



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

**Liberty Seated
Collectors Club**

2008 Volume 4, Issue 12

Dec 2008 (Whole # 46)

LSCC Meets at Baltimore

Nineteen members and guests attended the LSCC Regional meeting at the Baltimore Convention Center on November 21, 2008. Len Augsburger, the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer, opened the meeting at 9 AM.

Bill Bugert, the LSCC Vice President, provided an update of LSCC activities. First was an update of the *Gobrecht Journal* issue #103 and the color cover. The attendees complimented the cover color photos and desired to continue it. Secondly, during the past few months, the club officers have noticed an unprecedented absence of new members. Assistance in recruiting new members was solicited from the audience and Bill mentioned he will work with club dealers to add a membership link to their websites. A plea for *Gobrecht Journal* article submissions from the membership was discussed. At the current rate of submissions, John McCloskey, the *Gobrecht Journal* editor, will be unable to maintain the 52-page format. Bill also announced the Wiley-Bugert half dollar book is now on-line [Details on page 10 of this issue.]

Len mentioned that production problems with the *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volume #5 have been resolved and that it will be available by March 2009. The draft review copies will be auctioned at future LSCC meetings. He then asked for personal recollections and a moment of silence for Jim O'Donnell who died in September 2008.

Len concluded the meeting with an excellent quiz where the audience was tested on their knowledge of recent auction prices realized. Everyone enjoyed this and the informal discussions that took place afterwards. Thanks to all who attended!



LSCC Regional meeting attendees for the November 2008 Baltimore Convention

What's Inside this issue?

Auction News by Jim Gray	2
Question of the Month by Paul Kluth	3
Nominations for the 2009 LSCC Hall of Fame	3
Answers to last month's Question of the Month	4
1854-O Dime with a Rim Cud by Lynn Ourso	5
Fourth Known 1874 No Arrows Dime Discovered by Gerry Fortin	6-7
Baltimore Half Dime Purchases by Jason Feldman	8
Half Dime Error Study Update by Dennis Hengeveld	9-10
Half Dollar Book now on-line	10
Subscriber Correspondence	11
Information Wanted, Availability of Past Issues of the E-Gobrecht, and Advertisements	11-12
LSCC Information	13



The E-Gobrecht is a twice 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.



Auction News

by
Jim Gray

The **Superior Santa Clara Sale** did not have any coins of interest.

Stack's had two sales and in the first one, an 1874-CC dime in Fr-2, which was worn, pitted and ugly, did not sell.

In the second catalogue, there was a beautifully toned 1842-O half dime in MS-66 but with a very flat head that did not sell, nor did a very attractive 1849-O half dime in AU-55 with dark fields and highlighted devices.

An 1846 dime in AU-58 and an absolute beauty and formerly in my collection sold for \$28,750, more than twice what it brought in my sale in 2004. An 1859-S dime in AU-55, with a little softness on the bowknot and Liberty's head and a dark area at the 11th and 12th stars still soared to a strong \$17,250. An XF-45 duplicate that was cleaned only realized \$1,035, while a decent 1860-O dime in AU-53 did not sell.

A very attractive 1850-O Dollar in MS-62 with lovely gray and blue toning, and seldom seen thus, did not meet the minimum \$15,000 bid.

The **Bowers & Merena Baltimore Sale** featured an 1845-O dime in AU-55 that was very well struck and lightly toned for \$7,188. A

cleaned 1859-S dime in AU-55, which was very bright, did not sell, nor did a cleaned and corroded XF 1873-CC dime.

An attractive 1856-S quarter in MS-61 realized \$5,290, while an original gray 1868-S quarter in XF-40 did not sell. A cleaned and re-toned VF 1870-CC quarter did not sell.

An 1870-CC half dollar in VF-30 realized \$12,650 in spite of BER being missing. An 1871-CC half in VF-25 did not sell, nor did an 1873-CC half with arrows in XF-45 with nice gray toning. An 1874-CC half in AU-55 with some flat stars but nice album toning went for \$9,200.

An 1871-CC Dollar in XF-40 and strong for the grade, nicely toned in natural gray and very sharp, soared to \$14,350.

Recent auctions have displayed some coins housed in the new NGC holder. This holder has four white tabs on each side that cover a portion of the rim and apparently are placed there to keep the coin from moving about in the holder. To my eye, these white tabs distract from the beauty and symmetry of the coin, particularly cooper, gold and toned silver coins. Reader comments about these new holders would be welcomed.



Question of the Month

Topics for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

Half Dimes * Dimes * 20 Cent Pieces * Quarters * Halves * Dollars

Liberty Seated comes in all sizes...

What is your favorite denomination to collect and why? Why do you passionately collect the Liberty Seated denominations that you do?

[Okay, if you are big on secrecy, it is okay to reply using a pen name or anomalously this month. You know Bill B. is expecting over 300+ responses this round based on the number of e-subscribers. So let's break the record forcing the thickest E-Gobrecht issue yet next month.]

All responses are welcome! Please give us your thoughts and opinions. Send your reply to the E-Gobrecht editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Nominations for 2009 Hall of Fame

After this year's memorable ceremony where John McCloskey and Kam Ahwash were the first to be inducted into the LSCC's Hall of Fame, the Hall of Fame committee is pleased to announce that it is accepting nominations for the Liberty Seated Collector Club's 2009 Hall of Fame. 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. Please send your nominations to the Hall of Fame Committee Chairman, Jim Gray, at jgray67@carolina.rr.com and include the nominee's name and a short narrative on why you feel this individual should receive this honor. Deadline for 2009 nominations is December 31, 2008.





Answers to Last Month's Question

Topics for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

The Stock Market has fallen off drastically and specific large banks are in trouble. Investments and retirement funds have seen steep declines in value recently. Will any Fed bailout actually work? The economic experts are predicting "recession" and possible "depression".

What does your Crystal Ball say? What do you think is going to happen to the coin market in general? Are coin values and the price of precious metals going to decline too? Or is this a good time for investing in rare coins, numismatics in general, and precious metals as values are going up?

From **Keith Scott**: Regarding the question of coins versus stocks: The answer is both as long as guidelines are followed.

1. Avoid colorized coins sold on shop-at-home networks.
2. Never trust a "full service" Broker or Company.
3. Always invest for the long term (10+ years).
4. Research your investments (then cross fingers).

I've noticed Numismatists always have massive reference material while stock investors have little more than rumors and greed on which to base decisions. Solid Companies and Industries are usually a safe bet. A coin of higher grade, rarity, and EYE APPEAL will be a safe bet. Coin values will never go to zero and there will always be an additional benefit for hobby activities, investment potential, and a really cool security blanket.

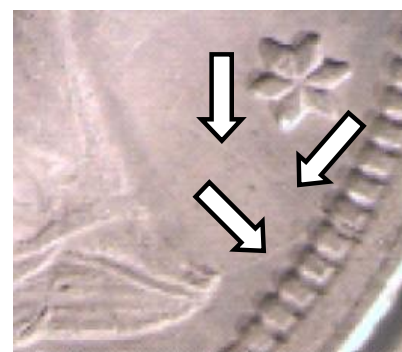
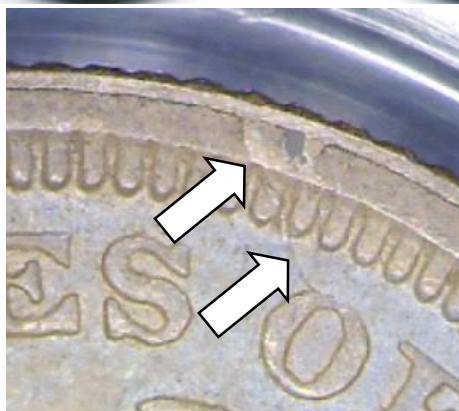
From **Dick Osburn**: In spite of a stock market that's gone south and economic news that continues to get worse and worse, the coin market seems to be holding up remarkably well. If anything there seems to be a flow of additional money into coins that might otherwise be going into stocks and related investments. People are losing their jobs, and that has to be negative for coins, but I'd say that right now the overall trend is neutral. I don't expect the wild upward movement to continue in the near term, but I also don't expect the coin market to turn downward. It may be a good time to fill some holes that have gone unfilled in past years.

I haven't been to a show in the past 3 weeks, so I don't have any data points there, but our business on the web site has continued to be very strong. In the past 4 weeks, we've had two of our biggest weeks ever. And the orders continue to come in, even during what is typically a slow time for the market. The demand is still out there in spite of the economy.



1854-O Dime with a Rim Cud

By Lynn Ourso



Pictured is an 1854-O dime that I purchased around 7 years ago in a coin shop in Lafayette Louisiana. The coin was in a box with many miscellaneous type coins. This one had exceptional quality and was problem free. I remembered then that it had a nice rim cud on the reverse. After examining the coin based on Brian Greer's book on Liberty Seated Dimes I was able to attribute it as a G-102. Gerry Fortin has given it an F-104 designation in his E-book.

My coin is a later die state than the coin pictured in Gerry's book. Comparing the photos my obverse die has more distinctive die cracks at the toe of Ms. Liberty and from the rim toward the leg below star #13. The left base of the 1 in the date has been just about polished off. Another interest crack has developed from the top of Ms. Liberty's nose to the rim. Gerry doesn't mention this in his description; however, it may be there but just very light or thin. The reverse is also a late die state with the crack Gerry describes from the rim to the O in OF being heav-

ier and a rim cud has developed. This is the latest die state of this variety that I have seen. I wished I had remembered I had this coin while Gerry was developing his book.

Around 6 months ago I sent this coin to PGCS and they graded it AU-55 except incorrectly dating the holder 1853-O. I was planning to photo the coin in the holder but the soft plastic that holds the coin hid the rim cud. I asked PCGS at a show if they would put it in a correct holder but remove a bit of the plastic to show the rim cud; they refused (they would correct the date). I cracked the coin out and took the photos that accompany this article.

Now that it is currently hard to locate nice Liberty Seated coins, here is another variety with a late die state that dime collectors will surely look for. Unfortunately for most collectors, this isn't a Philly or San Francisco coin, so before anyone asks, I collect New Orleans Liberty Seated coins and it's not for sale (however, \$50K might do it). LOL.



Fourth Known 1874 F-106 No Arrows Seated Dime is Discovered

by Gerry Fortin

E-Gobrecht readers may desire to know that an unnamed collector recently purchased the fourth known example of the extremely rare 1874 F-106 No Arrows seated dime variety. The collector contacted me in mid-November 2008 to report the acquisition after checking the Top 100 Varieties link at the www.seateddimevarieties.com website. Needless to say, the individual was excited with the purchase and agreed to share his discovery with the Liberty Seated collecting community. Luckily I was in the United States and the collector immediately sending along the dime via FedEx for review and variety confirmation.

Below are images of the 1874 No Arrows dime in comparison to the F-106 web-book plate coin. The newly discovered specimens grades AU55 with faint wear on Liberty's breasts and obviously was dipped at some point in time. The obverse and reverse fields are proof like as is the F-106 plate coin. The dime is well struck throughout with strong head details and bold shield banner and horizontal and vertical shield lines.

Fourth Known 1874 No Arrows F-106



(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

1874 No Arrows F-106 – Gerry Fortin Collection



Key diagnostic for this variety include faint outlines for the left and right arrows followed by noticeable repunching on the 1 and 8 digits. In addition, the 7 and 4 digits are unmistakably weak for the variety. Due to its high gray, the new specimen easily displays all of the primary diagnostics.

Since the formal publication of the 1874 No Arrows variety as part of the Seated Dime Top 100 Variety Set in 2004, a total of four specimens are known at this time. As with any major variety, publications and awareness due raise the probability of additional pieces being located.

Listing of Known 1874 No Arrows F-106 dimes as of November 2008

1. James Swarek - Low grade example as reported by Brian Greer in his Seated Dime guidebook (1991)
2. Gerry Fortin - ANACS AU58 and web-book plate coin (2003)
3. Ken Shield - VF35 with light central toning turning darker near the peripheries (2005)
4. Unnamed collector - The above specimen grading AU55 (2008)



Baltimore Show Half Dime Purchases

By Jason Feldman

Here are a few half dimes I purchased at the November 2008 Baltimore coin show. I think the 1872 is a double die, not sure on that. The 1843 has a neat reverse die crack that does not match the books but I hear there was another one found. 1858 is the short pole. I don't know how rare these are but I am hoping someone will.





Liberty Seated Half Dime Error Study Update

By Dennis Hengeveld

This article is meant to give an update on one of my current projects, cataloging Liberty Seated Half Dime errors and determining the rarity of individual pieces. I started with this project in January 2008 and have run a small add in each issue of the *E-Gobrecht*. Unfortunately, this has not yet led to many reports of errors.

Errors are a much overlooked area of numismatics. Most error collections are focused on 20th century coinage because of the excessive rarity of many types of 19th century errors. As for dedicated Seated collectors, errors are mostly an area that occasionally gets included in collection, but normally not with much of a focus.

So far, 37 Liberty Seated Half Dimes have been reported as to be error coins. These include multiple off-center strikes (most common type of error although very rare when more than 20% off-center), a few broadstruck pieces and several strike-throughs. There were also several other errors reported, one example being a mirror brockage reverse of the pre 1860 type.

It must be noted that I have decided to only include errors unique to a certain coin (each error is unique in its own way). This means I have excluded rotated dies, as these will occur for every strike of a die pair until the positions of the dies were corrected.

It is still too early to give any reliable conclusions on the relative rarity of these pieces. However, so far Seated Half Dime

errors certainly turn out to be one the rarest of all Seated denominations. I have not yet been researching the other denominations, but by the amount of errors encountered for the Seated Silver Dollars, they are equally as rare. Seated Dimes seem to be the most common denomination in errors, although still very rare compared to modern series.

All three US Mints that struck Seated Half Dimes (Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco) have reported errors so far. The relative mintages of every issue seem to have some influence on the number of errors reported for a certain Mint. Most errors are circulated with only a few examples that grade Mint State. This means that most of these coins went first into general circulation before an error was discovered and the coin was pulled from circulation.

One fact that stood out to me with the coins currently found is that approximately 80% of all coins reported were dated in the 1850's, especially the 1856-1858 dates. I have come up with two possible explanations which will be highlighted in the main article, planned to be published in early 2009 in the *Gobrecht Journal*.

A complete check of previous issues of the *Gobrecht Journals* listed in the collective journals and Mint Error News has only brought to light a few more pieces. Not much information has been published on these error coins, and much research still has to be done.

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

If you own or know of any Seated Half Dime errors please let me know. For any reliable conclusions to be made I need to have a list which can be deemed to be close to complete. Unfortunately I do not have much access to old auction catalogs, so if you have any with major (or minor) error collections in them please let me know. A list of what coins were sold and eventually

scans of the lots would be really helpful. All your help is greatly appreciated to make a reliable article on the rarity of these numismatic mistakes of the US mint.

Dennis Hengeveld

LSCC Member #2112

Hengeveld.dennis@gmail.com

The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars

Now available on-line - for free!!

[Editor: Through the generous efforts of John Feigenbaum and David Lawrence Rare Coins, the Wiley-Bugert half dollar book is available on the internet with free access! See the announcement below. Many thanks to John and his staff for making this possible.]

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, November 14, 2008

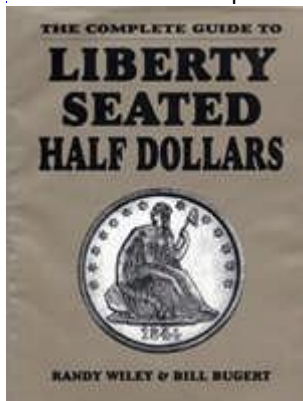
DLRC Announces project Stella: a new Blog & Library Web Site Free Access for Coin Collectors to Valuable Research and Reference Books

StellaCoinNews.com

Virginia Beach, VA — John Feigenbaum, President of David Lawrence Rare Coins and Dominion Grading Service, announced today the unveiling of a new web site called Stella Coin News (www.stellacoinnews.com) which will provide daily Blogs by numismatic leaders, as well as free access to DLRC Press publications.

According to Feigenbaum, "We hope Stella will become a regular stopping point for collectors who are looking for more information on current events within the coin community, as well as reference material that they previously could only find in books.

In our first month of operations, we have published two rare books from our catalog. The first was David Lawrence's anecdotal stories titled, [Tales from the Bourse](#). The second, more ambitious effort is [The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars](#) by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert. This amazing book remains the only standard reference to the varieties of this series and it has been largely unavailable for over 5 years. We've heard of folks having to pay as much as \$200 for a copy. Now you can get all of it...online...FREE. Another major benefit is users can comment on all aspects of the book with up-dated information, and the authors themselves can augment data over time."



Future plans for Stella include as many as 10 more DLRC Press titles and we hope to get other authors to contribute their books as well. As publishers of the Stella site, we encourage as much participation as possible to make this a community forum.



Subscriber Correspondence

From **Michael Luck**: as usual excellent newsletter and jam packed with everything seated related lots of great information not available elsewhere!! Keep up the good work!! *[Editor: All the contributors make this newsletter successful!]*

From **Jason Feldman**: I launched a "member drive" on the PCGS boards, I know we got at least one new member out of it. With your permission I would like to offer to forward the November *E-Gobrecht* to PCGS board members who might be interested. *[Editor: I encourage subscribers to forward the E-Gobrecht to anyone who may be interested. The more the merrier...]*

From **Keith Scott**: I just saw a copy of the WB book sell on eBay for \$182.50. Also, Dick Osburn's empty table at Santa Clara made my space-filling a lot of work.

From **Lynn Ourso**: A couple of Cheryl and my dearest friends and fellow coin dealer, Joe and Jean Gallo was robbed Sunday night in Bessemer Alabama returning from the Tennessee State Show in Chattanooga. He lost everything; coins, lights, microscope, paper towels and all. The only lead at this time is a film from the hotel showing the face of one of the thieves who was apparently the watch guy and the other one was removing the GPS tracking device from under his back wheel well. Joe and Jean dealt in errors and varieties. He also had some of his highlights of collection including a 1969-S Double die obverse Lincoln cent. No one saw anyone take his belongings. Jean called me yesterday and she wants the word out to be careful of those GPS tracking devices. She wants to alert everyone about this type of scandal. It would be nice if the shows could afford one of the devices that detect these tracking devices. The only show that I am aware of that currently does this is the Money Show of the Southwest held in Houston. I don't know how much these things cost but maybe the show promoters could research this and if they are affordable, maybe we will see the scanning of your vehicles to be part of the procedures of loading out at the coin shows. Maybe the ANA could fund these? Or part of the cost...for there are many shows held every weekend. Houston's police department does the scanning of your vehicles so maybe the show promoters could contact their local police and maybe they already own one and are willing to help them out. Anyhow this is food for thought. Something really needs to be done.



Photo credit - Jason's cell phone camera

A few LSCC members
gather for nourishment
and after-a-long-day-
camaraderie at the
November 2008
Baltimore Show



Information Wanted on Half Dime Errors

I'm currently working on the large task of cataloging the known seated half dime errors known to collectors by date/mintmark. If you own any seated half dime errors, please send me an e-mail at the address below and provide the following information to make this survey as accurate as possible:

- Date and Mintmark of coin
- Type of error
- Grade
- Certification service if graded
- Photographs of both sides of the coin (if possible)

Information about any known errors including blank planchets is welcomed. The results will be published in an article at the end of this year. Dennis Hengeveld, Hengeveld.dennis@gmail.com

Notice: Availability of past issues of the E-Gobrecht

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

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

Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies

Wanted: 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.

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

Wanted to Buy: Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: www.vtcoins.com, email: puro@vtcoins.com, phone: 1-800-655-1327.

Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted: I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.



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

LSCC website:
<http://www.lscweb.org>

Mark your calendar !

2008/9

- *Gobrecht Journal* Issue # 103 postal mailed - late-November 2008; you should have it by now!
- Deadline for 2009 Hall of Fame nominations - December 31, 2008
- LSCC Eastern Regional meeting - Friday, January 9, 2009, 9 AM, Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, room TBD.
- Trade Dollar census - Forms will be postal mailed in January 2009
- Next issue of *Gobrecht Journal* - March 2009

LSCC Dues

If you haven't done so already, send them to the Secretary/Treasurer!

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.

The *E-Gobrecht* is not copyrighted; use its content freely but please be sure to quote the *E-Gobrecht* and the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.