



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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July 2010 (Whole # 66)

Members and Guests meet in Baltimore

On June 18, 2010, approximately twenty-five members, three newly recruited members, and guests attended a regional meeting of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club at the Whitman Baltimore Expo.

After a group photo, LSCC Secretary-Treasurer, Len Augsburger, kicked off the meeting at 9:05 AM while attendees straggled in. Len provided an update of the club activities including the contents of the upcoming July issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*, and planned articles for future issues. Bill Bugert talked about his new book on Carson City Half Dollars. Len then discussed, with images, seated coins in the news.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 and everyone enjoyed seated camaraderie and Shirley Hammond's home made cookie refreshments! Thanks Len, Shirley, and everyone for attending.

See more Baltimore news on page 4.



Attendees (at least those available for the photograph) at the June 2010 LSCC Regional meeting in Baltimore

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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, LSCC #664

The **Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Sale** featured an 1859-S quarter in F12 at \$345 and an 1865-S in VF20 for \$437. An 1873-CC no arrows half dollar went for \$1,380.

The **Heritage Long Beach Sale** contained a fabulous 1843-O dime in AU53, a well-struck and lightly toned beauty, which was worth every cent of the \$14,950 it realized. An 1860-O in VG went for \$805, while an 1872-CC in the same grade but with numerous marks hit \$1,610. Two 1885-S dimes were sold. One in XF40 with wholesome light gray toning and scattered light marks and scratches went for \$2,070, while the other in AU50 that was attractive despite some marks below the date hit \$3,450. An XF 1874-CC with AU details that was sharply struck but plagued by porosity managed \$9,200.

An 1858-S quarter in XF45 with natural light gray toning, and a very nice coin, went for \$5,175, while an 1873-CC with XF details but corroded, cleaned and ugly went for the same amount.

A VF20 1872-CC half dollar with dark gray toning and many marks and weak at BER went for

The **Bowers & Merena Baltimore Sale** featured an 1873-CC dime with XF details but corroded and cleaned for \$3,335, while a Fine duplicate that was corroded, damaged and possessing a reverse gash sold for \$1,840.

An 1867-S quarter in VG10 went for \$661. An 1870-CC in G4 with many scratches but clear devices soared to \$9,200. The demand for this coin is insatiable. An 1872-CC with XF details but corroded with many scratches went for \$2,358, while a very nice 1878-S in MS64 that was well struck and lightly toned hit \$10,925.

A cleaned Fine 1872-CC dollar went for \$1,811. An 1873-CC in VG but scratched and cleaned eked out \$3,910.

The **Stack's Slade Sale** featured an 1860-O dime that was conservatively graded as XF45 and a choice and lovely coin at \$6,900.

An 1852-O half dollar in MS62 with light friction on the high points but beautiful album toning sold for \$5,463.

Upcoming LSCC Meetings

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| July 10, 2010 | F.U.N. Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
Saturday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting) |
| August 12, 2010 | World's Fair of Money, Boston, MA ANA Convention
Thursday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC <u>Annual</u> meeting) |
| September 24, 2010 | Long Beach, CA Coin and Collectables Expo
Friday, time and location TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting) |
| October 29, 2010 | October 2010 CoinFest, Stamford, CT
Friday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting) |



Question of the Month

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

What is the most difficult decade of your favorite Seated denomination to collect and why?

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.

Answer to last Month's Question

Is there a Question you would like to see asked of the readers?

From **Michael Luck**: I would like to know overall percentage-wise how many seated quarters, halves and dollars are still truly original with no harsh cleaning dipping and resulting hairlines? based on observations of collectors/dealers viewing collections of collectors, dealers inventory and auction lots viewing?

From **Dennis Fortier**: What is the most difficult decade of your favorite Seated denomination to collect and why?

Subscriber Correspondence

From **Michael Luck**: [The] great June newsletter; as usual and the double cud reverse 1865-s half was truly a find which I am sure there are others out there yet to be found!

From **Tom Mulvaney**: Just wanted to thank you for the GREAT job you do with the *E-Gobrecht*! I look forward to receiving these.

Check out the Improved LSCC Website

Thanks to the efforts of Gerry Fortin and Jason Feldman, the LSCC website has a new look!! Check it out - loads of new information, links, E-Gobrecht, schedules, and much more.

See it at: <http://www.lscweb.org/>



LSCC Exhibits at Baltimore

The Whitman folks once again provided the LSCC with a free table on the bourse floor for exhibition purposes. Club members, guests, interested collectors stopped by to chat, talk seated, and view the exhibits provided by members. These exhibits included:

- "Tribute to Toners" i.e., beautifully toned seated coinage
- Proof Liberty Seated Dimes
- Cameo Proof coinage

Many thanks to Len Augsburger for organizing the table, exhibits, and member staffing at the table.



Unstaged photographs from the LSCC Regional meeting in Baltimore





Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

Dear fellow LSCC members,

July's column is being written from sunny Colorado Springs while attending the ANA Summer Seminar. After

two days, the experience is exceptional including the completion of Numismatic Negotiations seminar and a tour through the Mollie Kathleen gold mine at Pike's Peak (at 1,000 feet below ground). Presently, I'm attending the five day Detection of Counterfeit Coins course which is also most insightful. Beside the formal classroom experiences, there are additional educational opportunities when meeting new collectors, dealers and ANA officers. Thank you to PCGS for sponsoring my attendance.

This month's Regional News focuses on the challenge for building a strong LSCC regional meeting at the Long Beach shows and a preview of the planning for the Summer FUN regional meeting on July 14 and the announcement of the October 29 CoinFest regional meeting.

June Long Beach Regional Meeting Report.

Building a strong regional meeting presence in the West Region is difficult due to the broad geography of the area and the limited number of major shows for LSCC members to assemble. After volunteering as the West Regional Director, Craig Eberhart immediately worked to assemble LSCC members at the June Long Beach show. Unfortunately, Craig and I did not have sufficient time to properly advertise the Long Beach regional meeting in our numismatic publications or with the show sponsor. Craig provided the following commentary about the regional meeting attempt:

"The LSCC regional meeting at Long Beach was held without sufficient notice of the time and date change. Only Dick Osburn, Brian Cushing, Bob Schilling and I were there at 9:00 am. Our meeting

was generally a casual conversation about collecting including some spousal reactions to past purchases. Late in the "meeting" Gene Bruder drifted by on his way to the Bourse floor. The September meeting will be on Friday at 9:00 am. With longer range planning and publicity, hopefully we will have better attendance and one or more specific topics to discuss."

The next West regional meeting is planned for Friday, September 24, again at the Long Beach Coins and Collectables Expo. We hope that LSCC members can reserve this date and help ensure the success of our west coast regional meeting effort.

July 10 Summer FUN Regional Meeting.

Anticipating a smaller attendance at the Summer FUN show as compared to the traditional January FUN show, South Regional Director Jason Feldman is attempting new concepts for an LSCC regional meeting. Jason decided to hold the regional meeting on a Saturday to attract more new people who might only have a casually understanding of Liberty Seated coinage and of the LSCC. Jason summarized his strategy in the following email correspondence:

"Based on many of the LSCC regulars not coming to the show or meeting, my goal is to make new potential members feel very welcome. I am hoping to attract some Young Numismatist (YN) by having FUN organizer announce give-aways of seated coins at the LSCC meeting for those who stay for the entire time. I have plenty of dated culls and am happy to pass them out. When I was a YN, kind collectors did this for me and it is time to return that favor.

I will speak about recent LSCC news and will spent time having the attendees speak about their interest. This meeting will be informal and designed to raise interest and awareness in seated coinage.

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

Third in a Series

By Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271



Metal Arts Company medal honoring Christian Gobrecht

This month we have another eBay special. I usually avoid eBay like the plague, there is so much junk on there it is like going to a flea market, and not the good kind of flea market. I'm talking about the kind of flea market where they sell the stuff that didn't sell at all the other flea markets. In the old days, maybe ten years ago, I used to buy low grade, raw seated dollars on eBay. It was great. You could get a nice coin for less than a hundred dollars, and there were very few counterfeits at the time. I should have kept them all, they were nice coins, but Brian Greer got them in one of my periodic collection purges. I did OK with them price-wise, and I'm sure he did too.

But the fact is, there is still occasionally

good stuff on the Bay. Variety collectors are constantly picking off goodies, and I am going to throw up if I hear one more story about how a well-known quarter variety collector once scored on eBay an unattributed 1840-O with drapery large-O quarter. This reminds me, that there is an 1840-O no drapery quarter running around out there, in an NGC XF40 holder, which is marked as a "with drapery" variety on the holder. I bought the coin at a show a few years ago, and thought I had a real cherry. I showed the coin to Brian, and he gave it a funny look before he says, "it's a no drape." D'oh! Of course the reverse was all wrong anyway, but I had just quickly looked at the holder and the mintmark size and assumed it was

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Quarter of the Month

By Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

Once in a while a coin comes up for public auction and sells for what can only be described as “stupid money.” Sometimes the high price is due to the exceptional quality of the coin, undergrading by the services, or the fact that the coin is a rare variety. Other times it is simply not apparent why the coin sells for such a high price. This month we will look at a seated quarter that recently sold for stupid money at auction. Heritage Auction #1140 Lot #7750 closed on June 6, 2010 for \$1,725 with buyer’s premium. The coin is an 1856 seated quarter graded MS63 by PCGS and encapsulated in an older green label holder. Trend’s values the coin in MS63 at \$550 and in MS64 at \$1,000. Auction records appear to corroborate those value estimates.



So why did this particular coin sell for so much? Close examination of the photographs reveals that this coin is an example of the “flag of 5 in shield” variety and it seems clear that variety specialists chased this coin to its seemingly unreasonable selling price. The variety was discovered by Bill Bugert and reported in issue 52 of the *Gobrecht*

Journal in November of 1991. The note and photograph are reprinted on page 382 of *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volume 4. The variety is listed in *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*, but without detailed information. In fact, only a single example, presumably the discovery coin, appeared in the 1993 LSCC quarter survey. The 2007 Seated Quarter Survey indicated 6 additional pieces in club member’s hands for a total of 7 – 2 in VG or less, 3 in VF, 1 in XF and 1 in AU.

The 1856 quarter is one of the most common no motto seated quarters, with a mintage of 7,264,000 and total PCGS/NGC populations of 229/163. In MS63/higher the PGGS population is 36/69 and the NGC population is 15/53. Well over 100 business strike 1856 seated quarters are archived on the Heritage website. A search of the archive indicates that, since they began providing photos on



the website, this coin sold in June 2010 is the first example of the variety in any grade sold by Heritage. Clearly, the variety is quite rare. I have heard from one bidder who disclosed that his maximum bid was \$1,300. The hammer price of \$1,500 would appear to indicate that at least three bidders offered that amount or more for this coin. It is at least a little sur-

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The Budget Collector (Continued from page 6)

the real deal. Live and learn they say, and the coin was later sold for about what I paid to begin with.

Back to eBay – I do cruise it about once a week looking for PCGS-certified quarters, and anything related to Christian Gobrecht. Most of the PCGS offerings seem to be “buy it now” at fixed prices, not true auctions, and it’s rare that something interests me at the prices they want. The true auctions of PCGS slabbed quarters, with no reserve, tend to get good action, and once in awhile I will pick up something there. The Gobrecht material is usually related to modern medals with Gobrecht images, but a couple months ago I found a unique item which I jumped all over.

In the early 1960s, the Metal Arts Company of Rochester, NY, struck a series of six medals honoring American coin engravers. Fourth in series was dedicated to Gobrecht and features on one side a flying eagle, and on the other a tribute to the American space program. The medal is large, 3 inches in diameter, and hefty, with the bronze example weighing in at 6.5 ounces (it also comes in silver, and if any of our readers have a silver one for sale I am a ready buyer).

What I found on eBay was a trial strike, in lead, of the flying eagle side. I got hooked up with the seller, who turned out to be the son of the medal designer and was selling off some remainders from his father’s collection. He indicated that this medal is the most popular in the series because of the space theme – apparently there are a lot of “space” collectors out there pursuing different kinds of space-related memorabilia.

The trial strike exhibits recutting around some of the stars, this was clearly polished out on the final version. The trial also shows weakness in the central feathers of the eagle, presumably the press was adjusted to strike these up better on the final version. Photos of both the trial and finished

version are shown for comparison purposes.

The whole package – both the trial and a finished example – was acquired for about fifty dollars – and as far as I know is unique. The seller even passed along some of the documentation which was included with these pieces when first sold in the 1960s. With the provenance directly from the designer of the medal, I was quite happy with the purchase, and will certainly continue with my periodic eBay checks.



Lead trial strike of flying eagle medal found on eBay

*Quarter of the Month* (Continued from page 7)

prising that three collectors are that dedicated to acquiring quarter varieties. Was this “stupid money”? Given that the coin is, at least for now, the finest known of a very rare variety and a comparable opportunity could be years, if not decades away, perhaps the price paid was only moderately foolish.



All images courtesy of Heritage.

Regional News (Continued from page 5)

The FUN show organizers were kind enough to offer a display table. I will bring copies of the Blythe half dime book and display a group of 25 or so of Al Blythe's half dimes and allow visitors to match the coins on display with those in the book. In a second case, I will display all the Seated denominations for raising awareness. Printed sheets with LSCC membership applications, the website address, and the messages boards will also be available.”

October 29 CoinFest Regional Meeting.

It is probably not too early to start discussing plans for LSCC regional meeting at CoinFest in Stamford, CT. East Regional Director Dennis Fortier is working with CoinFest's Jon Lerner to schedule an LSCC regional meeting on Friday, October 29. Dennis also arranged a complimentary exhibit table for the LSCC. To help raise club awareness, Gerry Fortin will display his Liberty Seated Dime set including major varieties. Other LSCC members are also invited to display their collections. We will offer LSCC materials as is being done at the Summer FUN show.



Reclassifying the 1845-O Huge O Seated Dime Variety by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

The 1845-O Huge O variety was originally published August 2005 as part of the release of The *Definitive Resource for the Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* web-book. Furthermore, the 1845-O Huge O variety was included in the Top 100 Liberty Seated Dime Varieties published in the *Gobrecht Journal* #94 issue during November 2005. Since the definition of the Huge O variety, many collectors pursued the acquisition of this variety for their collections and dealers actively advertised and stocked the variety.

When including the Huge O variety in the web-book and within the Top 100 Varieties set, I was firmly convinced that the Huge O was a separate mintmark style and validated as a different reverse die due to dissimilar reverse diagnostics between the Large O and Huge dimes in my collection. However, as time passed, two themes began to re-occur. Firstly, variety collectors and dealers experienced difficulties with a clear differentiation of the Large O and Huge O reverse varieties. I would be asked frequently at major shows if an 1845-O dime was a Huge O reverse and the many observations began to suggest reverse die degradation and the transformation of the Large O mintmark into the Huge O. Secondly, I received important feedback from Bill Mackrides and Brian Greer that some specimens with the Huge O reverse also showed the earlier reverse die crack from the R in AMERICA to the rim that was characteristic of the Large O reverse die.

At the 2009 November Whitman Baltimore show, John Frost offered his high grade 1845-O dime for inspection and again questioned if the reverse was a Large or Huge O. Upon inspection, I immediately diagnosed the Huge O mintmark but then confirmed the reverse die crack from the R in AMERICA to the rim. At that moment, it was clear that the Huge O mintmark was the result of reverse die degradation and not a separate reverse die. John Frost was kind enough to lend his 1845-O dime for photography and his dime became the basis for reclassifying this variety as to its proper origin.

This *E-Gobrecht* article formally announces the reclassification of the 1845-O Huge O Reverse B as a late die state Large O Reverse A. To properly identify the major Reverse A die states, I have chosen to label the earlier die states as Large Thin O and the later die states as Large Thick O. Following are illustrations of the two 1845-O mintmark shapes and their new labeling in the Seated dime web-book at www.seateddimevarieties.com along with the characteristic die crack from AMERICA to rim:

**Large Thin O, [mm Rt,H]****Large Thick O, [mm, Rt, H]****Die crack from rim to AME(R)ICA**

I researched the behavior of the Large O mintmark further as it changed appearance from Large Thin O to Large Thick O by using photographic plate comparisons. I placed right and left mintmark edge markers on the progressive die state photos and compared the those markers with the IM of DIME above the mintmark and the bow loops below the mintmark. The markers designate the intersection of the bottom edge of the mintmark sidewall with the surrounding field. Though the outer mintmark edges are constant, the left and right mintmark segments appear to be growing "thicker" and compressing the size of the center mintmark oval as the reverse die strikes additional coinage. To validate this finding, the same measurement method was applied to the former "Huge O" plate coin with the outer left and right edge measurements being consistent with the 1845-O F-101 and the John Frost specimens. Interestingly, the center oval continues to shrink in size which originally guided the original "Huge O" designation.

I also wish to point out that surface wear will affect the visual appearance of the mintmark as the mintmark sidewall within the die is not perfectly vertical but rather sloped outward from top to base of the

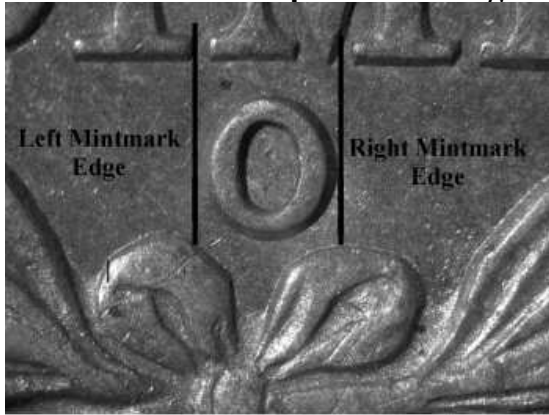
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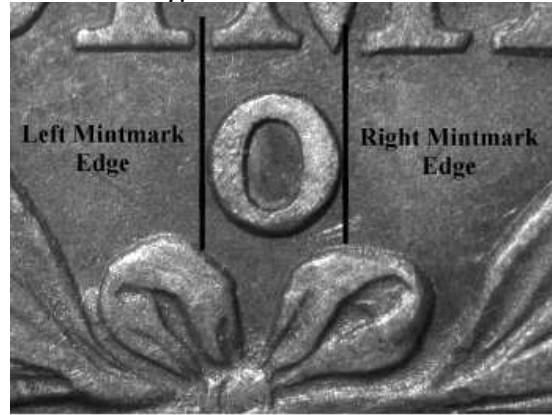
(Continued from page 11)

mintmark. Dimes grading below Fine will appear to have thicker mintmark segments than those on high grade specimens as the top thinner surface of the mintmark is worn down into the thicker base.

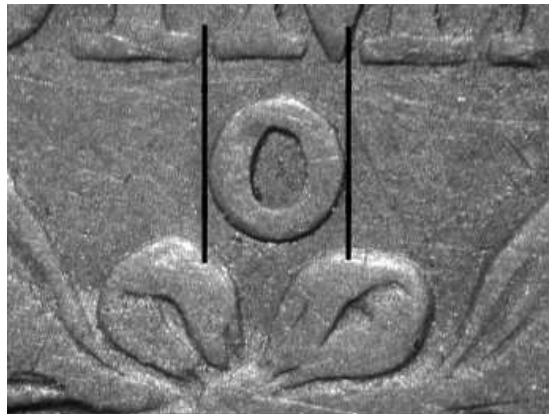
Comparison of Large Thin O vs. Large Thick O Mintmarks



Definition of left and right mintmark edges for later die state measurements



Measurement of Large Thick O sidewalls



Mintmark size measurement on previous "Huge O" plate coin

I also wish to point out that a coin's surface wear will affect the visual appearance of the mintmark as the mintmark sidewall within the die is not perfectly vertical but rather sloped outward from top to base of the mintmark on Reverse A. Dimes grading below Fine will appear to have thicker mintmark segments than those on high grade specimens as the top thinner surface of the mintmark is worn down into the thicker base. The wear phenomenon could explain why low grade late die state 1845-O dimes always had the appearance of being the Huge O variety.

In numismatics, it seems that researchers are continually learning and this is definitely the situation for the 1845-O seated dime. At this time, I have chosen to leave the 1845-O Large Thick O variety as part of the Top 100 Varieties Set as the shifting mintmark appearance is not unique to the 1845-O date. Similar situations are known for one 1852-O reverse die and also the lone 1858-O reverse die. The Top 100 Varieties were also selected to represent the various die preparation and minting anomalies that a collector would encounter while searching out Liberty Seated dimes. The 1845-O Large Thick O variety is a reminder of shifting appearances of mintmarks on New Orleans coinage.

As always, Happy Hunting!



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 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, 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 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.

Half Dollar Die Variety Books for Sale:
I have two new books.

- The first 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.
- The second details all Carson City Branch Mint half dollar die marriages (96) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc. and includes over 900 photographs. Written with Special Edits by and Consultations with Randy Wiley, this book has 220 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 of either 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.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Mark your calendar !

- **July** - Next issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* mailed
- **July 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.
- **September 24, 2010** - LSCC Regional Meeting, **Long Beach, CA** Coin and Collectables Expo, Friday, time and location TBD.
- **October 29, 2010** - LSCC Regional meeting, CoinFest Show, Stamford, CT, Friday, 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.

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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