



# Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

## A Brief Overview of the ANA Show

Over the course of what is becoming a rather long career / working life, I have done a fair amount of traveling. I've never been a real "road warrior" like folks who work in sales and marketing, but I've done my share of business travel. After the novelty wore off, I fell into a pattern where no matter where I was going or for what ever reason, the day before could always be summarized as "Crap! Why did I agree to take this trip? I have absolutely no interest in packing a suitcase and relocating myself." So, as the ANA approached and my long-planned trip was imminent, I found myself right back into that mindset. Looking forward to the ANA and seeing some people I hadn't been with in person for over a year and a half, but not at all looking forward to getting on an airplane for the first time with a mask mandate compounding my overwhelmingly disgruntled approach to travel in general. Some people "travel well." I am not one of those people.

Then weather happened. Resulting in around five hours at the airport wearing a mask and listening to people complain. The airline did that thing that I think we all love. I'm referring to the departure time update that about every half hour just pushes the anticipated departure time another half hour. Except that for the whole day, the posted departure time is between 15 minutes in the past and 15 minutes in the future. Both of which are equally BS, because you cannot board a plane and take off in 15 minutes. Frankly, I expect the airline to know that.

Given the weather in the U.S. on Wednesday, August 11, my travel adventures came in on the low end of disrupted. Many, even most others fared far worse. I got there on the day I had planned, just five hours late. Too late to make the Club dinner, but with plenty of time to get some sleep and make the Club meeting Thursday morning. The Club meeting supplied a desperately needed attitude adjustment and I went quickly from disgruntled to sincerely happy and grateful I had chosen to attend.

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1850 Liberty Seated  
Quarter PCGS MS 65  
(Clapp/Eliasberg)  
Viewed among auction  
lots at ANA

Image Courtesy of PCGS



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As a regular ANA attendee for the past 15 years, I found this show most unusual. The number of collectors in attendance was (understandably) low and, though the physical area of the bourse floor was typical, the actual number of dealers in that space was notably lower than normal due to Covid-motivated spacing. Meaning the aisles were very wide. There were also no auctions going on during the show. That did not mean that there was no lot viewing. The customary ANA auctions took place over the two weeks following the show, with both Heritage and Stack's Bowers having normal lot viewing arrangements at the convention center. It was nice, and comfortably normal, to be able to sit down and look through boxes of numismatic auction lots. Even though the attendants were all wearing masks, serving as a constant reminder of the pandemic.

The dealers with whom I interacted were very busy, upbeat, and seemed less stressed than usual despite the public health circumstances. I think not conducting auctions during the show was an improvement over the usual run-around for dealers who both man a table and participate in the auctions. They seemed to me more "present" and less distracted in the absence of having to be urgently viewing lots and bidding in auctions online while the show was going on.

So, what happened for two days and three nights in Rosemont? Lots of numismatic stuff. Really! Lots of it! More than I can write down in this column and certainly more than anyone would want to read about. The best of the numismatic stuff included three dinners in the company of eight club members; auction lot viewing with a couple of LSCC seated quarter enthusiasts; hanging out a bit at the Club table with John, Joe and Craig; checking out the Tyrant collection display; the LSCC annual meeting (I think a recording is available and worth checking out); and, spontaneously running into coin people (dealers and die-hard collectors) who I only see at coin shows.

Purchasing coins for my collection proved challenging, both on the floor and from among the auction lots. I think we've all noticed the very high demand, and correspondingly high prices, for choice Liberty Seated coins that was in evidence at the ANA. More accurately, the absence of such coins confirmed reports of the high demand. A lot of the best collector grade Seated material at the show was on display at the Club table and among the 'show and tell' items club members brought to share. It was late in the week by the time I started scanning the bourse floor in earnest so my observations may be skewed. That said, it was obvious at that time that lower grade and lower quality coins priced below \$200 were available, as were some higher grade and nicer coins priced above \$5,000. High quality, better date, higher grade Seated coins in the \$200 - \$5,000 range were conspicuous by their absence. I purchased one, single Bolivian coin in my two full days in attendance. It's a choice piece that I'm happy to have, but no help to the Liberty Seated quarter set which remains a work in progress.

Looking forward to the next show and the next Club meeting. Hopefully, more members can get out and join the fun. The ANA show constituted two of my best days of 2021 so far.

**The image on the prior page is of my favorite Liberty Seated quarter from among the auction lots I viewed at the ANA. The Clapp/Eliasberg 1850 in PCGS MS65.**

**Enjoy and Happy Hunting!**

(END)