
The E-Gobrecht
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Whole Number 27

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 near the end of this newsletter.

Miscellaneous Notes from the Editor

Last minute notice. As listed in the last postal mail notice from LSCC President John McCloskey, the deadline for advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #99 is June 2, 2007. The deadline for nominations for LSCC Officers is also June 2, 2007. The deadline for submitting 10 Greatest New Orleans Seated Coins is June 6, 2007. Contact John McCloskey at John.McCloskey@notes.udayton.edu.

Announcements. There will be a LSCC Regional meeting on Friday, June 29, at the Baltimore show. Take note of the change in day; the last LSCC meeting at Baltimore was conducted on Saturday. This is a Friday meeting.

Acknowledgements. Many thanks to Jim Gray, Charles Sullivan, Len Augsburger, Jason Feldman, Gerry Fortin, and the subscribers who corresponded with me.

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>.

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. This is a continuing plea.

Features in this issue

- ==> Question of Month by Jim Gray and Charles Sullivan.
- ==> Auction News by Jim Gray.
- ==> Rotated Dies in the Seated Quarter Series: The Mysterious Case of the 1844-O Quarter by Len Augsburger.

- ==> Some rotated reverse seated dimes by Jason Feldman.
- ==> Regional LSCC meeting notes for the CSNS St Louis, MO show by Len Augsburger.
- ==> Answers to "Why was the legend moved from the obverse to the reverse in 1860" by Bill Cowburn.
- ==> Fredrik and Doris: Amazing San Francisco Dimes by Gerry Fortin
- ==> Recent subscriber correspondence.
- ==> Advertisements for Wanted or Sale of Liberty Seated Coinage.
- ==> LSCC Calendar.
- ==> Information on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.

Details

==> **Question of the month by Jim Gray.** This forum hopes to increase collector interaction and correspondence. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. Send your replies and comments to the *E-Gobrecht* Editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Last Month's (May) Question

Is it easier to complete a date, type and mint mark Seated series today that it was 25 years ago?

From **Matthew Mayers**. Completing a date and mintmark set of seated series is easier today than 25 years ago because it is easier to locate available coins due to the internet. Today, anyone can go online and bid in multiple auction venues and search fixed priced lists. If you need a coin to fill a hole, it is much easier to locate it today.

However, today it will cost a whole lot more to fill the hole with the tough dates because of the easy access. When a desirable coin comes up for sale, it is much more likely that a collector will have competition from another specialist collector than it was 25 years ago. Also, with the proliferation of specialized books, more collectors are specializing which leads to more competition. Today, it is more likely that the rare dates in circulated collector grade will be in a national auction than it was 25 years ago when such coins were sold through dealers, which leads to even more exposure for coins and more opportunity to buy the rare dates and accordingly more competition. In short, there is more opportunity today than 25 years ago but more competition. However, if a collector is willing to spend the money, one can always win the coins.

From **Charles Sullivan**: In 1982, it WAS easier to complete the set. Prior to the advent of most series-specific publications, the internet, and population reports, cherry-picking underrated non-varietal coins on the bourse floor (and to a lesser extent, from mail-order pricelists and auctions) was infinitely easier and cheaper inasmuch as the relative value for certain issues was underrated by much of the collecting fraternity. If the 1982 Redbook said a coin was "common" (as denoted by its valuation relative to other issues), then collectors did not chase the coin with their wallets. Sometimes, the Redbook was totally in the dark. A perfect example of a prime 1982 cherrypick would have been the 1840 Medium Letters half dollar. This coin is not a variety; rather it was struck at the

New Orleans Mint without a mintmark. In 1982, the sharp collector had a much better chance of "filling the holes" without breaking the bank. Well-known rare coins, such as 1878-S half dollars, are a different story -- they were expensive as well as difficult to find in 1982 as they are in 2007. For those collectors who were focusing on mint-state Seated issues in 1982, the absence of population reports was truly cherrypicking in the Garden of Eden.

In 2007, it IS easier to complete the set. The internet and the avalanche of published information on every Seated Liberty series in the last 25 years have created a seller-savvy marketplace where almost any date-mintmark combination can be located quickly and easily. Since sellers know they can command high prices for rare Seated coins, they make rare Seated coins available for high prices. Pick up the phone and the FedEx driver will be knocking on your door in 48 hours with almost any issue short of an 1870-S half dime. If one cannot find a certain date-mintmark combination on eBay or the major auction-house websites in 60 days or less, then the issue must be truly rare. Heck, Julian Leidman might be able rustle up a previously unreported 1853-O No Arrows and Rays half dollar if your pockets are deep enough. The "efficient marketplace" is alive and well in 2007. If you have the money, someone has the coin.

From **Bill Bugert**: This month's question made do some serious thinking. For a background, I seriously started seriously collecting seated halves in the late 1970's. Back then, I remember finding many nice halves at shows. No one seemed interested in them and I could find many varieties that were unknown and/or unpublished for no more than a regularly priced half. It seems to me that common date nice XF+ halves were usually priced at \$35. Now, I go to coin shows and see very little but problem coins. The internet seems to be the source for coins but the availability of nice seated halves is still low. A few dealers have a lot of them (e.g., Dick Osburn, Brian Greer) but not like before. Prices are high now but probably not so, when inflation and salary increases over the years are factored in. I also believe that if I had to duplicate my collection now by starting over that I probably would not tackle it. It would be cost prohibitive and I just do not see the die marriages out there, as I used too.

This Month's (June) Question

Reader **Charles Sullivan** submitted this question. We welcome questions of the month from other readers.

Question - Will Seated coins ever be collected by die variety with the same enthusiasm as large cents and bust halves? If so, which Seated series gives the most opportunity to collect by die variety?

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AUCTION NEWS

By Jim Gray

The Heritage, Central States Sale, contained a number of scarce and rare Seated coins. A nice 1838-O half dime in XF-40 sold for \$1,092. A choice MS-61 1858-S dime

sold for \$6,325 whereas an XF-45 1860-O dime with nice toning, soared to \$9,200. An original AU-55 1885-S dime sold for \$4,312.

In quarters, an 1842-O small date in G-6, but still attractive, realized \$920 whereas an 1860-S with AU details, but damaged by harsh cleaning and then retoned, sold for a bargain \$6,612. A solid, attractive F-12 1873-CC quarter was bid on by ten bidders and realized a final price of \$12,075.

Two 1842-O small date half dollars, one in XF-45 and another in AU-55 cleaned, did not sell, but an 1846 with a horizontal "6" in AU-58 sold for \$2,990 whereas a VF-30 damaged and cleaned 1855s eked out \$690. An 1856-S in AU-53 with nice toning realized \$1,495. Rare Carson City halves were as follows: 1870-CC in VG-10, but bright from cleaning, \$3,450, a VF-30 1870-CC was a nice original and realized \$8,050. An 1871-CC in VF-30 realized \$1,840 while an 1872-CC in XF-45 with mellow toning went to a happy buyer for \$1,610. An 1873-CC no arrows in XF-40 realized \$1,840 while an 1873-CC with arrows in VF-35 and choice went for \$1,380. Another piece of the same date in XF-45, but cleaned, sold for \$1,495 while a choice original VF-35 1874-CC realized a strong \$4,600.

An 1872-CC dollar in VG-8 went for \$2,530, an AU-50 1872-S with a rim bump realized \$3,450, but an AU-53 of the same date did not sell.

The Heritage, Platinum Sale, featured an 1841-O large O closed bud reverse in a nice F-15 grade that realized \$3,162 while an 1874-CC dime in G-6 with some deep cuts at Liberty's upraised arm still hammered for \$14,375. An 1870-CC quarter in cleaned AU, but with a decent look, still sold for \$28,750.

Stacks Leon sale contained an 1872-CC dime in F-12, but porous and cleaned, for \$920. An 1870-CC half in G-6 and nice for the grade went for \$1,495 where a very wholesome 1873 open 3 half dollar in F-15 was bid up to \$5,175. An 1872-CC dollar in AU-50 with nice light gray toning soared to \$20,700.

The Goldberg Long Beach sale contained only two coins of note: An 1844-O half dime in AU-58 and a very nice 1891-O quarter in MS-63 with lovely toning did not sell.

==> Rotated Dies in the Seated Quarter Series: The Mysterious Case of the 1844-O Quarter by Len Augsburger. Rotated dies among seated coinage have been receiving quite a lot of attention lately, primarily due to two seated dime variety specialists recently acquiring examples, after much diligent searching, of the very rare 1865 proof dime with 180-degree rotation (Fortin-102c). The seated dime series also boasts the highly exotic 1872 Fortin-105 variety, where the reverse die was doubly imprinted by the hub, the two impressions being aligned at about 180-degrees. The net effect is a "doubled die", but not in the sense of a few degrees as exhibited on the well-known 1955 and 1972 Lincolns. The 180-degree separation rather points to much more obvious carelessness on the part of the technicians in the mint. Such was not uncommon at the time, as a number of proof coins are known with 180 degree die rotation, including the 1903 Liberty nickel, 1887 three dollar gold piece, 1868 three dollar gold, 1865 quarter eagle, 1868 one dollar

gold and 1868 Indian cent. That multiple denominations were improperly struck in both 1865 and 1868 is clearly a most curious thing. Perhaps the small runs of proof coins were considered a “side job” for an apprentice while the more skilled technicians tended to the regular production lines? The 1887 three dollar piece in particular is a comedy of errors, as several examples were first misstruck at 180-degrees, then restruck with correct orientation. If the coin is tilted just right, the initial striking can be faintly seen, oriented opposite to the final product.

Among seated quarters, a few rotated dies are known. The rotated die census at <http://www.rotateddies.com>, a listing of rotated dies in the U.S. federal series, notes the 1854 (90-degrees clockwise), and 1861 (one at 90-degrees clockwise, another example at 180-degrees). DRJ, on the Fortin chat board, recently reported the acquisition of an 1861 with 90-degree rotation. I have seen a few others, either in my personal collection or as noted:

1852: 90-degrees (noted by Briggs, p. 76).

1853WA: 30-degrees clockwise, 90-degrees clockwise, 30-degrees counter-clockwise, and 70-degrees counter-clockwise (ANR 3/2004:65). It appears that a “clock set” could be made from the various rotation seen on the 1853WA, no doubt due to its very high mintage.

1854: 75-degrees counter-clockwise.

1861: 120-degrees clockwise.

While some of these are interesting, die rotations of less than 90-degrees are generally not considered especially collectible as error coins. Fortunately, one example remains in the quarter series to satisfy the collector of significant rotated dies. Many thanks to Bill Mackrides for providing images and putting together the likely series of events. The story begins with the 1843-O large-O quarter (Briggs 3-F). This coin has a distinctive reverse as the reverse die was very rusted, leaving many lumps, or dimples, in the reverse field. The particular variety is scarce and rare in AU and up.

For some reason, this reverse was reused on certain 1844-O quarters. It stands to reason that this might have happened early in 1844 before new reverse dies had arrived from Philadelphia. Ray Lathrop first reported this variety in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #64, noting there that Larry Briggs unknowingly already had a similar example. The archival trail begins at the end of 1843, when the archives noted that 5 obverse and 7 reverse dies were on hand, and that none were reserved for 1844. These were reported defaced on April 22, 1844 (this information courtesy of Bill Bugert, from the National Archives). Note the four-month overlap into 1844 until the 1843 reverse dies were defaced. Bill also noted the following 1844-O die shipments in the National Archives:

December 13th, 1843: one obverse die, one reverse die

December 16th, 1843: one obverse die, one reverse die

January 1st, 1844: one obverse die, one reverse die

June 14th, 1844: one obverse die, one reverse die

June 19th, 1844: one obverse die, one reverse die

So, it appears that the 1844-O with 1843-O reverses were struck before April 22, 1844. Left unexplained, however, is why the New Orleans mint was unable to use the new reverse dies shipped for 1844. Perhaps they arrived damaged, or broke earlier than usual during production.

Now for the interesting part. Jack White, in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #82, reported the same variety, but with 180-degree rotation. Bill Mackrides has furnished some photographic evidence to suggest that the correctly aligned variety was struck first. We have examples, with correct die alignment, showing the reverse without (**Plate 1**) and with (**Plate 2**) a reverse radial crack extending from the eagle's left wingpit. All of the known examples with 180-degree alignment exhibit the same radial crack. It seems that, early in 1844, the mint desired to strike quarters but for whatever reason could not use a new 1844 reverse die. The rusted 1843-O die was called back into service, a number were struck off, and a radial die crack began developing. Note that radial die cracks are the most severe type of crack in terms of the health of the die. Then, at some later point, one of the dies was rotated and an additional number were struck with the 1843-O reverse, rotated 180 degrees (**Plate 3**). Rotated dies in the early days of the New Orleans mint were almost commonplace. The exact same year, the 1844-O Valentine-2 half dime die pair was used to strike both normally aligned and 180 degree aligned specimens. John McCloskey pointed out other examples, including the 1839-O quarter eagle (known with 180 degree rotation), 1846-O quarter eagle (close to 180 degree rotation), and 1839-O half dime, 1842-O half dollar, and 1847-O quarter eagle (all about 90 degrees).

The 1844-O issue grows even more mysterious in light of the 1845 archival information. Bill Bugert noted four obverse and four reverse dies shipped for 1845, in December 1844. Briggs, noting a total of nine reverse varieties for 1844-Os, a number which neatly accounts for the five reverse dies delivered for 1844 and the four reverse dies delivered for 1845, suggested that the New Orleans mint continued to strike 1844-Os all the way through 1845.

The rarity of this 1844-O with 1843-O reverse is unknown, as it has not been highly popularized enough to have a lot of collectors and dealers searching for it. Also unknown is the relatively rarity of the varieties with and without rotation, though just based on the collections of several specialist quarter variety collectors the rotated version appears to be more scarce. Somewhere out there might be an example of an 1844-O with 1843-O large-O rotated reverse, and with the reverse die in a terminal state. The coin could be found on eBay, dealer inventory, or perhaps in a collection just waiting to be identified.



1844-O (Reverse of 1843-O)
Unrotated Reverse, no crack



1844-O (Reverse of 1843-O)
Unrotated Reverse, no die crack

Plate 1



1844-O (Reverse of 1843-O)
Unrotated reverse, with die crack



1844-O (Reverse of 1843-O)
Unrotated reverse, with die crack

Plate 2



1844-O (Reverse of 1843-O)
Rotated reverse, with die crack



1844-O (Reverse of 1843-O)
Rotated reverse, with die crack

Plate 3

==> Some rotated reverse seated dimes by Jason Feldman. (*Editor's note: With Len Augsburger's article on the 1844-O quarter rotated reverse dies, this submission is timely.*) Here are some lovely rotated reverse seated dimes for you to share with the members.



1850-O

1853 Arrows

1862-S

==> Regional LSCC meeting notes for the CSNS St Louis, MO show by Len Augsburger. (*Editor's note: While Len's notes were posted on Gerry Fortin's chat board, I felt it worthwhile to relist it here for those who do not visit his website.*) Here are a few notes from the meeting. John McCloskey presided.

- About 20 people attended.
- A lovely raw set of quarters, mostly XF/AU (keys a bit lower) was presented, in a Library of Coins album.
- There will be a special edition of *Gobrecht Journal* #100 this November, in addition to the regular card cover edition sent to everyone. Details TBD.
- John McCloskey showed a draft of Collective Volume Number 5. Most of the formatting work is done and he is currently checking for layout problems, correct captions and pictures, etc.
- A Hall of Fame proposal will be made at the ANA LSCC meeting. Jim Gray is driving this effort. A five member selection committee will be nominated by the club officers. Criteria for Hall of Fame entry include service to the club, generated research, and important collecting achievements.
- The survey for the greatest New Orleans coins has been distributed. Ballots were collected at the meeting for those who had not sent them in.
- A dues increase from \$15 to \$18 or \$20 will be discussed at the ANA. While the club is about breaking even this year, we have a postage increase coming and will have higher production costs for *GJ* #100.

==> Why was the legend moved from the obverse to the reverse in 1860 by Bill Cowburn.

From **Dave Lange**: Regarding the relocation of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to the obverse of the dime and half dime in 1860, I believe this was done

simply because the new reverse design did not leave enough room for it. The cereal wreath was created for pattern half dollars in 1859, but these patterns were not adopted. The wreath device was attractive enough that the Mint likely sought to place it somewhere, and it selected the dime and half dime. I suspect that no one realized at the time that moving the legend was a violation of the 1837 law. When do bureaucrats ever perform necessary research before making a decision?

From **Tom DeLorey**: There is an error in the index and in the first line of the item about moving the legend on the dime and half dime. You say that it was moved from the obverse to the reverse, instead of from the reverse to the obverse as it is given correctly later in the item. (*Editor: yep, my error – 10 lashes for me!*)

As to why it was done, I can only speculate that Longacre was feeling confident in his abilities to make new hubs in the late 1850s, and did so because he could. The half dollar patterns with the cereal wreath suggest that he intended to do so with all of the denominations, but perhaps did not because the war intervened. There was a precedent, with the dime and half dime being changed in 1837 ahead of the quarter in 1838, the half dollar in 1839 and the dollar changed again in 1840. The political situation in 1861 was too volatile to be changing anything, and then coins stopped circulating so why bother.

==> Fredrik and Doris: Amazing San Francisco Dimes by Gerry Fortin. Once again, month end is approaching and that means another deadline for an *E-Gobrecht* submission. Due to a heavy May business schedule at CSMC Technologies, few updates to the seated dime website were realized this month. So what could I possibly write about that would be of interest to seated coinage enthusiasts and *E-Gobrecht* subscribers? Then the idea appeared, how about a short article on two of my favorite seated dimes, Fredrik and Doris...

In early 2007, two amazing San Francisco seated dimes were posted on the message board at www.seateddimevarieties.com. These little gems are fondly known as Fredrik and Doris. Fredrik is a choice AU58 1861-S dime with the name "Fredrik" engraved in the field area between Liberty and OF AMERICA. Doris is just as stunning, being a choice AU58 1862-S dime with the name "Doris" engraved in the same area as "Fredrik" on the 1861-S. Both specimens are well struck and strictly original with light gray and golden patina. Here are digital images of Fredrik and Doris. I believe you will agree that both dimes are gem original examples of coinage from the early days of our beloved San Francisco mint.



Shown above is a beautiful and historic matched pair of San Francisco coinage, their state of preservation being a result of the engravings and tender loving care by the owners.

As one enjoys the beauty of these ‘love tokens’, the immediate question becomes, "who were Fredrik and Doris?" I would like to believe that Fredrik and Doris were children of a San Francisco businessman. Both dimes may have been retrieved from a local bank in 1862 and engraved as birth year gifts for his son and daughter. The dimes were stored immediately only to be discovered many years later in the owner’s estate. The engravings saved the dimes from entering the general collecting market where they might have been dipped for a potential TPG mint state grade. Instead, the engravings allowed each dime to remain in its true original state since there was no point to enhance the surfaces for improving commercial value.

In response to the message board post, Coinosaurus replied with this insight;

“Did some research on this. Fredrik is an unusual spelling, mostly associated with Scandinavian immigrants (I'm assuming Fredrik and Doris lived in the U.S.). I did some searching on ancestry.com in the 1860 and 1870 census for anyone named "Fredrik" who may have had a Doris in the same household. They don't quite have the right search options in there, though. In time this should be improved - I think we eventually have a shot at figuring out who this was. They are beautiful coins in any case.”

I hope that Fredrik and Doris remain together for many years to come. Whether Fredrik and Doris were lovers or children, this matched pair of San Francisco coinage should be preserved for subsequent generations of seated coinage collectors to enjoy.

==> Recent subscriber correspondence.

From **Wayne Homren**: I'd love to reprint Len's item in the last E-Gobrecht in the next issue of The E-Sylum. OK? (*Editor, Yes, we always encourage others to see our newsletter items.*)

From

Advertisements for Wanted or Sale of Liberty Seated Coinage

Dimes For Sale

1864 Full VF obverse, Fine reverse, dark color, net F15 \$600.

1873 NA, CL3, VG10 (five clear letters in Obverse shield, reverse rim visible but flat in a spot), \$25

Call Whalen, LSCC #1890, @ 831-475-0934 or email m_t_whalen@yahoo.com.

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

Cud coins wanted: I am always looking for major die breaks/retained cuds/cuds/shattered terminal die states on Liberty Seated Quarters, and major rotated dies greater than 75 degrees CW or CCW. My Preference is for breaks/cuds in the field areas only, no rim cuds. Please reply through the e-mail venue of the E-Gobrecht newsletter. Thank you!

LSCC Calendar

- Deadline for advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #99 – June 2, 2007 to John McCloskey.
- Deadline for nominations for LSCC Officers – June 2, 2007 to John McCloskey
- Deadline for submitting 10 Greatest New Orleans Seated Coins – June 6, 2007 to John McCloskey.

- Regional Meeting of the LSCC at the Baltimore Coin Show - June 29, 2007, Friday.
 - Color photos for the *Gobrecht Journal's* 100th Issue accepted – until August 1, 2007.
 - Annual Meeting of the LSCC at the ANA Convention, Midwest Airlines Convention Center, Milwaukee, WI – August 9, 2007.
 - Dues notice and ballot for The *Gobrecht Journal* Award – September 2007.
 - 100th Issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* – November 2007.
 - LSCC Seated Dollar census – 2008.
 - LSCC Trade Dollar census – 2009.
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Information, input, comments, criticisms, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to wb8cpy@arri.net or by writing or calling:

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Information on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club

The 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 Officers.

President: John McCloskey.
Vice-President: Larry Briggs.
Secretary/Treasurer: Len Augsburg.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are \$15 per year and include three issues of *The Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *The Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary Len Augsburg at:

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Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in *The Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President:

Dr. John W. McCloskey

President, LSCC, and Editor, *The Gobrecht Journal*
Email address: John.McCloskey@notes.udayton.edu

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