

Regional News

by Ken Otto, Regional Team Director, LSCC #2674

Anticipating a Great Coin Show in Baltimore

After participating in a relatively strong coin show at ANA Money Show in Atlanta in February, the LSCC Regional team is looking forward to the Whitman Expo later this month. This show kicks off the spring season that includes several regional coin shows and the Central States coin show in late April.

The next major coin show on the Regional LSCC team's calendar will be the Whitman Baltimore Spring (March) Coin & Currency Expo to be held on March 27-29 at the Baltimore Convention Center, One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. This is an important national show and the LSCC will have a major presence at this event. We will conduct a Club meeting at the Baltimore show and it will include an educational presentation on the New Orleans Mint. The Club table will be hosted by John Frost, Dennis Fortier, Joe Casazza, Ken Otto and others.

Over the past several years, the Regional LSCC team has participated in the Georgia Numismatic Association's (GNA) annual coin show which is held in Dalton, GA during April. Unfortunately, we will miss this show this year due to schedule conflicts, but we plan to return to the show in 2026.

The LSCC team also plans to participate in the Northern Utah Coin Show to be held April 11-13 at the Marriott Courtyard Ogden, 247 24th Street, Ogden, UT 84401. Ernie Ely will host the Club table.

The LSCC team will participate in the New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo to be held April 18-19 at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. The Club table will be hosted by Joe Casazza and John Frost.

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The LSCC team also plans to participate in the (CSNS) Central States Numismatic Society's 86th Annual Convention to be held April 23-26 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173. There will be a Club meeting at 9 AM on Friday, April 25 in the Prosperity Room with an Educational Program TBA. The Club table will be hosted by Len Augsburger, Dennis Fortier, Craig Eberhart, Ken Otto, John Lunsten and others.



The LSCC team plans to participate in the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club (PVCC) Coin Show to be held May 3 at the Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT 06360. Verne Pitman and John Frost will host the Club table.

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The LSCC team participated in the Cookeville Coin Show which was held February 14 in Cookeville, TN. The Club table was hosted by Dennis Fortier. Some photos of the display table was shown in last month's issue. Dennis's report follows:

"The Cookeville (TN) Coin Club show is a small local show held twice per year (for me). The popularity of this show has grown substantially over its short history. This year there was a waiting list for tables, so the LSCC table was located at the entrance area instead of the bourse floor due to a lack of space. The show was well-attended for its size. Being located near the entrance turned out to be positive as attendees got to view the LSCC display entering and leaving the show. Dennis says that he looks forward to setting up again at this great little show."

[Editor's Note about Cookeville]: Most coin collector's have a few 'counterstamped' coins in their collection, but most haven't done the research to learn about what they really have...

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The Club table at the Cookeville, TN show had 'counterstamped' Liberty Seated coins on display from the Bill Groom Collection. Here are some fascination details on the coins shown:

H. WETTSTEIN on an 1875-S 20c Piece

Hermann Wettstein was a jeweler in Harvard, Illinois. He advertised in the 1880 Illinois State Gazetteer that he would repair watches, clocks & jewelry.

Over two dozen coins of varied denominations were stamped by Hermann. The latest known date is 1880. It is likely around that time that he began stamping coins in order to promote word-of-mouth advertising.



N. DEHAVEN on an 1870 \$1



Whoever stamped this dollar remains a mystery.

Unidentified stamps like this piece are deemed "mavericks" by collectors. No others are known.

One Nathan Dehaven resided in Philadelphia, circa 1875. The two stampings on this coin illustrate a tiny font, suggesting Dehaven was a fine craftsman.

I.B.B. / ST. LOUIS / MO on an 1839-O Dime

Isaac B. Burbbayge was a self-professed "intelligence officer" and "general agent." He worked from 1839-59, largely assisting folks heading west. He advertised his agency in eastern newspapers. A less advertised facet of his work involved his helping slave owners recover their escaped property. (On next page see 1847 AD, citing Isaac's services offered)

Some sixteen specimens of this counterstamp have been recorded, the latest date of which is 1853. Isaac died in 1859. His wife then carried on the business.



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GENERAL AGENCY.

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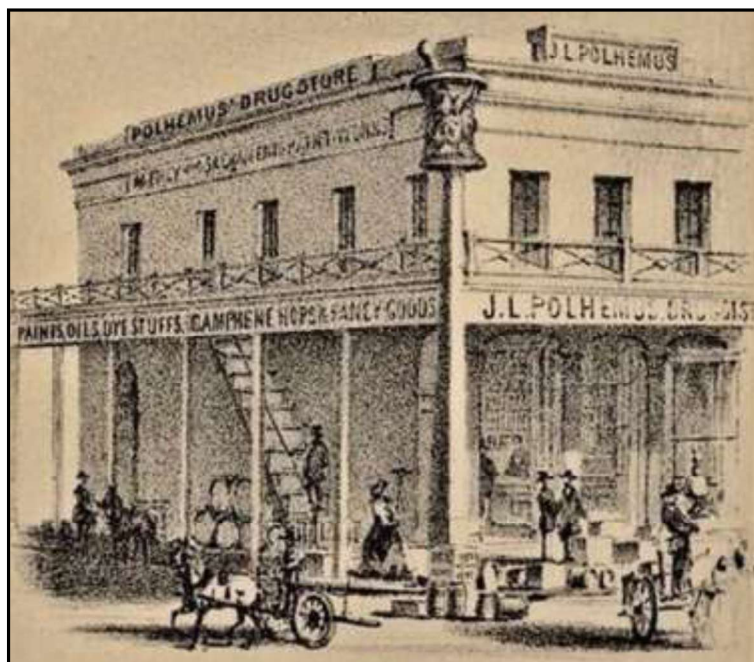
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**CORNER SEVENTH,
SACRAMENTO.**

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J.L. POLHEMUS / DRUGGIST / 190 J St. COR. 7th

SACRAMENTO. CAL. on an 1849 25c Piece

James L. Polhemus was born in NY in 1825. He sailed to California during the gold rush of 1849 and opened his pharmacy in 1850. His was a retail and wholesale business. (On previous page, see PRINT of his SHOP, ca. 1857 & AD dated 1863)

Note that this stamp incorporates a tiny mortar & pestle, a pictorial, symbolizing the apothecary profession. Pictorial images like this appeal to collectors; thereby, enhancing the value of counterstamps.

James stamped many dozens of coins, the latest date of which is 1857. One of his stamped coins was a privately minted, \$50 gold slug, recovered from the ocean floor wreckage of the *S.S. Central America*. This historic piece realized \$48,000 in a 2001 auction!



R.I. LOMAS on an 1877-S Trade \$1

Given this relatively uncommon Scotch surname and initials, the probable issuer of this counterstamp was Robert I. Lomas of NY City. He operated a popular restaurant at 243 Centre St. from 1859-86. Robert and partner, Wm. Abbott, also ran a dry goods store at 303 Grand Avenue. Like many issuers of counterstamped coins, Robert was a Free Mason. When Robert died in 1899, the *Trenton Times* described him as "a famous restaurant man of older NY." (see OBIT from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, dated May 4, 1899)

Brunk recorded a mere five Lomas counterstamps, one on a quarter and four on Trade Dollars; with the latest date being 1878. Interestingly, Trade Dollars weren't then legal tender in the U.S.A., but they were valued for their silver content.



Robert I. Lomas, a well known citizen of the Twenty-third Ward, died at his home, 189 Van Buren street, yesterday, in his 72d year. His death was due to general weakness, the result of old age. Mr. Lomas was the former owner of the Center Market Coffee House, in Manhattan. It had been in existence more than half a century when he gave it up and retired to Brooklyn, about twenty years ago. Mr. Lomas was born at Mamaroneck, N. Y., and was the son of the Rev. William Lomas, a Methodist preacher of prominence. Mr. Lomas was largely identified with lay work in the church, and was one of the first members of Lexington Avenue Methodist Church, in Manhattan. The Rev. R. M. Stratton, D. D., who was contemporary with him, will preach his funeral sermon. Mr. Lomas was a member of Putnam Lodge of Free-Masons. He was also a Veteran Volunteer Fireman, having been a member of Engine No. 28 and Hose No. 9, in Manhattan. He is survived by his wife and three children, Mrs. Edward Osborn, Robert T. Lomas and William B. Lomas, better known in Brooklyn as "Will Lyle." Mr. Lomas' funeral services will be held at his late home to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

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SPRAGUE & BLODGETT / GEORGIA MINSTRELS /

ADMIT ONE on an 1853 50c Piece

Zenas W. Sprague and his theatrical promotions agent, Wash Blodgett were based in Chicago. They operated a traveling minstrel show. Featured performers were black. As the cost of admission was fifty cents, these stamped half dollars were given out in change; this, as a means of promoting word-of-mouth advertising on the circulating coins... Brunk's "little billboards."

Some sixteen of these stamped half dollars have been recorded. The latest date seen is 1877. As Blodgett died in 1880, the use of these promotional coins was likely within a few years prior to Blodgett's demise.



USE G.G.G. on an 1854 Half Dime

Charles H. Goodwin, born in 1829, was an apothecary or druggist, located at 49 Water St. in Exeter, New Hampshire; this, during the 1850's. Charles secured patents on two of his concoctions. Goodwin's Grand Goose Grease was a hair tonic. Goodwin's Grand Grease juice, this G.G.G. counterstamp, was a breath perfume. (see ADVERTISEMENT, dated 1856)

Over fifty of Goodwin's counterstamped coins are known to exist on a variety of denominations. The smallest coin is a silver three cent piece. The latest of his stamped coins is dated 1857.



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Regional News cont.

The LSCC Regional team participated in the ANA National Money Show which was held on February 27-March 1 at the Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA. Overall, this was a good coin show with solid public attendance and a lot of activity at the Club table. We displayed Liberty Seated coins from the Civil War era. The Club table was hosted by Dennis Fortier, John Frost and Ken Otto.

One new LSCC member was signed up for multiple years and several new BSCC members were signed up at the show. This is the first time in recent years that the LSCC has manned a table at the winter ANA show. We thought that this was a good show to attend and are planning to attend the next winter ANA show which will be held in Savannah, GA in 2026.



Regional Program
Director Ken Otto in his
“ANA National Money
Showmobile”

(ahh, just an airport rental)



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19th Century Tavern

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