



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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LSCC Annual Meeting this Month!

In conjunction with the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money, the officers of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club invite all members, guests, and anyone with an interest in Liberty Seated coinage to participate in the Club's 37th annual meeting. It will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 9 AM in the Sheraton Boston Hotel's Gardner Room. The Sheraton connects directly to the John B. Hynes Convention Center and the bourse floor.

A lively agenda is planned including presentation of the 2009 Ahwash and James B. Pryor Research awards, reports of club activities, and a club benefit auction. Copies of the latest edition of the *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume #5* will be available for inspection and purchase. Complete meeting details can be found in the *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #108 on page 14.

Items to be auctioned include the following:

- Deluxe leather hard bound edition of *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint* by Bill Bugert, Copy #10 of 10 copies.
- Deluxe leather hard bound edition of *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume II, Carson City Branch Mint* featuring the CC collection of Randy Wiley, by Bill Bugert, Copy #10 of 10 copies.
- A 1967 Hanover Numismatic Society silver medal, serial number 358, featuring the bust of Christian Gobrecht (donated by Rich Uhrich Rare U.S. Coins).
- A Trial copy of next year's *Gobrecht Journal* cover art - Unique (will not be used in the following year).
- A Trial copy of next year's *Gobrecht Journal* cover art - The cover coin for the 2010-2011 volume.

All proceeds from these donated items will benefit the LSCC Treasury.

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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 summer doldrums limited relevant sales to only the **Heritage Summer Fun Sale**.

An 1846 half dime in VG8 sold for \$863.

An 1846 dime in VF30 realized \$1,495. Two 1874-cc dimes were for sale. The first had XF details but had been harshly cleaned and had damage on the reverse near the denomination yet it still sold for \$6,325. The other had AU details but was cleaned, nicely retoned and was well struck with a few scratches, but did not sell.

The sale contained a comprehensive consignment of medium and lower grade Seated quarters. A very nice 1842-O small date in VF25 hit \$2,990. An 1849-O in VG10 sold for \$2,070, and an additional specimen with XF details but cleaned sold for a strong \$6,613. An 1851-O in VF20 went for \$1,495, while an 1852-O in VF25 hit \$2,415. An attractive 1859-S with AU details and cleaned but nicely toned back soared to \$9,200. An 1860-S in F12 rose to an

impressive \$2,760, while an 1862-S in XF40 went for \$1,035. An 1865-S in XF40 sold for \$1,093 and an 1866-S in VF20 went for \$2,070. A nice for the grade 1867-S in VF25 hammered for \$2,760, while a mundane 1868-S in XF40 sold for \$632, as did an 1869-S in VF30. An 1870-CC with a G4 obverse and an AG3 reverse still manage \$7,475. A harshly cleaned 1871-CC with VF details soared to \$7,187, while an 1872-CC with VG details and an obverse scratch only sold for \$1,955. An 1873 closed 3 in VG10 sold for \$1,265. An 1873-CC in G4 but cleaned went for \$1,840, while a duplicate in G6 hit an impressive \$4,600. An 1878-S in XF45 sold for \$1,380.

An attractive 1852-O half dollar in XF45 sold for \$1,725, while an 1866-S no motto in VF25 went for \$1,150. A nicely toned 1874-CC in XF45 hit a solid \$5,463.

An 1855 dollar in AU50 but weak on the upper eagle sold for \$4,457, while an 1872-S in AU55 but with two obverse streaks eked out \$3,220.

Upcoming LSCC Meetings

August 12, 2010

World's Fair of Money, **Boston, MA** ANA Convention
Thursday, 9 AM, Sheraton Boston Hotel (Connects directly to the Convention Center) Gardner Room. (LSCC Annual 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

This month's question is from Club member, Dennis Garstang.

We have an opportunity for a "Seated Category" at Central States Show next year in Chicago if there is enough interest by the membership. Of course, you will not have to be a member of LSCC to exhibit but thought I would start by gauging the level of interest in that group hence a "call for the question."

Comments or questions may be directed to me at dgarstang@kc.rr.com.

If there is a high enough level of interest, I will proceed with the Central States people to set this up.

All responses are welcome! Please consider taking a few moments and sending in your thoughts and opinions.



As seen on the PCGS coin forum, here is an interesting 1855 in an old and very rare Regency holder with original sued pouch. It is actually an 1855/4 variety and grades AU50.

Has anyone seen another seated coin in a Regency holder?

Image courtesy of the PCGS U.S. coin forum.



Answer to last Month's Question

[What is the most difficult decade of your favorite Seated denomination to collect and why?](#)

From **Dennis Fortier**: I will answer my own question. I collect Liberty Seated Half Dollars and love varieties. There are two decades that stand out in my mind. The 1870's have the 1878-S key date as well as the CC years with 1870, 1874, and 1878 being the scarcest dates. 1873 has the with and without arrows varieties, in addition there is one major variety the 1873 no arrows open 3 which is extremely rare and popular. Lastly one of my favorite issues is the low mintage 1873-S.

That said the 1840's are a bonanza for variety collectors and top my list for the most challenging decade. Let's start with the first U.S. branch mint coin without a mintmark: 1840 (O) Medium Letters, made with the 1838 Bust reverse this one is a classic and highly sought after by collectors.

1841 lower mintage of 300,000

1841-O Baseball Die Crack (only 40 known)

1842 Small Date/ Small Letters Rev (only a few known)

1842-O Small Date/ Small Letters (only a handful known)

1844-O Double Date Possibly the best known variety of the series

1846 Horizontal 6 very popular with collectors

1846-O Tall Date scarce and very popular

1847/6 one of the rarest varieties of the series (only 30-40 known)

1849 Dramatic Double Date another great rarity (only 20-30 known)

Estimates from Dick Osburn's "Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Half Dollars" and consultations with Bill Bugert.

From **Charles Sullivan**: I collect Seated halves. The 1870's is by far the hardest decade, with seven very challenging Carson City issues hard to find in attractive condition without skipping the mortgage payment for a few months.

In answer to reader inquiries: "How many seated quarters, halves, and dollars are still truly original with no harsh cleaning, dipping, and resulting hairlines?"

[I have] Three observations here:

1. The larger the denomination, the larger the unprotected areas on obverse and reverse, and thus hairlines become more distracting. This phenomenon has two side effects: laymen want to clean the coin and serious collectors want to avoid it.

2. Historically, the less wear the coin had, the more likely some fool felt the need to make the coin "bright and shiny" again. Perhaps 10% of Seated quarters, halves, and dollars with VF-Unc. wear levels have escaped cleaning. The irony is that 90% of today's collectors consider a truly original Seated coin to be ugly. Jim Gray delights in telling us a particular coin sold for small money at the auction "due to ugly toning." Weimar White constantly spreads the gospel of "toning is wear."

3. A truly original Seated coin with VF or better wear, no signs of cleaning, and without dark, streaky, or splotchy toning, is grade rare by definition.

My advice? If you see such an animal at the local bourse or eBay at type-coin money, buy it! Save it for your children.



Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

Dear fellow LSCC members,
I'm sure many LSCC members are looking forward to the Boston ANA show which is just a few days away. There is

no question of my personal relief and happiness to have worked out a business situation that allows a return to the US on August 6 and convention attendance. The summer ANA show is typically the annual highlight for numismatists as they seriously pursue their hobby for a week and enjoy the social gathering opportunities that the annual ANA convention offers.

The LSCC annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 12 at 9:00am. Please check the LSCC website at www.lscweb.org for meeting room location or the last page of this newsletter. The club officers are planning a lively agenda with presentations and discussion on new initiatives for enhancing club member experience. In particular, the LSCC website will receive much needed attention since the club has the ability to expand content and features at will. A proposal for adding a condition census set publication module to be website will be aired for club member feedback and support. Condition census set reporting could be accomplished through an open registry for raw and certified coins across all seated denominations. Members could exhibit their collections and vie for public standing as a condition census set. There are thoughts of LSCC awards for leading sets to encourage club member involvement. In addition to the condition census set/website proposal, I also plan to discuss my ANA Summer Seminar experience and conversations with Ken Bressett, who is well known as the Redbook editor. Ken has asked the LSCC to become an active consultant and to support updates of Liberty Seated coinage descriptions, pricings and major varieties in the Redbook. Currently, Ken indicates that he lacks a strong consultant for seated coinage while other

numismatic clubs such as Early American Coppers are already engaged.

Summer FUN Show Report

Since the July Regional News report, the Summer FUN show in Orlando, Florida was held. Jason Feldman, South Regional Director, scheduled an LSCC regional meeting during the show and also provided LSCC publicity at a complimentary display table. Jason reported the following concerning the Summer FUN:

"None of the typical LSCC members were in attendance and the Summer Fun show itself was quiet, with dealers mostly doing wholesale business. Emphasis on attracting Young Numismatists (YN) was successful as I had hoped. There was positive response to the LSCC displays at the complimentary table with several individuals expressing interest in joining the club. A dozen seated coins were given away along with two Liberty Seated Dime Varieties web-book CDROMs and six *Gobrecht Journals* to interested parties.

Our table location was less than optimum in the back corner of the hall but we were in proximity to the other club tables. Overall, I felt the LSCC received sufficient exposure including those people who did not know there was even a club for seated coinage. In addition, the LSCC club table and regional meeting will receive further exposure in the upcoming FUN Topics. In summary, the meeting was a little disappointing as was the show retail business but the exposure in the show program and the upcoming issue of Fun Topics is another positive step for LSCC publicity. I am quite confident of a much stronger turn out at the January 2011 FUN show and planning is already underway."

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

Fourth in a Series

By Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

This month's bargain bin entry originates once again from eBay, the marketplace that seems to never end. This purchase was reported to me by a well-known cherrypicker within the LSCC, who seems to have an extraordinary knack for not only finding the extraordinary, but also for paying little or nothing in return. We have here an 1841-O small-O closed bud reverse dime, "polished a little" according to the buyer, and purchased for slightly less than two quid (English pounds), which comes out to about three dollars American. What the buyer paid for shipping is unrecorded, and probably exceeded the cost of the item itself.

Why the payment in foreign currency you ask? It turns out this item was purchased on eBay.ie, the Irish equivalent of the popular auction site. It turns out eBay maintains a whole number of international venues, such as eBay.de for Germany, eBay.fr for France, and so on. Quite frequently, one can find United States coins listed on these sites, and chances are that the seller won't be intimately acquainted with the more esoteric Liberty Seated varieties. I've seen US coinage for sale in my travels to Europe, but the typical offering is a raw gold coin with a high price. Such a purchase can turn out to be a quite expensive mistake. Paying two quid for a Liberty Seated dime, however, may well be worth the gamble.

Our eBay bidder purchased the item from a seller in Westcliff-in-Sea, a seaside resort on the coast of England, situated about 34 miles east of London. How the coin traveled across the Atlantic is anyone's guess. The old adage about "coins talking" comes to mind, and one could engage in all manner of speculation here, but all we have is the coin itself, so let us see what it can tell us.



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Quarter of the Month

By Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The 1857-O quarter is a very interesting issue for variety collectors. The total of 10 die pairings cataloged in *The Complete Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* represents enough distinct coins to

present a challenge, but not so many as to make a complete die marriage set unattainable. Three of the die pairings appear to be very rare, including the elusive obverse with “18” in the denticles. Three of the die pairings are common within the context of O-mint seated quarters. This month we will look at the 1857-O “low date” variety, comprising two of the die pairings in the middle group that is neither common nor extremely rare.



The 1857-O low date variety consists of coins struck from a single obverse die (Briggs' 6) paired with two reverse dies (Briggs' B and C). The variety is an obvious one that can be easily attributed without magnification. This particular die has the lowest date position of any of the large date seated quarters. When the logotype was decreased in size later in the series, it became possible to locate dates even further from the rock than on the 1857-O obverse 6, but up to that time this die represents the

lowest date position seen on a seated quarter. The date nearly touches the denticles as shown in image of the obverse.



Image of 1857-O Reverse B (above):
Mintmark left of the crotch and touching the feather



Image of 1857-O Reverse C (above):
Mintmark centered in the crotch

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*The Budget Collector (Continued from page 6)*

The buyer was working off some not very good pictures (as seen). While not crisp, the image of the reverse is still quite telling. First, the die wear is quite obvious, and, as it turns out, a characteristic of this particular variety. Gerry Fortin states of the 1841-O F-102, "Well circulated examples of this variety can be found...showing excessive wear in the center of the reverse due to a die bulge." It's a safe bet our buyer was well aware of this diagnostic. Secondly, the closed bud (situated just to the right of N in UNITED on the reverse) is fairly clear, and there is no evident split at the tip of the bud as one would see on the open bud.

The variety is significant as a *transitional* issue, as it reused the 1840-O reverse die. The 1841-O closed bud comes in two flavors, with either a large or small mintmark. Fortin identifies two 1841-O die pairs with the closed bud reverse, the first with the large O and the second with the small O. As luck

would have it, our buyer stumbled onto the more scarce of the two, that being the small-O variety. The small O mintmark appears as a nearly perfect circle while the large O is oval-shaped. While the variety is not yet recognized in the Red Book, it is well known among serious collectors of seated dimes and highly prized. A number of these appear on the websites of the usual dealers of seated coinage, all listed at four-figure prices. Not a bad return for our eagle-eyed eBay hunter.

This month the ANA is in Boston, August 10-14. This a great opportunity to scope out dealer inventories for unattributed bargains, and while you might not find the next closed bud reverse dime, you will definitely find a lot a coins to look through and fellow collectors to share your stories with. The LSCC Annual Meeting is on Thursday, August 12th, at 9AM in the Gardner Room of the Sheraton Hotel, connected to the Convention Center. Hope to see you there!

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Upcoming Regional Meetings

The next regional meeting is scheduled for September 24 at the Long Beach, California show. Craig Eberhart, West Regional Director and I are currently brainstorming approaches to increase publicity and to provide meeting attendees with an insightful experience.

Also in our sights is the October 29, 2010 regional meeting in Stamford, Connecticut in conjunction with the CoinFest show. More information will be forthcoming from Dennis Fortier, East Regional Director, in the September and October *E-Gobrecht* issues.

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

Reverses B and C are identified by mintmark positions with reverse B having a mintmark left of the crotch and touching the feather, while reverse C has a mintmark centered in the crotch approximately equally distant from feather and olive branch.

The 1857-O as a date and mintmark is a scarce coin that becomes very scarce and rare in almost uncirculated and mint state grades, respectively. Over the past few years, the low date die pairings have been available periodically in low to medium circulated grades, but very seldom seen in high grade. Population data for NGC and PCGS indicate that the two services have graded a total of 121 examples in all grades, 33 of those are mint state coins, and 58 are in the AU grades. Larry Briggs, in *The Complete Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*, states that the 1857-O is R6 (13-30 known) in mint state and R4 (76-250 known) in XF/AU.

A detailed examination of the Heritage auction archive shows that they have offered 55 differ-

ent examples of the 1857-O quarter since 1/1/1999 (when they began archiving photos). A total of 44 coins were in problem free grades and 11 more with significant problems noted were offered. Only 6 of the 55 coins featured the low date obverse die illustrated above. Two of the 6 low date quarters had obverse 6 paired with reverse B and the remaining 4 were paired with reverse C. The only problem free 6B example was in a SEGS holder graded XF45 and sold as part of Larry Briggs' reference collection in 1999. The other 6B coin was an XF details piece with reverse damage sold as part of the Jules Reiver collection in 2006. The 4 examples of die pair 6C in the Heritage archive include an F12 cleaned coin holdered by SEGS and sold as part of Larry Briggs' reference collection in 1999 in one lot with five other seated quarters including the 6B coin mentioned above. Interestingly, of the three remaining 6C coins all were problem free and two were mint state – one an NGC MS64 and the other a PCGS MS62. It does appear that, even in lower grades, the 6C die pair is more available than 6B. The highest graded 6B coin seen has been an XF45.

All photos courtesy of Heritage.com.

Don't forget to attend the LSCC Annual meeting at the ANA in Boston

See details on pages 2 or 18.





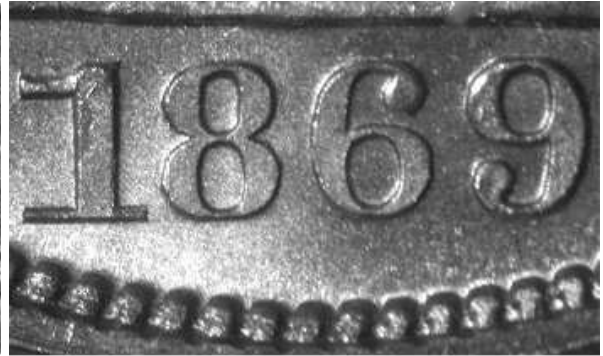
1869 Liberty Seated Dimes; Dr. Tim Cook Identifies a Fifth Short Flag 1 Obverse Die

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

The 1869 Liberty Seated dime date, with a mintage of 256,000, remains a personal favorite due to the usage of two different date punch styles and the extreme difficulty with locating AU or better examples for one of the date punch types. Concerning the 1869 obverse dies within *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors*, I list the date punch styles as Short Flag 1 and Long Flag 1 since the flag on the 1 digit is quite dissimilar between the two. To provide appropriate background, following are images of the individual date punch styles.



Short Flag 1 Date Punch



Long Flag 1 Date Punch

A comparison of the digit styles within the Short Flag 1 and Long Flag 1 punches clearly indicates that all four digits are different. Notable differences between the two date punches, besides the flag lengths on the 1 digit, are the size variations in the lower oval of the 6 digits and the upper loop of the 9 digits. The digits on the Long Flag 1 punch appear to be thinner and more delicate than on the Short Flag 1 punch.

Within *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes*, Brian Greer lists Short Flag 1 1869 dimes as R5+ in EF/AU and R7 in Mint State while the Long Flag 1 variety is shown as R5 in EF/AU and R6- in Mint State. After many years of seeking 1869 dimes and the elusive Short Flag 1 variety in AU or better for my reference collection, I believe that a Short Flag 1 in problem free AU is an R6+ rarity and a Mint State example could be as difficult as R7+. Simply said, Long Flag 1 1869 dimes dominate the AU or better grades when available. Proofs are more common than business strikes.

Through June 2010, I had located and documented four separate Short Flag obverse dies until Dr. Tim Cook sent along an 1869 dime with an obverse that did not match those previously listed. I was quite surprised to see a fifth Short Flag 1 obverse die surface after extensive checking of all 1869 Short Flag 1 dimes that crossed my path. On Tim's discovery coin, the date punch is bold, especially at the top flag of the 1 digit. The date has a slight upward slope with the 1 digit evenly spaced between the base and denticles. The first S in STATES is partial as compared to fully broken S on other Short Flag 1 obverse dies. The reverse also exhibits a long die line through the D in DIME. I graded Dr. Cook's dime as EF45 and was pleased to include this new 1869 F-107 listing in the web-book.

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Following are images taken of Tim's discovery coin.



1869 F-107 Variety - Short Flag 1 Date Punch



**High Date, Sl. Upward Slope - DR 0B1
Short Flag 1**

As always, Happy Hunting!



The grossly under-rated 1843-O Dime

By Jason Feldman, LSCC # 2003



I think the market place has finally understood the rarity of the 1843-O dime. This coin first got my attention in 2005 with the Bunker sale on eBay. I was new to variety collecting then and did not realize over five years later some of the best variety coins in my set would have come from that sale.

At that time, Gerry Fortin felt that the AU coin in that that sale could well exceed \$5,000. It sold cheap, \$2,300 as I recall. I am still thankful to Gerry for encouraging me to buy the coin. It always puts a smile on my face. The coin was cleaned (but still very appealing) and hammered in strike. Shortly thereafter, the Lemus sale took place with another coin called BU. That coin hammered over \$16,000.

The availability of problem free AU 1843-O dimes is basically non existent. An AU53 ANACS coin came up for sale and, when crossed to PCGS, came back an XF45. This is a grade I highly disagree with but PCGS felt that the reverse had the details of an AU but lacked the luster. The obverse was considered to be fully AU. This coin easily would have grade AU a few years back. While not nearly as nice as the one just sold at Heritage, there is a lot of luster and details for a coin graded XF45.

There are two AU53's and two UNC's with the Eliasberg being the finest. While I know of the whereabouts of a few AU coins, they are not without issues. They are also in strong hands and may not come to surface anytime soon. This sale shows the sale of the AU coin Gerry offered not long ago was in fact a very nice deal, but would not slab. From a pricing perspective

this is where there is a huge difference. In the 2010 Long Beach auction listing, the AU53 coin shown above was described as being worth every penny of its winning bid.

To quote Heritage on the sale of this coin: "1843-O 10C AU53 PCGS. The 1843-O Seated dime, despite a mintage of 150,000 coins, is one of the important rarities in the series, seldom found in any grade. Consider that NGC and PCGS, combined, have only certified seven coins in AU or better: MS65, MS62, AU58 (2), AU53 (3). In January 1999, we offered an AU58 example of this issue, the only piece grading better than XF that we have offered in any of our sales since 1993." [Photos above courtesy of HA.com]

This AU53 coin realized a high price, \$14,950, because so many people wanted it. It is the hardest coin to find for a PCGS set if you want all your coins to be at least an AU. It is a true rarity in problem free condition. The coin has the reverse of an MS coin, some album rub on the obverse due to poor storage, and should grade an AU55 as the luster is there and the details have just a little to much rub for today's AU58 grade. Compared with the 1846 dime with a much higher population than the 1843-O in AU or better, this coin should sell for far more money than the 1846 yet even at five times PCGS guide, it still traded hands for about the same money as a PCGS AU55 1846 that just traded in a private transaction. That coin traded close to PCGS guide.

While I had not intended to reveal the owner-

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ship of this new coin to my collection, it would undoubtedly surface. My rationale for paying five times book for the coin remains that I still purchased the coin very cheaply based on the coin itself and the real rarity

of a true, problem free AU 1843-O with original mint luster. I think this shows just how underrated the seated series really is and I know for a fact this has captured the attention of many people outside the our community.

The Professional Coin Grading Service proudly announced the Winners of this year's Registry Set Hall of Fame and Awards.

In the categories that included Liberty Seated coinage, here is a listing of the winners.

Collection Name Category

Simpson - Liberty Seated Half Dimes, Circulation Strikes (1837-1873)

The Gerry Fortin - Liberty Seated Dimes, Circulation Strikes (1837-1891)

Driftwood - Twenty Cents with 76-CC, Circulation Strikes (1875-1876)

Greenwich Collection - Liberty Seated Quarters, Proof (1858-1891)

Midsouthcoin - 1867 Proof Set

Palmetto Galleries - 1881 Proof Set with Gold

The Avalon Collection - Liberty Seated Half Dollars, Proof (1858-1891)

Some of these winners are also LSCC members. Congratulations to all the 2010 Set Registry Award winners! You have truly achieved new heights in numismatic excellence.

Subscriber Correspondence

From **Dennis Fortier**: Nice find Len, I'd like to know how I missed that one. I have 1 silver medal they are 7 ounces of pure silver. I've seen them sell for over \$200, but if your patent you can get one for less. I'd like to know how many they minted. I could not find out on the website and got no response from the company. Perhaps your contact might know?

Len's response: No idea on the mintage, but I see the bronze ones about every other month or so on eBay, so it must have been a few hundred at least.

From **Rich Uhrich**: Noticing an 1842 half dollar listed on eBay and advertised as "Civil War era," Rich asks rhetorically "Exactly when was the Civil War?"

From **Saul Teichman**: A long time ago, you or someone in the Liberty Seated collectors group sent me a listing of the reed counts by year for the seated half dollars. Has this ever been done for the Dollars denomination?



1865 Double Date Half Dollar Revisited

By Paul Brill, LSCC # 749



I was recently able to purchase through an antique dealer internet bid auction in North Carolina a very nice double date 1865 seated liberty half dollar, grading AU-58 in my opinion. The auction did not promote (probably did not know) the double date feature of this coin, however from the computer pictures, I could see it.

Upon receipt of the coin, I performed a literature review of past *Gobrecht Journals* and found the 1981 article by Jerry Phillips on his discovered coin. The characteristics are well documented in this article and in Beistle's half dollar variety book, Variety 5-Aa. However my coin showed a significant counter clockwise reverse die rotation that was not mentioned in the article. In the Wiley & Bugert Liberty Seated Half Dollar book, the authors say the tail die late die states shows die cracks around the legend and can be found slightly rotated. Using the Leroy Van Allen Rota-Flip Die Rotation Device, I determined the rotation of my coin to be 32 degrees +/- 2 which is significant.

Comments by noted collector, David Lange, in a 1981 *Gobrecht Journal* Letter to the Editor also stated that in his opinion this variety well illustrates the use of a logotype numeric punch to form either

three or four of the 1865 date numbers, accounting for the entire date being misplaced.

I contacted seated half dollar expert Bill Bugert for additional knowledge he might have on the 1865 double date. Bill said that he owns two double date halves WB-102, one grading AU-58 and also the coin listed in the Jerry Phillips article. High grade versions of this coin are rare according to Bill. He also stated an AU-55 double date was seen at the recent Baltimore Coin Show and it also had a rotated reverse. Bill's AU-58 half dollar has a 31 degree rotation.

Bill thinks that the date was formed from a 4 digit logotype punch in order to create both the horizontal and the slanted date set.

Rotated die coins usually occur in two different ways, the first being the mint employee installs the die incorrectly so the obverse and reverse do not line up properly when the coin is struck, and the second is when the die becomes loose and then moves a little bit as each new coin is struck. A total 511,900 coins were minted at Philadelphia in 1865.

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Bill states that, although he hasn't kept records of such, he does not recall seeing a double date 1865 without a rotated reverse. This fact possibly suggests that the mint workers probably installed the dies improperly until the error was discovered, then quickly corrected the problem versus a loose tail die which randomly generated coins with varying degrees of rotation.

Coin World's *Coin Values* magazine over the last several years has listed the 1865 double date variety, but more recently without any price values,

suggesting there is not enough real examples of this coin to define an accurate range of values.

Attached to this article are photographs of my coin, but the close up shot of the 1865 date (shown below) comes from Bill Bugert's coin since my camera cannot produce such a tight picture.

I suggest seated half dollar collectors keep a close watch for 1865 half dollars to see if they can find the double date and report if their coin has a rotated reverse and what degree of rotation the coin has.



Rota-Flip Die Rotation Device measuring the reverse of an 1865/1865 half dollar



New Half Dollar Die Marriage Discoveries

By Bill Bugert, LSCC #455

With the distribution of my recent books on San Francisco and Carson City Liberty Seated half dollar varieties, I wondered how long it would take until new varieties were reported. To date, there are three, all found during the past month! I've prepared complete data sheets on these die marriages in the same page format as my books including extensive photographs but, due to their large file size, have not included them with this edition of the *E-Gobrecht*. These data sheets are actually page additions to my books; if you would like them, email me at wb8cpy@arll.net and I will send you a digital copy of them (or see me at a show and I will have paper copies).

Here are summaries of the new die marriages:

1876-S WB-44, die pair WB-38W. Club member Scott Mickelson discovered this coin and it is the first new unpublished die marriage. I fully expected 1876-S and 1877-S to be fertile hunting grounds for new die marriages and Scott proved me right. Scott's coin is a very attractively toned PCGS AU50. This die marriage has a new obverse die and a previously listed reverse die. This obverse die has a date left and a triangular shaped die chip in Liberty's gown to the left of the pole. The reverse die has a very small S mintmark and a diagonal (NW to SE) die line in the upper right corner of the eagle's left wing. My suggested die sequence for this reverse die is: WB-44 (this die marriage) – WB-35. Great find and congratulations, Scott!

1861-S WB-11, die pair WB-6C. This one was a complete surprise. I did not expect to have a die marriage for 1861-S. Randy Wiley and I have studied that date extensively during the past decades and I had to do a double take on this one. It is a pairing of two previously listed dies: obverse 6 with a fragmented diagonal file line in Liberty's skirt and reverse C with a heavily cracked die. My suggested die sequence for this reverse die is: WB-3 – WB-7 – WB-11 (this die marriage) – WB-8. My suggested die sequence for this obverse die is WB-11 (this die marriage) – WB-10. This die marriage was accidentally discovered by me when I purchased this coin hastily and incorrectly attributed as a WB-8. It wasn't until later that a new die marriage was confirmed. The discovery coin grades AU55.

1876-CC WB-37, die pair WB-27H. Club member Jack Marston discovered this coin and it is the first new unpublished Carson City die marriage. This die marriage has a new obverse die and a previously listed reverse die with a large CC. Jack's coin is a beautiful, fully prooflike PCGS MS64 in an older "series" capsule. This die marriage has a new obverse die and a previously listed reverse die. This obverse die has a small lump on Liberty's upper right torso below the lower hair curl and curved lint mark on Liberty's upper right forearm to left of pole. The reverse die with the large CC mintmark is a very late die state with die damage above, thru, and below UNIT(ED) not seen on previous use of this die; this die marriage has the latest use of this reverse die. Although I have not seen another of this die pair, this reverse die damage may serve to identify this die marriage.

I am looking to study other examples of these three die marriages. If you have one or suspect you may, please contact me at wb8cpy@arll.net. Thanks and, as Gerry says, "Happy Hunting!"



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- 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 !

- **August 12, 2010** - LSCC Annual meeting at the 2010 ANA Worlds' Fair of Money, **Boston, MA**, Thursday, 9 AM, Sheraton Boston Hotel (connects directly to the Convention Center) Gardner Room.
- **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*.

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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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