



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

ANA Preview

Collectors will converge at the Oklahoma City Convention Center for this year's ANA convention, August 19-23. The LSCC club table is #1626, which will be to the far right as you enter the hall. Our exhibition theme, in keeping with the (somewhat) western locale of Oklahoma City, is Carson City and San Francisco coinage. If you have a few pieces to exhibit, feel free to bring them along for display in one of the table cases. We encourage you to stop by the Club table to meet other members and enjoy a bit of "coin chat."

Now that the ANA auctions have moved to the week following the convention, lot viewing has become less rushed. Heritage (room 208AB) and Stack's Bowers (room 209AB) will be set up for the duration. Lot viewing serves as an exercise to calibrate your eye with the grading services – I strongly encourage everyone to spend at least a couple hours doing this. Even if you don't find a coin for your collection, you will be a more educated collector. A bit of advice – don't try to figure out every single coin – that is a fool's errand. The key is

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to get a feel for the “weight” of the evidence by looking at a lot of coins in a short period of time. Remember, even the best graders do not always agree with each other. The trick is to get your batting average as high as possible.

Two coins prominently featured in the LSCC New Orleans class at the ANA Summer Seminar will be on the show floor. Great Collections is exhibiting the 1844-O proof \$5 and \$10 gold pieces from the Elite Collection (table #901). The Elite collector (who is unknown to me, so please don't ask!) is forming a collection of the Top-100 U.S. coins (as defined by Whitman's 100 Greatest United States Coins) and has posted quite a few pieces on the PCGS U.S. Coin Forum. We appreciate this collector publicly sharing the collection – the cost to safely move such coins around is not trivial. In the same vein, selections from the Tyrant Collection, including an Ultra High Relief \$20, will be on display in the ANA exhibit area. The Tyrant collector has regularly displayed portions of his collection and also made available a series of books documenting the collection (see <https://www.thetyrantcollection.com/shop/>).

On Wednesday at 3:15pm, LSCC member Russ Bega will be presenting on the topic of “The Art of American Coinage: Reflecting Values from 1792 to Today”. This takes place in room 201 as part of the Maynard Sundman / Littleton Coin Company Lecture Series. Russ is on the “front lines” of the coin trade, doing public retail business at Harlan Berk Rare Coins in downtown Chicago. The man is full of stories, and this should be an engaging presentation.

The LSCC Annual meeting will take place at 9AM on Thursday, August 21, in room 204. In addition to operational reports from the Club officers, Greg Bennick will be speaking on counterstamped Liberty Seated coins. We will also present our Annual Literary and Service Awards. I'm pleased to announce there will be an LSCC Hall of Fame entrant this year, who will be announced at this meeting. This award recognizes service to the promotion of Liberty Seated coinage as a researcher, collector, dealer, or organizer. Hope to see you there!

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The mostly new Oklahoma City Convention Center facing S. Robinson Avenue.
Just to the left of the 3 large buildings on right is the tall Parking Garage on S. Broadway.
(See the Club details in Ken's Otto's Report on page 16.)



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