



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Short Announcement from Gerry...

Notes from LSCC President Gerry Fortin: Though the Central States Numismatic Society show was not well attended, the LSCC regional meeting took a leadership role on Friday. Over 20 club members were in attendance to garner the latest club news from LSCC Vice President Len Augsburger and a well research presentation by Stephen Petty, LSCC Central Regional Director, on United States monetary policy challenges that resulted in the creation of the Trade Dollar. LSCC regional meetings continue to grow in size now that that club has launched its educational initiative under the leadership of John Frost.

The Denver Coin Expo is a regular stop on my show circuit along with hosting LSCC regional meetings. The past 2014 meetings have been poorly attended so I'm trying a new approach for the upcoming May 8, 2015 session. One of the two most important varieties in the Liberty Seated Dime Top 100 Varieties set is the 1839 Pie Shattered obverse and my PCGS EF45 Green CAC example will be traveling to Denver and on display at the regional meeting. Also accompanying the 1839 Pie are two earlier die state (F-105a PCGS EF45 Gold CAC and F-105b PCGS AU50 Green CAC). At the regional meeting, I will give a presentation that highlights the origin of the 1839 Pie along with rarity and pricing estimates.

Lastly, it is time to start discussions concerning an LSCC Convention as this concept is on my roadmap for expanding club awareness within the numismatic industry and also facilitating a large social event for club members. The planning and coordination for bringing about an LSCC Convention is substantial. It can only be brought to reality by a strong program manager who can assemble a group of volunteers to handle tasks such as sponsorship, venue selection and cost, security, hotel accommodations, dealer participation, and club auction. The current LSCC leadership team is fully consumed with a variety of outreach, publishing, and club membership expansion programs and are unable to take on a Convention project. Therefore, I seek a retired professional with good planning and coordination skills to take on this challenge. Please contact me at wuximems@hotmail.com if there is a desire to work within the LSCC leadership circle towards bringing about this new club milestone. [Ed.— Emphasis is mine.]

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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** CSNS and Platinum Sale contained an 1838-O half dime graded AU55 that sold for \$4583 and a XF45 1846 hit \$4,465. A splendid 1853-O NA graded MS65+ soared to

\$28,200.

Two 1838-O dimes graded MS64 and MS65+ sold for \$9,988 and \$32,900. An 1842-O graded AU58 hit \$1,998 and a VF30 1856-S sold for \$1,146. Two 1860-O coins sold for \$1,028 and \$10,575 in VG10 and AU55. An XF45 1872-CC soared to \$12,925.

An 1852-O quarter graded VF20 sold for \$1,293 and a F15 1860-S piece was sold for \$2,350. The finest 1860-S known at MS61, last sold by Gard-

ner, did not sell but was offered at \$70,500. A VF25 1861-S hit \$2,235 and a F12 1872-S went for \$3,995.

A nice MS64 half dollar 1855-S soared to \$49,350. A XF40 1856-S sold for \$1,124. Three 1870-CC coins graded XF40, XF40, and XF45 hammered for \$8,225, \$8,519, and \$11,163.

An AU50 1872-CC sold for \$3,055 and an XF40 1874-CC hit \$4,700. An AU53 1878-CC sold for \$4465.

Two 1872-CC dollars graded VF30 and AU53 sold for \$4,935 and \$11,163.

LSCC Calendar

May 3, 2015. **LSCC Table**, Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club Annual Coin Show, Holiday Inn Hotel, Chelsea Room, Norwich, CT. John Frost will be hosting the club table.

May 8, 2015. **LSCC Regional Meeting**, Denver Coin Expo, National Western Complex, Denver, Co. 1 PM. Check show schedule for room number. Gerry Fortin hosts this meeting and will display die states of the 1839 Pie Shattered obverse F-105a Liberty Seated dime. See details on page 1 of this issue.

May 20, 2015. **LSCC Presentation**, Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club meeting, Stonington Arms Recreational Center, 133 South Broad Street (Route 1), Pawcatuck, CT. 6:30 PM. Dennis Fortier will be presenting. See details on page 6 of this issue.

May 27, 2015. **LSCC Presentation**, Sacramento Valley Coin Club meeting, North County Corporate Yard (Formerly SMUD Building), 5026 Don Julio Blvd., North Highlands, CA. 7 PM. Dennis Fortier will be presenting. See details on page 6 of this issue.

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

After a long harsh New England winter, spring's arrival motivates everyone to get out of the house. First, Willimantic

last month and now Bay State this month proved the truth of that. Collectors were out in force at Bay State after a brutal winter. LSCC club members usually seen in Manchester NH made their way to Marlboro MA and stopped by the LSCC table to catch-up on club happenings and share their newest acquisitions.

Their reward was the opportunity to view a beautifully original set of New Orleans Half Dollars displayed by Todd Mazzola who helped man the club table. Spending the two days at Bay State with Todd was a very pleasant time; one I hope will be soon repeated. Todd helped sign up two new members. Thanks Todd for your help and support of the club.

John Frost shuffled off to Buffalo NY for the Buffalo Numismatic Association's annual show. His report follows.

At the Buffalo Numismatic Association's Gold and Silver Expo held March 17-18, the LSCC had a Club Table with exhibits and club information. Traffic was moderate to heavy at times both Friday and Saturday, with a Boy Scout program in the back on Saturday. I didn't sign up any new members at this show, but I met several collectors that joined the LSCC at the Rochester NY show last November. They were certainly glad to see the club represented at the show and we had several good chats. LSCC member Andrew Mantonie (who was at the show helping another dealer) offered to help from time to time, but it was never so busy that he had to spend time behind the booth. Still, it was good to know backup was available!

Two educational sessions were given, but the venue was not really good for this and the public address system for the announcements only covered less than half the room, so attendance was poor. The BNA folks and I discussed ways to drastically improve this in the future, if we attend next year. They enthusiastically want us back next year, which is good.

Finally, we have the Central States Numismatic Society Convention. I borrow from Gerry Fortin's website blog as I could not improve on his precise and concise review.

The LSCC regional meeting hosted by Steve Petty had strong attendance with approximately 20 people. The meeting featured an outstanding presentation by Stephen Petty on the United States monetary policies that brought about the creation of the Trade Dollar. Steve's presentation was very well researched and sheds light into the challenges of the Treasury Secretary and Mint Director's efforts to manage seigniorage (difference between face value and metal value of silver coins), the Gold Standard (attempting to keep face value of coins to same value as the bullion in the coins) and finally, the Dual Standard (the historical ratio of gold and silver coins at ~15 times.) Steve's conclusion was that United States monetary policy (too much silver bullion being mined in the West) lead to the creation of the Trade Dollar as solution by which to export the excess silver to China avoiding a shift in the Dual Standard.

Steve Petty reports that a *CoinWorld* representative was at the CSNS meeting and there was an interesting discussion of a *CoinWorld* CAC price list in the works.

Many thanks to Steve Petty, John Frost, and Todd Mazzola for all their efforts on behalf of the club.

Coming up in May, John Frost will host a club table at the annual Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club Show on May 3rd at the Norwich CT Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich CT.

LSCC President, Gerry Fortin, will host a regional meeting at the Denver Coin Expo on May 8 at 1:00pm. Gerry is bringing his 1839 EF45 CAC Pie Shattered obverse dime along with two early die state examples to Denver for display and presentation at the meeting.

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The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Civil War and Confederate issues have long been a favorite of Liberty Seated collectors, with the 1861-O half dollar most recently taking center stage. The 2003 recovery of a large

number of 1861-O halves from the wreck of the SS Republic helped to popularize this issue, and Randy Wiley authored an extensive study of the SS Republic coins in the *Gobrecht Journal* (#94, #97). Wiley's study uncovered 17 die varieties, and the Republic recovery was so vast that it was possible to purchase complete variety sets from the salvagers. The exact number of 1861-O halves was never revealed, except to say that the total recovery of gold and silver was over 51,000 pieces. The market seems to especially value the 1861-O halves struck under Confederate authority, and these are even mentioned in the *Guide Book* and described as "crack from nose to border; same obverse die used to coin pattern Confederate half dollars." Wiley traced other dies used under Confederate authority, but these are not so readily identified, and the die crack at the nose has become the accepted diagnostic for the Confederate attribution.

The pattern Confederate half dollars, known to the extent of four examples, paired the "nose crack" obverse die with a new Confederate reverse. The Confederate reverse appears to be something of a rush job – it is not so finely executed as federal coinage of the period, exhibiting little texture and even less creative design. The Liberty cap and shield on the reverse are redundant, and the letter punches are sim-

ple. The artistic criticism, however, pales in comparison to the historicity of the legend. CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA is all you need to know – this coin an open rebellion against Washington. Coinage is a deliberate act of sovereignty, and the mere striking of the coin said much more than any artist could. The Confederate pattern half has created

excitement in recent months with the sale of two of the four known coins – the Ford-Patrick example sold in January for \$881,250, while the Kendall specimen sold in March for \$646,250. The four coins struck by this die pair, under Confederate authority, are justly celebrated as historic pieces of Americana (or should I say Confederatiana?) but the recent Heritage Central States sale brought to mind a similar half dollar struck by the exact same dies, that sold for considerably less.

The story is this. In 1879, New York stamp and coin dealer J. W. Scott acquired the reverse die for the Confederate pattern. Once you own a historic coining die, the temptation to use it is great. And if you are in the business of selling coins for profit, the temptation to use it is almost insurmountable. Oscar Wilde famously observed that "the only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it," and this is precisely what Mr. Scott did. Scott took 500 1861 federal half

dollars (some mintmarked, some not), planed off the reverses, and then restruck the coins with the Confederate reverse die. The scheme to use genuine coins was brilliant – he could hardly be accused of counterfeiting, even if the coins were restruck. Scott marketed the pieces as restrikes and priced them at two dollars.



(Continued on page 6)



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

There have been a couple of recent questions regarding Liberty Seated quarter “Compass Point” reverses sent either to me personally or posted on the seated message boards. A fair amount of

writing and research has been done regarding this particular characteristic, and these recent questions suggest that a brief review of that work might be of value to readers of the *E-Gobrecht*.

The often, but not always, circular die defect located in the exact geometric center of the seated quarter reverse design has alternatively been called the “Broken Stripe” reverse and the “Compass Point” reverse since first being documented in print. It appears only on the reverses of Philadelphia mint quarters from the years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858. The rather subtle defect in the reverse shield of the 1847 quarter is shown in Figure 1. The completely circular defect in the reverse shield of the 1848 quarter is shown in Figure 2. The two pictured examples represent the extremes of the Broken Stripe / Compass Point Liberty Seated quarter reverses.

The first mention in print of what was initially called the “Broken Stripe” feature on the reverse of seated quarters appeared in 1978. Mel Hatfield authored an article entitled “AN OVERVIEW: The Quarter Dollars of the 1840’s” (1) published in Issue 12 of the *Gobrecht Journal* in which he noted the Broken Stripe reverse varieties of 1848 and 1849 quarters. Two issues later, in March of 1979, John McCloskey published a short note indicating that Broken Stripe reverse issues were also seen for 1854, 1856,

1857, and 1858 quarters (2). Walter Breen responded to this note with a letter to the editor pointing out that eagles (\$10) of the same time period demonstrated the same feature (3).

Printed discussion of the broken stripe reverse and its possible causes then took a hiatus until publication in 1991 of Larry Briggs’ *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (4). Briggs’ book identifies the die defect, which he named the

“Compass Point” reverse, amongst the issues of 1847, 1848, 1849, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858. The book also explains, in a section entitled “The History and Design Changes of the Seated Liberty Quarter” authored by Harry Smith that “This small blank circle is the result of a centering point from the engraving stylus covering the hub design and not transferring it to the working die.” The publication of the book appears to have rekindled interest in the Compass Point reverse, with two articles and a letter to the editor appearing in the *Gobrecht Journal* in 1992. John McCloskey authored an article in *Gobrecht Journal* #53 discussing his observations of the Compass Point reverse (5). He posed some unanswered questions and offered some plausible, but speculative, ideas regarding how this feature might arise during the coin manufacturing process. A subsequent letter to the editor and brief article in *Gobrecht Journal* #54 (6,7) added to the discussion and offered some additional ideas, but still without any objective

evidence in support of the speculations.

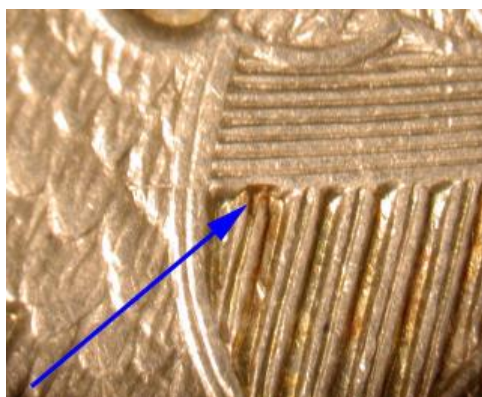


Figure 1. 1847 quarter reverse defect.



Figure 2. 1848 quarter reverse defect.



(Continued from page 3)

May 20th sees Dennis Fortier giving a new presentation on Overrated/Underrated Liberty Seated Coinage (John Frost as Educational Director was extremely helpful putting this presentation together), at the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club meeting at The Stonington Arms Recreation Room, Rt. 1 (133 South Broad St.) Pawcatuck CT. See the PVCC website for details <http://pawcatuckvalleycoinclub.com/>.

On May 27, for our Golden State friends and members, Dennis Fortier will give a presentation (Overrated/Underrated Liberty Seated Coinage) at the Sacramento Valley Coin Club meeting at North County Corporate Yard (Formerly SMUD Building), 5026 Don Julio Blvd., North Highlands, CA. The meeting

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The Scott restrike obverses exhibit compression at the high points and have somewhat of a lumpy appearance. An interesting comparison is the 1848 "CAL." gold quarter eagles. These pieces originated as regular 1848s and at this point it appears the coiner seated the coin in an obverse die and then applied the "CAL." counterstamp on the reverse. Most counterstamped pieces exhibit deformation on the opposite side of the punch, but this is not true in the case of "CAL." gold pieces. J. W. Scott almost certainly did not have access to an 1861 obverse half dollar die, and the process of restriking the reverse took its toll on the obverses.

While Scott did not market these restrikes as "genuine" Confederate pieces, he unwittingly created something quite similar. The original four Confederate pattern halves were struck with the same obverse die – the famous "nose crack" variety now so highly prized. Of the 500 restrikes executed in 1879, using 1861 halves, it turns out a few of these host coins also featured the "nose crack" obverse. Die variety examination of seated halves was in its infancy at the time, and that was only part of the story – Randy Wiley also required archival research to establish the striking period of the



begins at 7 PM. LSCC members in the area are encouraged to attend and say hello. Here is the SVCC website for more details <http://sacvalcc.org/Meetings.html>.

Brian Cushing will host a social at the June Long Beach show, and there are hopes for more club activities at this Long Beach show, so stay tuned for more info to come on that.

varieties, and in turn to determine under which authority a given coin was struck. Scott didn't know the "nose crack" was particular to New Orleans 1861 halves, and even more particular to the period of Confederate control. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and we can assume his promotion would have been accordingly altered had this been understood.

In any case, by dumb luck, we have today a number of Scott restrikes which started their life as 1861-O half dollars struck under Confederate authority, had their reverses planed off, and then restruck with the Confederate pattern half dollar reverse die. So far four of these coins, of the original 500, have been identified. One of these recently sold, in the Heritage Central States sale (lot 4495, realized \$22,325). So there you have it – struck by the exact same dies as the six-figure Confederate pattern pieces, but available for a fraction of the price. Had

these coins been discovered a century ago, they would be far more valuable today, but the neat thing about numismatics is that new discoveries are constantly being made. These will sink into the market, perhaps a few more will be found, and the resulting publicity may push this coin to a new, higher level.

Photos by John Baumgart.



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Research into the possible causes of the Compass Point reverse took a step forward in 1996 with a *Gobrecht Journal* article by Carson Torpey (8) in which he proposes that the Compass Point is the result of applying a tracing circle to locate the legend on the master dies. Though there was still no direct evidence, Mr. Torpey based his proposal on a study of pattern quarters from that time period, and the suggested mechanism seemed quite plausible. Despite this, Craig Sholley argued against this explanation in a brief note in *Gobrecht Journal* #68 (9) and in a longer detailed article in *Gobrecht Journal* #73 (10). The latter article, entitled "The Cause for the Broken Stripe Quarter Reverses" provides the most likely cause of the feature, as well as the only objective supporting evidence in any of the cited articles. The reader should consult the original article for details (pages 19-23 in Issue #73 of the *Gobrecht Journal* and pages 389-393 in *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 5*). However, the summary is that:

- 1) the defect appears on quarters, half dollars, quarter eagles, eagles, and large cents;
- 2) there is evidence that the defect existed on dies for many coins from the years 1836 – 1846, but that the defect was expertly covered up by re-engraving of the design over the defect;
- 3) an 1835 report by Franklin Peale detailing the process and equipment used at European mints states "The matrix or punch is prepared with a small cavity or centre mark to receive the point of the cone of the dye." Though there is no specific explanation of why the small cavity was needed, the obvious explanation is that it was used to center the die on the working hub;
- 4) though centering is not specifically mentioned, the mint subsequently introduced all of the equipment and processes Peale observed at the French mint and described in his 1835 report.

So the mystery behind the die defect known as the "Broken Stripe" or "Compass Point" was all but con-

clusively solved by the work reported in 1998 by Craig Sholley. The feature might more accurately be called a "Centering Mark" and is, quite simply, an engraving mistake. The defect was most likely present on all dies prepared from 1836 – 1858, but appears only on coins produced from dies for which the typical repair was inadequate (Figure 1) or entirely overlooked (Figure 2).

- (1) AN OVERVIEW: The Quarter Dollars of the 1840's. Mel Hatfield. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 12 July 1976 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 1* pages 207 – 216).
- (2) The Broken Stripe Quarter Reverse. John McCloskey. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 14 March 1979 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 1* page 196).
- (3) Letter to the Editor. Walter Breen. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 14 March 1979 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 1* page 196).
- (4) *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*. Larry Briggs. Lima, OH (1991)
- (5) The Broken Stripe Reverse in the Seated Quarter Series. John McCloskey. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 53 March 1992 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 4* pages 356 – 358).
- (6) Letter to the Editor. Ron Hunderfund. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 54 July 1992 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 4* page 358).
- (7) A Possible Explanation for the Broken Stripe Reverses. Andrew Wells. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 54 July 1992 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 4* page 359).
- (8) More on the Broken Stripe Quarter Reverse. Carson Torpey. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 66 July 1996 pages 17-19 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 5* pages 386 – 388).
- (9) Some Information on the Die Sinking Process. Craig Sholley. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 68 March 1997 page 41 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 5* page 400).
- (10) The Cause for the Broken Stripe Quarter Reverses. Craig Sholley. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 73 November 1998 pages 19-23 (*Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume 5* pages 389 - 393).

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Finally, I would like to thank Dennis for inviting me to share a table with him. This is but one example of what makes the LSCC great, there are so many

opportunities to network, learn, and make new friends with collectors eager to share their knowledge and passion for the hobby.

Pictured is the obverse pair of HNS 1966 medals and the reverse.



The Strike Zone

by Rich Hundertmark, LSCC #2347

A bit of Gobrecht Exonumia: The Hanover Numismatic Society's Christian Gobrecht Bronze Medals of 1966

Modified fly fishing proverb of the month:

I have many loves and coin collecting is one of them;
it brings peace and harmony to my being, which I can then pass on to others.
- borrowed with appreciation from Sue Kreutzer

"Exonumia" is defined as numismatic items (such as tokens, medals, or scrip) other than coins and paper money. This includes "Good For" tokens, badges, counterstamped coins, elongated coins, encased coins, souvenir medallions, tags, wooden nickels, and other similar items.

At the recently concluded April Naugatuck, CT show I shared a table with Dennis Fortier and noticed one of the items he had for sale were two Hanover Numismatic Society (HNS) medals. These bronze medals were issued in 1966 to honor Hanover's favorite son, Christian Gobrecht.

What immediately drew my attention to the medals was the way Dennis had them displayed, in 2x2 cardboard flips stapled together for easy side by side comparison, with the medal on the left marked "Legal" and the one on the right "Illegal." These bronze medals are about the size of a half dollar, depicting Gobrecht's classic 1836 One Dollar design with soaring eagle and stars.

The reverse of both medals has a depiction of the engraver with CHRISTIAN GOBRECHT in legend above. It is dated 1966 with HNS above date and finally HANOVER, PA and 1785-1844 below Gobrecht's image.

I asked Dennis for some back-

ground behind the pieces. What I was told and what makes this an interesting "story" is that the HNS first struck the token with both "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "ONE DOLLAR" in the obverse legend, thus rendering the coin as illegal. The HNS subsequently worked with the United States Government, promising to mill off the legend for any medals returned.

In talking to Dennis, he believed the initial mintage to be approximately 1,500 pieces, with about half subsequently milled. However, the milled piece might be quite rare, as he has only seen 3 examples in the last six or seven years. It is his theory that the pieces were rendered "ugly" by the milling and many were discarded. I thought the milled token was kind of neat though, reminding me of a few pattern coins I've seen without legend, with this piece's experiment having gone somewhat awry.



The HNS medals of 1966 were the 1st year of issue for a set that was issued through 1981 with subsequent medals portraying various Gobrecht designs. Dennis mentioned that he and Len Augsburg are doing a detailed study on the HNS medals, so much more interesting facts on this series are sure to be revealed in the near future.

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LSCC Member in the Spotlight:

Chris Majtyka

by Tony Barreca, LSCC #2151

[Tony's note: Chris is a frequent and popular contributor to the LSCC boards and the wry sense of humor he exhibits there is apparent in parts of the interview below. If you are curious about which "semi-key date" he has collected a full roll of, here's a hint: Check on the LSCC message boards. Of course, your first challenge will be to determine which is his user ID, but that should only take a little bit of browsing. —TB]

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?*

Chris: I first became interested in numismatics around the age of ten. I had found a 1921 wheat cent in my change, which may have been left over allowance, and the old date caught my attention. I asked my parents why some pennies had a building on the back while others have the wheat design (which at the time I thought were flowers) and neither seemed to know or care. But, I still decided to save them.

I remember riding my bike to the nearest town with four or five dollars to spend at the bank on rolls of pennies to look through, on one of those ten mile bike trips, I spotted a green disc laying in the dirt road. It turned out to be an 1863 Indian Head cent. A few years later, I would be begging my parents to buy me a metal detector as I was sure I'd find tons of old coins anywhere I looked. In reality, it was easier to find Wheat cents in penny rolls!

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

Chris: I was first introduced to Liberty Seated coinage by a dealer at a local flea market. He would always have low-grade, inexpensive type coins, and I was enthralled by the obsolete coins: three-cent nickels, half dimes, and two-cent pieces. He would sell

these for a few dollars each, and he always had common date Liberty Seated quarters and dimes, which I would buy because I liked the look of the silver.

After assembling a small collection of the dimes, I lost interest in coins and became more interested in girls.

Tony: *Within the series of LS coins you focus on, do you consider yourself a variety collector? If so, what is your approach to variety collecting?*

Chris: I do collect by variety, but only the varieties that are the most difficult to locate. And none that I need a strong lens to see.

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

Chris: I don't honestly remember when I signed on to the LSCC. I was either in my late teens or early twenties, roughly twenty years ago.

The greatest benefit is no doubt the knowledge that is freely shared amongst the members. I would like to say it is the friendships and it may be. But two of the numismatic friendships that come to mind were actually born out of eBay, and not by being a member of the LSCC per se, though both of these friends are LSCC members now.

Tony: *Do you ever participate in Club activities? If so, which ones? Have you ever visited the Clubs message boards? Attended a meeting in person? Which activities could you see yourself participating in at a future time? Have you ever actively recommended that a collector friend join the LSCC? If not, why not?*

Chris: I regret to say that I do not participate as much as I'd like to in the LSCC. Living in Michigan, I find myself quite a distance from any of the meetings and my work schedule does not allow me to travel long distances.

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LSCC Member in the Spotlight Continued from page 9)

Of course I participate on the message boards, but not as much as I'd like to. That's probably viewed as a blessing by some!

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

Chris: I can't think of one thing I'd like to see changed in the LSCC. The national shows? Well, it would be nice to see one in Detroit again, but let's face it, in my lifetime, it isn't likely to happen, which is entirely understandable

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

Chris: The greatest coup of my collecting career would probably be assembling an entire roll of a certain semi-key date Liberty Seated dime. All fifty coins are in collectible G-AU grade.

My biggest mistake was waiting until 2002 or so to buy the scarcer date coins, rather than the more affordable dates. I wish I had had the foresight to start aggregating the scarcer dates at least five years prior to that.

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?*

Chris: I believe numismatics is primarily a hobby, although the scarcity of some issues, especially of Liberty

Seated Liberty coins, will undoubtedly prove to be very worthwhile investments to the patient collector.

Tony: *On a more personal note, what is your work and career?*

Chris: My work and career isn't about national security, nor is it exciting enough to hold a conversation about.

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

Chris: I enjoy being outdoors; I'm an avid fisherman. I also collect scarce and interesting car parts (primarily from the Ford Motor Company). I enjoy "tinkering" with my truck and my car, both for general maintenance and modification.

Tony: *Is there anything about your family or family history that you'd like to mention?*

Chris: No outstanding family history to mention. Like any family, there is plenty of love and dysfunction.

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

Chris: People measure personal achievement in different ways. Probably my greatest personal achievement was the day I began seeing and appreciating what I have rather than seeing what I wanted.

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 Augsburg at leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com for additional information or to submit an item for the auction. Thank You!



My Gobrecht Adventure and a Big Thank You

by Midge Sobolewski, LSCC #2463

My interest in Gobrecht coins started in an unusual way when I found an 1836 Gobrecht dollar in my mother's safety deposit box and later (after it was sold) an old letter detailing how the coin came into my family. The coin and letter were eventually reunited and returned to my family. It was quite an adventure and the details are described by Len Augsburger in the Spring 2015 issue of *The Gobrecht Journal*.

I am very grateful of course that the story had a happy ending. As you can imagine, after I found the letter I felt terrible that I had sold the coin and didn't know what to do to try and find it. I went on the coin forum at LSCC and found supportive people who gave me encouragement and direction. I eventually emailed Dave Bowers and Jim Halperin and they responded with help and encouragement too. I felt that even if I never got the coin back I wanted the story of the letter made available if there was interest in it.

Eventually, via Rich Ulrich (who had sold the coin originally), I was put in touch with Len Augsburger. This was most fortunate for me. Len and I began to email and exchange information. His deep knowledge of coins and of the people in the coin world, his interest in history, and his writing skills all came together to help me enormously. He was willing to write an article about the coin and letter and of course he was the one who found the coin. I and my family are most grateful to him.

Once I got the coin back I wanted to learn everything I could about Gobrecht dollars. I joined the LSCC, I bought the book by Mark Van Winkle, I read back issues of the *E-Gobrecht*. I read biographies of Andrew Jackson. This was a brand new, very specialized world for me. I didn't know the first thing about how coins were minted and now I was reading about clash lines, die alignments, and striking orders. It was all very fascinating.

Eventually, the article was published. Len's coin history knowledge and research helped put my coin in context. Bill Bugert as editor was very support-

ive and he and I have had some great email exchanges and phone conversations. I made plans to go to the Baltimore Whitman show in late March with my husband and son.

The LSCC meeting on Friday morning was great fun. I got to meet Len and Bill for the first time at breakfast before the meeting and thank them in person for all they had done. Then onto the meeting itself. I was impressed with the LSCC meeting and the knowledge of all the coin people there. After the meeting, many members came up to me to wish me well and to make me feel welcome. Besides Len, Bill, and Rich, many LSCC members shared their deep knowledge of these coins. Then we went to the coin show itself. I had been told which booths might be of special interest to me and I continued to learn about Gobrecht coins as we went around the show. Again, people were warm and helpful. My 26 year old son wasn't sure what to expect from this coin world. By the end he commented, "This is a lot more interesting than I thought it would be!"

So, what's next for me. As I said at the LSCC meeting, I am a collector of one Gobrecht dollar. I don't know that I will become a wider collector. But I do want to continue to learn as much as I can about these coins. One suggestion several people gave me was to see if PCGS would add the provenance/pedigree to the slab. I would have to submit the coin again with documentation on its history, including the *Gobrecht Journal* article. I don't know if I'll have that done or not. Right now, after all I went through to get the coin back, I can't imagine it leaving my safety deposit box.

I feel like I am not a real "coin" person with my limited knowledge and interest in one specific coin. But I have enjoyed my involvement in this specialized world and am grateful that LSCC was there for me. Hopefully, I'll get to more shows and LSCC meetings.

From me and my family, a big thank you to all of the LSCC community.

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Photos from the LSCC meeting at the April 2015 Central States Numismatic Convention



Len Augsburger (l) and Stephen Petty (r) above.



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LSCC Mission

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.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues remain bargain priced at \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal*/mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the LSCC Publications Editor.

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