelphia with fellow framers of the Constitution)



Letters to the Editor & Officers of the LSCC:

Rare Version of Liberty Seated 1838 Dime with 111a/h.2 die break - last coin minted due to complete failure of die

by Chris Lenci, E-Gobrecht Subscriber



Obverse Bisecting Die Break as indicated by arrows

This coin was gifted to me by my relative Hugo T. Lenci, who was a merchant in San Francisco during the turn of the last century. The coin was passed down to him by his father who had kept it as a keepsake from the market. The coin survived the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Hugo's mother and father are my grandmothers great aunt and uncle (Orlando and Angelina Lenci), and we are the heirs to his wealthy estate.

In the 1880's, my family founded the O. Lenci Meat Market in San Francisco. After Orlando passed away in the 1920's, Hugo took over the company and founded Mission Meat Co. in San Rafael. Here is a photo of everyone standing in front of the "O. Lenci Meat Market" on Market Street in San Francisco (circa 1904). Orlando is the tall man second from the right and also is the portrait photo. The next photo is of myself (circa 1986) talking with Hugo as an elderly man, along with my grandmother (Giulia Paolini-Lenci) from when Hugo came to live with us after his wife (Myrtle) passed away.

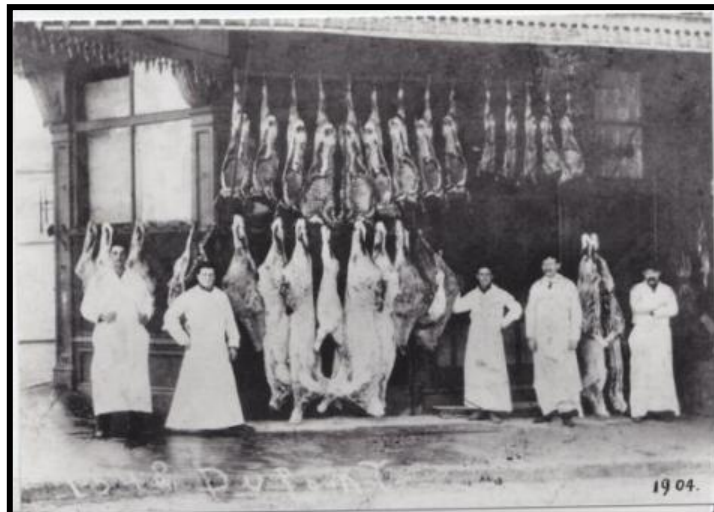
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Regarding my 1838 Seated Liberty Dime: When the die struck for the final time, it opened up on one side and was unable to fully form the border on that side of the coin; affecting bevel formation on both sides of the coin. There are also additional defects in the coin as to the die break that have not been attributed in a catalogue. Hugo said it was the very last coin struck with the die before the die was rendered unusable.



Reverse die also showing a partial die break through AT of STATES from denticles at rim to olive leaf



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See additional commentary
that follows on the next page...

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Additional Commentary by Len Augsburger:

About the 1838 F-111a 10c, Terminal Die State Example

Chris Lenci, an E-Gobrecht reader and subscriber reported to us this late die state 1838 dime, which is said to have been in his family for several generations. The piece is believed to have been plucked out of circulation, in San Francisco, prior to the 1906 earthquake. This family of Italian immigrants was engaged in the meat business in that city, as depicted in the 1904 photograph.

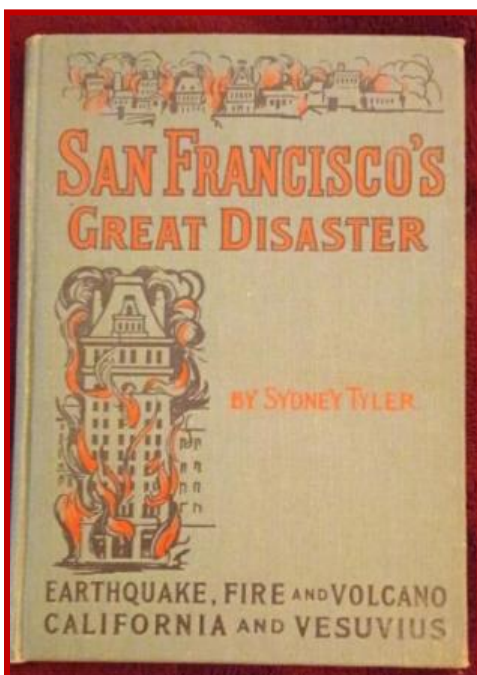
The obverse crack on this example bisects the obverse, and the Fortin web-book further explains "the die crack originates at Star 7 and proceeds through Liberty's left shoulder, across her body and left leg and finally exits below her foot to the rim." Note also the repunching of star 13 on this variety. The reverse exhibits a die crack through STATES. This reverse die was reused in 1839.

The owner notes that he is in contact with a major auction house regarding the possible sale of the piece.

[Editor's Note]: It is so weird how things sometimes happen.

As I was preparing the July issue of E-Gobrecht and just the day before working on this article, I ironically came across an unknown book in a sealed box of Euphemia found in the historical property that has been a retirement project for me these last few years.

Low and behold; found was a book in very good condition written shortly after the great earthquake and fire about that devastating event in 1906. The book has a copyright of 1906.



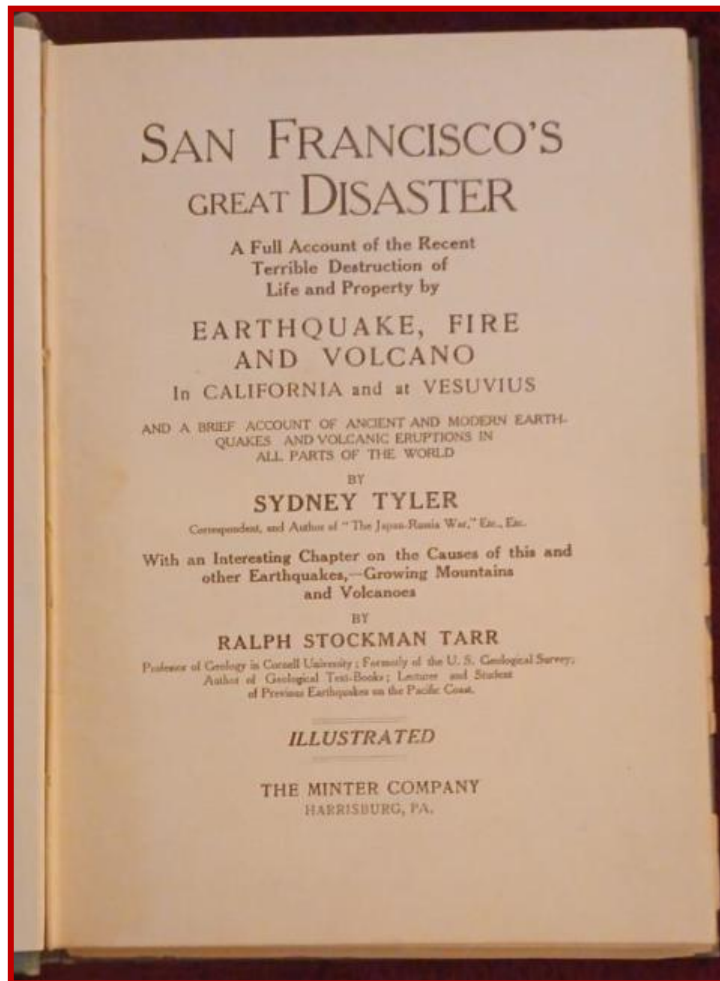
As you can see in the *To The Public* page on the next page, this was a preliminary book published before a larger, more complete volume was published later that year.

Mr. Chris Lenci has not shared how his ancestors fared after the great disaster, but we know from history that most of the city burned to the ground in a terrible tragedy with devastating consequences for the entire community and region.

Please take a look at just a few of the photos taken after the fire and the *Preface* on the next couple of pages. There is a takeaway here that only the pages and book can convey.

(Continued on next page)

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To the Public

The pages and illustrations in this prospectus were hastily put together in order to give canvassers something to show. Our author, artist and photographer are now in San Francisco gathering material and the Complete Book, which will be issued May 15th, will contain a wealth of both illustration and description not shown in the prospectus at all.

THE PUBLISHERS.



As most of you probably know, the branch mint in San Francisco somehow survived the fire and played an important role as a shelter and refuge during the recovery period of the City. Its survival was not covered in this preliminary book, but that is another story covered in other history and numismatic reference books.

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PREFACE.

San Francisco, eighth of the great American cities, has been visited by the greatest disaster which ever visited a community on this continent. Indeed, in all of the annals of the world, few calamities equal it, and, perhaps only the annihilation of Pompeii and Herculaneum, exceed it in the totality of destruction. The civilized world has stood aghast at the spectacle of a proud municipality laid in ruins. To the sudden horror of earthquake has been added the devastation of fire. Together these destroyers have swept away three-fourths of a magnificent city. Where rose great marts of trade, public buildings of every kind, temples of worship, temples of the drama; earthquake and fire left only shattered and smoldering heaps of debris. Where were reared fifty thousand homes, centres of social life, monuments of the people's thrift, tokens of civilization, prosperity and happiness, only gnarled skeletons of charred timbers and blackened bricks remained. Like lightning from a sunlit sky, like knife thrust in the dark, as dramatic, as unexpected as though the sky itself, should fall in a molten deluge and engulf the earth, so fell this catastrophe. A great city, reared by the faith and toil of half a century well nigh perished. The world stood appalled.

Like a shattered die as illustrated with this scarce coin
was a major city shattered in this scarce natural disaster.

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DEVASTATION AND RUIN. CORNER HOWARD AND STEWART STREETS, SAN FRANCISCO.



MARKET STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, AFTER THE FIRE.

(END)

As Recently Reported by NumismaticNews:

[Editor]: One of the Ultra Rare U.S. Coins is coming to the market in August at the Heritage ANA Sale. This is one of those rarities that dreams are made of especially for the Double Dime collector:

“The 1876-CC 20-cent piece, graded MS-65 by PCGS, that is a part of this auction has always been considered one of the finest known examples of a celebrated rarity in the U.S. silver series that often is included in the same conversations as the 1804 dollar, the 1913 Liberty Head nickel, and the 1894-S dime. The Condition Census example offered in this auction is one of a confirmed surviving population of just 16 pieces in all grades – a minuscule total for a coin that Mint records indicate was from an original mintage of 10,000 pieces struck in 1876 at the Carson City Mint — and can be traced back to World’s Greatest Collection of F.C.C. Boyd and the renowned Armand Champa Collection.”

Celebrating the 150th Issue of The Gobrecht Journal

Sergio E. Torres, Publisher reports:

The 150th issue of The Gobrecht Journal should be in Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC) members’ mailboxes at the latest by the last week of July. The issue has very interesting articles:

Craig Sholley and John Dannreuther have contributed two articles that discuss 1877 and 1878 proof half dollar varieties. John’s article provides a sneak peek to his work on Liberty Seated proofs.

Jeff Pritchard contributed the centerfold dedicated to proof Liberty Seated quarters. For those considering acquisition of proof pieces, the current issue represents a springboard toward new collecting experiences.

John Lundsten and Dick Osburn weigh in on Liberty Seated dollars, another series sometimes ignored as a matter of cost; although the set is much shorter than Liberty Seated dimes, quarters or half dollars, and the “per coin” cost is comparable, depending of course, in what grade one chooses to acquire. An overlooked advantage is that Liberty Seated dollars were circulated less, and the average preservation is substantially higher than for other series.

Finally, Greg Johnson, GJ Editor wraps us up with statistical analysis of the recent LSCC Liberty Seated quarter survey. The survey is a useful tool for seeing how fellow collectors pursue the set, including data on certification and the increasing attention paid to CAC.

LSCC 2024 Regional Events Calendar

July 18-20 Missouri Numismatic Society Coin Show, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO - Club table hosted by Ed Terneus and Micah Uptegrove.

July 26-27 Bay State Coin Show, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlboro, MA - Club table and other activities planned.

July 27-28 Fremont California Coin Club 49th Annual Show, Elks Lodge, Fremont, CA - Club table and large Liberty Seated Exhibit hosted by Keith Scott. Note: This is one of the few Liberty Seated events that currently take place in the large state of California.

August 6-10 ANA "World's Fair of Money" Annual Summer Convention, Donald Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois - LSCC Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 8 at 9:00 am in Room 12. An Educational program on Christian Gobrecht, Club tables and dinner planned. Hosts include Len Augsburg, Dennis Fortier, Ken Otto, John Frost, Joe Casazza, John Lundsten, Carl Feldman and others.



Christian Gobrecht

The **BCCS** will also hold their Annual meeting with an Education presentation on Wednesday, August 7 at 9:00 am in Room 10 during the Convention. BCCS Club tables will be located next to the LSCC tables.

August 29-31 Ohio State Coin Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, Dublin (Columbus), OH - Club meeting and Educational program on Friday, August 30 at 9 am.

(More event details and addresses of show locations are in Ken Otto's Regional Report starting on page 10. Also see either or both the LSCC/BCCS websites.)



(END)



William Barber

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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.

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, 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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