

## **Numismatic World Stunned by April 1st Discovery!** by Jeff Pritchard, LSCC #1759

Recently, the numismatic world was turned upside down when a previously unknown photo was discovered deep in the bowels of the Philadelphia Mint's catacombs. Unbeknownst to the collecting world, the U.S. Mint fielded a semi-pro baseball team during the 1800s called the "Mint Monarchs." The attached photo was taken on July 4, 1843.

Additional research by Len Augsburger and John Frost discovered the figure in the upper left is William "spitball" Barber, a pitcher who made controversial use of chewing tobacco while on the mound.

In the upper right was the oldest team member, 58-year-old Christian "gutter" Gobrecht. A nickname arising from his colorful taunting of opposing players.

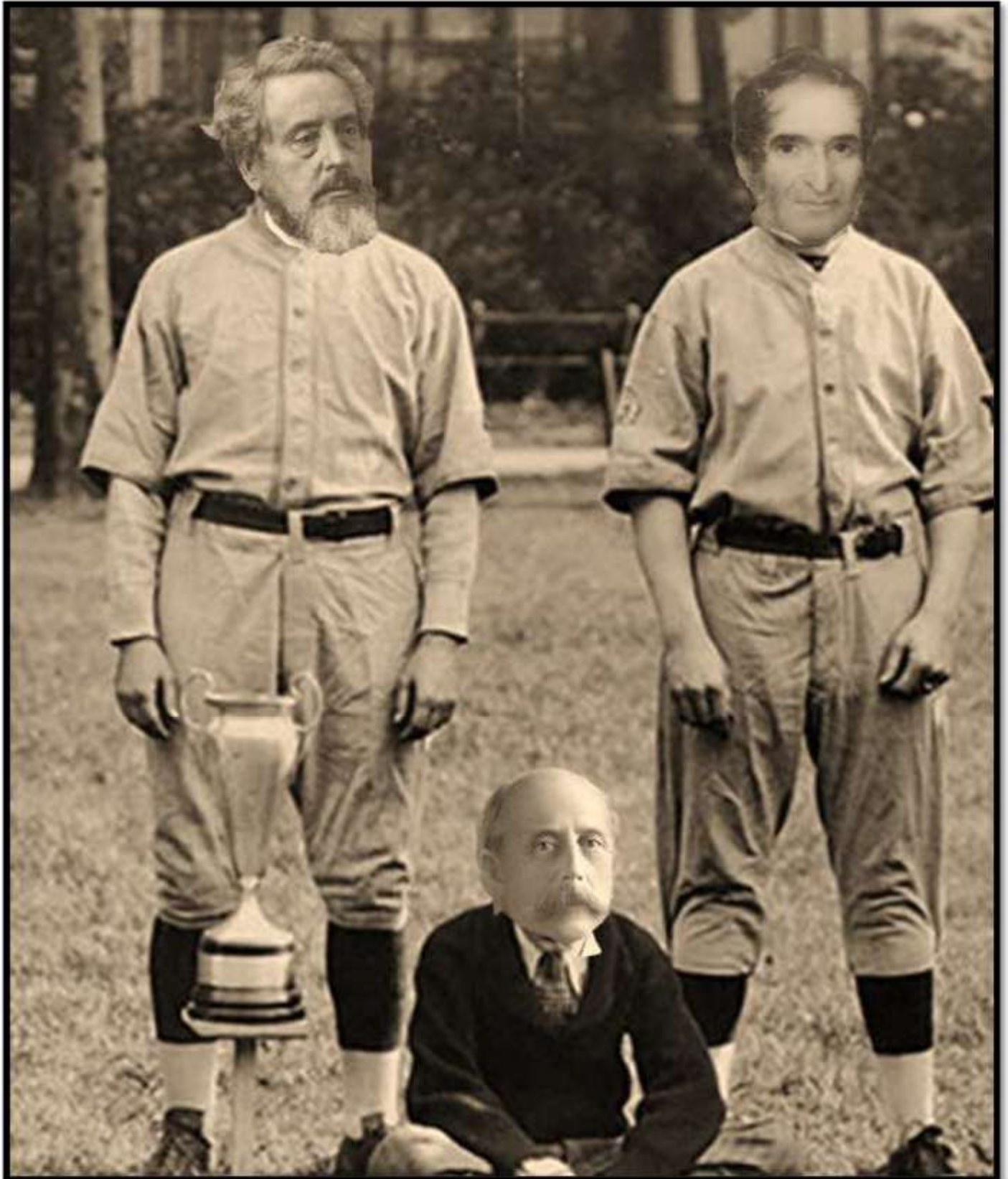
Seated below is 4-year-old Charles Barber, who was the team's bat boy, and renowned throughout the league for his admirable set of whiskers despite his youthful age.

The photo was taken after the Monarchs' impressive 22-3 Independence Day victory over a visiting team from the Philippines, named the "Manilla Folders."

The E-Gobrecht will provide appropriate updates to this remarkable story in future April 1<sup>st</sup> issues.

See recently discovered unknown photo on the next page...

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