



# The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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## LSCC Meets in Milwaukee

On April 30, 2010 at the Central States Numismatic Society's Convention in Milwaukee, WI, Liberty Seated Collectors Club President John McCloskey called a regional meeting of the LSCC to order at 9 AM. About fifteen members were in attendance and everyone introduced themselves and mentioned their collecting interests. Several non-members were also in attendance and received copies of the *Gobrecht Journal*. One new member joined. Highlights of the meeting included:

- The *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume #5* is still available from John McCloskey, about 40 copies of the 300 printed so far remain.
- John is starting discussions on *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume #6* with Printpoint, our printer.
- Membership is slightly down this year; this is not yet a major concern but will be if the trend persists for a few years.
- A survey for the ten greatest seated dimes was distributed; this will be mailed to the entire membership as well later in the year.
- We have now completed the per-denomination collection census for each denominations. Response has been good; we have typically received 80-90 responses for each denomination. This has occurred over the last several years - we will wait a couple years before repeating the cycle. John solicited ideas for other club surveys.
- John asked for volunteers to write a top-25 seated quarter varieties article. If interested, please contact him at the email address on the last page of this newsletter.

The meeting adjourned with attendees staying behind to talk "seated coins." Thanks to those who participated and we look forward to additional club regional meetings at coin shows around the country.

### What's Inside this issue?

Auction News by Jim Gray	2
Question of the Month by Paul Kluth	3
Answers to Last Month's QoM	4
Regional News By Gerry Fortin	5-7
The Budget Collec- tor: Seated Deals & Steals Under a Hun- dred Dollars <i>First in a Series</i> By Len Augsburg	8-9
Building the Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate Sets By Dale Miller	10- 11
New Carson City Branch Mint Half Dollar Variety Book	11
1863-S Half Dollar With an Inverted "S" in the Left Wing	12
Subscriber Corre- spondence	13
Free Advertise- ments	14
LSCC Information	15
Mark Your Calendar	15

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, LSCC #664

The **Heritage** Sale contained a well struck and nicely toned 1840-O half-dime with drapery in AU55 for \$2,530.

An 1846 dime in VF30 with uniform original toning sold for \$1,323, while an 1856-S dime in VF20 that was nice for the grade went for \$690. An 1871-CC dime with VF details but cleaned did not sell, but a VG8 duplicate with all devices clear hammered for \$2,875. Another 1871-CC with VG8 details but damaged went for \$1,610, while a further piece of the same date in XF but damaged and bent only managed \$2,185. It is a rare day when four 1871-CC dimes are sold in a row. An 1873-CC dime in VF25 that was well toned but with some serious obverse marks went for \$4,313.

An 1854-O, huge O quarter in VF30 but looking finer with nice toning sold for \$4,025 and an 1855-S quarter in AU53 but with a dark obverse streak eked out \$1,035. An 1859-S in VF25 and perfect for an F/VF set went to a happy buyer at \$1,840. An 1872-CC in VG8 with a dark streak across the obverse only managed \$1,898 and an 1872-S with VF details but cleaned and nicely retuned sold for \$2,530.

An 1852-O half in MS60 with attractive toning and light wear on the high points soared to \$3,738 and a lightly toned 1856-S in AU50 sold for \$1,840. An 1872-CC in XF40 with nice light gray toning and a bold LIBERTY hit \$2,185. An 1874-CC in G6 with smooth even wear realized \$1,380

and an XF40 duplicate with ugly splotchy toning only managed \$4,025.

An 1871-CC dollar in VG8 and nice for the grade sold for \$4,744, while an 1872-CC with XF details but harshly whizzed managed \$3,220.

**Platinum Night** featured an 1860-O dime in AU55 for \$7,763. An attractive 1872-CC in XF45 with blue and gray toning hit \$7,475. A very attractive 1873-CC in XF45 and a dream come true for the XF/AU collector sold for \$20,125. An 1874-CC in G6 went for \$8,625, while an AU example of the same date that had been cleaned but toned back with attractive color soared to \$20,700.

An 1852-O quarter in MS62 with a typical softness on the obverse stars and Liberty's head but a well-struck reverse that had some dark spots went for an amazing \$27,600. An 1871-CC quarter in G6 with some wear into the reverse devices went for \$7,188 and a very similar 1873-CC in VG8 hit \$8,913.

A decent 1870-CC half in XF45 did not sell but a nice blue-gray 1878-CC in AU50 went for \$6,900. An 1878-S half in VG8 with the expected marks and the diagnostic line being visible soared to a strong \$34,500.

An 1872-CC dollar in AU53 with a smooth appearance hit \$10,350. An 1873-CC dollar in VF25 with only L-----Y distinct realized a strong \$14,375, while an XF40 duplicate that had been cleaned and toned back nicely did not sell.

## Upcoming LSCC Meetings

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| June 18, 2010   | Whitman Coin & Collectibles <b>Baltimore, MD</b> Expo<br>Friday, 9 AM, Room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting)        |
| July 10, 2010   | F.U.N. Orange County Convention Center, <b>Orlando, FL</b><br>Saturday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting) |
| August 12, 2010 | World's Fair of Money, <b>Boston, MA</b> ANA Convention<br>Thursday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Annual meeting)      |



## Question of the Month

*Topic for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth, LSCC #1994*



In his recent article in the *Gobrecht Journal*, LSCC President John McCloskey shared a puzzling counterfeit 1857-S Liberty Seated Quarter that he had been questioning for some time. Quite an interesting story! John Frost also had images of an 1891-P Quarter altered to an 1891-O.

Staying with the topic of "counterfeit" Liberty Seated coins (whether very old or contemporary), what other counterfeits have you seen in your collecting travels?

Also, what diagnostic features have you seen that helped to identify the coin as a counterfeit? All denominations apply... in addition, what dates and denominations have you seen most often as either counterfeits or altered coins?

As another example, pictured below is an 1860 Half Dollar that is a cast counterfeit believed to be fraudulently made long ago. This is not a rare date, so it was probably made with the intention of taking advantage of the price of silver at the time.

Weight and specific gravity have not been measured for the purpose of this column, but the obvious porous surfaces, light weight feel (when held compared to a genuine half dollar) and dull ring when spun on a hard table surface are a dead giveaway. The dealer who had it knew it was counterfeit and sold it as such for the purpose of being used as an educational reference piece. The dealer also said the coin came out of a very old collection in Florida which leads us to believe it is not a contemporary fake (or at least not made within the past 75 years).

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@arrl.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net).



## Answer to last Month's Question

### Which major coin show event is best and why?

**From Anomalous:** The best overall show is the three times per year Baltimore, MD show.

As it is easy to get to for me a 45 minute non-stop flight, reasonable and the quick train ride right in front of the convention center, great food at the food court facing the inner harbor, good safe feeling while at the show and outside, great dealers buying and selling all in one huge room; anything numismatic [is available]. I see many of my friends from all over the USA and world in one room! Easy, free admission, no lines, whomever [Whitman] puts on the show does a way above average job!!

**From Chris Sutter, LSCC #1286:** I saw your question about the coins shows in the April 2010 issue of *E-Gobrecht* and wanted to comment.

Of the shows listed the only one I attend regularly is Central States. I live in St. Louis and limit my travel to a 6 hour drive. I have been able to ANA events when they come to Chicago.

I like this show for its educational opportunities. I enjoy learning about numismatics, any type of numismatics. This means that I would just as soon attend a seminar in an area I know nothing about, for example fractional currency, as one that I do regularly collect. I really enjoy learning about new areas. I also appreciate the time and effort given by the presenters.

I also enjoy Central States for buying opportunities. While I do not have a very large budget and while I do not collect very exotic areas, I do like to pursue more specialized fields that many dealers do not carry.

The exhibits are another reason I enjoy the show. As mentioned above, I love to learn about new areas. I also admire the effort the exhibitors put forward.

I realize my comments probably cover all the shows you listed. I am very grateful that Central States provides a show in my travel area.

**From Keith Scott, LSCC #2006:** Regarding good versus evil coin shows - the San Jose Show moved from the (yuck) Fairgrounds to the Doubletree Hotel near airport, downtown, etc. Downside is limited space (65 dealers) and \$18 hamburgers. Upside is nice surroundings, and a feel of real security. This would make a nice venue for regional LSCC meeting. The Santa Clara Show is shrinking and dealers have been dropping out in droves. I'd be open to coordinate local meetings and spread the Liberty Seated way-of-life.







## Regional News

### by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

Dear fellow LSCC members,

In the April *E-Gobrecht* issue, the LSCC regional meeting and director initiative was announced. Locating regional director volunteers to lead East, Central, West, and South geographic regions was paramount to the program's successful launch. I am pleased to announce that three of the four regional director positions have already been staffed with most capable volunteers. These individuals are well established in the numismatic field and bring important management and leadership strengths to the regional meeting expansion program. Dennis Fortier from Rhode Island will lead the East region. Located in Florida, Jason Feldman has agreed to lead the South region and Craig Eberhart from New Mexico will assume the West regional director role. We still seek a volunteer for the Central region and hope to fill that position within the next few months.

Establishing and coordinating LSCC regional club meetings is an important tool for expanding club membership. We plan to enhance club member and non member experiences at regional meeting with educational programs and opportunities for social interaction. LSCC members are passionate collectors and enjoy events for sharing historical insights and ad hoc stories about their collecting pursuits. By increasing the quantity and location of regional meetings, we hope that members can enjoy a richer collecting experience and help the club by advocating for and attracting new members.

Let's introduce the regional directors and learn why they stepped forward to support this new program. Please extend your gracious support to these individuals as they formulate and execute LSCC regional programs.

#### East Regional Director – Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Dennis makes his home in southern Rhode Island and is married with two children. He has been employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 24 years. Previously, Dennis served four years in the USMC working in the intelligence field while being stationed in Alaska, Guam and Camp Lejeune, NC. Dennis interests include scuba diving (Rescue Certified) with over 500 dives, NFL football, and culinary pursuits.



For his numismatic career, Dennis shared the following;

I have been the Recording and Correspondence Secretary for the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club (Pawcatuck CT) since 2007. The duties of this office include publishing the monthly newsletter for the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club, recording the minutes of the meetings, as well as any and all correspondence needed for the club. I enjoy writing about numismatics; in addition to my monthly newsletter duties I have had one article published in the *Gobrecht Journal* and several in the *E-Gobrecht*.

I collect Liberty Seated Half Dollars and Capped Bust Half Dimes. In Liberty Seated Half Dollars I have a particular interest in varieties. I believe that varieties lend more of a story to the coins. The series is so challenging I don't expect to complete it, so I chose a date set of Capped Bust half Dimes in order to complete something. The good thing about not expecting to finish the Liberty Seated Half Dollar series is that I'll be working on it the rest of my life and will never get bored. I fell in love with the Liberty Seated design and chose the half dollar denomination because I thought the size brought out much of the design detail and it was more affordable than the dollar series. My

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

young collection of Liberty Seated Half Dollars already has some of the better dates and varieties including the 1849 Dramatic Double Date, 1840 (O) Med Ltrs, 1844-O double Date, 1870-CC, and 1878-CC to name a few.

I have been a member of the LSCC since 2005. I can not overstate how important my membership in the LSCC has been to my numismatic interests. The insight I have gained from other more experienced LSCC members who are happy to share their knowledge has been invaluable. The wealth of published information by the LSCC and its members over the last 37 years has been a great boon to me personally and to the hobby in general.

I volunteered to serve as East Regional Director out of a desire to be more active in the LSCC and to give back to this fine organization. The LSCC leadership over the last 37 years has done an outstanding job handing down to current members a well run organization that is highly regarded in the numismatic community and it's up to all of us to keep it so. Any non-profit organization needs good people to step forward. I know from my work with the Pawcatuck valley Coin Club how hard it is to get people to step up and help keep a good thing going. Every month I look forward to my local club meetings, and enjoyed attending my first LSCC meeting at the 2008 ANA convention. I want to do what I can to expand the opportunities for more members to enjoy the LSCC meeting experience, and to increase our member base because you never know who will make the next great discovery.

#### **West Regional Director – Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348**

I have worked as an environmental scientist for my entire career and have been at Los Alamos National Laboratory for the last 25 years. My group of scientists and other professionals are responsible for measuring and evaluating the environmental impact of the Laboratory on the local environment and the public. For those LSCC members that know me, I have talked about retiring for a few years,



but now I have picked a date, June 11 (this year!) so I can spend more time pursuing my other passions. These include additional numismatic studies, writing, getting back in shape, hiking up a few more mountains, traveling, and spending more time with my sons and my wife. Hard as it is to imagine, my wife does not really understand collecting or my interest in coins, but we do enjoy hiking together. Our "honeymoon" was a 20-day backpack trip in the Wind River Range of Wyoming. One final item: we are dedicated, perhaps fanatical, Cardinal baseball fans!

My primary collecting interest is New Orleans coins especially the early dates by die variety. I started collecting coins from circulation in the early 1960s about the time of the great silver dollar releases. I had little respect for New Orleans coins because the thousands of Morgan dollar bags being released by the government and the few low grade Barber coins that I found in rolls were more apt to have an O than not. High school, college, and then low income interrupted my collecting, but by the mid 80s, I was ready to start anew. At one time or another, I collected virtually all coin series in various grades, but a type set by mint-mark really began my serious collecting.

While working on this high grade type set, I was attracted to the majesty of Bust dollars and the unexpected rarity of most New Orleans coins in high grade. For a few years, collecting Bust dollars by die variety was my primary interest. I could purchase a nice extra fine unattributed heraldic eagle dollar in the neighborhood of \$1,000 to \$1,500. After much intensive searching I had found more than half of the Bust dollar varieties, but the price for adding additional coins to my collection was approaching ten thousand dollars each, most were attributed, and a handful were non-collectables. The fun of collecting had been replaced by the need for a well-padded checking account.

I sold my dollars and moved to New Orleans (the coins not the city). They were a challenge to find, most are not excessively expensive, and the early years were produced under trying circumstances with many interesting die varieties. Except for those bags of Morgan dollars, New Orleans coins were extensively used for commerce and few high grade examples were preserved. Visiting New Orleans and the Mint connects

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

me to the rich history of the coins and the city.

Even though I collect all New Orleans coinage, Liberty Seated coins are the heart of my collection. I am not sure what year I joined LSCC, but I recall that my membership started with Journal #50 which means I joined in 1991. The outstanding quality of the Journal was what originally attracted me, but the LSCC means much more to me now. I have made friends throughout the country and learned more about numismatics than I ever expected.

When Gerry asked me to be the regional director, it took me a few days to make a decision because of the time commitment, but I decided it was my opportunity to support the Club. I prefer interactive meetings because a lot more communication takes place when it's not just me talking. In addition, I plan to have at least one technical presentation at each meeting. I will ask for volunteers, but numismatists are a lot like many of the scientists that work for me - introverted. If they do not raise their hand, you just have to call on them!

### **South Regional Director – Jason Feldman, LSCC #2003**



In High School, I was the founder and President of the coin and stamp club. My teacher and sponsor was the daughter of Frank Sedwick, a well known authority of cobs. I still see her brother at most major shows. My being a coin collector was as natural as breathing. My father had collected as a young boy but abandoned the hobby long ago, after the markets crash of the early 80's. I attended my first ANA convention in 1981 and have been a member of the ANA and FUN since that time (but did take off during the college years). I switched colleges a few times but finally graduated from the University of Miami at the age of 20 with triple degrees in Finance, Accounting and Business Administration, and best of all in time to see a National Championship football team. I have been a huge Hurricane football fan and a member of the Alumni association. I am an active member of the Masons and a Shriner.

Since that time I have been developing and investing in Commercial real estate. I also worked as an Internet consultant for some very well know e-commerce companies and still retain minority interests in a few of them. I have been self employed my entire life and work every day taking time off only for frequent travel with my 2 young boys and wife.

I started my collecting interest in Jefferson Nickels and Mercury dimes. I discovered the 1936 Double Die Obverse Penny in 1983 with an uncirculated coin which I paid \$1 for and sold for \$200 to a dealer who I can not recall. I guess you can say that was the start of my variety collecting. Since that point my collecting of dimes continued, completing all the sets from Barber to date before I found the Seated series. I have been collecting Seated coins for about 15 years now and have nearly completed the series with the exception of the quarters. I also collect early Half Dollars from 1794 to 1838 as well as type coins. After a well known dealer came for a visit to our house, her comments were that I am such a typical collector. I love most everything!

I joined the LSCC about 2004 as member #2003. I started attending the FUN meetings about that time. I found the wealth of knowledge being shared to be great value and have enjoyed the time attending meetings. This comes at the same time of moving from Miami to Palm Beach where I had few friends so a lot of time to spend on my collecting. I have spent a good deal of time learning over the last 10 years to where I actually feel as if I might even know a thing or two. I was very early to the party on the Internet creating my first websites some 15 years ago and found searching the web for information revealed much to be found. I think the LSCC has a lot to offer collectors and even with my hectic schedule I feel it is a worthwhile cause and one I will gladly give my time for. The leadership is exceptional and I look forward to be a part of the ambitious project Gerry is undertaking.

Having attended both Baltimore and Florida meeting for some time now, there is a noticeable difference in the meeting and interactions of club members. My goal in to take the best of both are combine them. The meetings have become more interactive in the

(Continued on page 9)





## The Budget Collector: Seated Deals & Steals Under a Hundred Dollars

*First in a Series*

By Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271



Who says seated coins have to be expensive? Your gem uncirculated and Carson City rarities are fine and good, but there aren't enough of them to go around for all of us. So, the prices go up and up, and we are forced to deal with those empty holes in our coin folders. I've had that problem since I was a kid. The 1909-S VDB hole was never going to get filled in the Whitman blue trifold album. Of course, once I could afford such a coin, my tastes had changed – now I wanted more exotic things like an 1873-CC No Arrows quarter. I'm still scheming how to get that one, not very successfully, and it occurred to me that there might be more productive things to do at the lesser end of the coin scale. To that end, we'll focus on some more affordable seated coins for a few issues.

Our kickoff coin is an 1868-S quarter in Good condition. The coin is more properly described as having a VG obverse and AG reverse,

which seems to be how many low grade quarters are found. Several letters of LIBERTY show, but the reverse rims are not full. This was one of the very first seated quarters I purchased, sometime around 1990. At the time I thought that a set of quarters in F/VF, with the scarce coins in G/VG, might be nice set to put together. Of course I should have been buying up every early Carson City coin in sight, but who knew?

Anyway, this was purchased around 1990 for \$30 from Jerry Jaeger, who operated a coin store in Wauconda, IL. There are not many stores left like Jerry's, who refused to sell baseball cards and always had a nice inventory of type coins. At the time he was handling some seated coinage as well, notably a VF 1870-CC quarter, which, if memory serves, was priced around \$3500. Jerry closed up shop not much later, and today is still active on eBay and the

*(Continued on page 9)*





(Continued from page 8)

Illinois show circuit, dealing in foreign and modern issues. He also loves anything associated with the Columbian Exposition.

The 1868-S quarter is choice for what it is – smooth surfaces with no severe marks, and even medium coloration. Worn down, it weighs 5.9 grams, vs. the legal weight of 6.2 grams mandated with the Arrows & Rays type of 1853. It's not slabbed, and really, does it matter whether PCGS calls it Good-4 or Good-6? It's "Good," and more importantly, it is PQ for the grade. One can be a connoisseur at all levels of Coinedom. The price has naturally gone up in the last twenty years, but I do see two 1868-S quarters on Brian Greer's website each priced at least than \$100.

The mintmark of the 1868-S is distinctive – the 66-S, 67-S and 69-S quarters exhibit a die scratch through the lower half of the mintmark, while the 68-S mintmark is clear throughout (see the photo of the 1866-S at right for comparison). For whatever reason, a new reverse die was used in San Francisco 1868, and then the old one was brought back into service for 1869. Mintages at all mints during this period were minimal, so reusing an old, lightly worn die was an option, although by 1869, Briggs notes that the mintmark has become "lumpy."

By now perhaps you are thinking to yourself that the 1866-S is not a hundred dollar coin, or maybe that Len should sell that coin to the first interested reader for a hundred dollars. Well, that's probably not going to happen, but next month I will try once again to keep it under a hundred dollars! Thanks to John Baumgart for the excellent photographs.



(Continued from page 7)

south and we will be looking to expand on that. The January FUN show is one of the best in the country and a great opportunity for LSCC members to gather and socialize. I have many ideas for the LSCC for

the South region and will be putting them into place starting with our first regional meeting at Summer FUN in July.



# Building the Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate Sets

By Dale Miller, LSCC # 2174

You can't go to your local coin shop and say, "I'd like one each of the three Greer reverses for the 1876 seated dime DDO and an 1839-O Fortin 103." That's what makes collecting the Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate sets so exciting. My Uncle George got me started on coin collecting 50 years ago when I was about 10 years old. I collected avidly through my high school years, and off and on after that. About ten years ago, when I saw how many coins could be obtained from eBay and other on-line sources, I started up again in a big way. The Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate sets are clearly the most challenging that I've undertaken.

Last week I cherry-picked an 1882 F102, a coin with a repunched 18 and reverse die cracks on both wreaths, on eBay. The coin grades VF20 and cost me \$12.50 plus \$1.74 for shipping. It's a lot like the old days. Looking though 50 or more 1882's on eBay looking for this variety is a lot like when I was 12 years old and looking through ten rolls of pennies, trying to find a 1955-S.

The Top 100 Set is a collection of 100 of the most interesting and distinctive seated dime varieties. The Ultimate Set is a more comprehensive collection. It includes at least one of every seated dime date and mintmark, all Top 100 coins, all major mintmark size varieties, and some rotated reverses and other varieties not included in the Top 100 Set. Collection of these sets requires a variety of sources - coin shows and coin shops, on-line dealers, eBay, auctions, want lists, and most important, help from other seated dime variety collectors. My sets wouldn't be anywhere close to what they are without the help of people like Jason Feldman, Gerry Fortin, Bill Mackrides, Brian Greer, Dick Osburn, and Larry Briggs who sold me important coins or helped me find them.

Gerry Fortin's website, [www.seateddimevarieties.com](http://www.seateddimevarieties.com), contains two essential tools for the collector of the Top 100 and Ultimate sets. The first is the set definitions and the pictures and descriptions of each of the coins in the col-

lections. I find it very useful to also look at all the varieties for a particular date to be better able to distinguish the varieties I'm looking for from other kinds that are out there.

The second tool is the open registry. I consider it a great advance for amateur collectors. I do not have the resources to create sets of only PCGS or NGC coins. The open registry provides a way for me and other amateur collectors with moderate resources to get in the game.

The hunt for the Top 100 varieties produces side benefits. Two of my three new variety discoveries came while looking for coins for these sets. While looking for Top 100 #45, the 1857-O with doubled date and stars and the shattered reverse, I found a new variety that had the doubled date and stars obverse but was paired with a different previously identified reverse. This coin did not qualify as the Top 100 coin, but was a new variety discovery.

While looking for Ultimate Set #192 (1889, DDR#2), I found an example that had the right reverse, but was paired with Obverse 7, instead of the usual Obverse 5. The Ultimate Set differs from the Top 100 in that some items, such as "1856-O, large O reverse" are defined such that more than one variety can meet the definition. So in this case, my 1889 dime with DDR#2 and Obverse 7 filled the hole for the Ultimate Set and is a new variety discovery.

Last week I went through over fifty 1888 dimes on eBay looking for the two varieties for that date from the Top 100 and Ultimate Sets that I don't have. I didn't find them, but I did find an F101a. This is a business strike variety of which Gerry Fortin had not been able to find an example for his web-book. The coin cost \$9.01 plus \$4 for shipping and grades a beautiful, problem-free EF40. I will be mailing it to Gerry to be photographed for the web-book.

Gerry Fortin published an article in last month's issue of the *E-Gobrecht* updating progress on the Top 100 Set. He listed eight coins that were

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10)

missing from three of four of the Top 100 sets with the highest completion rates, including mine. Half of them had a priority weight, based on perceived rarity, of only three or four on a scale of ten. He then asked whether the results were surprising. I think the answer is yes, and I also have an explanation for part of it.

Certain varieties, such as the 1839 pie-shaped and the 1841-O transitional coins have gained great notoriety. While rare and expensive, examples have been located and found their way into to serious seated dime variety collectors. Most of the eight missing coins are less well known. They are also from the later part of the series, where there are often twenty or thirty varieties per date. Even dealers who specialize in varieties don't attribute most of their later year seated dimes. I think some of these later date varieties are missing simply because they are not being attributed and offered for sale. It is that fact that sent me running to eBay last week to see what I could pick off. That 1882 repunched date that I bought for less than \$15 is in fact one of the eight coins listed as frequently missing. It will be interesting to see which of the others can similarly be found and which are in fact more rare than we previously thought.

I have one other observation. It relates to the

two 1861 coins on Gerry Fortin's list of eight coins frequently missing. I went to a coin shop recently and asked for an 1865-S dime, looking for an F101 for my Ultimate Set. The dealer said, "We don't have any. The Civil War buffs bought them all."

With patience, a little luck, and a lot help from the seated dime collecting community, I've been able to complete 85% of the Top 100 Set and 83% of the Ultimate Set. They range in grade from AG3 to PF66. Jules Reiver was well known for collecting coins in any state of preservation. I do the same. I try to get them as nice as I can find or afford. However, on these varieties, it's not like when I was a kid and went into a coin shop asking for a 1949-S penny. The dealer spread a half a roll out on the table, said it would be fifteen cents, and asked me to pick out which one I wanted.

There are two more things I need to do. One is to attend some national coin shows. I'm planning to attend the national show in Chicago the summer after this one. I hope there to find some difficult varieties and also meet the leaders of the seated dime collecting community. The second is to develop a larger network of dealers and collectors who specialize in varieties. Can I find the remaining 15 coins to complete the Top 100 Set and those plus 19 more to complete the Ultimate Set? It is challenging, but possible. It's about the journey, not the destination. The thrill of the hunt keeps me going, and I would

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## **Another New Half Dollar Book**

### ***A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Die Varieties***

### ***Volume II***

### ***Carson City Branch Mint***

### **By Bill Bugert**

- With Special Edits by, Consultations with, and Featuring the CC Collection of Randy Wiley
- Details all Carson City Branch Mint Liberty Seated Half Dollar die marriages (96) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc.
- Includes over 900 photographs
- Has 220 pages in 8.5 by 11 inch size
- Printed on high quality 100# anthem gloss paper
- Available in plastic comb binding format
- \$45 plus \$5 postage
- Shipment date is mid-late May 2010.
- Order directly from the author at:

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Gettysburg, PA 17325  
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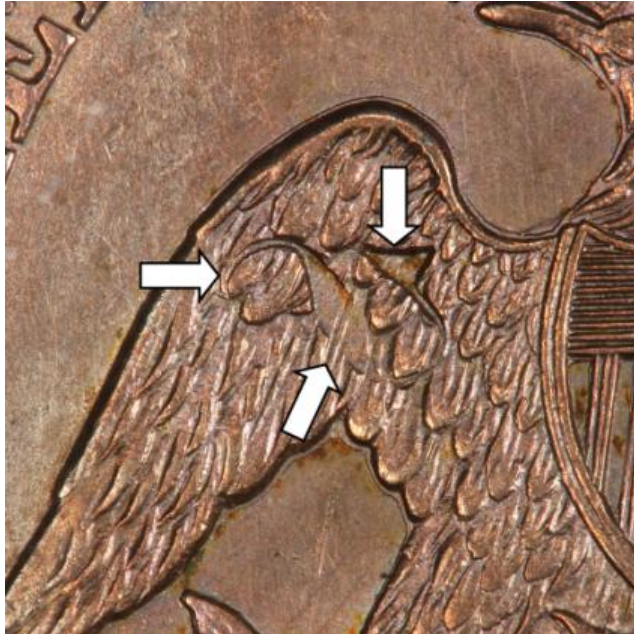


Photo courtesy of PCGS

*Editor's note: PCGS received for authentication an 1863-S half dollar, variety WB-4, with what appears to be an inverted large S in the eagle's left wing. See the photo at right and note the eagle's feathers are on top of the "S". This coin also appeared on eBay as item number 370297574983. We are fortunate to have some dialogue of the discussion and final PCGS determination that this "inverted large S" actually occurred post-strike. Many thanks to John Dannruether of the PCGS Board of Experts and Craig Sholley for providing this information as an educational benefit to the readers of the E-Gobrecht.*

This 1863-S half dollar with the large inverted "S" in the wing was determined to be post-strike.

When the large "S" was punched into the coin, the feathers were obliterated (or nearly so) in the areas where the over-punch is the deepest and most forceful. Note that the feather detail has been completely wiped out in the thin loops of the S while some light dash-like remnants of the feathers remain in the broader triangular tail of the "S". Likewise, even more feather detail remains in the broad upright area although it is somewhat flattened and distorted from the original. Here the punching did push the metal below the original surface plane, but the force

## 1863-S Half Dollar With an Inverted "S" in the Left Wing

was insufficient to completely eliminate the detail. This is quite common in over-punching - perhaps, the most familiar examples being re-punched dates and doubled dies where the second punching obviously does not eliminate all of the detail from the previous one.

This is a purely mechanical effect. During punching, the area starts to sink and flow as the "S" punch is driven into the coin. However, the silver in the feather detail has already been work-hardened from striking the coin, with the narrowest and deepest feather details generally being the hardest as the metal flow in those areas was the greatest. These areas are thus more resistant to further deformation and some detail is retained even though the entire punched area is pushed down by the punching. Additional factors can include how flat the "S" punch was and how level it was held during punching. The same is true for re-punched dates and doubled dies, the only difference being that the over-punching occurs in the die rather than on the coin as in this case.

The punched area at the shallow part had RAISED metal that did not appear deformed. The seeming lack of deformity seemed impossible at first, but the sharpness of the punch in the deeper areas indicated that a "dropped letter" or something in between the die and planchet was not the cause. The sharpness of the angles indicated a post-strike punching as did a bulge on the obverse of the coin that corresponds to the deepest punching (final reasoning why it was post-strike).





## Subscriber Correspondence

**From Arno Safran:** Just to let you know I received the #63 *E-Gobrecht* a little while ago, downloaded it to my thumb drive and started reading it immediately. It's one of the best issues ever. The 1877/6-CC dime discovery by Rick DeSanctis, (a dealer who I have done business with a number of times, and a first class individual) and Gerry Fortin (who I don't know personally but have heard nothing but outstanding kudos about) is an exciting find. The photography is also magnificent, so clear, especially on the close-ups. I look forward to reading more on the 1891 dime variety discovery by Mike Fey who in my view has one of the best photographic memories in all of numismatics. All the best!

**From Anonymous:** Another great newsletter thanks again!! ALL interesting articles and ESPECAILLY SO THE DISCOVERY OF THE 77/6-CC DIME WITH great photographic diagnostic information. Everything is always expertly written with great photographs in this newsletter and there is something that always amazes me in most newsletters! I think combined these newsletters would make a great booklet form for posterity.

**From Keith Scott:** A member/dealer found a Christian Gobrecht 3" copper (1963 metal arts Company) medal at a local tiny show. Following show and tell and interest from several other people it was auctioned the next month. I eliminated the major competition when I explained the consequences of coming between a lion and her cub. Just an analogy and \$34 seems reasonable for a new cub ...er medal.



### 1873-CC With Arrows Half Dollar Digits Below Date WB-8

This obverse die has at least eight separate punchings of errant digits in the dentils and on the rim below the date. The reverse die has a Large CC mintmark.

Few known, rated R-7 by Bill Bugert.

Coin courtesy of Randy Wiley.



## Free 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

**Seated and Bust Coinage for Sale:** Rich Uhrich Rare U. S. Coins Inc. specializes in Bust and Seated silver coins, especially scarce and rare dates and varieties. His website [www.richuhrichcoins.com](http://www.richuhrichcoins.com) lists his complete inventory, has pictures of coins over \$100, and is updated frequently. He offers a newsletter which notifies you when significant new purchases are available and offers his take on the coin market in general as well as Bust and Seated silver. He also actively services want lists. He is an authorized PCGS and NGC dealer and a member of ANA, LSCC, EAC, and JRCS. Contact him at [richuhrichcoins@comcast.net](mailto:richuhrichcoins@comcast.net), 717-533-2935 or 717-579-8238.

**Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies Wanted:** Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ [pcmdmp@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.vtcoins.com), email:

[puro@vtcoins.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 for U.S. delivery (Specify which format you desire) directly from me at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-0229.

**1876-S Type 2 Reverse Half Dollar For Sale:** Gorgeous toned original proof-like 1876-S Type 2 reverse that NGC called Unc details, improperly cleaned. If the coin were a proof, it would likely grade 63-64. The hairlines were so minor that to be called improperly cleaned is just not doing the coin any justice. If interested, contact Michael Fey at [feyms@aol.com](mailto:feyms@aol.com).



## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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## Mark your calendar !

- Jun 18, 2010 - LSCC Regional meeting, Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo, Friday, 9 AM, room TBD.
- Jul 10, 2010 - LSCC Regional meeting, F.U.N. Show, Orlando, FL, Saturday, 9 AM, room TBD.
- August 12, 2010 - LSCC Annual meeting at the 2010 ANA Worlds' Fair of Money, Boston, MA, Thursday, 9 AM, room TBD.

## 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](mailto: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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