

## The Creation of a Collective Volume

The new Collective Volume Number Four of the Gobrecht Journal has been published by LSCC and books have been sent to club members who have ordered them. This new volume contains the material that was published in the Gobrecht Journal over a five year period ending in July 1995. But the Collective Volume is not just a reprinting of the 15 issues of the journal published over this period. Rather, the articles in these issues have been organized into a manuscript on Liberty Seated coins that can be used as a reference book on 19th century silver coinage. The articles have been organized by denomination and date with articles on the same general topic being placed next to each other in the new volume. This structure makes it easy for the collector to locate material on a specific topic and allows him to easily identify any related material that might be of interest. The new volume is the result of a considerable amount of work in an effort to produce a valuable reference book on Seated coinage for the collector of this beautiful series of the last century. The steps taken to prepare this volume for publication will be described below so that the reader will have a better understanding of the work that is required to produce a volume of this kind.

The first step in producing the new collective volume was to make a xerox copy of all of the pages in the 15 issues of the journal published from November 1990 to July 1995. Since each issue of the journal published during this period contained 52 pages, there were 780 pages of copy for review. Those pages containing ads and club announcements were discarded. This left about 580 pages of material from which to create the manuscript for the new volume.

At this point the articles were separated into eight sections. The first section contained those articles of a general nature that did not relate to a specific denomination of Seated coinage. The remaining seven sections would contain articles on one of the seven denominations for which the Liberty Seated design was used: half dimes, dimes, twenty cent pieces, quarters, half dollars, Seated dollars and Trade dollars.

The next step would present the greatest challenge in preparing the manuscript for the new volume and certainly it was the most creative part of the project. The articles in each section were structured by date and articles on the same general topic were placed next to each other in the manuscript. Care was taken to present articles on related topics in the order that they appeared in the journal so that the sequence of ideas presented would be preserved. Letters to the Editor which related to a specific article were placed at the end of that article, often adding information to the original article. With the addition of these letters at the end of some articles and the elimination of ads at the end of other articles, there were a number of blank spaces in the developing manuscript. It was decided that these spaces would be filled with pictures to provide a full set of copy for the new volume. The pictures that were chosen to fill these vacant spaces would always have the same denomination and a date from the same period as the coins discussed in the articles adjacent to them, so as not to disrupt the flow of the manuscript for the reader. Approximately 40 pictures were added to the manuscript that had not appeared in any of the 15 issues of the journal published over this period. Some of these pictures had previously appeared in earlier collective volumes but many of them had never before been published in any of the preceding issues of the journal.

With the copy for the text of the new volume now completed, the pages of the manuscript were numbered from 1 to 580. An introduction, a dedication and a table of contents were added to the beginning of this text, producing another 20 pages

of copy. The resulting manuscript of 600 pages was now ready for the printer.

The pages of the new volume were to be printed on large sheets of paper called signatures. Each signature was to contain the copy for 16 pages of the book when printed on both sides. This means that the 600 page book could be printed on 37 full signatures plus a 38th signature that was really a half signature of only eight pages. When folded down, each signature resembled a booklet which contained the copy for 16 consecutive pages in the book. It was the job of the printer to properly place the copy on each signature so that the pages would be in their proper sequence once the signatures were folded down into a booklet. It took several weeks to prepare the signatures and to make sure that every page was in its proper place for the printing of the signatures.

The print run for each signature was to be 1100 copies. When each of the 38 signatures was printed on both sides, there would be 41,800 large sheets of paper. Each of these sheets was folded down over a period of several weeks to give a like number of booklets. The booklets for each signature were packed into three medium size boxes and stacked on skids for delivery to my home. Upon arrival, the shipment consisted of 114 boxes of booklets forming a wall of paper that was six feet high and 20 feet wide. I then transferred these boxes to the lower level of my home and placed them in 38 stacks of three boxes each, with each stack containing the booklets for one signature. I now had only to take one booklet from each of the 38 stacks to form a loose copy of the book, making sure that the booklets were gathered in proper sequence so that the material would appear in its proper location in the bound volume. But I had to do this for every book that I wanted to assemble.

The printer had informed me that he would hire workers at minimum wage to gather the signatures, but I decided against it. I realized that I would lose a book for every mistake that was made by an individual who would have no vested interest in the quality of the finished product. I therefore decided to gather the signatures myself so that no collector would receive a book with missing or misplaced pages. This effort also gave me the opportunity to discard some signatures that had been damaged in the printing and folding phases of the process, and even eliminate a few signatures that had been printed on only one side. Over a period of several weeks I was able to gather up enough signatures to fill up 105 boxes, each with ten loose copies of the new volume. I then loaded the boxes onto a truck for the 50 mile trip to the bindery in Cincinnati.

At the bindery, I asked the owner to use the same color and texture for the cover that had been used for the earlier volumes. I asked them to use the same style lettering and to place it in the same location on the cover so that the new volume would match the other volumes in this series on the Seated coinage of the 19th century. Seven weeks later I returned to the bindery and took delivery of 1017 copies of the new volume.

With the books now in hand, I filled orders already placed by club members for the new volume. By the end of July 1996 I had sold almost 300 copies of the new volume to club members. I believe that the book has been well received by those individuals who have ordered it and I am confident that the club will be able to recover all of its publication costs for the new volume with continued sales over the next several years. It is my expectation that the book account will be in the black once again when it becomes time to produce another collective volume of the research articles in the Gobrecht Journal.

The Editor