



## Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht

### **Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Coin Delivery and Love the Post Office**

**by Rich Hundertmark**



Ok, so I ripped that title off from the 1964 Peter Sellers comedy classic, but that's what this article is about, protecting USPS packages with (or without) coins from being ripped off by the bad guys in the postal network.

As many LSCC members are aware, the USPS delivery network is experiencing an uptick in package theft. I won't go into the reasons for this increased thievery, I'll just say that theft is a nightmare for collectors, it's getting worse, and all collectors that have coins delivered need to be on increased alert.

My "lesson learned" came on Wednesday, December 1st when I received a call from the UPS store from which I have coin related packages delivered. I picked up a voicemail from the store manager informing me that a package had just arrived opened. Her voice was noticeably upset as she informed me of the opened and empty box that the USPS mail delivery person had delivered. She further expressed how upset the mail delivery person was.

I haven't purchased any coins recently, but I receive the Greysheet, auction catalogs, eBay purchases (that can be numismatic or non-numismatic related), etc. The only item I immediately remembered was an eBay purchase of a miniature schnauzer wall calendar that I traditionally give as a stocking filler gift to my wife Susan. Could thieves possibly want a doggie wall calendar? What would a thief, if caught, even get in court for stealing a wall calendar? 365 days?

I was very puzzled until I remembered ordering new business cards from Vistaprint, BINGO! The box was addressed to my business as I'm a small part-time dealer as many collectors are. I had left "Coins" in the shipping address as it was only business cards to be shipped and sure enough, the package was a magnet for theft.

As the order was only \$30, I'm not even filing a claim or going to the post office to discuss it with a supervisor. What's the point?

Above is a picture of the box as it delivered. How could this package even proceed in the USPS system? You would think that any package should be halted in the system when it's been opened as the thieves would be near, but that's obviously not the USPS procedure.

So lesson learned with little financial harm done. Maybe some good will even come of this. Possibly the thief will go "postal" and pass out the business cards to his fellow workers and I get a sale? Maybe the thief calls me direct and I get a sale? Possibly he passes my card on to an elderly relative and I do an estate evaluation? The possibilities are endless... as is the hutzpah of this thief.

So I'll end by wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and if you are expecting a coin, I hope it does get under your Christmas tree! [Editor's Note: **See story ending on page 15.**]

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