



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

**'Twas the Night Before the Coin Show,
a Parody for U.S. Collectors, by ChatGPT**

'Twas the night before the coin show, when all through the house,
Not a Red Book was stirring, nor even a mouse;
The flips were all sorted in boxes with care,
In hopes that new treasures soon would be there.

The collectors were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of Bust halves danced in their heads;
And I with my loupe, and a strong LED,
Had just settled down with a well-toned Seated piece.

When out on the desk there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter;
Away to my safe I flew like a flash,
Tore open the door and unlatched the stash.

(Continued on next page)

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The moon on the shelves of my numismatic hoard
Gave a luster like cartwheels from '81-O stored;
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a tray of new slabs I'd forgotten was here!

With tiny fine scratches but oh, such great strike,
I knew in a moment 'twas a Morgan I'd like;
More rapid than eagles my grading notes came,
As I whistled and muttered each die variety's name.

Now VAM-4! Now O-101! Now repunched date too!
On Mercury full bands-es! And Lincolns of '22!
To the top of the want list! To the top of them all!
Now dash away, cash—let's go raid the bourse hall!

As toned silver flecks before black lights will glow,
When an eager crowd gathers at tables below;
So up to my briefcase my coins quickly flew,
With a binder of notes—and the Greysheet, too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard through the air,
The buzz of collectors already out there;
I walked through the hall with my case held in hand,
Ready to bargain like only numismatists can. END

Editor's Note:

My son told me I should load the ChatGPT app on my cell phone. Like an "Old Coon Dog", I'll probably resist, but the above might cause me to turn into an intelligent "Border Collie".

David Luftig writes: 1860-S Quarter found on Ebay

Unlike many of the Society members who focus on die varieties and marriages, my interest is limited to working on date sets, and due to budgetary constraints the better dates are usually restricted to low grades. Recently while searching on Ebay, I came upon a lot that was "holed Liberty Seated coins". I looked at the lot and noticed a 'plugged hole' 1860 quarter. I looked at the next picture which showed the reverses, and it was the rare "S". Needless to say, this date was missing from my collection. I put the lot on my watch list, and bid at the last moment. Nobody else must have noticed that the lot included the rare date, as it basically went for the price of silver. Keep searching, as you never know what you may stumble on!

