



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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LSCC to meet in Baltimore

The Officers of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club invite you to a regional meeting at the Baltimore, Maryland Coin Convention and Show on Friday morning, November 16, 2007 at 9 AM in the Convention Center's room 301. All members and non-members are encouraged to attend and share in the proceedings. We often see club members at the show who don't attend the meeting. Please try to make it.

Scheduled topics for this session include an update of LSCC activities, an auction benefiting the LSCC (for more details, see page 2), informal information exchanges and show and tell. Please try to attend and meet fellow collectors and dealers who share your same interest in Liberty Seated coinage.

Additional information on the Coin Convention can be found at http://www.whitmanexpo.com/contentPages/Schedule_Baltimore.aspx.

Call for Nominations for the LSCC Hall of Fame

A scant few nominations have been received for the upcoming LSCC Hall of Fame Award. Procedures for the Hall of Fame were approved at the LSCC Annual Meeting in August 2007 and, in accordance with this document, the committee is accepting nominations for inductance into the first Hall of Fame. This year's deadline is December 31st.

Eligible nominees include club members who have made significant contributions to expanding the literature on Seated coinage, who have built an important collection of Liberty Seated coinage, or who have served in a leadership position while contributing to the success of LSCC.

Jim Gray chairs the nominating committee composed of five long time LSCC members (Jim Gray, Len Augsburger, Tom DeLorey, Mark Sheldon, and Bill Bugert). Please take a few moments and send your nominations to Jim Gray at jgray67@carolina.rr.com. Include the nominee's name and a short narrative on why you feel this individual should receive this honor.

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The E-Gobrecht is an award winning 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 at the end of this newsletter.



Auction News

By Jim Gray

The only October sale was the Stacks, 72nd Anniversary Sale, featuring the Bunting collection. From the provenance information in the catalogue, it appeared that the collection was assembled in the 20 year period from the late 1970's to the late 1990's.

The collection featured a nearly complete set of Coronet quarter eagles from 1840 to 1907 and an extensive offering of early American and Gobrecht Dollars.

The heart of the collection was the five original Seated series, which were complete except for the 1873-CC quarter and the 1878-S half dollar.

While there were many nice coins, there was also a large number of low grade and problem coins, particularly the rare and scarce pieces. The collector could afford expensive coins such as mint state 1851 and 1852 original dollars and a very fine 1870s dollar, so cost did not seem to be the reason that the majority of the coins were rather ordinary or lower in terms of quality. A high percentage of the coins had been cleaned or dipped and some had streaky, mottled toning from improper storage. In addition to cleaning and dipping, a large number of the coins were impaired by marks, scratches, and other problems. Only a few of the coins were slabbed.

The best set quality-wise by a long shot was

the Liberty Seated dollars. Many coins, including rare and scarce pieces, were sold in multiple coin lots including a 27 piece half dime lot. As a result of the above mentioned problems, many of the coins had been net graded in the catalogue description.

The only half dime worthy of mention was a lovely album toned 1846 half dime in VF-30 for \$2,990.

Dimes featured an 1843-O in XF-40 with a nice look, in spite of an old cleaning and some marks, which sold for \$2,932. A cleaned and stained 1844 in strong AU realized \$2,932 while a VG-10 duplicate sold for \$690. An unattractive 1846 in AU-50 only went for \$2,530 while a well struck 1856-S in AU-53, but cleaned and dull, only realized \$2,070. The 1858-S was in VF-35, but was corroded, and eked out \$632 while a VF-35 1859-S, strong for the grade, realized \$2,300 despite some marks and flatness on the wreath. An 1860-O in F-15, but with digs and scratches, went for \$1,150. An 1871-CC dime in VF-35, and nice looking despite porosity, hammered for \$12,650. The 1872-CC was in XF-40, but was ugly, granular and corroded and settled at \$977. The 1873-CC was graded XF-40, but was stronger in terms of wear, with considerable luster and a good look despite an old cleaning. This coin soared to \$23,000. The 1874-CC was net graded F-12 for cleaning, scratches and porosity, but

(Continued on page 6)

Auction Donations Wanted. The LSCC will conduct an auction at the club's meeting of the Baltimore Winter Coin and Currency Convention on November 16, 2007. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Liberty Seated Collectors Club treasury to help offset increasing printing and postage costs. People may bring their material directly to the Baltimore LSCC meeting. Anything you think would be "interesting" to the bidders is acceptable. Already included items include the 72 page "prototype" of the *Gobrecht Journal* [shown at the annual meeting in Milwaukee] that John McCloskey had printed to see if we could go to a larger size. Additional items include an original Gobrecht Journal Issue # 22, a few seated dimes, and a seated half dollar. Please try to attend and bring something to benefit the LSCC.



Questions of the Month

In last month's issue, Bill Bugert included a photograph of the reverse of a severely cracked Liberty Seated Half Dollar. He asked readers to identify the obverse's date and to let him know if later states of this die were known. Many readers correctly identified this coin's date as 1843 but none had a later die state. Other readers asked for obverse dies characteristics including die cracks. Here is a photograph of the coin's obverse. As you can see, it also is severely cracked. The date, rock, first nine stars, Liberty's head, and the cap are all connected by a die crack. Liberty's toe connects to the rim with another crack. The foot support is heavily re-engraved.

Early die states have no cracks along the stars. All examples of this variety that he has seen have the crack from the base of the rock through 18 in the date.



Jim Gray asks of those mathematically inclined: Since rare coins are often advertised as a good investment, what is the annual yearly rate of return for the 1870-S dollar that sold for \$39,600 in 1987 and \$552,000 20.5 years later?

Charles Sullivan asks a very good question of readers: Aside from unreported die varieties/marriages and the like, which coin will represent the next MAJOR discovery with the Liberty Seated design? Put it another way, is there a Liberty Seated Loch Ness Monster sitting incognito in a dealer's double-row box?

Send your answer to the Editor at wb8cpy@arrrl.net



1858 Dime with Rotated Reverse

By Jason Feldman

As some may have noticed on the Seated Boards [i.e., *Gerry Fortin's Message Board*], an example of a 1858 [Liberty] Seated Dime with a rotated reverse has surfaced. Thus far, there are at least 2 coins confirmed; both coins have a weak [second] A in AMERIC[A]. [*Here is a photo of one of those examples.*]



Christian Gobrecht sketch

The sketch at the left was drawn by Christian Gobrecht and is contained in the Darrach file at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania located in Philadelphia, PA. Charles Gobrecht Darrach, Christian Gobrecht's grandson, compiled a historical file of his grandfather in October 1893.

This sketch was photocopied from one of C. Gobrecht's sketch books dated 1802 (Christian Gobrecht was born in 1785).

Does it look familiar? Check the modern Saint-Gaudens twenty dollar gold double eagle design.



The Samuel Moore Letters: Part III

By Len Augsburger

This is the third and last part of a series covering correspondence in June, 1835 from the outgoing Mint Director, Samuel Moore, to the incoming Mint Director, Robert Patterson, concerning the appointment of Christian Gobrecht as an Engraver to the U.S. Mint. Last time, Moore wanted to present the employment offer to Gobrecht but was awaiting final confirmation from Patterson. This third letter, dated June 27th, 1835 was written one day later. It reads as follows:

“Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, June 27, 1835

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 24th was received last evening [this letter apparently contained Patterson’s final approval of the offer to Gobrecht]. I called this afternoon on the Mr. Gobrecht who had not before heard of the approaching change here [Moore apparently refers to the fact that a new Mint Director will be soon appointed]. He looked concerned on its being [unclear, but the obvious implication is that Gobrecht desired the appointment and felt that his chances of receiving the position under Director Moore were favorable], but when informed of your appointment evinced the utmost gladness of heart.

Having stated to him the satisfactory terms[?] of the communication received from Washington in reply to my suggestions in regards to his being associated with the Mint, I referred the question to be adjusted[?] after your arrival [this possibly refers to the precise title which Gobrecht was to be granted at the Mint].

Render[?] no concern on account of a five days delay in your arrival. No inconvenience will result from it. I will attend to whatever shall require prompt action [Moore refers to the fact that Patterson was delayed in traveling from the University of Virginia to Philadelphia].

Yours truly,
[unclear]
Samuel Moore.”

Although Gobrecht’s appointment was to take effect January 1st, 1836, fate intervened. Chief Engraver Kneass suffered a stroke in August 1835, and the new Director, Patterson, requested permission from the Secretary of the Treasury to immediately hire Gobrecht as a second (not assistant) engraver. Gobrecht thus entered the Mint in September 1835. (See also *Rare Coin Review*, #126, November/December 1998, pp. 17-25.)



Jim Gray's Auction News continued from page 2.

still managed \$10,350.

The collection also featured an attractive, untoned MS-64 1876-CC 20-cent piece, which rang the bell for \$357,700.

An 1842-O small date quarter in VG-10, and perfect for a G/VG set, realized \$1,207 while a decent 1849-O in G-6 hit \$805. The 1851-O was a VF-35, strong for the grade and broadstruck, which brought \$2,300 while a bright 1852-O net graded VF-25 did almost as well at \$2,185. A lightly cleaned VF-20 1854-O huge O settled at \$4,255. The 1858-S quarter was graded VG-10 in the catalogue, which had to be a typo since the coin was almost AU, but harshly cleaned, but still sold for a robust \$9,775. A nicely toned VF-30 1859-S reached \$3,737. The 1860-S had XF details, but had been cleaned with obverse scrapes, selling for \$6,325 as did a VF-35 1861-S. Other 'S' mints included a cleaned VG-8 1864-S at \$1,035, a harshly cleaned 1866-S in VG-10 for \$776, and a cleaned VF-25 1867s for \$1,495. The 1870-CC was Fr-2 with a dark reverse streak, but still managed \$7,187. The 1871-CC had a G-4 obverse, but a flat reverse, sold for \$5,175 while the VF-20 1872-CC had been dipped with a depression in the reverse shield, but still realized \$6,900.

An 1842-O small date half dollar net graded F-12, with cleaning and marks, still managed \$1,725. A wholesome VF-25 1847/46 rose to \$7,187 while a washed out VF-35 1855-S hammered for \$2,990. A brightly cleaned AU 1856-S only managed \$977.

Carson City coins were as follows: 1870-CC VG-8, marks and rim bumps, \$2,760; 1871-CC VF-35, nice toning over an old cleaning, \$2,300; 1872-CC VF-25, better detail but harshly cleaned, \$529; 1873-CC no arrows F-12, average quality, \$920; 1873-CC XF-40, whizzed, \$517; 1874-CC F-15, been in a knife fight, \$575. A very nice 1873 open 3 in G-4 went for \$3,047.

The sale allowed collectors to bid on rarely seen low and mid grade Seated halves from the limited mint-age period of 1879 to 1890. All but three of the coins

were from G to VF.

Dollars featured an 1851 original dollar that had been dipped out and had a reeding mark in the reverse field above the eagle's head. Stacks described it as a proof 60-61. The coin had the wing tip clash mark below Liberty's right arm and the reverse die crack in the bottom of the O to the left foot of the N as seen on all 1851 original dollars. Proofs are allegedly made from special dies and planchets and would not have the aforementioned characteristics if it was indeed a true proof. While I doubt the proof status of this coin, it realized \$41,400.

The 1852 original was a well struck jewel with golden/russet toning and a curious lighter area at the bottom right obverse. The bidders said it was worth \$55,200. A fully struck 1854 dollar, rarely seen thus, sold for \$6,900 despite an old dipping. A dipped 1855, and a VF-30 duplicate with reeding marks, sold for \$5,460 and \$2,760 respectively. An 1856 in AU-53 with a decent strike, but mottled toning, went for \$3,220.

In my article, "The Best of Times", I lamented the fact that I did not bid on the strong fine 1870-S dollar that sold for \$39,600 in Stacks, March 1987 sale. I wondered where the coin had gone and now I know since it appeared as Lot 5294 in the sale. The coin was unchanged from 1987, but was now graded VF-20 instead of F-12. It had a good appearance for the grade and soared to \$552,000.

An AU-50 1871-CC dollar, dipped but strong for the grade, realized \$24,150 while a cleaned VF-30 and a rough VG-8 duplicate sold for \$8,050 and \$2,700. A well struck dipped 1872-CC dollar in MS-60-62, and attractive, zoomed to \$29,900. Duplicates in dipped VF-30 and an attractive F-15 realized \$5,750 and \$3,450. An XF-40 1873-CC, with a nice mellow look despite a hidden scrape sold for a strong \$31,625. A F-12 duplicate with only L showing on the scroll still managed \$12,075.



San Francisco Liberty Seated Half Dollar Edge Reed Counts

By Bill Bugert

In our 1992 reference, *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*, Randy Wiley and I listed edge reed counts for Liberty Seated Half Dollars. Since that time, additional reed counts have been discovered and the table below is an updated summary of those counts by date for the San Francisco Mint. Others reed counts may be found in the future. The other mints will be itemized in future issues of the *E-Gobrecht*. Address any questions or comments to Bill Bugert @ wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Edge Reed Count

Date	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
1855-S			X										
1856-S			X										
1857-S	X		X										
1858-S	X												
1859-S	X	X	X										
1860-S			X										
1861-S		X	X										
1862-S		X	X										
1863-S			X	X									
1864-S				X									
1865-S		X	X										
1866-S	X	X	X										
1867-S	X	X	X										
1868-S			X										
1869-S		X	X										
1870-S		X	X										
1871-S		X	X			X	X						
1872-S						X		X					
1873-S								X					
1874-S							X	X					
1875-S										X	X		
1876-S										X	X	X	X
1877-S										X	X	X	
1878-S										X			



How I formed my Seated Dollar Collection by Anonymous

[With permission of the author, this story was related on Gerry Fortin's Message Board. I thought it interesting enough to share herein.—Ed.]

I started on this set in 2003 when I had the opportunity to purchase the Sterling Collection intact. This collection was nearly complete [missing only the 1870-S] and ranged from AU55 to MS64. Because Legend already had a customer [JFS] starting a top grade set of circulation strike coins, I intended to keep it mostly intact and upgrade it only to midrange Unc[irculateds], but alas - circumstances later arose that changed my direction. The Rudolf Collection came up for auction at Stacks a few months later. This was an amazing set with many beautiful coins.

At the very same time, the Share Collection was available privately - this set consisted of a complete MS and Proof set, along with Patterns and Gobrecht [Dollar]s. The Share Collection was not as high grade as the Rudolf Collection and the coins meshed with the Sterling Collection almost perfectly - keeping half of each set created a mid range uncirculated collection - with the exception of the 1870-S, which consisted of the Eliasberg AU50 specimen. In addition, it contained three coins that really struck my fancy - the finest known gem 1872-CC and 1873-CC seated dollars, and a rare upgrade to the Trade Dollar set - the finest known 1878-CC Trade! Because of JFS's focus on the Rudolf Collection, I decided to purchase the Share Collection and to focus on only two specimens at auction [the Norweb 1845 and the Stack 1871-CC] as I knew this customer was going to be quite aggressive. This meant that I passed on a dream coin - the Stack 1870-S [the finest known example and the only Unc]. True to his form, JFS bought up many of the choice Unc coins from the Rudolf sale, including the 1870-S.... Fortunately, I was successful on the two I pursued for myself.

Many months followed with a coin here or there from auction - always in mid range uncirculated condition. I passed on several chances to buy gem specimens as I had no intention of starting down that path as long as JFS was intent on buying them all up for his set. After about 9 months, I was a bit frustrated and considered offering many of my expensive coins to JFS as they were head and shoulders above the rest of the set in value and if the set wasn't going to be improved then why have those coins? Fate intervened.

At the 2004 FUN show, Laura just happened to walk past David Akers' table. He had two of his personal seated dollars for sale - magnificent specimens [the MS66 1848 and 1854] at magnificent prices. Normally, she would have told me about them that evening when she updated me on how the show was going, but this time she called me from the table. Now, I had never seen those coins but I knew about them - David Akers' personal set was quite famous to dollar enthusiasts. Boy, was I excited! I told her to get the best price possible but not to leave the table without the coins ... a fortuitous act as unbeknownst to me Oliver Jung had eyes on the 1848 and was on his way back to the table to buy the coin! Not an hour later, the Fairfield 1849 was offered and purchased... another monumental coup! Later that evening, Laura stated JFS was considering selling his set and asked if I was interested. Funny how things worked out - I was ready to sell my key coins a day earlier and in the span of 24 hours not only picked up some once in a lifetime coins, but now was being offered all the coins I was forced to pass on earlier in the year! Amazing.

After purchasing the JFS's set, the Legend Collection was complete in uncirculated condition - the first seated dollar set to ever achieve this milestone. A few magnificent coins have been added in the time being, some from auction and some privately. The end result is a seated dollar set so magnificent in quality that has been entered in the PCGS Set Registry Hall of Fame.



Subscriber Correspondence

From **Michael Luck**: Again the newsletter was 100% in content and format, auction news quite informative on pricing and the new JD report on the Gobrecht [Dollar]s puts perspective on this hotly debated topic, the late die state half with many die cracks was quite the unusual coin something I have never seen!! I see the census for seated dollars being done for 2008 this I am really looking forward to; the results per se and last but not least is Dennis' well thought out and quite revealing report of doing a complete set of each of the seated denominations and the cost and possibility. I learned much and has spurred me to finally do a more detailed type set instead of working on a complete series set; half dimes would be cool but too small for my tastes.....

From **Dave D**: If anyone may be interested in 1877/6 Seated Half Dollar. eBay #280154530224.

From **Paul Kluth**: There could be some really cool stuff held in the Archives. The current Librarian for the Garrett Book Collection seems to think not much has been done or researched with the archives since ANS received it. <http://www.numismatics.org/news/20000316garrett.html>.

From **Dick Osburn**: We've just finished the Whitman Expo in Atlanta, and in fact don't return to Kemah until tomorrow. The show was very good but not great, about what you'd expect for a mid-size show. Our sales were strong, but the traffic was a little light compared to what we'll see in Baltimore next month. Demand for the rare dates continues, at the auctions as well as at the shows. The market continues strong. We had a lot of dealer sales at the show, which is unusual for us. The dealers are getting desperate to fill their customer's want lists, and are willing to forget the Gray Sheet and pay strong prices for the coins they need. The Stacks auction didn't have much in the early series, but what they had went for very strong prices, much stronger than I expected.

From **Paul Kluth**: Thanks, Michael Fey, for your list of rotated dies on Liberty Seated coinage in the July 2007 issue of *E-Gobrecht*! [I] Meant to write a few months earlier. Have you run across any 1856 and 1857 Half Dimes with ~180 degree rotated dies? [I am] Curious how prevalent they might actually be? Interested in the dollars too!

Advertisements

Rare Coins for Sale: Since 1979, **David Lawrence Rare Coins** has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our web site for 6,000+ offerings of U.S. & World coins, currency, and stamps for sale and auction. We are also interested in buying or selling your coins at auction. <http://www.davidlawrence.com> or phone 1-800-776-0560, members: PNG, ANA (life), FUN, CSNS

Cuds & Rotated Dies Wanted: Looking to purchase major die breaks / retained cuds / full cuds / shattered die states on Liberty Seated Quarters.

Also, major rotated dies of greater than 75 degrees CW or CCW. Preference is for breaks/cuds in the field areas only, no rim cuds please. Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ pcmdmp@msn.com or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter. Thanks!

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted: I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Contact Information:

**President and
Editor, *Gobrecht Journal***

John McCloskey
John.McCloskey@notes.udayton.edu

**Vice President and
Editor, *E-Gobrecht***

Bill Bugert
(717) 337-0229
P.O. Box 3761
Gettysburg, PA 17325
wb8cpy@arrl.net

Secretary / Treasurer

Leonard Augsburg
(847) 816-1649
P.O. Box 6114
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com

LSCC website:

<http://www.lscweb.org>

Mark your calendar !

- 100th Issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* – November 2007
- LSCC Regional Meeting, Baltimore Convention - November 16, 2007, 9 AM in Room 301
- 35th Anniversary of the LSCC - 2008
- LSCC Seated Dollar census – 2008.
- LSCC Trade Dollar census – 2009

Availability of past issues. Through the generosity of Gerry Fortin, the previous issues of the *E-Gobrecht* are readily accessible on his seated dime website at
<http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>

LSCC Pledge

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 are \$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 President.

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

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Wanted: Material 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 your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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