



## **The Curious Collector** by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### **ANA Convention Wrap-Up**

The 2021 ANA convention is in the books, and your exhausted correspondent is already looking forward to next year's show. Attendance was clearly off this year, due to the pandemic, but collector engagement was high, and I haven't heard a single negative report from a dealer. Indeed, most reported strong sales. The Chicago weather didn't do its part to help, with periodic storms crossing the area for several days around the beginning of the show. As a result, many attendees who were flying in were delayed a day or more.

The show floor had a different feel to it, with aisles wide enough to drive a truck through. This was a COVID precaution, planned in advance. Mask wearing at the show was perhaps 30%, with some dealers claiming in advance that masks would be required in order to do business at their tables. In practice I never saw this enforced, however. I liked the wide aisles as they made the show easier to navigate – one could move quickly from table to table without risk of collisions with fellow attendees.

Unfortunately, the ANA took the “distancing” policy a little too seriously when it came to placement of the club tables. These were relegated to a separate room, with the exhibits, and the foot traffic in this area was decidedly below the already decreased show levels. John Frost did yeoman work in setting up the joint LSCC/BCCS Club table, not to mention manning the booth for several days, along with Joe Casazza, Craig Eberhart, Greg Johnson and others. Needless to say, next year's Club table placement will be closely scrutinized prior to the show.

The big attraction on the show floor was the Tyrant exhibit, which included a complete U.S. type set as well as the King of Siam set. It's hard to put this into words, but you can start by considering the several hundred types in the Guide Book, and then multiplying all of them by the highest grade possible. An insider related to me that it cost about \$100,000 to mount this exhibit, not even counting the cost of the coins themselves, which must have run well into eight figures. A big thanks to the Tyrant collector for sharing his collection in this way – it's truly a gift to the community to enjoy such displays.

I didn't hear a lot about new purchases at the ANA, and I suspect most of the “good stuff” went quickly at the beginning of the show. Purchases reported to me included a choice VG 1872-CC quarter (PCGS / CAC) as well as a Gobrecht dollar in VG10, also PCGS / CAC. With stronger prices I'll suspect we'll see some rotation of premium pieces into auctions and away from fixed price offerings. Speaking of auctions, the format changed this year, with the auctions moved to the week following the ANA. Everything was available for viewing, but the actual sale was not held during the convention. I like this format, it gives everyone an opportunity to view the coins for sale and makes the overall week less hectic.

As it turned out, the American Philatelic Society was holding their annual event (the “Great American Stamp Show”) in the hall adjacent to the ANA. I took a quick walk through to feel out the stamp show “vibe.”

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It appeared to be more relaxed, with about a hundred dealers set up. The room was carpeted, which quieted the “buzz,” and the organizers installed black cloth backdrops at each table. I saw a lot more women, as compared to the coin show. Most dealers had boxes and boxes of inventory set up at the booths, and it appears that stamp collecting, at least at this show, does it with quantity over quality. As I have zero interest in postage stamps, this tour was a fast one.

Our attempt to livestream the LSCC meeting did not go as well as planned. The setup was verified the day prior to the meeting and was working, but during the actual meeting we encountered communication issues between the external camera and the iPad, in addition to Internet connectivity problems with the iPad itself. We are not giving up! I’m certain livestreaming will become the standard for convention gatherings. It’s not as good as being there, but it’s a lot better than not being there. Fortunately we were still able to record the proceedings for posterity, which may be viewed at <https://archive.org/details/LSCC2021>.

The LSCC fundraising auction, held at the conclusion of the annual meeting, was capably called by Brad Karoleff, and raised about \$2,000. A big thanks to those who donated (and bid on) lots, with a special shoutout to our new Hall of Fame inductee, Roy Ash, who donated several pieces of antique coin glass. Craig Eberhart is also due thanks for transporting a heavy Theodore Roosevelt plaque for donation to the auction. Fortunately, he did not have to take it back home!

All in all it was a great week, and we’ll be back (again) in Chicago next year, for the 2022 edition.

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