



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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December 2012 (Whole # 95)

"FUN" LSCC meeting next month!

Attention Florida United Numismatist (FUN) Show attendees!

Jason Feldman will be hosting a regional meeting of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club on January 11, 2013 at 9 A.M. at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. The meeting's room number is TBD. Please try to attend. A lively agenda is planned including the following topics:

- Attendee Introductions
- Club news update
 - 40th anniversary medal program order summary and projected delivery dates
 - Club Historian announcement and roles
- 1839 Seated Dime Pie Shattered Obverse presentation and PCGS EF45 specimen viewing
- Featured presentation by Jason Feldman and Chris Pilliod entitled, "When Things Go Wrong" which discusses Seated coinage minting errors

November Baltimore Show Report

By Len Augsburger, LSCC Secretary-Treasurer

Our Baltimore festivities kicked off at 6:30A.M., Friday, November 16th, with the "LSCC Fun Run." Apparently quite a few members thought it would be more "fun" to stay in bed than to brave the 40-ish degree weather. Nevertheless, trade dollar expert John Coyle and I managed four miles through downtown Baltimore and around the Inner Harbor area. We'll try again at the next Baltimore show in March and see if we can do any better. The regular part of the LSCC club meeting began at 9A.M. in the Baltimore Convention Center. About 25 members and guests were in attendance, according to the attendance register circulated by Shirley Hammond, which she has maintained for several years (a document I hope we can someday get into the club archives). Club business discussed included the upcoming *Gobrecht Journal* (#115), and progress on the

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The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning informal 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 on the last page.



Auction News

by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

The **Stack's-Bowers** Baltimore Sale contained an 1838-O V-2 half dime in MS61 that sold for \$4,847.

Arrows graded AU58 sold for \$4,406.

An AU50 1872-CC dollar cost \$5,956 and an 1878-CC Trade Dollar graded XF45 hit \$3,055.

An 1843-O dime graded VF25 sold for \$969 and an F12 1846 hit \$570. A splendid 1856-S graded AU58 hammered for \$3,643 while a VF30 1859-S realized \$1,063. An 1860-O was worth \$1,763 in VF20. An 1871-CC with F details, but with an obverse gash, sold for \$2,585, and an 1872-CC with VF wear, but scratched, garnered \$2,174. A VF25 1885-S hit \$1645.

Rarities Night contained a lovely well struck MS63 1844 dime that did not sell but an 1860-O AU 58 with mellow toning soared to \$8,225.

An attractive 1870-CC half in AU50 was worth \$18,800 and a choice MS61 1874-CC sold for \$13,043. A well struck AU58 1878-CC sold for \$11,280.

A blue toned XF40 1849-O quarter did not sell but a nice AU50 1852-O was worth \$3,819. VF30 and XF40 1858-S quarters did not sell.

An 1871-CC dollar with AU details with a rim repair managed \$7,050 while another graded XF45, but looking finer, sold for \$13,512. A harshly cleaned 1873-CC with many marks was graded AU details and sold for \$22,443.

An 1866-S NM half sold for \$1,528 in VF35 and an XF40 1873-CC No Arrows with spots on both sides hammered for \$2,115. A lovely 1873-CC With

Upcoming LSCC Events

2012-2013 **LSCC dues** (a bargain \$20) payable immediately to LSCC Secretary/Treasurer, Len Augsburger, P.O. Box 6114, Vernon Hills, IL 60061.

Late November 2012, **Gobrecht Journal** was **postal mailed** to all current members. You should have received it by now.

December 2012 - No meetings planned.

January 11, 2013, **Orlando, FL**, FUN Convention, Orange County Convention Center, Southern LSCC Regional meeting, 9 A.M., room TBD.

February 7, 2013, **Long Beach, CA**, Long Beach Coins, Stamp and Collectables Expo, Special LSCC Regional Meeting, see page 4 for meeting details.

February 1-2, 2013, **Manchester, NH**, Coin and Currency Expo, details TBD.



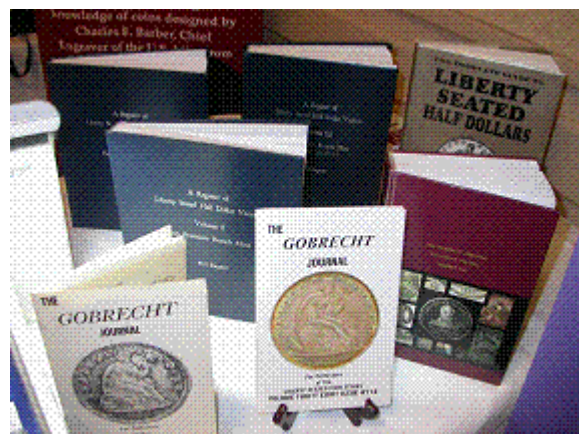
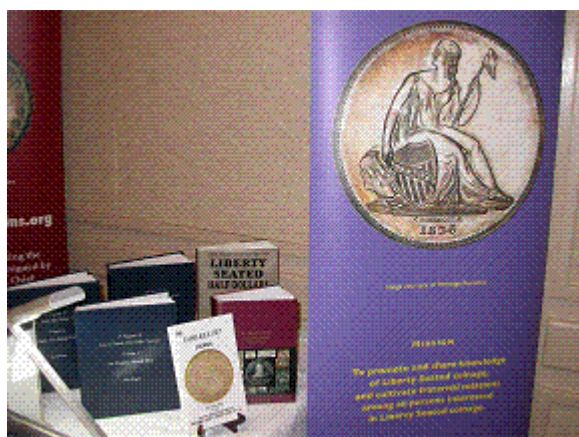
Bay State Show Wrap Up by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

The new venue for the Bay State show in Marlboro MA was much more convenient for local attendees than the old Boston location. The new venue does have one drawback, however; there will not be a private room for Regional club meetings. The show was fairly well attended and dealers were doing a good business. Our 40th Anniversary Medal got many complements and I took cash orders for two medals. Hopefully, six to ten medals may be purchased out of the Bay State Show. The individual that bought the two medals also joined the club and I believe one other will be joining and buying medals.

for club growth. Liberty Seated coins are collected here but not much beyond the date-mint level. I believe that will change as collectors are exposed to knowledge of the LSCC and variety collecting. I heard many complements on Steve Crain's collection from attendees who were at Manchester, NH show. I can't thank Steve enough for helping out at Manchester. I only wish I could have been there to enjoy his collection and spend some time with him.

The next Manchester show will be Feb 1-2, mark you calendars.

New England continues to be a good location Club table images depicted below by Dennis Fortier.





Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

November was a very busy month for LSCC club officers with the November 30 deadline for 40th Anniversary medal orders and preparations for striking the actual medals. In parallel, our club is fortunate to have

located a volunteer for the Club Historian position. Considerable time was spent defining the Club Historian's overall mission and activities with the volunteer to ensure a smooth assimilation into this new role. On a more personal note, I was fortunate to spend five days in Maine with family during the Thanksgiving holiday and had enough free time to attend the Westford, MA monthly coin show. Though no Liberty Seated dimes were purchased, I enjoyed chatting with John Frost and visiting most of the dealer tables.

December is a quiet month for regional meetings but the new year immediately provides LSCC members with an opportunity to attend the Winter FUN show in Orlando, FL. Jason Feldman, South Regional Director, has called an LSCC regional meeting for January 11 at 9:00 A.M. and provides a well prepared agenda. At the meeting, club members will be treated to an update on the 40th Anniversary Medal final order quantities and planned striking and delivery schedule. Our new Club Historian will be announced along with what club members may see for initial activities in 2013. I will give a brief overview of the 1839 Seated Dime Pie Shat-

tered Obverse variety and pass around the recently purchased PCGS EF45 specimen for viewing. The meeting's highlight will be a joint presentation by Jason Feldman and Chris Pilliod entitled, "When Things Go Wrong", a discussion of Seated coinage minting errors. We look forward to seeing you at the FUN show meeting!

Free Beer!

(Did I get your attention?) Western Regional Director Craig Eberhart adds:

The next Western Regional Long Beach LSCC meeting will be held at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery on Thursday evening, February 7th. Brian Cushing of Dick Osburn Rare Coins has volunteered to buy the first round! Plan to meet by 7 P.M. outside the Heritage auction room, which is just around the corner from the show registration desk, so we can walk up the hill to the Rock Bottom. Hopefully, we will be able to have an enjoyable and relaxing evening discussing our collecting interests.

Please note that there will not be a meeting on Friday morning. If you plan to attend, but cannot meet us by 7 P.M., please let Brian or me know so we reserve space for everyone. I can be contacted at craig@eberhart.us

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club medal. Orders have been arriving at a faster pace as the November 30 deadline approaches. Additional orders were accepted at the show, including two for gold strikings. Michael Fey reported that he will be making an auction consignment in the near future, and based on what he has exhibited at previous shows, I expect quite a few better Liberty Seated varieties will be represented. I then made a short

presentation on a small group of Christian Gobrecht-related tokens and medals recently sold to me by Americana dealer John Kraljevich - this reminds me that I forgot to credit John Baumgart for the photography, and I do so here. The meeting concluded with the usual show-and-tell among club members, the most interesting of which (for me) was a prooflike 1852-O quarter in an ANACS MS-62 holder, sold several years ago by Superior, and still in the collection of the winning bidder at that sale.



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Numismatic Literature for the Liberty Seated Half Dime Collector

As a few of you know, I was supposed to run in the New York Marathon on Sunday, November 4th. The race was rightfully cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy, but unfortunately not until the last minute, after many runners had already arrived in New York City. The marathon trip thus turned into a long weekend vacation, which included some time at the American Numismatic Society, where I was able to review the literature related to Liberty Seated half dimes.

The action begins in 1883, with Harold P. Newlin's *A Classification of the Early Half-Dimes of the United States*. Published by John Haseltine in Philadelphia, this volume was a natural extension of Haseltine's earlier (1881) Type Table, which enumerated die varieties of silver dollars, halves, and quarters. The Type Table, while a starting point, did not comprehensively cover the Liberty Seated varieties, and, sad to say, Newlin did not do much better. Nor did he even make the pretense – "I do not propose to give all the varieties of the later Half-dimes," he wrote, "for there are many, and differ so little, that it would make this article too voluminous. I leave this field for those, who, I hope, will write more at length upon this subject, and will content myself by naming only a few of the important varieties." And that is precisely what he did, confining discussion of Liberty Seated half dimes to the major design types. With printing limited to one hundred copies, the Newlin work is thus a more appealing item to the literature specialist, than to the collector attempting seated half dime attribution.

The record goes silent until 1927, when Will W. Neil published a short article in the August, 1927 *Numismatist*, followed with an addenda in the December issue noting a few later discoveries. Neil's effort is the first serious attempt at scaling the Liberty Seated half dime variety summit. He gives descrip-

tions of about a hundred varieties, perhaps reaching only the base camp but at least getting started. There are no plates here, and like the Beistle half dollar study of the same period, this is problematic for the collector. Some of these varieties are hard to attribute even with plates!

We now move to 1931, and this year witnesses perhaps the most significant publication in the history of seated literature. I refer, of course, to Daniel Webster Valentine's *The United States Half Dimes*. This tome was published as part of the American Numismatics Society's Numismatic Notes and Monographs publications, being no. 48 in that series. Valentine substantially raised the bar over Neil, with a couple hundred varieties identified. More importantly, these are all illustrated, double-sized, on 69 plates. Now the variety collector of Liberty Seated half dimes had a fighting chance! Beyond enabling the collector, the significance of this publication is that auction cataloguers began using Valentine numbers. An important example is the F.C.C. Boyd collection catalogued (1945), prepared by Kosoff & Kreisberg. When one considers the adoption of other attribution guides (Wiley-Bugert for Liberty Seated halves in the 1980s, Fortin for Liberty Seated dimes in the 2000s), one realizes how far ahead of his time Valentine was. Indeed, the current generation of publications has many roots in the LSCC, as modern researchers have had strong collaborative relationships with other club members. Valentine, conversely, worked in the 1920s and published alone, some 40 years prior to the founding of the LSCC.

There are other bits of trivia related to the Valentine book for which I am indebted to Steve Crain. First, the Valentine book contained only varieties in the Valentine collection – he may have known

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Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

This month is the fourth and final column in a four part series on Liberty Seated quarter varieties left off of the Top 25 list for being too rare. September's column featured the 1854 thin date,

October's the 1856 Flag of 6 in the Shield, and November's the 1857-O Briggs 7-C with the top of "18" in the obverse denticles below the date. This month we look at the 1858-S with far left mintmark. There are two reverses for the 1858-S quarter listed in Briggs' *Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (Lima, OH 1991); one positioned slightly left of center and one positioned slightly right of center. Larry Briggs describes the newly discovered "far left mintmark" variety on page 35 of *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 58, November 1993 (reprinted on page 384 of Collective Volume 4) and named the apparently unique obverse and reverse dies 3-C, respectively.

Discovery of the mintmark far left variety is

credited to Michael E. Friedman during 1992; the discovery coin grades XF and was the only specimen reported in the 1993 LSCC survey. Ten examples were reported in the 2007 survey. I remain skeptical of this number due to the lack of description and the choice of names for the varieties. The survey listing referred to right, left and centered mintmarks. With the only photos in Briggs' book being of "right" and "left" and no variety having a truly centered mintmark, it seems likely that a number of Briggs 2-B coins could have been mistakenly attributed as 3-C. This is particularly an issue because no further description was offered with the survey and the only photos of the "far left" mintmark are in the *Gobrecht Journal* from 1993 (and the reprint in Collective Volume 4). I have, in the past 8 years, personally verified no more than 4 examples of the variety in all grades and suspect that the total known is still less than 10. Photos of Briggs reverse A (mintmark right), reverse B (mintmark left) and reverse C (mintmark far left) are shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3, respectively.



1858-S Reverse A (MM right)



1858-S Reverse B (MM left)



1858-S Reverse B (MM far left)



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of others, but if they were not in the collection, they didn't go in the book. The serendipity of this is that if today we can identify Valentine plate coins, then voila! - there is a pedigree chain. Such an informed collector identified the 1792 half disme in a recent Heritage sale as the Valentine plate coin, and was, apparently, the only person to do so prior to the sale. As soon as the sale was consummated and the coin was in hand, the buyer sought counsel in the dealer community and was informed that the coin could be immediately placed at a healthy profit. Secondly, Valentine likely rushed publication of the book due to poor health. As a result, some of the later half dimes are not as comprehensively treated and Valentine probably would have liked.

Some time ago Steve Crain conducted a search for the original Valentine photographic plates. I will let him pick up the story from here. "...several years ago I contacted the American Numismatic Society, in search of the original Valentine photographic plates. I received a very nice reply from Leslie Elam, then Director of the ANS, who had done some sleuthing for me. He found the original, hand written copy of the Valentine monograph, carefully stored in a drawer which, by his description, had not likely been opened since 1931 'judging from the accumulated dust.' However, the photographic plates were nowhere to be found, prompting Elam to question if they had ever actually been in the possession of the ANS. Thus, collectors of the series are left to their own resources for quality copies of the original plates. The best copies of the plates are to be found in the original ANS NN&M #48, and not in either of the reprints."

We move to 1958, and in this year *Wayte Raymond's Coin Collector's Journal*, no. 160, published a young (as I get older, the bar for "young" seems to go up - currently it is anyone under 40) Walter Breen's comments on Valentine. Breen added rarity information, and noted die pair production, the former based on his firsthand experience as an auction cataloguer, the latter being a result of his research in the National Archives.

The next entry to the fold comes in 1975, and in this year, Al Hoch of Quarterman Publications had

the pleasant thought to combine all the existing Liberty Seated half dime literature into one volume. The result is the reprint of *The United States Half Dimes*, with Valentine listed as the author, but in reality this book reprints Newell, Neil, and Valentine, and Breen. Notes from David Davis are also found along with a pricing guide from Kam Ahwash. The *toute ensemble* is preceded by a Foreward by Q. David Bowers - all in all a powerhouse of numismatic talent packed into one volume! Although out of print, this book is typically available from numismatic literature dealers for around \$25.

Sanford Durst, in 1981, published another reprint of Valentine. The plates in this edition are inferior - for those searching for a quality reprint, the Quarterman version is advised, although as mentioned above, the best plates are found in the original 1931 printing. The Durst edition does feature an excellent essay authored by Doug Winter, today better known as a dealer in rare date gold and author of several books in that collecting arena. Winter, however, is a closet devotee of Liberty Seated coinage, indeed, his LSCC membership number is an ultra-low #10, indicating that he dealt directly with Kam Ahwash many moons ago (the original LSCC membership was based on Kam's mailing list).

Our final volume, Al Blythe's *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dimes*, was published by DLRC Press in 1992. Blythe takes the same approach as Breen - starting with Valentine as the standard reference and building upon it. We find here close-up photographs of key varieties, pricing history, and LSCC club survey population data, but perhaps the best information in Blythe is found in his comments in the "Varieties" section for each date. Here he relates observations on strike characteristics, condition rarity, die damage, and other pertinent data which could only have been gathered by carefully looking at many coins over a great deal of time.

It goes without saying (I'll say it anyway), that all of the above references are complemented by the Collective Volumes and back issues of the *Gobrecht Journal* (a good index is accessible from the LSCC website at

http://lscweb.org/Resources_for_Collectors.html).



Update on “Berlinghof” Halves: Information Wanted by Bill Bugert, LSCC #455

In my 2011 reference, *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume II, Carson City Branch Mint*, I included a short description of the “Berlinghof” 1873-CC half dollars. Extracted here, I said: “From the mid-1980s until the late 1990s, Pete Blake of the Maverick Coin Company, Orlando, FL, accumulated a sizeable personal hoard of 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars. In December 1987, he told me he had 136; 71 with small CCs and 65 with large CCs. In my conversation with Pete in June 1991, he was still amassing them and had 230 in varying (mostly low) grades evenly split between small and large CC mintmarks. Of these, Pete had 4 examples with reverses rotated between 20-90 degrees; 3 with small CCs and 1 with large CCs. That was the last I spoke with him; later, I heard he liquidated his hoard.

Collectors of this date may encounter 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars in older, small ANACS slabs with 777XXX serial numbers labeled as “Berlinghof.” These halves labeled as such are from Pete Blake’s hoard. Randy Wiley conducted in-depth research on the late 1990s ANACS population reports. He determined that, in early 1999, ANACS listed two separate lines on their population reports for 1873-CC Arrows Large CC and Small CC Berlinghof half dollars. A total of 316 Berlinghof coins were listed by grade with over half grading between Poor-1 and Good-6. PCGS and NGC population reports had much smaller but conspicuous increases in coins in higher circulated grades; most likely, the best coins in the Berlinghof hoard were submitted to these grading services. From this, at the time of the hoard’s dispersal, we can estimate the “Berlinghof” (Pete Blake’s) hoard consisted of approximately 350 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars and they were submitted to grading by the then prominent grading services.

I estimate there are approximately 750 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars in existence. Assuming this is correct, then Pete was successful in hoarding nearly one-half of the total known population; a difficult feat indeed.”

Since then, I’ve been trying to track the Ber-



1873-CC With Arrows, Small CC, ANACS Berlinghof, # 777897

linghof halves as they came on the market. I’ve found references to examples with ANACS slab numbers ranging from 777586 to 777897 (#777897 depicted above). Additionally, some high grade PCGS, ANACS, NGC, and raw examples of the Berlinghof hoard were in the Bowers and Merena Baltimore Sale of the Collections of Emil Voigt, Sr. and Dr. Wallace Lee in March 1999. I’ve seen others at coin show bourses and have been asking for information from other Liberty Seated half dollar collectors.

Based on the number of Berlinghof holdered halves that existed and the lack of their availability, I believe many of the ANACS holdered Berlinghof halves were removed from their original ANACS slabs and resubmitted to other grading services. Additionally, ANACS holdered Berlinghof halves likely exist outside the slab number range indicated above.

I am asking that if you have a Berlinghof half or have any information on this hoard, please contact me at wb8cpy@arll.net. I plan an update to this information when my research is more complete.



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Larry Briggs Rare Coins. New updated website with many photos—check us out at:
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David Kahn Rare Coins. Please check out my website—I have an easy to use website and list many original bust and seated coins with excellent photos.
www.davidkahnrarecoins.com

1879-1890 Quarters and Halves Wanted to Buy: I'm looking for Philadelphia mint 1879-1890 quarters and halves, grades 35-45 only. Must be absolutely original, never cleaned or dipped. What do you have? Denis Loring, 561-207-6180, dwloring@aol.com.

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.

Dr. Eugene Bruder is constantly updating his website, www.typecoins.com, which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. Pictures are generally available for all coins, and can be obtained if not posted. He will also take consignments for exposure at shows and the website. He attends most major shows, and will try to accommodate want lists. You can reach him at 530-894-0922 or email at: gene@typecoins.com.

Brian Greer, well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>

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

Cuds, Cuds and more Cuds: I am interested in purchasing cuds, major die breaks, and shattered dies on Liberty Seated Quarters. Cuds on other U.S. series of interest too. Also wanted are major reverse rotations on all U.S. series. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth at pcmdmp@msn.com.

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.



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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 remain bargain priced at \$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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