



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Julian Leidman - Victim of Coin Theft!

You most likely know about this but it is worth repeating here! Long time club member and well known dealer, Julian Leidman, was the victim of coin theft on October 11th in Pine Brook, NJ. As reported in *Coin World* (November 2, 2009 issue) and Julian's website, more than \$1 million worth of coins and paper money were stolen from Julian's minivan while he was returning home from the three-day CoinFest in Stamford, CT. Julian reports that the theft included all of his show inventory of over 1,000 coins, about a third of them encapsulated by third party graders.

Julian said that he stopped to meet and eat with family members in NJ and thieves broke into the passenger side of his vehicle during the meal. He believes he was targeted at the coin show and followed to the theft site.

Julian is the owner/operator of a Silver Spring, MD business and a popular figure at all major coin shows and auctions. A massive \$166,000+ reward is being offered and the amount continues to grow. A listing of stolen coins is too large to publish but some details can be found on Julian's website at www.juliancoin.com. If you have any information on the theft or you come into contact with any of the stolen coins, contact Julian Leidman at (301) 785-5640.

LSCC to Meet at the Baltimore Show

A regional meeting of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club is scheduled for the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore, Maryland Expo.

Date: Friday morning, November 13, 2009

Time: 9 AM

Place: Convention Center Room 321

A lively agenda is planned. Please try to attend.

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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

October 2009 was slow in the coin market with the **Heritage** Gala Sale being the only sale of note.

A lightly toned 1838-O dime in AU58 that was well struck went for \$2,070 and a nice original 1845-O in XF45 realized \$1,265. An original 1858-S in VF25 and perfect for a VF/XF set realized \$834, while a cleaned and retoned AU 1860-O managed \$1,725. A lightly toned, well struck 1861-S dime in MS61 did not sell.

A cleaned 1871-CC dime that was weak on the right obverse legend and the reverse wreath still managed \$4,025, but a cleaned VG 1872-CC eked out \$1,495. A cleaned 1873-CC in VG did not sell. An 1874-CC in the same grade and also cleaned hit \$5,175. An original 1874-CC dime in VF25 that was

attractive despite a few obverse scratches soared to \$16,675.

An original 1851-O quarter in XF40 did not sell.

An 1844-O double date half in XF45 with mottled toning did not sell, but an original gray 1866-S no motto in XF40 realized \$1,955. An 1870-CC in F12 with only L-TY visible did not sell, but a deep gray VF30 that was just a little weak on the E went for an impressive \$6,613. An 1871-CC in XF45 that was well struck over light gray surfaces rose to \$2,990.

Two 1872-S Dollars appeared; one in XF45 that was dull from a dipping got \$2,875, while a well struck AU55 soared to \$9,775.

An 1878-CC trade dollar in XF40 that was well struck but dull from a dipping still managed \$4,312.

Liberty Seated coinage exhibits planned for the November Baltimore Show

Len Augsburg, the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer, organized a special exhibit of Liberty Seated coinage for the public at the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo from November 12-14, 2009. The exhibit will include these sections entitled:

1. Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection, 2007-2009 PCGS Classic Set Awards
2. Christian Gobrecht Medals, Tokens, and Engravings
3. Selections from an Advanced Seated-Quarter Variety Set
4. Greenwich Collection, #1 PCGS Proof Liberty Seated Quarters Set

Please support your club members and try to view these exhibits. Look for them on the bourse floor at corner booth # 1555 on Thursday through Saturday.



Call for Nominations for LSCC Hall of Fame

After this year's memorable ceremony where Al Blythe was 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 2010 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 2010 nominations is December 31, 2009.

Question of the Month

Topic for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

What are your favorite topics for articles in both the *E-Gobrecht* & the *Gobrecht Journal*, or are there any specific subject areas of Liberty Seated collecting that you would like to see more published information about?

All responses are welcome! Please consider taking a few moments and sending in your thoughts and opinions. Send your reply to the *E-Gobrecht* editor at wb8cpy@arri.net.

Answers to last Month's Question

**This is a topic of obvious extreme importance at coins shows...
Which Coin Shows/Conventions that you attend offer the best food?
Which Shows aren't so good?**

From **Jim Woodley**: Howdy Bill - I just finished reading the "E-Brecht". That's some good stuff! I read the request for good food/bad food comments so I figured I'd drop a line. It really won't mean a lot since I've only been to 3 major shows. I figured bad food was a normal "part of the show" to keep the collectors out on the floor. 😊 Bottom line ; I've yet to have something decent at a coin show of any size Have a good weekend!

From **Bill Bugert**: I have never really had good food at a coin show (although I am a hotdog connoisseur and rarely find bad ones anywhere). I usually try not to eat coin show chow. For short local shows, I will pack a sandwich from home in my carry-bag; for longer shows, I eat away from the show.



Help Wanted with 1891-O Quarter Die Research

By Greg Johnson

I am working on a study of the relative rarity of the different die marriages of the 1891-O quarter and am requesting the help of LSCC members who own examples.

The three known die marriages are shown in the figure at right. From top to bottom they are Briggs 1-A, 2-B, and 3-C. Obverse 1 has date position 6 (i.e. the right side of the first 1 in the date lines up with the sixth vertical shield line). Obverse 2 has date position 5/6. Obverse 3 has date position 6/7. Reverse A has the mint mark centered in the crotch and only partly over R. Reverse B has the mint mark just left of the crotch and almost entirely over the R in QUAR. The reverse C mint mark is just slightly left of the crotch and higher than reverse B.

I would like to know the grade, die marriage, and certification status of your 1891-O quarters. All information provided will be kept confidential and results of this survey will be shared in an upcoming *Gobrecht Journal* article. Please respond by email to gjohnson56@gmail.com. Larger pictures of these coins are available on the web at:

<http://seateddimes.yuku.com/topic/2919/t/1891-O-Research-A-Little-Help-Wanted.html>.





November 2049 (*Numismatic Science Fiction*)

By Dennis Fortier

[Editor's comment: While the subject matter of this story does not directly pertain to Liberty Seated coinage, indirectly it may. I thought readers would enjoy this. Read on...]

Today, the ANA announced suspension of operations due to the adverse financial conditions of the organization. Membership has been falling for years and is now below 1,000 members. The estimated number of coin collectors in the U.S. is down to approximately 25,000. The Numismatic hobby and industry have been in decline for decades. There has been a disconnect between society and old fashioned coinage with the switch to a NO CASH electronic monetary system back in 2018 and the closure of the mint in 2025. This disconnect has left potential new hobbyists with no chance to embrace the numismatic hobby. Molecular transformation further crippled the hobby with perfect forgeries entering the market a few years ago. MDAC (Molecular Diagnostics Assurance Company) returned some confidence to the hobby with their patented NYCRO chip imbedded in genuine coins. Unfortunately, this system is under constant attack. Two Molars were recently convicted and shortzand¹ for trying to corrupt the MDAC NYCRO system. Numismatics has returned to "The Hobby of Kings" with half billion dollar trophy coins out of reach for most of the few collectors left to the hobby, while common issues (more than 1,000 survivors) in circulated and low mint state grades are trading for their bullion value.

The change started slowly back around 2009. Five star restaurants in New York City switched to a No Cash format insisting on credit card and debt card payments only. The reasons were many. The lack of cash on the premises would reduce the chances of theft by outsiders and employees, reduced book-keeping, and less work in closing at the end of the night. Additionally in 2009, New York cab-

bies and even street Santa's began taking debt cards. With the death of a prominent Senator in 2009 the paper producer to The Bureau of Engraving lost it strongest ally and the most numerous and costly bill, the paper one dollar bill, became a thing of the past. It was thought that the switch to a coin dollar, and the Presidential dollar at that, would increase interest in numismatics as the state quarter program a decade before had. This was not to be as the technological march to a cashless society was on its way and the coin dollar was a case of too little too late. In addition, the government found it easier to tax everything when cash transactions were eliminated.

Back to 2009... OK, are you properly scared? I don't like it either but computers and the internet have changed our lives in so many ways and this No Cash trend has already started. The New York examples I've mentioned were the impetus for this article (yes, it's already happening). I am a perfect example of the no cash society. I rarely have cash on me. We pay for everything (gas, groceries, etc.) with our cards and pay off the bill every month. Youth entering the hobby have been on the decline for some time. Clubs around the country have been disbanding. Q. David Bowers has said recently that our hobby is strong, and it is, for now. The writing is on the wall for those who are brave enough to open their eyes. We need to go to where the kids are. Perhaps some video games where coin are found and real coin prizes can be won by registering with the ANA website? Forty years is along time and most of us will be gone by then, so why worry? The worry comes in passing our collections on to our descendants. The sadness comes in the possible demise of our beloved hobby.

¹I don't know what "shortzand" means but it doesn't sound good.



1839: Another Amazing Year in US Coinage (170 Years Ago)

By Arno Safran

During the mid to late 1830's our coinage underwent a number of changes. The first of these began with modifications to the cent in 1835 and again in 1837. In 1836 silver dollar coinage was resumed. It portrayed a Liberty Seated figure with *no stars* on the obverse. The reverse depicted a soaring eagle in a sea of 26 stars. It was engraved by Christian Gobrecht. In 1837 the Capped Bust dime and half-dime was replaced by the Liberty Seated *no stars* type and on the reverse the eagle was supplanted by a wreath. The diameter of the dime was reduced from 18.5 mm to 17.9 mm while the half dime remained the same. In 1838 the Liberty Seated (with 13 stars added) was placed on the quarter and in 1839 it was the half dollar's turn. The Gobrecht dollar also underwent further modifications in 1839. Finally, there were no less than five important modifications made to the Coronet type large cent in 1839. These have become popular *Red Book* varieties among cent enthusiasts.

The reader will observe that among the two sides of the basic 1839 year set shown and directly above there are two different types for the half dollar denomination; the outgoing Capped Bust-Reeded Edge and the new Liberty Seated types thereby continuing the annual parade of transitional date design-type pairings begun in 1837.



Obverses of a basic 1839 Year Set of US coins (excluding gold)
All but the Gobrecht dollar at lower right are affordable



Reverses of a basic 1839 Year set (excluding gold)
Only 300 Gobrecht dollars were minted in 1839.

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1839/6 N-1 and 1839 N-2 "Type of '38"



Detail showing 1839/6 plain hair cord at left and 1839 Head of '38 Beaded Hair cord at right

The Cents: In 1839 Chief Engraver Christian Gobrecht made several modifications to the cent design. First we have the 1839/6, a scarce variety (actually 9 over inverted 9; probably made in 1836). It shows a plain hair cord which was discontinued in 1837. The second is the "**Head of '38**", similar to what appeared later in 1837 as the beaded hair cord sub-type. This was followed by two less successful 1839 renditions nicknamed the **Silly Head** and the **Booby Head**. Unlike the previous, both display a protruding curl on the forehead. The Booby Head however shows no hair at all at the lower right of Miss Liberty's coiffure.



The 1839 Silly Head and Booby Head Large Cents



Detail showing no curl on 1839 "head of '38 at left and protruding curl on 1839 Booby Head on coin at right



Detail showing Silly Head with curl at lower right and Booby Head with bare area at lower right

Gobrecht made still another modification on the large cent in 1839, known today as the **Petite Head**. This became the standard smaller head type large cent appearing on the large cents from 1840 on.

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1839 1¢s obverses – Heads of '38 and '40

When the resumption of dollar coinage was authorized in 1835, the new Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson wanted a seated figure resembling the Britannia design that appeared on British coinage. He asked renowned portrait artist Thomas Sully to draw up a sketch. The first dollars dated 1836 and the dimes and half dimes of 1837 showed Chief engraver Gobrecht's rendering of Sully's conception but without the thirteen stars that had surrounded the earlier Bust type coinage. In 1838, Mint Director Patterson decided to restore the thirteen stars to the obverse of the coins; possibly to avoid confusion between British and US coinage. As a result the 13 stars appeared on the obverse of the half dimes, dimes and the new quarters struck later in 1838. In the second half of 1839 the design type of the half dollar was changed from Capped Bust- Reeded edge to the Liberty Seated type along with a small number of 1839 proof silver dollars that were put into circulation; some presumably given to members of Congress.



An 1839 Proof \$1.00 certified PF-61 by PCGS
It realized \$21,850 at the Heritage Auction held on Sept. 9, 2009
[Courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives]

The Dollar: Arguably, the most exquisite coin

of 1839 is the Gobrecht dollar design type. Originally, this coin, like the 1836 dated *no stars* on the obverse versions, was thought to be a pattern since only 300 proofs were made, but due to the research of Robert Julian and others, it was determined that both the 1836 and '39 issues were bone fide coins of the realm having been placed into circulation despite their respective low mintages. Since the stars had been restored to the obverse on all the other silver denominations including an 1838 pattern Gobrecht dollar, it was no surprise to see this feature continued on the dollar in 1839. The 26 stars originally surrounding the soaring eagle on the 1836 Gobrecht dollar were removed leaving the eagle soaring in an empty field surrounded by the legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and ONE DOLLAR below.

In later years a number of restrikes were made like the one pictured above and these are likely to be more available if you consider a coin priced at more than \$20,000 within your budget. While the vast majority of us will never be able to afford such a coin, the 1839 dollar is a beautiful work of art and it is a pity that the design was wholly emasculated in 1840.



The 1839 *no drapery* and *with drapery* Liberty Seated 50¢ types

The Half dollar: There was some dissatisfaction by the critics when the new design type appeared on the half dollar in 1839. It was thought that Miss Liberty was insufficiently clad, especially on the side of her gown just above her knee at her waist directly below her elbow. This was most noticeable on the half dollar as it was the largest circulating coin available to the public. Gobrecht was

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asked to add drapery over the waist and under the elbow on the right. He also reduced the size of the rock on the lower left side of the coin rendering it further away from the lowest star at the left as well.



Detail of 1839 50¢ *no drapery* (at left) and *with drapery* (at right)
Look between the elbow and knee of both coins.
Also notice the size of the rock and distance to lowest star

Grading Liberty Seated Coinage: In addition to the diagnostics shown above, the enlarged detail gives the collector a good idea on how to grade Liberty Seated coins. On the *no drapery* half dollar seen at the left, one can observe a greater amount of wear across Liberty's leg and knee than on the *with drapery* example shown at the right. The *no drapery* sub-type is much scarcer than the *with drapery*, especially in higher grades such as an XF-45 or better.

The minor Silver coins and the Quarter: The Liberty seated half-dimes, dimes and quarters of 1839 were unchanged from 1838 except for the date. All are represented by the *no drapery* subtype that would be 'rectified' by mid 1840. None of these denominations are unduly expensive up through AU-58.



1839 circulated Liberty Seated 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢
Starting with the Liberty Seated design type in 1837,
The eagle was replaced by a wreath on the half dime and dime

Two of the most important figures connected with the creation of our 1839 Liberty Seated coins are shown here. Below is a self portrait by the renowned painter, Thomas Sully who sketched out the Liberty



Seated figure and below is Christian Gobrecht who engraved it onto the dies for our coins.



Each artist forged successful careers in their respective fields and were among the few persons responsible for creating the short-lived Gobrecht dollar series of 1836 and 1839. It is a pity that this low mint-age 1839 dollar coin, easily the most desirable of all denominations struck that year, is the one coin of the entire year set most collectors are least likely to own.

[Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission of the author from the October 2009 issue of the Augusta, GA Coin Club Monthly Newsletter.]



Subscriber Correspondence

From **Michael Luck**: Another substantial newsletter with really great information. Jim Grey's auction results never disappoint with rare dates continuing to bring strong prices even with problematic better date coins. The best part was the Greer and Ahwash plate coins along with PCGS results showing the service is currently conservative; I believe because of the CAC (green bean stickers verifying problem free and at least solid if not higher end for the grade assigned).

From **Anonymous**: I really don't like to display my ignorance, especially when it comes to LSCC coins but I have to just to find out what "PLATE" coins are. I have read and reread Mr. Fortin's excellent article on his Liberty Seated Dime collection where he refers to "Greer Plate Coins." Since his article concerns 'grading circulated coins,' I have wondered if the term "PLATE" refers to pictures submitted to professional graders of coins. Perhaps I should have addressed this E-mail to Mr. Fortin but I feel more comfortable asking you.

This is another outstanding issue of the *E-Gobrecht*. The pictures of the dime coins are outstanding. One of these pictures on page 9 shows an obvious die break on the reverse of the 1841-O dime, running through the "E" of STATES and through the second "A" in America. Do professional graders look at these "errors" and downgrade a coin due to a die break? All the pictures displayed in this article look like the coins could be UNC grades.



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 website at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>



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

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.

New Half Dollar Book for sale: I have a new book which details all known San Francisco Branch Mint LS Half Dollar die marriages (228) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc. and includes nearly 1,400 photographs. Written with Special Edits by and Consultations with Randy Wiley, this book is a large 313 pages in 8.5 by 11 inch size, is printed on high quality 100# anthem gloss paper, and is available in 3-hole punched format (ready for your binder) or plastic comb binding format. Copies are available now for \$45 plus \$5 postage (Specify which format you desire) directly from me at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-0229.



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>

LSCC

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 still \$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.*

Mark your calendar !

- Ballots were due for the James B. Pryor award voting - October 30, 2009
- LSCC regional meeting, Whitman Baltimore Coin & Collectibles Expo, 9 AM, Conventional Hall room 321 - November 13, 2009
- *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #106 postal mailed - late November 2009
- Nominations due for LSCC Hall of Fame - December 31, 2009. (See details on page 3 of this issue.)