



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Huge turn out for the Baltimore LSCC meeting!

By all accounts, the Regional meeting of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club at the Whitman Baltimore Expo is always popular and usually well attended. The meeting on March 27, 2015 was exceptional with record attendance that rivaled the annual club meeting at the World's Fair of Money.

After a group photo (actually we had so many attendees we had to take two images to capture everyone!), the meeting started at 9 AM with LSCC Vice President Len Augsburger calling the meeting to order. With an overflow of attendees (we counted an amazing 53 people!), LSCC President Gerry Fortin was busy bringing in additional chairs to seat everyone.

Attendees were very excited about this meeting and several renditions of the events of this meeting are detailed elsewhere in this issue. Here were the major events:

- A presentation of the making of the new LSCC logo by Dennis Fortier and club member/graphic artist Jim Macor.
- John Frost gave a well prepared discussion about different digital photo file formats and how to prepare the best possible images to accompany *Gobrecht Journal* articles.
- Brian Cushing announced the new Liberty Seated Dollar website (www.seateddollarvarieties.com). It is now online!
- Len Augsburger announced the summer ANA LSCC auction to be called by Heritage's Bob Merrill.
- Len closed the meeting with a review of his opening article in the spring *Gobrecht Journal* issue.

Club officers received positive feedback about the club's transition and the strong display of club member support at this meeting.

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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 Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included on the last page.



Auction News

by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

The **Heritage** Dallas Sale contained an MS64 1840-O Drapery half dime that did not reach the \$3,2500 reserve. 1844 and 1860-O dimes graded VF30 and VF35 sold for \$447 and \$2,350.

1854-O Huge O and 1861-S quarters graded VF30 and VF20. The Huge O did not sell and the 1861-S realized \$1,295.

A lovely MS67 1851 half dollar did not meet the

\$52,500 reserve. A VF20 1852-O hit \$940.

An 1844 dollar graded AU53 sold for \$3,995. 1850 dollars graded AU58 and AU53 sold for \$4,230 and \$2,996. A nice AU53 1872-CC hit \$11,750.

The **Stack's Bowers** ANA Sale had a MS63 1867-S quarter that sold for a strong \$1,7625. A cleaned 1870-CC with AU details soared to \$35,250 but a similar 1872-CC did not sell. An 1872-CC dollar with AU details did not sell.

LSCC Calendar

April 15, 2015. Deadline for **LSCC Hall of Fame nominations** due to Committee Chairman Bill Bugert. See complete information on page 7 of this issue.

April 17-18, 2015. **LSCC Table**, The Bay State Show, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA. Dennis Fortier will be hosting the club table.

April 17-19, 2015. **LSCC Table and Educational Presentations**, Buffalo Numismatic Association's Gold and Silver Expo, Hamburg Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY. John Frost is host.

April 22-25, 2015. **LSCC Regional Meeting and Educational Presentations**, Central States Numismatic Society 76th Anniversary Convention, Renaissance Hotel and Convention Ctr., Schaumburg, IL. Steve Petty will be host.

June 1, 2015. **Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements** for the *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #123.

June 1, 2015. **Deadline for submissions** of items for the club's annual auction.

July 2015. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #123 printed and mailed to all current members.



Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

2,500!

Another club milestone has been achieved! Last fall in Baltimore, it was predicted at the club meeting that we would surpass the 2,500 membership number by the fall of 2015. Little did anyone know we would reach it before the spring 2015 Baltimore show. There are now 625 active members in our club. That number is sure to rise as the year progresses.

New membership applications continue to come in from all over the country, most interestingly from places where there has been little Regional Program activities. The dynamics of increased interest in Liberty Seated coinage as well as the multi-level activity of the club leadership is bringing the LSCC to a heightened state of interest from the collecting public. Naturally, the Regional Team cannot be forgotten; our Regional Directors and other volunteers have been doing a great job in the trenches as you will read here.

John Frost hosted the club table at the Manchester Numismatic Society's, Willimantic CT Show. It was wonderful re-connecting with many old friends. John, who was just back from a "Seated Dollar Summit" with Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing, displayed his beautiful Liberty Seated Dollar set. Compliments and interest were in no short supply for that impressive display. There was a rare New England sighting of Brian Greer at Willimantic; it was good to see him.

Baltimore has just concluded and was a splendid show with so much to do and so many friends to see. I will start with a review of the regional meeting. There were 53 members and guests in attendance at the Baltimore Regional meeting hosted by Len Augsburger. There was numerous presentations offered at the meeting and all were timely and very interesting. John Frost gave a presentation on different computer photo and graphic design options to improve *Gobrecht Journal* article submission quality. Everyone, including the more computer savvy members, learned a good

deal from John's presentation. John also updated us on the Educational outreach. If you have a proposal for a presentation, please contact him.

Len had a surprise for the members; the family of his most recent piece in the *Gobrecht Journal*, "A Gobrecht Dollar Returns Home" (Issue #122), were in attendance at the meeting. They were grateful for the help received in recovering their family heirloom, as well as the reception given by the membership. It was heartwarming to put faces to the story and to meet this very nice family.

The new club logo was presented to the members and shown on the bourse floor to the public and the media. *CoinWeek.com* showed interest and captured a photo of our new logo. The design process from concept final product was reviewed and Jim Macor, the designer, was on hand to receive the appreciation of the members. Thank you, Jim, for all your efforts on behalf of the club as your graphic design capabilities are substantial and this talent will benefit the club for many years to come.

Brian Cushing updated us on the progress of the Osburn-Cushing Seated Dollar book and website. The terms of the forthcoming LSCC club auction at the August 2105 ANA annual meeting were also presented by Len Augsburger. There is a limit of 20 total lots, so get your submissions or donations in early. The auction (catalogue) will be sent out to the members with the Summer issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*.

Four new members were recruited in Baltimore, along with two club member renewals. John Frost hosted the club table and Carl Feldman signed two of the new members from his dealer table. Many thanks to both of them for their club support.

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The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Baltimore Show Report

The Whitman Baltimore Expo is consistently one of the best shows on the national circuit, and the spring 2015 edition was no exception. The Baltimore Convention Center is ideally situated for a major coin show with numerous restaurants and hotels easily walkable from the convention hall. Baltimore is accessible to a large portion of the population and half the country can get there in a couple hours or less by air. Train service works if you live in the northeast and for the rest of us the airport is removed from the Convention Center only by a \$1.60 ticket on the light rail. The auction houses always have a big sale in conjunction with the show and numerous coin clubs use the occasion for regional meetings. Whitman Publishing used this show to roll out their new “Mega Red” Redbook, a 1500-page compendium with greatly expanded content over the annual Guide Book. All in all, it adds up to a coin cornucopia three times a year, with the March and November shows being especially well attended.

I flew in Thursday afternoon and, after checking into the hotel, headed over to the M&S Grill for the LSCC dinner in the Inner Harbor. The weather was surprisingly inviting and a good number of restaurants were setup for outdoor service. I did not get an exact count, but about a dozen of us met up for dinner. The show was good for business, and the dealer members were in a happy mood. The M&S bartender was equally successful, at least at our table, and the usual complaints about grading services and excessive pricing seemed to be eased by the free-flowing adult refreshments. Following dinner, it was time to check in on the Stack’s Bowers Kendall Auction. The Internet is a strange thing – you can walk into the auction room and attempt to determine what a previous lot

sold for, or you can just go back to the hotel and pull it up on the computer. It turns out the latter approach was more convenient and I watched a few of the high-priced lots in the Kendall sale (the AU Birch cent went at \$1.175M) via the Stack’s Bowers online video. Auction rooms are empty these days – the following day I briefly looked in on the action and saw perhaps 6 bidders in a room setup for a couple hundred. Multi-screen activity at home is where the action is, and, while one screen carried the auction results, another was tuned into the NCAA championship round of 16.

The LSCC meeting was held 9 AM Friday, with what must have been record attendance. There were 40 who signed in, and perhaps 50 or more who attended (one report said 53). In addition, several new memberships were taken at the show. Lots of momentum here. The meeting kicked off with Jim Macor and Dennis Fortier describing the process to create the new LSCC logo. The logo is the basis of our “look and feel” for club publications and will be integrated into the *Gobrecht Journal*, PowerPoint templates, and elsewhere. Many thanks to Jim for donating his time and expertise to improve our club branding.

Up next was our Education Director John Frost. John is putting together a number of PowerPoint presentations which can be used in regional meeting for education purposes, especially targeting new or prospective members. (A further shout out here to John and Dennis Fortier, who capably attended the LSCC table on the show floor.) John next presented on image formats, a useful topic as many of us

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Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The New Orleans Liberty Seated quarters make a very interesting set. None are common, some are rare, and still others are condition rarities, even in higher circulated grades. Add to that the number of varieties in what is a pretty short

set (20 different issues) and you have what to some may seem a collector's paradise (readers may want to note a certain author bias). A die study of New Orleans quarters reveals that most have a quite manageable number of die marriages (2 to 12) that make die marriage collections of individual dates interesting without being overwhelming. The exceptions to this are the 1844 and 1854 New Orleans issues which have proven to be unusually challenging, or frustrating, depending on one's outlook and sometimes the day of the week.

The 1844-O issue has 12 die marriages listed in Briggs' *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (Lima OH 1991). The coins tend to be poorly made and or poorly preserved and are often quite difficult to attribute. In addition, most examples seem to represent fewer than 6 of the known die marriages with the other 6+ being elusive at best. Gaining access to enough examples for a definitive die study appears to be a very long-term project.

The 1854-O raises the bar even further. Three obverse and six reverse dies seem to have all been paired together at least once during 1854. Given the lack of a pattern, it is likely that there was at least one remarriage, though that has not yet been verified. The relatively large mintage, and the use of some of the dies until they literally fell apart, leaves it unclear just how

many die marriages (including die states) might exist. The situation prompted Briggs to write in 1991 "It seems that there was no method to die usage, and whatever was within easiest grasp was paired to strike coins for that day or occasion." The 1854-O is an even longer-term project than the 1844-O in that the 1854-O is kind of a sleeper that is not easy to locate. Despite that difficulty, it appears that hundreds of examples would likely be required to conclusively solve the mystery.

The moral of the story is that I look forward to hearing from follow Liberty Seated quarter enthusiasts who have found something new or interesting with one of these two issues. I was especially happy to hear from coin dealer (and LSCC Hall of Fame member)

Brian Greer in January of this year with a new twist on the 1844-O. The coin he contacted me about was an example of Briggs 2-C. It is not the rarest of the die marriages but I do not recall ever seeing an example either in a slab or in good enough condition that one might expect a third party grader to put it in a slab. This particular die marriage vaulted to the head of the most interesting 1844-O die marriages list a few years ago when Dick Osburn discovered an example that had not only the characteristic die lump on the "C" in AMERICA, but also a



mintmark repunched south; a feature not previously reported but now (March 2015) verified on at least six examples. The example Brian discovered (see image in center) is a very late die state with the die lump, the repunched mintmark and a notable cud over the "NIT" in UNITED. So far, this remains the only known example of the late date state with the cud.

Photo courtesy of Brian Greer.



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Plans for future surprises and educational seminars are in the works. The June Long Beach show and January FUN show are among those being discussed for educational seminars. So stay tuned for more on that. The ANA convention is not far off and plans for that are underway as well.

This month we have The Bay State Show in Marlborough, MA on April 17-18 (Dennis Fortier hosting the club table), Buffalo Numismatic Association show in Buffalo NY on April 17-19 (John Frost is hosting), with a club table and multiple presentations. John will have "An Introduction to Liberty Seated Coinage" and "Double Dimes and The Carson City Mint" for the Buffalo attendees. Finally, there is the upcoming Central States Numismatic Society Conven-

tion, Schaumburg, IL, April 22-25 (Steve Petty is hosting). There will be a club meeting and Steve will have a presentation on Trade Dollars.

As you can see it is a busy spring schedule with no let up for in sight. Hopefully, the members and general public can take advantage of some of the club activity and enjoy the efforts of the LSCC volunteers.

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work with coin images on our computers. A one sentence summary is useful – the best policy is to use TIFF exclusively until you publish online, at which time it is good to convert to JPG for space savings. There was a lot more to it than that, but that was the more important point.

Following John, Brian Cushing gave an update of the Liberty Seated dollar variety website that he is working on with Dick Osburn – check it out at www.SeatedDollarVarieties.com, there is some great content in here and these two have clearly spent a lot of time studying a lot of coins. If you own even a single Liberty Seated dollar, it will be a fun exercise to get on the site and attribute the "OC" variety. Following Brian, I presented a few slides based on my article in *Gobrecht Journal* #122 that described the discovery (and re-discovery) of a Gobrecht dollar with provenance to Andrew Jackson. The current owner of the coin was in attendance with her family and it was nice to finally meet them in person after a correspondence of several years.

I spent the remainder of Friday in an all-day meeting for the Newman Numismatic Portal. You'll be hearing a lot more about this in the future (the ini-

tial press release is at <https://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/27786.aspx>). I am a consultant on the project, and, in short, our goal is gather as much numismatic information as possible onto a single website. We will be hosting a lot of new content unavailable anywhere else – stay tuned! Friday evening I had dinner with Wayne Homren (also a consultant on the Newman Portal) along with John Kraljevich and Erik Goldstein. We went to an Afghan restaurant recommended by John (I had no idea such a thing existed in Baltimore), and the establishment lived up to its billing – this one is a keeper. Saturday morning it was back to the airport, sadly at an early hour leaving no time to walk around the bourse – a scheduling mistake that will not be repeated.

Lastly – we are still accepting donations and consignments for the club auction that will be held at the ANA meeting in August. Space is limited and a few items have already been received (thanks to Brian Greer who gave me two items at the Baltimore show). Contact me at leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com with any questions.



Last Call for Nominations for the LSCC HALL OF FAME



The Hall of Fame Committee composed of club members Len Augsburg, Bill Bugert, Tom DeLorey, Gerry Fortin, and Mark Sheldon wishes to inform the membership that we are accepting nominations for the Liberty Seated Collectors Club's 2014 Hall of Fame (HoF). Please consider honoring a noteworthy individual to this prestigious distinction for his/her contributions to the club and/or to the advancement of collecting Liberty Seated coinage.

Basic qualifications for club member nominees are significant advances in or contributions to at least one of the following four criteria:

- Numismatic Research on Liberty Seated coinage
- Numismatic Literature related to Liberty Seated coinage
- Collection(s) of Liberty Seated coinage
- LSCC Club officer (for at least five years).

Previous inductees to the HoF include Kamal M. Ahwash (deceased), John W. McCloskey, Alfred E. Blythe (deceased), Randall E. Wiley, Brian Greer, Jim O'Donnell (deceased), Gerry Fortin, and last year's inductee, Eugene Gardner. This year's inductee will be announced at the LSCC 2015 Annual meeting at the August ANA Convention.

The nominations must be received no later than April 15, 2015 and are due to the HoF Chairman, Bill Bugert, via email at wb8cpy@earthlink.net or via postal mail at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 or to Bill via telephone at (717) 337-0229.



Photo by Rich Uhnich.

LSCC dinner group photo, M&S Grill, Baltimore, MD, March 26, 2015.



The Strike Zone

by Rich Hundertmark, LSCC #2347

The Die Pairs of 1861 Liberty Seated Philadelphia Quarters

Modified fly fishing proverb of the month:

For the supreme test of a coin collector is not how many coins owned,
not even how he purchased them, but what he has acquired when he has acquired no coin.
- borrowed with appreciation from *John H Bradley*

The year 1861 will always be remembered in United States history as the first year of the Civil War. With respect to Liberty Seated coinage, mintage for the denominations of 1861 were very high compared to the other Civil War years and the Philadelphia Mint's quarter dollar output of 4,853,600 business strikes exceeded by a wide margin the combined twenty-five cent mintage of all other Civil War years.

However, the date is surprisingly interesting in that two die combinations were struck:

- First: the common 1861 Type II Obverse paired with the Type II Reverse die
- Second: the rare Type II Obverse /Type I Reverse die combination that is listed as a Top 25 Liberty Seated Quarter Variety. This pairing recently caught both my attention and interest, as this tough to find variety is probably overlooked by many when searching 1861 dates.

The Type II obverse is readily identified by the shield lines that were added above the E in LIBERTY and the Type I reverse can be identified both the con-

cave “inward bulge” look to the Eagle's eye and the final A in AMERICA being lower than the other letters in the legend.

Personally, knowing the difference in the Eagle's eye is the easier diagnostic for me in differentiating the two dies. There are other differences, but knowing these key characteristics is all that is required for accurate identification.

The variety has a significant premium and Greg Johnson has estimated that less than one-half of one percent can be found with the Type II/I pairing. For further research on the 1861 Type II/I and all 1859-1864 die pairings, Greg's articles of February, March and April 2011 can be found in the *E-Gobrecht* archives and cover the topic in wonderful detail.

The picture (at left) of a lovely Type I reverse die is from Greg's article.



1861 Type I Reverse



LSCC Member in the Spotlight:

David Sunshine

by Tony Barreca, LSCC #2151

Tony: *When did you first become interested in coin collecting and numismatics? Was there a specific experience or set of experiences that triggered it? What series did you start collecting when you did?*

David: I was introduced to coin collecting when I was ten years old by my Dad and his closest friend; they are both avid coin collectors. I went with them to my first big coin show in 2004, the ANA show in Pittsburgh, and ever since then I have been hooked!

The first series I collected was Buffalo nickels in high, circulated grades, and I was able to finish it within three years.

Tony: *How did you initially become interested in Liberty Seated (LS) coins? Which LS denominations do you focus on currently? Previously?*

David: After completing Buffalo nickels, I started my type set, and the Liberty Seated coins fascinated me with all the different subtypes, e.g., Arrows & Rays, Arrows, Motto & No Motto, and No Stars. I enjoy all denominations of Liberty Seated coins and my desire is to get a complete set of Liberty Seated coinage.

I know it's a life long dream, but hey, I am young!

Tony: *How long have you been an LSCC member? In your opinion, what are the main advantages of belonging to the club?*

David: I have been a member of LSCC for only 6 months. So far, I've enjoyed meeting and getting friendly with members. I enjoy reading both the *Gobrecht Journal* and the *E-Gobrecht* and learning more about Liberty Seated coins.

Tony: *If you could change one thing about the LSCC, what would it be?*

David: I would like to see more members under 30. I have many ideas on how we might be able to make that happen. For example, we could ask dealers

to sponsor 10 memberships a year for anyone under thirty, and raise exposure for Liberty Seated coin collecting as a denominational type set for young collectors, as opposed to completing sets of Lincoln cents and Buffalo nickels.

I remember when I was younger reading the *Coin World* advertisements and seeing Jack Beymer advertising a type set of odd denominational coins for \$125 or so. Maybe a LSCC dealer could stock type sets of Liberty Seated dimes and half dimes and sell them to younger collectors for a low price?

It is not feasible for a 12 year old to complete a set of Liberty Seated quarters or half dollars. A type set of Liberty Seated dimes or half dimes is much more realistic. Having more young collectors collecting Liberty Seated coins equals more potential LSCC members.

Tony: *In your collecting career, what was the greatest coup you ever pulled off when purchasing a coin?*

David: Recently, I acquired a beautiful 1861 O half dollar in PCGS AU-58 CAC. I was able to attribute the coin to be a WB-104—Speared Olive Bud variety—that is considered an R-4. The coin has great eye appeal in addition to being a scarce variety.

Tony: *Do you think of the hobby as being a form of investment as well? If so, how do you approach your use of coins as an investment vehicle?*

David: I will always be a coin collector; it is in my blood. I have turned my passion into a career and 6 months ago started a business as a coin dealer. I started dreaming of this as a 14-year-old and I'm so thrilled to make this dream a reality! So far, it is just the beginning, but I am doing better than I anticipated.

Tony: *What other hobbies/interests do you have besides numismatics?*

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LSCC Member in the Spotlight Continued from page 9)

David: Besides numismatics, I am a big New York Yankees fan and an avid golfer.

Tony: *What is your greatest or most memorable personal achievement?*

I got a hole in one when I was 13 and my Dad, who has a lower handicap and has been playing much longer than me, is still waiting for one. I always tease him about it.

LSCC Auction Items Wanted

As in most recent years (excluding 2014 when John McCloskey's retirement was the highlight), the officers conducted an annual auction to benefit the club's Treasury. With quality auction items and great participation from the membership, we have been able to reap a windfall, keep membership dues low (at \$20!), and complete some club projects (such as the LSCC display banners). In 2015, we are again planning an auction at the annual meeting at the ANA's World's Fair of Money.

Please consider donating a quality numismatic item for this year's benefit auction. In the past, items have included rare auction catalogues, Gobrecht medals, deluxe bound Liberty Seated books, and counter-stamped Liberty Seated coins but we are delighted to accept almost any quality item.

Contact LSCC Vice President Len Augsburger at leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com for additional information or to submit an item for the auction. Thank You!



Group photo (at least for those who were there for the photo) of the attendees at the March 2015 LSCC Regional Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

Note: We had so many attendees (53) that two images of the group was taken as this is an attempt to merge the two images taken at slightly different angles.



Baltimore Educational Program

by John Frost, LSCC Education Director, LSCC #2005

Due to technical problems (a broken laptop), we were not able to record the LSCC meeting and educational program as we planned, but the presentations have been uploaded to the LSCC website for your viewing or download. Each of the presentations is equipped with "Speaker Notes" to supplement the slides themselves. The Educational Presentations page can be found at http://www.lscweb.org/Educational_Presentations.php.

There are three PowerPoint files from our Baltimore meeting:
LSCC Club Update - Len Augsburger, John Frost, and Brian Cushing.
Working With Images - John Frost.
The Andrew Jackson-Earl-Sevier Gobrecht Dollar - Len Augsburger.

More presentations will be posted in the coming months.

Educational Presentations

Baltimore Expo - March 27, 2015

Due to technical problems, the meeting could not be recorded. However, the following three presentations were presented in Baltimore at our Regional Meeting in March, and are available for viewing and download. These Powerpoint presentations have **Speaker Notes**, to supplement the slides themselves. To view the Speaker Notes, select **View --> Notes Page** within PowerPoint.

LSCC Club Update - Len Augsburger, John Frost, Brian Cushing (pptx, 2.3mb)
Working With Images - John Frost (pptx, 2.2mb)
The Andrew Jackson-Earl-Sevier Gobrecht Dollar - Len Augsburger (pptx, 6.4mb)

FUN Show - January 9, 2015

The following three video clips were recorded at our LSCC meeting at the FUN show in Orlando on January 9. The first video records the LSCC Update portion of the meeting. The second video clip is David Perkins' presentation on Gobrecht Dollars. The third video is of Chris Pilliod's presentation on Liberty Seated Love Tokens.

LSCC Club Update - Gerry Fortin (mp4, 27mb)
Gobrecht Dollar Presentation - W. David Perkins (mp4, 51mb)
Seated Love Tokens - Chris Pilliod (mp4, 21mb)



Meeting photos from the March 2015 LSCC Regional meeting at Baltimore.



New Reverse Die Found for 1875-CC Twenty-cent Piece by John Frost, LSCC #2005

Even with all of the research and study my co-author Lane Brunner and I have done over many years, we always expected a new die marriage would be discovered after our book, *Double Dimes – The United States Twenty-cent Piece*, was published. But we always assumed it would be an 1875-S that would provide us with something new. I would have bet a good sum against finding another CC die, but find one we did. And a new die marriage to go with it. This new and very rare die marriage is very similar to the already-rare 1875-CC BF-1, which was only discovered in the spring of 2013.

Last summer, I found an 1875-CC coin with a buckled reverse, a Low Close CC, proof-like, and no die cracks. Since the BF-1 has a Low Close CC, a buckled reverse die, and almost always has severe die cracks at TWENTY, it was assumed that this example was an early die state of the BF-1.

In mid-January, we took a closer look at the coin (mainly because of the exceptional proof-like reverse) and noticed that the second C was tilted at a different angle than found on the BF-1. It had to be new die altogether! Paired with the same obverse die as BF-1 and BF-2, Lane Brunner and I have designated this **new die marriage as BF-5**. Based on obverse die state and die polish, we determined that this new BF-5 was struck after BF-1 and before BF-2. Below are close-up images of the mintmark position for both the BF-1 and BF-5, showing the first C is *below* the arrow, and the second C's tilt at different angles.



1875-CC BF-1, Reverse A, Both Cs tilt right



1875-CC BF-5, Reverse D, second C tilts left

We (along with some of our readers) re-examined our 1875-CC BF-1 examples and found that a second coin, also without die cracks, was indeed a BF-5. A third coin without die cracks was a BF-1 as originally attributed.

After more than 18 months of intense searching of well more than 1,000 1875-CC coins both online (Heritage, Stack's Bowers, Great Collections, eBay, etc.) and in-person at shows, few examples have been found of any Low Close CC coin. The present tally: only nine confirmed examples of the BF-1 are known, including one offered by Heritage on eBay recently (not sure if it sold), plus another at a dealer's table in Knoxville. Only one of these nine coins lacks the heavy reverse die cracks at TWENTY. And presently, just two BF-5 coins are known - an AU (discovery coin) and an XF. When all is said and done, after collectors have examined their 1875-CC coins, we expect the new BF-5 to be at least Rarity-6, which is what we have designated it for now. Perhaps it will be promoted to R-7 in the future, if very few additional examples are found.

What we find intriguing is that the first two 1875-CC reverse dies suffered failures so quickly. Reverse A of BF-1 buckled (photo below) and cracked severely, and probably made only about 1,000 coins before being replaced. Then the new Reverse D of BF

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-5 took its place, buckled immediately, and was removed after perhaps a few hundred coins. Reverse B of BF-2 was then put into service and produced perhaps 100,000 coins without any problems.



Buckled Reverse with Undulating Field

Either Reverses A and D were made from defective die steel, or something about the coining process caused die failure, and was rectified after losing

two dies. This will be the subject of more investigation.

We would like to hear of any other BF-1 and BF-5 coins found. You can let me know on the LSCC online Forum, or by contacting us via our website, www.doubledimes.com.

Our web-book has been updated to reflect the discovery of the new Reverse D and BF-5. The 1875-CC Summary page shows all four mintmark positions, along with the two date positions. See

- www.doubledimes.com/1875CC-Summary.html

- www.doubledimes.com/1875CC-BF5.html.

For those of you with the Print Edition of the Book, we have created and posted an Addendum in PDF format which can be downloaded and printed to be inserted in your book. The addendum is at:

www.doubledimes.com/DoubleDimeBook-Addendum-March2015.pdf.

Happy hunting, and please let us know if you find any more BF-1 and BF-5 coins.

Seated Dollar Summit, March 2015

by Dick Osburn, Brian Cushing, and John Frost

For 5 days in mid-March, Dick Osburn, Brian Cushing, and John Frost met in Kemah Texas for intense but enjoyable work on Dick and Brian's upcoming Register of Liberty Seated Dollar Varieties book. With nearly 500 Liberty Seated Dollars in attendance, there were three primary activities and goals:

- Take advantage of so many Liberty Seated Dollars being in one place to study, with Dick and Brian working on book content.
- Use the existing book content to attribute many of the dollars, to evaluate completeness and ease-of-use of the content and format.
- Develop and deploy the core website technology forming the basis of the web book, to be launched now for feedback.

With long days of hard work, significant progress resulted in a new website, some discussion of suggested book format, and successful attribution of many

of the coins on-hand.

With Ruth Osburn taking excellent care of the Summit participants, our heroes sustained themselves with the Friday night steak special at the Hoagie Ranch, Pizza Night at Double Dave's, and a late-night trip to the DQ for Oreo Blizzards.

Dick and Brian are pleased to announce the initial deployment of their web book, www.seateddollarvarieties.com. This early deployment of the preliminary and unedited content is for the convenience of collectors, both to solicit feedback and to request any new varieties, die marriages, or die states not already cataloged will be reported to the authors. This early roll-out will allow any new discoveries to be included prior to the creation of the printed book, planned for the summer of 2016. The web book will be updated in the coming months as new content is developed, and existing content is updated and edited.



Meeting with “Tom Bogus” in the 1840s

by Jim Laughlin, LSCC #876

The following article dealing with counterfeiting was published in the central New York State town of Norwich, in 1844, and reprinted later by a predominant newspaper in New York City. The article's length and detail provides some insight into the contemporary period that our early Liberty Seated coinage circulated.

March 12, 1844, New York Daily Tribune
From Correspondent of the *Evening Journal*,
Norwich, February 25, 1844

Dear Sirs—I reached this place on Thursday last, and having a leisure day or two on my hands, I amused myself by attending the Court of General Sessions of Chenango, then sitting in this village. The customary quantity of indictments for larceny, assault and battery and other rascalities, occupied the time of the court, and were disposed of pretty much as is usual with you in Albany. But there was one case so unique and so entirely original, at least to me, that I have supposed you might deem it worthy an insertion in the Journal.

It was the trial of William B. Thorington, for obtaining property by means of false pretenses. It appeared on trial that Thorington met a man named Underwood, in Solon, Cortland County, in September last, and in the course of conversation, informed him that he was engaged in the business of passing counterfeit coin; that the coin was made by a company of men in Kingston, in Upper Canada; that it was so well counterfeited that no man could detect it, the inside being

German silver, but the outside pure silver; that this quality of the article was worth fifty cents on the dollar; that they had another kind made of copper, which was not worth so much. Thorington then handed Underwood some five or six pieces of money, (United States Half Dollars) which he told him was the best kind of counterfeit, and requested Underwood to examine and try them.

Underwood kept them one day, when he returned them to Thorington except one piece, which piece was presented and identified on the trial and proved to be a genuine half dollar. Some few days after they met again, when Underwood was informed that a man, named Bryant, would be in the town of Lincklean, Chenango County, a few miles from Solon, on the eighth day of November, with that kind of money to sell, when, if he wished to buy, he might purchase. Punctual to the time, Underwood met Thorington at Lincklean, and they, together, in the night time met a third person in the road calling himself Bryant, who said he had \$1500 or \$1600 of that kind of money to sell, at fifty cents on the dollar. The money was done up in two specie boxes, handsomely banded and tinned at the corners. Underwood purchased one box, containing, as they told him, six hundred dollars, without opening it, and paid for the same his own note of \$240 and notes against others for \$60. He took his box, put it in a bag, with a chunk of wood in one end to balance, slung it over his horse, and rode home twelve miles, when, in the presence of his wife, he opened it, and lo!

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The contents were pot metal and sand! There was some conflicting testimony in the matter, Underwood swearing that he supposed he was buying good silver money at fifty cents on the dollar, but that it was made by some persons at Kingston; while a brother of his, who was present at a conversation between Underwood and Thorington, testified that Thorington represented it as made of German silver and of other materials not silver, by reason of which it could be sold so cheap. The jury found Thorington guilty. He is a young man of 25 years, and has an eye and features bespeaking the shrewd Yankee, "and no mistake."

Is not this a curious maneuver to raise the wind? It is hardly credible. And yet this game has been carried out on to a great extent in Chenango, Madison, Otsego, Cortland and Tompkins Counties. It is here known as the "sand game"—and in speaking of the victims, they were characterized as the persons, "boxed". At the lowest, \$40,000 of sand and pot metal have been sold in this manner in these Counties alone within the last eighteen months!

There are a hundred different phases to the game. Sometimes the man who wishes to sell, shows his different samples of what he terms counterfeit coin, but which are in truth the genuine coins, prepared to resemble the counterfeit. One sample, they say can be had for 20 cents on the dollar. This kind has a brassy appearance given to them by shaking them in a bag with brass filings. Another kind has a leaden appearance, occasioned by shaking them in a similar manner with lead, and is called worth thirty cents on the dollar. Another

sample has the greasy, oily appearance of "bogus" money, which is given by some chemical preparation which I have not learned. This latter kind is worth from 35 to 40 cents on the dollar. But the best kind, and the kind they always sell, has a slight copper appearance, which can only be discovered by examining it by strong light, shining horizontally upon it. This color is imparted to it by boiling pieces in wheat bran. The operators give to the person who wishes to purchase, a few pieces, requesting him to pass them to merchants and other good judges of money, and call their attention to them to see if they will detect them. The merchant, of course, takes them and calls them good. He then concludes to buy; meets "Tom Bogus", as he is generally termed (who is some accomplice in disguise) in the woods in the night, pays over the stipulated amount, and receives in return a closed box; takes it home, opens, and like poor Underwood, finds only pot metal and sand. Generally one of the gang buys with the victim as a partner, and is enabled to keep all right and quiet.

Sometimes the operators are obliged to count out the money to a purchaser who will not take a closed box, on the strength of their word. At such times "Tom Bogus" counts out the genuine coin; the victim and his partner start for home, and on their way stop at a tavern to drink or feed; and while in the house the box mysteriously disappears from their wagon, leaving the victim minus his cash paid, without even the poor privilege of grumbling aloud!

I have learned many good anecdotes growing out of these queer operations, of the

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truth of which there can be no question. Last fall a victim in Cortland County, bought, in company with one of the gang, one thousand dollars of these pretended counterfeit dollars, all counted out in his presence, for which he paid \$500 down. On going home they stopped at a public house a few minutes, and while there the box stepped out of the wagon. A few nights afterward the same victim, with the same accomplice, bought of the same "Tom Bogus" another box in the same manner as before, and on their way homeward were overtaken by a man on horseback, who said he had a warrant for them for having counterfeit coin in their possession. The purchasers pushed ahead with the utmost speed, with the officer in pursuit, yelling out every moment, "stop the counterfeiters". The victim, knowing he must be overtaken, and that the coin, if found on him, would ensure his conviction, threw the box overboard and made his escape; but he has not to this day again seen the box, or heard who was the officer, or who the magistrate that issued the warrant! Every one of these thousand dollars was in fact a legal issue from the mint of the United States.

On the Unadilla River, a short time since, a person designing to purchase \$400 of that coin, was determined not to take a sealed box without knowing its contents. He took with him an auger, and, before he paid his money, bored through the top of the box. The auger struck silver coins which he could see glitter and shine. He was satisfied that he, at least, was not gammoned; he paid his money as per agreement, and departed. Alas for him!—When he opened it, he found nine

dollars and fifty cents in good silver on the top, and underneath the everlasting sand and pot metal. What adds to the romance of this case, is, that the victim expressed his fears, on taking the box, that he might be robbed on his way home. To quiet his alarm, "Tom Bogus" furnished him a loaded pistol. His mortification and despair on finding how grossly he had been duped, were so great that he seized the pistol to shoot himself with. But the pistol, to his horror, like the box, was loaded with the same harmless sand.

Again; about two months ago, in a village of Madison County, a stranger, an operator, stopped at a tavern, and soon incidentally, if not accidentally, exhibited two Gold Eagles. In the course of a long talk, the operator said these eagles were counterfeit gold, which he had bought at about five dollars apiece, as curiosities, and that their real value was about four dollars each; that they were so well counterfeited but few goldsmiths could detect them, and if any gentlemen wished them as pocket pieces or fancy pieces they might have them for five dollars each, as he knew where he could buy two more like them. With his consent, two persons took them to a goldsmith to be tested, by whom they were pronounced to be good gold coin. The operator said that doubtless the goldsmith thought so, but he was mistaken; that they could only be detected by weighing them in water by their specific gravity. The two men bought the pieces, and paid ten dollars, the stranger assuring them again they must not pass them, as they were counterfeits. He left the inn, and within a mile was overtaken by the said two men, who confidentially informed him they wished to buy \$1500 worth of the

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article. The stranger told them where the man with that kind of money would be next night, and that they could probably purchase of him; but cautioned then again strongly against it, as an attempt to pass it would bring them up at State Prison. Notwithstanding this solemn warning, the two innocents repaired to the place of assignation the very next night, and in the depths of the woods, with every precaution of secrecy and confidence, received from "Thomas Bogus, Esquire", a specie box comprising within its strong board three thousand dollars in gold, for which they forked over fifteen hundred dollars in current bank notes, and went their way rejoicing. When the light of day broke upon the "insides", the Eagles and Half Eagles, where were they? The sand, the shot and the pot metal had taken their place!

I could multiply these anecdotes ad infinitum, and add others showing the way in which they manage to negotiate the notes taken

in payment for the Bogus, but these must suffice.

You must not deem these stories incredible. They are true. It is painful to hear how many men, heretofore considered reputable, have been stripped of their money and reputation by this gilded bait of two dollars for one, so temptingly placed before them. Their names are freely given here, and are in everybody's mouth. Very strangely, these facts have not, before, been given to the public in the papers. Will you not be contributing to the preservation of some who are yet upright, by helping, to disclose the wiles by which the crafty and unprincipled seek to approach them on their "blind side?"

Respectfully W.J.

Newspaper Sources: Library of Congress
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

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

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