



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Club members meet at the FUN Show

Approximately 25 LSCC members and guests attended a regional meeting of the LSCC at the FUN show in Orlando, FL on Friday, January 9th. Larry Briggs opened the meeting and led a discussion of counterfeit coins. Jason Feldman provided information on recent club activities and there was a nice show and tell between members. Dennis Hengeveld, a club member from The Netherlands and an author for the *Gobrecht Journal* and *E-Gobrecht*, was the distant attendee. A good time was had by all. Thanks for attending and thanks to Jason for setting up the meeting and providing the group photo below.

The next LSCC Regional meeting will be held at the Long Beach, CA Coin Convention. Club member Brad DePew will be conducting this meeting at the Convention Center, February 7, 2009 at 3 PM in room 102A. A lively agenda is planned; please try to attend and meet/greet with those who share Liberty Seated coinage interests.



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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

January 2009 was very busy with five major auctions and a large number of rare and desirable Seated coins for sale.

The **Bowers & Merena Orlando Rarity Sale** featured an 1844 half dime with nice toning and a little soft on the upper left wreath that did not sell.

An 1859-S dime in MS65 that was well struck and nicely toned and the best at either major grading service did not sell. I am surprised that it wasn't acquired for a registry set. An 1860-S dime in MS63 that was original but not very attractive did not sell. An attractive, well struck 1861-S dime in MS62 realized \$8,050 and an 1863 dime in MS63 with a good strike and some dark toning at the top of the obverse hit \$9,200. An 1872-CC dime with VF details but cleaned, damaged and repaired, which removed most of the right obverse legend, understandably did not sell.

An 1873-CC quarter with arrows with EF details and nice looking but with extensive damage in the center reverse did not sell and had not sold at a previous auction.

An 1870-CC half dollar with XF details but cleaned but not harshly did not sell. A wholesome 1871-CC in VF25 with the E in Liberty gone also did not sell. An 1872-CC half with AU details that was well struck but harshly cleaned sold for a paltry \$920. An 1873 no arrows open 3 half in AU55 with light toning and only one MS63 finer rose to \$16,100.

The **Stack's Orlando Sale** featured an attractive 1844-O half dime in MS62, with better than an average strike, did not sell. A bright, frosty 1849-O half dime in MS60, but with some scratches, did not sell. A VF35 duplicate with nice toning but a very flat strike only realized \$253. An 1853-O no arrows half dime in XF45 with mottled toning and the diagnostic weakness on the date, together with some

marks and scratches, eked out \$1,495.

A very attractive 1838-O dime with perfect rims in MS63 sold for \$5,750 and an 1845-O dime in XF45 but with a reverse cut through the A in States sold for \$1,265. An 1865-S dime in MS64 that was soft on Liberty's head with uneven toning did not sell. An original 1872-CC dime in VF35 with original toning and a bit soft on the head and wreath and some circulation marks sold for \$5,175. An 1873-CC arrows dime in XF45 that was well struck and attractive despite light porosity soared to \$34,500.

An 1842-O small date quarter in AU+ that was well struck and attractive despite an old cleaning did not sell and an 1856-S quarter in AU58 with attractive toning and a good strike sold for \$5,750. An 1858-S quarter in XF45 did not sell, nor did an 1859-S quarter in XF45 with deep toning. An 1867-S quarter in XF40 with some dark toning realized a strong \$5,060. An 1868-S quarter in MS62 that was lightly toned hit \$6,325, but a nice XF45 duplicate did not sell. An 1873-CC no arrows quarter in MS63, ex-Eliasberg and was one of five known. It was an original with average eye appeal but had some scratches in the right obverse field and some dull marks on Liberty's head and face, but still went for an amazing \$431,250.

An 1840-O reverse of 1838 half dollar that was catalogued as net VF 35 but finer detailed but with an obverse scratch did not sell and an attractive 1844-O double date half in AU50 went for \$5,318. An 1855-S half in AU55 that was nicely toned and attractive despite some obverse bag marks and a scrape on the reverse horizontal shield stripes soared to \$20,700. An 1866-S no motto half in AU53 that was well struck, golden toned, and formerly in my collection, went for \$4,600, more than double the \$1,900 it realized in 2004. An 1873-CC no arrows half in MS63 that was an MS62 in my sale and having a scrape under the eagle's beak did not meet the

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(Continued from page 2) **(Auction News)**

\$32,500 minimum and a duplicate in MS61 that was actually slightly more attractive than the preceding piece but with slight wear also did not sell. An 1878-CC half in MS65, that tied with four others as the best at PCGS, was not very attractive with dark toning splotches and did not meet the \$60,000 minimum. An 1878-S half, graded XF 40, with uniform deep slate toning and looking finer with the wear not reaching the drapery line above Liberty's left breast did not make the \$55,000 minimum.

An 1851 original Dollar in MS63 with mottled toning hammered for \$46,000, but an 1852 original Dollar in AU58 with obvious wear, some marks and rim chinks and not very attractive and definitely low end did not sell. An 1856 Dollar in MS62 that was well struck and attractive, seldom seen thus, did not sell. An 1857 Dollar in MS64 was very flat on the stars, head, cap, foot and the base of the throne, as well as some reverse areas. Amazingly, PCGS gave this pancake a CAC designation but it was not a surprise that it did not sell.

The **Heritage Fun Sale** featured five 1844 dimes in VF20 that sold for \$488, \$460, \$460, \$460 and \$517, respectively. Another 1844 dime in cleaned XF went for \$690. An 1844 dime in AU50 was a beauty with a good strike and mark free surfaces and realized \$2,415, while another 1844 dime in AU50 with a decent look only sold for \$1,495. Eye appeal is often more important than the grade. An 1846 dime in VF35 that was a decent original did not sell and a nice looking 1856-S dime in VF 35 hit \$1,725. An 1860-O dime in AU50 with extensive reverse repairs that left a void in the center of the coin only went for \$1,610. An 1871-CC dime in VF20 with dark, murky toning hit \$6,612 and an 1873-CC dime in VF20 with dark splotches hit \$5,800. Another 1873-CC dime in VF25, retoning from an old cleaning or dipping and carrying some obverse marks, did not sell. A lovely golden and russet 1885-S dime in AU55 did not sell.

An 1849-O quarter in AU50 with light toning and a large mark on Liberty's face did not sell. An 1854-O, huge O, in G6 did not sell, but an original F15 example realized \$2,185 and a further piece in

cleaned XF did not sell. An 1858-S quarter in AU53 and tied for the best at PCGS looked finer but still did not sell, nor did a nicely toned 1859-S quarter in VF30. An 1861-S quarter in XF45 with nice toning but with two dark toning streaks on the obverse did not sell. An 1867-S quarter in AU50 with some dark areas but very sharp amazed at \$8,050 and an 1873-CC quarter in VF20 that was cleaned and darkly retoned went for \$5,462.

An 1870-CC half dollar in VF30 with granular surfaces went for \$2,875 while another VF30 with deep toning but with ER gone hit a strong \$9,487. 1871-CC half dollars in VG10 and two in XF 45 sold for \$1,092, \$2,760 and \$3,310, respectively. An 1873-CC no arrows in XF45 with light toning sold for \$2,990.

An 1850-O Dollar in MS62 with a decent strike and nice iridescent toning did not sell.

A number of the coins in the January auctions were housed in the new NGC holders with the four white tabs. The full effect of these holders on eye appeal and symmetry was demonstrated by darkly toned 1846-O and 1849 Dollars that appeared as Lots 4326 and 4334 of the Heritage Fun Sale. UGH!

The **Heritage Platinum Night** featured a very attractive 1844 dime in MS65 at \$32,200. An 1846 dime in MS63 that had a bold strike, magnificent blue toning and only a few light scratches on Liberty defining the grade. This coin was tied with one other as the finest graded by either major grading service and one could scarcely hope to get a better piece. A happy registry set bidder obtained this coin for \$86,250. An 1872-CC dime in XF45 with nice obverse toning but a little soft on Liberty's head and the wreath hit \$10,925, while an attractive original gray 1873-CC dime in VF35 did not sell.

An 1852-O quarter in MS63 was the finest certified and basically untuned. However, this coin was flat on the stars, Liberty's head and torso and the bottom of the eagle. In spite of that, the coin sold for \$46,000. A lightly toned 1855-S quarter in MS62 with only one graded better hit \$19,550. An 1867-S quarter in MS62 that was basically untuned and well struck, ex-Eliasberg and Richmond, soared to

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\$27,300. A cleaned but retuned 1870-CC quarter in F12 sold for \$11,500 and a nice original gray duplicate in VF35 hit \$27,600. An 1872-S quarter in MS63 that was untuned and ex-Eliasberg did not sell. A nice frosty 1873 closed 3 quarter in MS63 and the best certified hit \$37,375. An 1873-CC quarter with arrows and an attractive VF25, perfect for a F/VF set, sold for \$20,700.

An 1842-O small date half dollar graded MS62 with a good strike, including full drapery lines on Liberty and full talons on the eagle, nice toning and eye appeal, and the best I've ever seen, rose to \$43,125.

An 1851 original Dollar in MS62 that was well struck and attractive and with light marks that defined the grade went for \$34,615. A cleaned and retuned 1852 original Dollar in AU55 did not sell. An 1873-CC Dollar in AU50 but with dull gray toning and perhaps dipped at one time did not sell.

The **Stack's Americana Sale** featured an 1844-O half dime in MS64 with a good strike and attractive obverse toning but some dark areas on the reverse did not sell. An absolutely lovely deep blue, well struck 1846 half dime in AU55 hit \$13,225. An 1846 dime in AU50 that was attractive despite a dull

mark below Liberty's cap did not sell, nor did a nicely toned 1859-S dime in AU58 that was formerly in my collection. An 1860-O in AU50 with attractive deep toning did not sell.

The sale featured three nice CC dimes with an 1871-CC in AU50 with uniform toning and a decent strike hitting \$46,000. A very attractive 1873-CC in AU55 that was sharp except for Liberty's head did not sell.

An 1874-CC dime in AU55, newly discovered in Europe, was sharp except for Liberty's head and the bow knot and with decent light toning rang the bell for \$97,750. Perhaps a battle of the registry sets?

An 1849-O quarter in XF40 that was a decent original with irregular toning went for \$2,300. An 1854-O, huge O, in XF45 with only one graded better and a dream come true for the XF/AU collector soared to \$8,337. An attractive 1856-S quarter in MS61 did not sell, but an 1860-S in VF20 with uniform gray toning went to a happy collector for \$11,500. An 1861-S quarter in XF45 with nice album toning did not sell.

An 1870-CC half in AU50 that was a decent original from my collection did not sell for the sixth time. I'm sure the poor thing has developed a rejection complex.

Wanted: LSCC Members to staff the Club Table at the ANA

The LSCC officers are organizing an effort to have a club table at the 2009 ANA's World's Fair of Money. We are doing this to raise the public's awareness of the existence of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and to increase our membership. The Club has the table at minimal cost but we must have a club representative at the table for the entire period of the Convention (August 5th Wednesday thru August 9th Sunday).

We are asking for volunteers to assistance in representing the LSCC at this table for a minimum of 4 hour time blocks.

If you are interested and available to help, contact Len Augsburg or Bill Bugert at the contact info on the last page of this newsletter.



Questions of the Month

Topics for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

This month is a little different. Rather than have one topic for discussion, we have several questions that cover a wide spectrum of Liberty Seated collecting interests. Several LSCC members who specialize in a particular Liberty Seated denomination have submitted very interesting and stimulating questions for your enjoyment to answer and to respond. Please check your collections and write back! ...*Paul Kluth*

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIME Question by Stephen Crain

The Liberty Seated half dimes are generally considered to be the 'easiest' of the Seated denominations to complete. This is borne out in the latest LSCC census survey, with fully twenty-two (22) collections complete by date and mint (minus only the 1870-S), and another six (6) collections missing six or fewer coins for completion. However, after reviewing the collections reported in the last LSCC census, and with knowledge of numerous other collections, it becomes apparent that few, if any, collectors seek to complete a Liberty Seated half dime collection by Valentine variety, or by die marriage. Dr. Valentine listed 257 different die marriages for the Liberty Seated half dimes in his 1931 monograph *The United States Half Dimes*, and when we eliminate the few redundant 'varieties' which are simply different die states of other die marriages, that leaves approximately 240 different 'varieties' for completion. To my knowledge, no one has ever completed a Valentine variety collection of Liberty Seated half dimes since 1931, yet several collectors have completed the Capped Bust, Draped Bust, and Flowing Hair half dimes by die marriage. Why do you think this would be so, particularly for a series that has been deemed "... the easiest of the Seated Denominations to complete"?

Consider that there are no real 'stoppers' in the series, such as with the dimes, quarters, and halves (e.g., 1874-CC dime, 1870-CC quarter, and 1878-S half dollar), particularly when you eliminate the 1870-S half dime due to its unique status. Is it because the half dimes are so small, a complaint I hear quite often? Or is it because there is no comprehensive reference guide with which to attribute all of the half dime die marriages? Perhaps it is because collectors fear that, once completed, there will be a slim market for their coins due to the general lack of enthusiasm for the series? I have always wondered why such an intriguing and fascinating series as the Liberty Seated half dimes, rich with interesting and available 'varieties,' should be so widely neglected. Any thoughts?

LIBERTY SEATED DIME Question by Gerry Fortin

If you were to build a six coin Seated Dime type set that featured each of the major design changes, which dates and mintmarks would you target to make the type set "special" to you? "Special" could mean all coins could have mintmarks or each coin could be the lowest mintage in its major design group. The ideas are endless; so tell us how you would go about building that "special" Seated Dime type set and why.

As a reminder, the six major design changes are:

- No Stars Obverse
- Stars Obverse - No Drapery
- Stars Obverse - With Drapery
- Stars Obverse - Arrows at Date
- Legend Obverse
- Legend Obverse - Arrows at Date



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LIBERTY SEATED QUARTER Question by Greg Johnson

There are three distinct portraits of Miss Liberty on the obverse of the seated quarter: No Drapery 1838-1840, Type I 1840-1859, and Type II 1859-1891. Which to you find most appealing and why?

The seated quarter series is long and contains a large percentage of scarce and rare coins. Would interest in set building increase (i.e. the intimidation factor decrease) if it were considered two distinct series – no motto 1838-1865 and with motto 1866-1891?

The seated quarter series spans five decades – roughly 1838-49, 1850-59, 1860-69, 1870-79, and 1880-91. Each is a unique period. The first decade, 38-49, features two major design types, the opening of the New Orleans mint and a large number of die varieties as both mints struggled to establish production. The second decade includes a weight change, the arrows and rays type, the opening of the San Francisco Mint, and the first regular issue proofs. The third decade, 60-69, includes the Civil War, the closing of the New Orleans Mint, addition of the motto on the reverse, and extremely low mintages after the war. The fourth decade, 70-79, includes all of the Carson City quarters as well as issues from all three operating mints with very low production, as well as some issues with very high mintages. The fifth decade, 80-91, features very low mintage business strikes that for the most part did not circulate, with production heavily dominated by the Philadelphia mint. If you could collect quarters from only one of the five decades, which would it be and why? Which would be your second choice?

When purchasing a coin for your collection how do you weigh the following factors: strike, surfaces, originality, color, technical grade (details or “meat”), holder grade?

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLAR Question by Randy Wiley

If one were to compile a list of the top 10 collections of Liberty Seated Half Dollars to be offered for sale at public auction, what should the criterion be for ranking the candidate collections, and which sales would be on your list? Consider the following:

1. Should points be awarded for just the basic dates and mints (108 coins), or should the baseline be expanded to include varieties (and if so, which varieties)?
2. Should a rare date (or variety) be worth more points than a common date?
3. Should points be awarded for duplicate non-variety date/mint coins?
4. Can the P-mint entry be satisfied by either a proof or a business strike, and should more points be awarded when both a proof and a business strike are represented?
5. Should more points be awarded for a coin when it is accompanied with a pedigree (as compared to a comparable coin without a listed pedigree)?
6. How do you account for grading discrepancies (raw vs. certified 3rd party) and (old grading standards vs. new grading standards)?

Thanks Randy, Greg, Gerry and Steve for submitting questions this month! Really good stuff!

All responses are welcome! Please give us your thoughts and opinions at wb8cpy@arri.net.

Special Note: Because some LSCC members do not get the *E-Gobrecht Electronic Newsletter* due to not having access to on-line communications, this Question of the Month column will also appear in the next *Gobrecht Journal* (if space allows) for all members to respond to.



Answers to Last Month's Question

Topics for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

The Liberty Seated reference books are all out of print and getting scarcer and, of course, harder to find. Some newer LSCC members can't find the books they need to refer to. What is the Liberty Seated collector to do especially those new to the field?

From **Don Bennett**: I consider myself new to Liberty Seated coinage and can attest to the difficulties one faces in building a numismatic library. It does take a bit of perseverance but most reference books can be obtained at reasonable prices. The exceptions include the Wiley-Bugert "*Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*" (practically unavailable at any price) and Bowers' 2-volume "*Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*" (available but not cheap). Unless you are willing to shell out nearly \$600 for the set, you are better off obtaining Bowers' historical treatment of silver dollars for the bargain price of round-trip postage through the ANA library!

My first Liberty Seated coin purchase was a certified 1877-S half dollar in February 2007. At the time, I had no reference materials on nineteenth century coins and knew nothing of its attribution. Shortly thereafter, I ran into Michael Fey at a NJ coin show. He attributed my new coin using a book he pulled from his library on wheels. Afterwards, I asked him in an email for further advice and, in particular, I wished to know the source he used to attribute the half. His response was ...

"First, I recommend you join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). That's a no brainer. The half dime book by Al Blythe is old, but still useful. The dime book by Greer is old, but has recently been hugely updated by Gerry Fortin. The quarter book by Larry Briggs in 1991 is dated, but useful. The half book by Wiley-Bugert is what I pulled out. The 4 Gobrecht Journal books (Volume 1-4) from the LSCC are a must and would bring you to the latest depth of current knowledge on seated coinage, including census information on all varieties.

To me, these references are absolutely essential to knowing this great series on coinage, and worth every single red cent."

Reviewing the full extent of the Liberty Seated series, I realized that building a type collection in all denominations would take considerable effort. If I wanted to know anything about the coins I was collecting I would have to heed Michael's sage advice. I immediately joined the LSCC and purchased Volume 1 of the Gobrecht Journal collected works. Thank you Michael for getting me started on this wonderful numismatic journey.

The half dime, dime, and quarter books by Blythe, Greer and Briggs respectively were obtainable at reasonable prices considering what one is willing to pay for the coins themselves. Two years later they seem to be equally available.

In February 2007, the Wiley-Bugert book was unavailable at any price which is still true today. After exhausting all other resources, I finally contacted Bill Bugert directly for help in locating his book. He offered little hope. Ultimately I was able to purchase one in new condition under quite extraordinary circumstances. However, I do not think that others will fare as well for I consider myself truly fortunate to be among the extreme few who have been able to purchase a personal copy in recent time.

Thankfully, the Liberty Seated Collector's Club website offers (http://www.lscweb.org/Resouces_for_Collectors.html) a wealth of references including an online link to Wiley's and Bugert's book at

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http://www.stellacoinnews.com/?page_id=79. The availability of an online version is a true blessing and the authors in conjunction with the folks at David Lawrence Rare Coins should be commended for providing this service.

As a reference for those starting out, the following is a list of purchases I made over the last two years that contain reference material related to Liberty Seated coinage. In total, about \$930 was spent. For a serious collector this does not seem to be a very large sum of money. Besides, a specialist in

only one denomination would not necessarily purchase all these books. However, it would seem likely that someone with a broad interest in the Liberty Seated series should want to include these titles, and possibly more, in one's numismatic library.

While no more difficult to obtain than most coins, these books provide invaluable information to the Liberty Seated collector. They are as much a part of collecting as the coins themselves. And for those of us who can't buy as many coins as we would like, these books help to pass the time between purchases by encouraging research and study.

Title	Author	Date Purchased	Price Paid (inc Shipping)	Condition
United States Half Dimes (Durst reprint)	Valentine	June 2008	\$35	new paperback
Fractional Money (1967 reprint)	Carothers	Aug 2008	\$27	used hardcover (ex-library)
Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dimes	Blythe	Feb 2007	\$123	new paperback
Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins	Breen	Feb 2007	\$189	like-new hardcover
The United States Trade Dollar	Willem	May 2007	\$22	used hardcover
The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes	Greer	Feb 2007	\$11	new paperback
Buyer's Guide to Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars	Bowers	April 2007	\$13	new paperback
Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties	Fivaz	Feb 2007	\$30	new spiral hardcover
Cherrypicker's Guide (half dimes through Dollars...)	Fivaz	Feb 2007	\$20	new spiral hardcover
Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars	Wiley-Bugert	April 2007	\$150	new hardcover
Comprehensive Encyclopedia of US Liberty Seated Quarters	Briggs	March 2007	\$40	new paperback
The Mint on Carson Street	Goe	Dec 2006	\$35	new paperback
Gobrecht Journal Collective Volumes 1-4	McCloskey et al	Feb 2007, May 2008	\$136	new hardcover
The Crime of 1873	Van Ryzin	May 2008	\$20	new hardcover



A Truly 'Original' 1840-O Half Dime

by Stephen A. Crain

In addition to collecting the half dimes of all series, I also actively collect anything related to or made from half dimes, including love tokens, necklaces, bracelets, stickpins, buttons, brooches, letter openers, a finger bowl, and even a tiny spoon made from a half dime. For several years I have searched for an example of early American blown glass with an encapsulated coin, preferably a United States half dime. I had previously read of such items, and although they are considered to be quite rare, they combine my interests in antiquities, history, and, of course, numismatics. My good friend and mentor, Russell J. Logan, had written an article ("Slabbing Circa 1840") in the *John Reich Journal*, official quarterly publication of the John Reich Collectors Society, in December 1999, in which he described several known pieces manufactured by Massachusetts glass blower Thomas Cains, at his Phoenix Glass Works, in Boston, in the first half of the nineteenth century. These blown glass pieces all contain an encapsulated coin within a glass bulb, or knop, in which the coin was somehow inserted within the glass bulb as it was blown. Russ had even pointed out an example to me at a glass museum just fifteen miles from my front door, which contained an example of an 1831 LM-6 Capped Bust half dime. I vowed that I would one day own such a marvelous and fascinating piece of Americana.

In September of 2008, I serendipitously stumbled onto the pictured glass piece on eBay. My cleverly devised eBay search never did find it, because the seller, an antique dealer from the United Kingdom, had not included any of the important key words like 'Thomas Cains' or even 'encapsulated coin.' Nonetheless, I spotted the item when it was first listed, and plotted how I might add it to my half dime ex-numia collection. The seller offered little information about the piece, except to say that it contained an "1840 United States half dime". She described it as "cut glass" on a "star cut foot". She was obviously

unaware that it was, in fact, a New Orleans issue, a Valentine 1840-O V4 No Drapery die marriage, a die marriage that is neither common nor rare. My reference collection contained fully six examples of this die marriage in various die states, but my highest grade example was only EF-40.



The glass piece is 3-1/4" tall and 1-5/8" in diameter, except at the base where it expands to 1-7/8" in diameter. It is made entirely of clear, transparent glass, and looked, to my untrained eye, like it might be a candlestick, although one other observer thought it might be an inkwell minus its stopper. I decided that, rather than render an amateur, and therefore a likely erroneous opinion myself, I would defer

any determinations regarding the glassware to my favorite expert, and sent pictures and a description to Brenda Logan, Russ's widow, for her learned input. Brenda observed that the base is pressed glass, the hollow knop containing the half dime is, of necessity, blown glass, and the top portion is also pressed glass. She described that the three pieces were each made separately, and then joined together using a small blob of molten glass. Perhaps the most interesting of her learned observations, at least to me, was that the piece is likely not made by Thomas Cains and the Phoenix Glass Works, in Boston, but is more likely of English or Irish manufacture. Apparently Thomas Cains was not the only glass blower possessing the skills to encapsulate a coin inside a glass

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knop, although he was one of only a very few in America; this skill was more widely seen in Europe. She also suggested that the piece was likely not a

candlestick, as inside of the neck at the top was smaller in diameter than the inside body of the piece. If it were a candlestick, the inside would exhibit a gentle taper from the mouth to the bottom of the interior, to support the candlestick upright. This piece has a larger inside diameter than that at the mouth, suggesting that it might be a scent bottle, made for holding perfume. Indeed, the neck exhibits a ground glass surface, typical of bottles with stoppers. Of course, this would mean that it is missing the stopper, which might also have had a hollow knop, with yet another coin inside. Brenda further offered that there were no known glass manufacturers in Louisiana at that time, but there were perfume manufacturers who might have shipped coins to a European glass manufacturer for inclusion in their perfume bottles.

Of greatest interest to a half dime collector, of course, is the 1840-O No Drapery V4 half dime contained within the knop. This die marriage may be identified by the Small O mint mark (0.8mm) on the reverse, and the shield point (SP) to the left of the 8 in the date. Also, stars 1,2,5,6, & 12 are repunched, particularly strongly at stars 5 and 6. The die state is relatively late, with a reverse die crack from the rim to C1, and another from the rim at K6 to the right ribbon. It appears to be in borderline mint state condition, or what I would grade AU-58, with only the very slightest rub evident on the highest points of the design (Miss Liberty's beasts and thigh). There are no marks, dings or other distractions of any description, and the surfaces exhibit what must be considered truly "original" color. The coin has been encapsulated in a totally sealed environment for nearly 170 years, subjected only to less than four cubic centimeters of air. There may also have been minor amounts of byproducts emitted from the molten glass, but by volume these would have been extremely minor compared to the amount of silver in the coin, and have left no evidence on the coin's surface. This has to be one of the best preserved examples of an "original" nineteenth century coin, with unmolested surfaces, available today. It is unlikely that any 'coin doctor' altered the coin's appearance before encapsu-

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lating it within the glass. The geometry of the inside of the glass sphere ensures that the coin's surfaces have not been touched by the glass, although the coin is free to rotate around inside the knop. There is evidence of the edge reeding of the coin impressed on the inside of the glass, indicating that the glass was hot when the coin was inserted, as would be expected in the glass blowing process.

This is a fascinating piece of history, decidedly nu-

mismatically related, which provides us some insight into what 'original' surfaces must have looked like. As Russ Logan aptly wrote in his 1999 JRJ article, "The color and texture of this coin is very much different than the best of the claimed "original" coins".

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Brenda Logan for her learned insight on the early American glass piece, and to Victoria Millington, of Mill Court Antiques, for providing the photographs, and for providing me the opportunity to acquire this fascinating and historic piece.



Al Blythe's half dimes to appear in Heritage's Long Beach Auction



FYI, we've just received word that a few of the half dimes from Al Blythe's estate will be offered in the upcoming Heritage Long Beach auction. Lots are not pedigreed as such but we know for sure that his 1846 NCS AU half dime will be included. There are at least three others from his collection.



Top 25 Liberty Seated Dime Shattered Dies

by Gerry Fortin

Based on the successful introduction of the Top 100 Liberty Seated Dime Varieties and currently popularity with advanced variety specialists, I thought it was time to start building incremental specialty sets to continue fueling interest in the Seated Dime series and its unpublicized varieties. Specialty sets could help facilitate incremental recognition of the broad range of varieties within Liberty Seated coinage. The sets might inspire a few collectors of other series including Bust coinage to cross over into Seated coinage for collecting coins based on minting process anomalies rather than collecting just by design.

The collecting of Seated coinage with shattered dies and die cuds is quite popular among Liberty Seated Collector Club members. *E-Gobrecht* and *Gobrecht Journal* advertisements for buying Seated coins with major die cracks are prevalent. Therefore, it was obvious to me that the first Seated Dime specialty set should focus on the major shattered dies in that series. Seated dimes with shattered dies can be spectacular in appearance regardless of whether in circulated or in mint state condition. The 1839 Pie Shaped shattered obverse is by far the key date to the Top 100 Variety set and now the Top 25 Shattered die set. The boldly cracked reverse of 1839-O designated F-104 and appropriately called "The Cobweb" shattered reverse has been popular for years among LSCC members. The 1854-O shattered obverse with its massive raised die crack through the date and arrows is another highly desirable prize for variety specialists. Some of you may question the difference between a cracked die and a shattered die? To be included in the "shattered dies set," each cracked die variety must be significant and in a late die state. The late die states should constitute and justify the labeling as a shattered die.

Availability is important if collectors attempt a new collecting objective. Selecting candidates for the Top 25 Shattered Dies set was a balance of eye ap-

peal and the ability to locate examples with diligent searching. Some of the set entries are easily found with the 1839-O Cobweb reverse coming to mind along with the 1875 Carson City and San Francisco entries. Other set listings are obviously rare. They will take years of searching at local and national coin shows. Having a strong network within the LSCC is useful for having first claim on duplicates that may appear from time to time.

Shattered dies by their nature result from a progressive degradation of working dies due to striking force stress. Many of the set entries feature different and progressive die states whereby the dies disintegrate. I expect that collectors will question the die state requirements for a dime with shattered die attributes to be acceptable for inclusion in the Top 25 set. For clarity on this point, each listing will have an explanation for its cracked die attributes that must be visible for inclusion into the set. Specific requirements are stated for each Top 25 listing to ensure that collectors understand the basic die state thresholds for inclusion of their coins into the set.

Two noted Liberty Seated Dime varieties collectors and advanced experts, Tim Cook and Jason Feldman, aided with the definition of the Top 25 Shattered die candidates and final selection. I wish to thank them for their inputs and look forward to working with them on future Top 25 set projects.

The balance of this article presents a pictorial presentation of the Top 25 shattered dies. You are invited to review the images and to familiarize yourself with the individually listed dies. The website at www.seateddimevarieties.com is already updated with a separate Top 25 Shattered Dies link. The website will contain similar information as in this *E-Gobrecht* article. In addition, please check the website for the launching of an Open Registry Top 25

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

Shattered Dies set for LSCC members to begin announcing the status of their specialty sets.

Pictorial of the Top 25 Liberty Seated Dime Shattered Dies

Shattered Die #1

1837 – F-101c – Pie Shaped Shattered Obverse and Clashed Dies



The 1837 Large Date F-101c late die state variety features triple die cracks on the obverse and significant die clashing. The obverse is near or at its terminal die state before being retired.

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(Continued from page 13)

Shattered Die #2

1838 – F-103b – Vertically Cracked Reverse Die



Heavy vertical die crack on reverse, die crack starts at the E in STATEE then down through the N in ONE and the I in DIME into left bow knot. Late die state crack must be complete from top to bottom rims for variety and inclusion in Top 25 set.

Shattered Die #3

1838 – F-106a – Very Late Die State of Cracked Obverse #1



This listing features double die cracks starting between Stars 6 and 7 and at Star 7, proceeding down through Liberty's left side and passing on the right side of the first digit in the date. Both die cracks at Stars 6 and 7 must be visible for variety inclusion into Top 25 set. I may consider naming the very late die state as F-106b.

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(Continued from page 14)

Shattered Die #4

1838 – F-110a – Late Die State Cracked Obverse #2



Strong obverse die crack starting at Star 7 proceeding diagonally through Liberty, then to rim below foot. Die state with die crack from Star 7 to rim exiting below Liberty's foot must be present for variety and inclusion into Top 25 set.

Shattered Die #5

1838 – F-111a – Late Die State Cracked Obverse #3



Another cracked 1838 obverse die with bold obverse die crack starting at Star 7 and proceeding diagonally through Liberty, then to rim below foot. Reverse die crack from rim through the AT of STATES must be visible for variety and inclusion into Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 16)



(Continued from page 15)

Shattered Die #6

1839 – F-104 – Late Die State Cracked Obverse



Strong obverse die crack starting at Star 2 proceeding downward through lower shield and exiting to lower rim across right side of 3 digit. The die crack must be complete and rise above the shield lines for variety and inclusion in Top 25 set. The above image dates to the late 1990's and taken with scanner; it needs to be updated with digital image on website.

Shattered Die #7

1839 – F-105b – Pie Shaped Shattered Obverse



Three full Pie Shaped die cracks meeting in center of obverse die are necessary for the variety. This is undoubtedly the key variety for Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 17)



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Shattered Die #8

1839-O – F-104a – Bisecting Reverse Die Crack and Repunched O Mintmark



During later die states, a bisecting horizontal reverse die crack starts at left rim then through the I in UNITED, then progresses through left wreath and across DIME and exits to the right rim at the C in AMERICA. The die crack must fully bisect the reverse die for the variety.

Shattered Die #9

1839-O – F-106a – Shattered Cobweb Reverse



The reverse die shows progressive shattering during later die states with die cracks throughout legend, wreath, ribbon bow and is nicknamed the Cobweb shattered reverse. There must be raised metal above the ES in STATES for the variety and inclusion in the Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 18)



(Continued from page 17)

Shattered Die #10

1840 No Drapery – F-104a – Pie Shaped Cracked Obverse



The obverse die exhibits pie shaped die cracks starting at 4:00 and 7:00 and meeting at Liberty's upper left leg. Both die cracks must be fully visible for the variety.

Shattered Die #11

1841-O Open Bud Reverse – F-105 – Cracked Reverse Die of 1842-O



Reverse of 1842-O; multiple die cracks from rim through legend into wreath leaves. Die cracks through the E in UNITED, the E in STATES, and the M, I and A letters in AMERICA must be strong for the variety and inclusion into the Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 19)



Shattered Die #12

1842-O – F-102a – Shattered Reverse #2



The Medium O reverse die is shattered with the major diagnostic being a reverse die crack from rim through TES of STATES. There are additional die cracks from the rim to the letters of the legend. The die crack on TES must be bold and at the same height as the letters for variety.

Shattered Die #13

1842 – F-105 – Severe Die Crack at Date



The obverse die is cracked at the bottom of the date digits with raised metal below the die crack. Additional die cracks are present through Star 8, the Liberty cap and Stars 9 to 13. The die crack through the date must be heavy with raised metal for the variety. This is a rare die state and sought after by variety specialists.



(Continued from page 19)

Shattered Die #14

1853 With Arrow – F-105 Hubbed Die – Shattered Reverse Die



A shattered reverse die state with heavy die crack from rim down through the S in STATES, then down through the right wreath. A second major die crack is found through E in UNITED. Die cracks must be heavy and "ride" on top of the right wreath for the variety.

Shattered Die #15

1853-O – F-104a – Shattered Obverse



Shattered obverse die with major die cracks visible in the base above the 8 digit and to the left of the base near and through Star 1. Raised metal between Star 1 and the rock are necessary for variety and inclusion in Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 21)



(Continued from page 20)

Shattered Die #16

1854-O – F-102 – Shattered Obverse



The obverse is dramatically shattered with a massive circular die crack through the date and arrows. For the variety, the die crack must be bold from Star 1, through arrows and date and up to Star 13 with raised metal at the intersection of the die crack and the date digits.

Shattered Die #17

1856-O – F-108b – Shattered Lower Reverse



The Medium O reverse die is shattered between the left stem end and lower wreath. Raised metal between the tip of left stem and wreath must be present for the variety and inclusion in the Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 22)



(Continued from page 21)

Shattered Die #18

1875-S In Wreath – F-101a – Shattered Reverse Die



The reverse die is shattered with circular die cracks throughout wreath but concentrated mostly between 5:00 - 11:00. Raised metal is necessary at major 9:00 die crack for variety.

Shattered Die #19

1875-S In Wreath – F-103a – Shattered Reverse Die



Shattered Die #19 is a second shattered In Wreath reverse die with die cracks concentrated on left and right wreaths exiting to rim. The die crack exiting to rim at 9:00 with raise metal is necessary for variety and inclusion in Top 25 set.

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(Continued from page 22)

Shattered Die #20

1875-CC In Wreath – F-105a – Shattered Reverse Die



The CC mintmarked reverse die is shattered with circular die cracks appearing throughout the wreath from 1:00 to 10:00. Heavy die cracks from 8:00 to 10:00 with rim exit at 9:00 are necessary for variety.

Shattered Die #21

1875-CC In Wreath – F-107a – Shattered Reverse Die



A second In Wreath CC mintmarked reverse die with circular die cracks. The die cracks are located throughout the wreath with primary concentration on the left side of wreath. The die cracks between 8:00 to 10:00 should be well formed and evident for the variety.

(Continued on page 24)



(Continued from page 23)

Shattered Die #22

1875-CC In Wreath – F-109 – Shattered Obverse Die



The obverse die exhibits major circular die cracks. These die cracks connect UNITED STATES OF AMERICA with date and Liberty's head. Strong die crack through Liberty's head to rim at 1:00 and die cracks through date are necessary for variety.

Shattered Die #23

1887-S – F-107 – Shattered Reverse Die



The reverse die is shattered and exhibits spectacular die cracks forming a radial inner ring that covers about 60% of the wreath and has four entry points to the rim. The die crack from bow knot down to rim at right side of S mintmark is necessary for variety and inclusion in Top 25 set.

(Continued on page 25)



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Shattered Die #24

1891-O – F-108 – Shattered Reverse Die



The reverse die is completely shattered with seven different die breaks into the rim. A major die break between 8:00 to 9:00 with raised metal approaching cud formation is necessary for variety.

Shattered Die #25

1891-O – F-121 – Shattered Reverse Die



The reverse die is completely shattered with seven different die breaks into the rim. Primary concentration of die breaks between 6:00 to 9:00 with raised metal on the wreath leaf at 9:00 is necessary for the variety.

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Summary: This is the first attempt at a Top 25 specialty set for the Liberty Seated Dime series. Additional Top 25 sets for repunched mintmarked, cuds and misplaced dates are contemplated but dependent on the collector response to this initiative.

Counterfeit Trade Dollars: The Shanghai YuYuan Market Visited

by Gerry Fortin

The Chinese Lunar New Year holiday provided some down time from semiconductors and allowed me to visit the YuYuan market located in the Old City of Shanghai. For those who have visited Shanghai in the past, the YuYuan market is one of the major attractions of the city with hundreds of vendors selling a broad range of painting, painted glass, handcrafts, ceramics, gold and of course, counterfeit products. The venue is colorful and always crowded.

Inside YuYuan is an antique center located on a basement floor. This time, there were six vendors specializing in Chinese and world coins. As expected, the primary US coin selections were Morgan and Peace dollars and the omni present Trade dollars but no signs of Seated dimes. Having brought my loupe from USA since leaving directly for China after the FUN show, I decided to study the Trade dollars to determine the improved sophistication of Chinese counterfeits. There were three excellent counterfeits examined. For the record, the asking prices were about \$75 US dollars but tough negotiations could have resulted in take home prices of \$20-25. There was no need to purchase these bogus items as enough examples are already in the US.

The first examined Trade dollar was a chopped 1874-S. The dealer appeared to be honest and knowledgeable older male with a fine selection of Chinese panda coins and world currencies. The 1874-S graded in the EF-AU range with reasonable details. Close inspection with 16x loupe revealed surfaces with micro pitting that might be explained as environment damage as the coin had uneven brownish toning. The chop marks were obviously bogus as the characters and the depth of the chops were atypical. Using my friend as an interpreter, I started a discussion about counterfeit dollar production and recent improve-

ments in quality during the past few years. The dealer was responsive and frankly commenting that new counterfeiters are producing high quality fakes in small batch sizes and then destroying the dies. He reported that the producers are using advanced equipment (laser technology) to prepare the dies. This is in contrast to the old casting process whereby thousands of pieces are prepared from poorly prepared molds. I thanked the individual for his time and moved on.

The next stop was at a dealer who's specialty was world coins. She offered me a few Morgans and two Trade dollars. The Trade dollars were impressive at first glance and could fool most individual who were not aware that the coin were bogus. The first dollar examined was an 1874-CC again in EF-AU. The fields were free of telltale casting characteristics and showed marks that would be typical of a slightly circulated coin. The strike seemed a bit soft under the 16x loupe and the reverse eagle's right leg was poorly reproduced. This was the best diagnostic seen on the coin. The toning looked reasonable. The second dollar was dated 1875 with no mintmark. If genuine, this would be an excellent purchase given the low quoted price. The 1875 also graded EF-AU and was toned a gun metal blue gray on the obverse with the reverse having lighter color and traces of rose in the toning. The surfaces were similar to the 1874-CC with no obvious strike abnormalities. This counterfeit was well produced and capable of deceiving most collectors.

I did secure at laugh at this dealer's booth, she also presented me with a seated 1862-S half dollar that was a really bad counterfeit. The reverse denomination was spelled HALE DOL.

As always, Happy Hunting... Gerry



Using Graphical Software to Analyze Die Clashes

By Donald Bennett, LSCC #2084



Figure 1



Figure 2

Determining whether a raised element on a coin's surface is the result of a die clash or something else can often be done simply by inspection. However, with the prevalence of digital images and the free availability of graphical software the numismatic researcher no longer has to resort to guesswork. In fact, it is now possible to prove the origins of clashes with utmost precision. In the December 2006 issue (volume 2 issue 12) of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter, Bill Bugert described a tool he uses for analyzing clashes. This article expands upon Bill's work by demonstrating how anyone with a computer can graphically analyze die clashes. An example is illustrated and instructions are provided on how to obtain the software I used to produce these startling results.

Take for instance the 1862-S half dollar whose obverse and reverse are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. There appears to be a clash in the field to the right of Liberty's right elbow (see arrow Figure 1). It would seem that this clash originated from the crook of the eagle's right wing (see arrow Figure 2).

The image below is the result of a digital overlay of the obverse and reverse images. The obverse image has been made partially transparent in order to see the reverse. Three arrows point to the area where the



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clash fits precisely into the eagle's wing. Let's see how this was accomplished.

For purposes of analyzing die clashes, the numismatic researcher needs a graphical software tool that can position images according to how the dies would have lined up to produce a coin as struck. Another way of approaching the task is to imagine being able to see both faces of a coin simultaneously, one through the other.

By using a number of different graphical software tools the author discovered those features that are most useful when working with coin images. I found the need to:

- flip an image both horizontally and/or vertically
- rotate images about their centers conveniently by 180 degrees as well as continuously between 0 and 360 degrees
- create composite images containing multiple layers and be able to manipulate these layers independently
- control image transparency or opaqueness between 0 and 100 percent
- paint or draw with color in order to highlight and bring attention to desired attributes
- crop and zoom images in order to focus on specific attributes or features

create resultant images in standard formats such as .jpeg or .gif

Initially, I started using a graphical software package called Picasa which he downloaded without charge from Google (<http://picasa.google.com/>). Picasa is a very good tool for handling images and has most of the editing features one needs for simple graphic manipulation. However, Picasa lacks the ability to create a composite image from separate layers and cannot adjust opacity. Unfortunately, Picasa is not suitable for analyzing die clashes.

Instead, a tool called GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a much better alternative. GIMP is freely distributed and can be used for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. GIMP for Windows may be downloaded from <http://gimp-win.sourceforge.net/> and is also available for Unix and Mac OS X. The general download site for GIMP is <http://www.gimp.org/downloads/> where distributions for these operating systems may be obtained. These sites also provide Adobe Acrobat (pdf) formatted user manuals.

The figure below illustrates the GIMP designer's workbench. It consists of the image palette in the center; a Toolbox pane to the left; and a Layers pane to the right.



The user can introduce multiple images as long as they are opened using the "Opened as Layers..." menu option. The figure also shows that two images have been layered. The opacity of the obverse (top layer) is set to 60.7 percent allowing visibility of the background layer.

As an introduction to free graphical software for the numismatic researcher, this article should serve as a starting point for anyone who wishes to explore the origins of die clashes. And with a little imagination and creativity who knows what else can be discovered through the use of this technology.



JIM O'DONNELL

WHAT MADE JIM A GREAT DEALER

By Rich Uhrich

- He consistently was able to obtain and sell great coins.
- He had an amazing memory and was able to recall what coins were sold when and for how much.
- He was able to observe by absence - - if he hadn't seen a scarce date coin for a while, he would consider it to be rare.
- He would advise a customer when the coin he/she was considering wasn't the right coin for that collector.
- He knew the diagnostic features of the rare Bust and Seated coins.
- He was able to compare several rare coins and immediately determine which was the rarest in that group.
- He advised collectors on their collections and their collecting strategy.
- He actively mentored new and less experienced dealers in Bust and Seated coins.
- He was frugal when warranted - - he lived in the same (rent-controlled) apartment in New York City for 40 years.
- For many dealers, it's almost impossible to get them to pick up a dinner check. When you were with Jim, it was almost impossible to get him to NOT pick up the check.





Exhibiting Trade Dollars at the FUN Show

By Bill Cowburn

[Editor: In last month's E-Gobrecht, the wording from Bill's FUN show exhibit was included anonymously. Here, he shares his report and photographs of his exhibit. Thanks, Bill!]

Educational exhibits at the annual FUN Show are typically of outstanding quality and FUN 2009 was no exception. In the US Coins category there were 11 exhibits comprising over 30 cases of material.

The exhibit titles were:

A 1795 Year Set

A Set of Proof Buffalo Nickels

The Lafayette Dollar

The 1883 'Racketeer' Nickel

Walking Liberty Half Dollar Varieties

Major Type Coins of the 20th Century

World War II War Nickels

An Incomplete Date Set of Bust Dollars

Collecting US Trade Dollars by Die Marriage

U.S. Transitional Coinage

The Design Development of the Jefferson Nickel
1938 - 2007

Special notice should be given to the exhibit 'A 1795 Year Set.' This exhibit was simply outstanding! There were high quality examples of each U.S. coin denomination issued and dated 1795 from the Half Cent through examples of the 1795 \$5 and \$10 gold coins.

Of course, educational exhibiting consists of much more than simply putting high quality and/or rare coins in a display case. After all, at any major show we can all see many rarities in dealers' cases on the bourse floor. An educational exhibit must also tell a story - it must educate! The exhibit on 1795 coinage had it all. High quality coins. Rarity. A tasteful, eye catching display. And great information for

those that read the exhibit.

Another exhibit of note in the U.S. Coin category was the 'Incomplete Date Set of Bust Dollars.' The exhibitor used humor to describe the challenges of collecting Bust dollars and in explaining why he does not own the 1794. The examples in the exhibit from 1795 through 1803 were attractive coins put into an interesting exhibit.

Exhibiting is fun, but it is also work. The exhibitor's work is judged by three individuals based upon a set of standard criteria. Rarity is not required for a high score as rarity only counts a total of 10 possible points out of 100 that can be awarded. Instead, numismatic information provides the bulk of the possible points. Ideally, an educational exhibit will have an attractive design to draw in the public to look at what is in the case and then once you have their attention, to tell a great story. The difficulty is in telling a story that makes sense to the beginning collector as well as providing information that the expert will find useful.

As an active exhibitor, I find that taking part in our hobby through educational exhibiting to be very rewarding. Not only because of awards that are won, but through the additional knowledge gained whenever I put a new exhibit together. Invariably, when I work on a new exhibit, I learn something new about the material that I might have owned for many years. And learning something new is what keeps this hobby interesting.

While my exhibit on collecting US Trade Dollars by die marriage did not win an award at FUN this year, I was quite impressed with the quality of the exhibits that I was in competition with. The judges all took note of the research that I put into my exhibit and my scores were good. Now I will try to improve upon the exhibit for the next major show.



COLLECTING U.S. TRADE DOLLARS BY DIE MARRIAGE

THEORY OF THE TRADE DOLLAR

The theory of the trade dollar is a subject of much interest to collectors. It is a subject which has been discussed in many of the leading numismatic journals and books. The theory is based on the fact that the trade dollar was a coin of the United States which was used in foreign countries. It was a coin which was not used in the United States, but which was used in many of the countries of the world. The theory is based on the fact that the trade dollar was a coin which was not used in the United States, but which was used in many of the countries of the world.

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Subscriber Correspondence

From **Dick Osburn**: We're still getting lots of questions on the FUN show, so here's a final update. As this is written we're getting ready to head for the airport for the trip home, and the FUN show is history.

The trends that started on the first 3 days continued through the end. Attendance continued to be strong. I don't know the figures, but for most of the mid-day periods at the show you had to play bumper-cars to get down the aisles. Our sales for the show set not just a new record, but a new record by slightly over 50%. I wouldn't call it a feeding frenzy, but rare early type coins were definitely in demand. As we noted in our previous message you'd have no idea that the country is having an economic crisis. It was a great show for us. Feedback from other dealers was mixed, but all those we talked to who deal in the same type of stuff we do had excellent shows. We heard a few comments about the show being down, but not from anyone we know well.

Auction prices in the Heritage Signature sale (completed Friday night) were on the soft side, but in the final session, the on-line only portion, they seemed to recover. We bid on a lot of coins, but got a smaller percentage than normal. The Heritage Post-Auction Buy list still contains some great buys, and we're out of money.

One comment that we heard from a very knowledgeable national dealer was that the big guys, who operate mostly on borrowed money, are having problems with their credit lines. That, rather than a lack of collector confidence, may have contributed to the soft auction. These guys normally sit through the whole auction and pick up anything that goes at a bargain price.

We were able to get a lot of the bigger coins

in the "new purchases" box listed during the closing day of the show yesterday, so there are many new coins on the web site, but there's also a lot to come. The next wave of new purchases won't start to be listed until tomorrow at the earliest, probably Wednesday. Sales won't be posted until later, so there are a lot of coins currently listed on the web site that sold at the show. We'll get to that as quickly as we can.

From **Dennis Fortier**: Congratulations to Dick Osburn and Bill Bugert for winning the Gobrecht Journal Award and the Kam Awash Award respectively. Dick's article, "An Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Half Dollars," is a great aid in comparing rarity of Liberty Seated Half Dollars within the series. Bill's article, "Martin Luther Beistle - A Biography," is a very nice tribute to a pioneer in half dollar variety research. Well done Dick and Bill.

From **Jim Gray**: Another good edition of the *E-Gobrecht*. Paul Kluth's question of the month is a nice addition with many responses to his last question. I hope he doesn't run out of ideas.

From **Brad DePew**: Just out of curiosity, what is out there on Trade dollars? Is there any good reference material? I might be interested in doing some work on them. My concern has been counterfeiting from China.





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 !

2009

- Trade Dollar census - Forms were postal mailed in January 2009
- LSCC Western Regional meeting, Long Beach Convention, February 7, 2009, 3 PM, Room 102A
- Next issue of *Gobrecht Journal* - March 2009
- LSCC Western Regional meeting, Portland, OR ANA Money Show, March 2009, date/time/location TBD
- Trade Dollar census - Forms due April 1st
- LSCC Regional meeting, Central States Convention, Cincinnati, OH, May 1, 9 AM, Duke Energy Center
- LSCC Annual meeting, 2009 ANA Convention, LA, August, details TBD

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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