
The E-Gobrecht
Volume 3, Issue 3, March 2007
Whole Number 24

The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included near the end of this newsletter.

Miscellaneous Notes from the Editor

Editor's Comments. Here is a major LSCC announcement! Thanks to the efforts of Len Augsburg, the LSCC website is now online at <http://www.lscweb.org>. The website is still in development but includes a *Gobrecht Journal* Comprehensive Index, which is posted on the "Resources" page. There are also pages for club events, a listing of officers, and an LSCC award history. Please check it out and bookmark it for future reference. Thanks, Len, for making this long time goal a reality.

We now have 246 subscribers. I get a few rejections and additions every month but we have a steady subscriber base of almost 250. Thanks to everyone for your interest and support.

Due to popular demand, I decided to email future issues of the *E-Gobrecht* in PDF format. I believe this change is for the better, allow more pictures to be used in each issue, and also allow it to be more quickly downloaded by dial-up internet access subscribers. You will need a copy of Adobe Reader, which you can download for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. (Besides, you'll probably run across other PDF documents elsewhere on the Web.)

The next regional LSCC meeting will be at the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention on March 24 (Saturday) at 9AM in Room 301. Additional info on the Baltimore show is at http://www.whitmanexpo.com/contentPages/Schedule_Baltimore.aspx.

Acknowledgements. Many thanks to Jim Gray, Gerry Fortin, Len Augsburg, and the subscribers who corresponded with me.

Availability of past issues. Through the generosity of Gerry Fortin, the previous issues of the *E-Gobrecht* are readily accessible on his seated dime website at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>.

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter. This is a continuing plea.

Features in this issue

- ==> Question of Month by Jim Gray.
- ==> Auction News by Jim Gray.
- ==> Liberty Seated Dime Web-book Update by Gerry Fortin.
- ==> More on Christian Gobrecht medals by Len Augsburg.
- ==> Recent subscriber correspondence.
- ==> Advertisements for the Sale of Liberty Seated Coinage.
- ==> LSCC Calendar.
- ==> Information on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.

Details

==> **Question of the month by Jim Gray.** This forum hopes to increase collector interaction and correspondence. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. Send your comments to the E-Gobrecht Editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Last Month's (February) Question

In your opinion, are 20-cent pieces and Trade dollars legitimate parts of the Liberty Seated Series?

From **Keith Scott**: A collector can define limits based on budget, time, and availability. After that it's a free-for-all and bargains can make the rules bendable. I extend my seated liberty rules to include pattern design variations with emphasis on copper and aluminum. How many people know of the 1854 seated liberty cent (J-156-159)? I also collect books on coinage design and always look for early relatives back to ancients. Sculptors and engravers at the Mint produced other forms of designs such as drawings, castings, and carvings that are mostly not accounted for. I would welcome any early SL prototype art form though I have never seen any. I have always preferred the trade dollar design personally.

From **Bill Bugert**: Most definitely! Even though the twenty cent piece was designed by William Barber, it was modeled after the Liberty Seated design of the other series. Barber also designed the Trade Dollar. In my opinion, its design, even though noticeably different, was loosely modeled after the Liberty Seated coinage.

This Month's (March) Question

Would you buy a rare Seated coin, such as an 1874-CC dime or an 1878-S half dollar, that has not been certified and encapsulated by a major grading service?

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AUCTION NEWS

By Jim Gray

The Goldberg Pre-Long Beach sale featured a splendid 1838-O half dime in MS-64 that was a real beauty and sold for \$16,100. An MS-62 1844-O half dime, with a full strike and lovely toning, sold for \$7,705 after having not sold at the Heritage 2006 Central States sale.

A bright frosty 1855-S quarter in MS-64, among the finest known, went for \$24,150 where an 1862-S quarter in AU-53 brought \$2,300 and an 1865-S quarter in AU-50 went for \$1,323.

An MS-64 1874-CC half dollar with nice natural toning and, among the best known, sold for \$39,000.

It was slim pickings for Seated collectors at the Bowers & Merena Pre-Long Beach sale as the only Seated coin of note was an 1859-S dime in VF-30 that did not sell.

The Heritage Long Beach sale featured an 1840-O with drapery half dime in MS-63 and tied for finest certified. This coin did not sell as it was rather softly struck and had deep murky toning, particularly on the obverse. This same coin did not sell in an MS-62 holder at the Heritage Atlanta sale in 2006. An 1844-O half dime in AU-55 went for \$2,530 and an 1846 in XF-45 sold for \$2,990, while a well struck, attractive AU-55 1846 half dime did not sell.

Five scarce S mint dimes were sold including an 1856-S cleaned with AU detail, but corroded for \$632, matching XF-45 1858-S dimes went for \$805 and \$977; an 1858-S with AU-55 detail, but scratched, went for \$1,150; and an 1859-S, which was a cleaned AU went for \$1,380. An 1860-O dime in VG-10 with nice natural toning sold for \$920 whereas an 1872-CC dime with AU details and a nice appearance despite cleaning, granular surfaces, and a repair, still sold for \$5,462.

An 1854-O huge O quarter, which was a natural gray VF-35, went for \$4,312; an 1858-S with AU details, but cleaned, went for \$1,610. A nicely toned 1864-S quarter with a dull mark across the reverse shield still brought \$2,587 while an 1871-CC in Fr-2, which was a stretch, went for \$1,610.

The rare Carson City half dollars went as follows; 1870-CC VF-30 with no E and little of the R showing on the scroll did not sell while a nicely toned AU, which had previously been cleaned, sold for \$12,640. A cleaned 1871-CC went for \$1,265, a cleaned XF-45 1873-CC no arrows went for \$1,953, a cleaned AU-50 1873-CC arrows went for \$1,495, a cleaned 1874-CC half went for \$2,760 and a cleaned 1878-CC in XF-45 went for \$4,312. The star of the rare Carson City dates was an MS-64 1874-CC with nice toning which realized \$44,850.

An 1872-CC dollar in AU-50, but dipped to death, did not sell whereas an 1878-CC Trade Dollar in cleaned AU sold for \$2,070. A very attractive 1878-CC Trade Dollar in MS-60 hammered for \$16,100.

==> Liberty Seated Dime Web-book Update by Gerry Fortin. The recent Chinese New Year holiday was a restful period, with extra time available for chatting with fellow seated coinage collectors and for additional web-book updates.

First a few comments about the importance of this year's Chinese New Year are in order. The forthcoming Year of the Golden Pig is special to Chinese people due to anticipated prosperities for babies born during the next twelve months. The Year of the Golden Pig occurs infrequently, only once in sixty years and marks an ideal time for marriage and conception. I saw a rash of weddings in January (actually attending one) as couples prepared for a once in a lifetime opportunity provided by the Chinese Lunar calendar. The evening fireworks were again spectacular throughout the holiday period with intense exhibits on New Year eve. On Saturday evening, individuals managed their own fireworks displays on every street corner starting at 8:00pm and continued to a massive crescendo at midnight. The sounds were deafening and the air held the traditional aroma of gunpowder as Chinese men explode massive strings of firecrackers, cherry bombs, and every imaginable form of sky bound pyrotechnics. The same festive display occurred on Wednesday evening as locals marked the end of the holiday celebrations with another exciting evening of sounds and colors.

The Liberty Seated Dime Web-book at www.seateddimevarieties.com now offers an open seated coinage registry module starting with Liberty Seated dimes. The "open registry" concept allows collectors to list their raw and slabbed seated coins in a "registry" format. Many collectors build outstanding sets in the VF through AU grade ranges but find themselves excluded from the PCGS and NGC registries due to their raw coins. The new "open registry" module addresses this issue and relies on individual integrity when submitting raw grades. As stated, the Liberty Seated dime module is complete with three available sets, Basic Set – Business Strikes, With Varieties – Business Strikes and Top 100 Varieties. Input forms for each set can be downloaded (Excel format) and mailed to Gerry Fortin for publishing. I am watching the interest level for Liberty Seated dimes before expanding the "open registry" to half dimes and quarters. You are welcomed to view the sets of the first participants at the following links. Hopefully, there will be more interest as a result of this *E-Gobrecht* update.

http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/registry/dimetop100_index.htm

http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/registry/dimebusinessvariety_index.htm

http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/registry/dimebusiness_index.htm

The Seated Dime web-book preview section saw a face lift during Chinese New Year. It seems that I have been placing all my energies towards enhancing web-book concept and ignoring the preview section. I added the 1874-S and 1874-CC date/mintmarks to the preview content along with improvements to the existing 1874 With Arrows content and selected images. Please take a look at the revised preview content at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/preview/index.htm>.

As always, there is new web-book content as readers and the author maintain their search for new varieties. Some content additions include a new 1838 obverse die pairing for Shattered Obverse #2 variety, an 1876 Type II reverse variety finally matched to Kam Ahwash's A-8 listing, and a new 1877-CC Type II reverse die pairing submitted by a reader of the message board. CoinJP posted his recent acquisition and within 48 hours, the unlisted die pairing was attributed and listed as F-118.

The Seated Coinage message boards continue their popularity. Our registered member list grew to an amazing 73 individuals, many of which are active participants in the Seated quarter and half dollar Q&A forums. Posting are averaging 16 per day. Gerry Fortin achieved the 1,000th posting milestone, using the 1,000th post to recognize the dedication of members who have made the message boards a strong success.

As Always.....Happy Hunting!

==> More on Christian Gobrecht medals by Len Augsburg. In August 2006, American Numismatic Rarities presented the first substantial offering of de-accessioned archival material from the American Bank Note Company. This consisted primarily of plates and dies used for currency, stock certificates and other paper items, a wonderful selection of 19th century vignettes and imagery. Recently, H.R. Harmer presented a similar offering of American Bank Note Company material including a couple of Christian Gobrecht related items, which are, pictured here (lot 2036 in the Harmer sale of 1/31/2007).



The image (on the right) of the Alexander I medal is the more interesting of the two pieces. The caption reads "Christian Gobrecht Inventor / Executed 1817". The

captions refers not to the medal itself, but rather to the process of converting the three dimensional medal to a two-dimensional image suitable for printing. Known as a "medal ruling machine," Gobrecht constructed such a contraption around 1817, and several others are thought to have independently created similar devices (not surprisingly, much litigation later ensued).

The second image (on the left) is that of an award medal from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association, Julian AM-33, engraved by Christian Gobrecht in 1837. The existence of these two images, here on paper, suggests that the American Bank Note Company had engraving plates manufactured with these identical images. Perhaps we will be seeing the actual plates at a future auction. The appearance of the "Alexander" plate would be significant, since it would represent one of the earliest known attempts at medal ruling, and especially notable to seated collectors as a Gobrecht emission.

==> Subscriber correspondence.

From **Lathmach** (userID on Gerry Fortin's forum): I want to say thanks for all the members that contribute their time so we laggards can enjoy the latest news in the Seated field. There was a question from Darryl Luke concerning an 1858-S Seated Quarter with an unknown (to him) mintmark placement. There was mention of the two reverses listed in Larry's book. There are however, three reverses for this. There is the one with the mintmark to the far right in the crotch, and the one with the mintmark centered in the crotch that are mentioned in Larry's book, then there is the rarest of the three, the one with the mintmark to the far left in the crotch. I believe I own three of this far left mintmark variety.

Also, there was a question from someone from AZ wondering about attributes for the 1839 Long Claws Quarter. One thing not mentioned, that I use to identify it, is the dentils under the 9 digit in the date. There is one tipped to the right, touching another. It forms a closed triangle. This is a diagnostic characteristic for this variety. Of course, the coin has to be high enough in grade to still have the dentils visible in that area.

Concerning the Long Claws Seated Quarter, I see them from time to time on EBay, so while they may be the scarcest variety, I don't think they're rare.

From **AZ**: EBay alert! Here is a listing from a recent EBay auction (item number 180084274956). "1841-O Seated Half Dollar with the "Baseball Crack" Reverse in Good+ condition. An extremely rare and sought after variety by Seated Half Dollar collectors. Coin shows Die Cracks on the Reverse that resemble the seams of a baseball. Coin is in Good+ condition but has a few old Obverse scratches visible from Liberty's lap to the Right Obverse field. Listed in Wiley Bugert as WB-102. Very seldom seen or offered and always in demand. A nice example of an early date New Orleans coin. Coin looks to be totally original and does not appear to have been cleaned or dipped in the past." This lot was listed as a Buy-Now" for \$385 and a reserve of \$395. It did not sell.

From **View from the Rim**: What a "powerhouse" issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* just past (November 2006). Gerry's Dime Survey results and Top 100, Len's 1873 Assay Commission (old records at the National Archives really do cause one's allergies to surface), Bob's review of the Jules Reiver Sale, Tom's DD Theory is true brainy science, Bill's 1857-S Half Dollar die marriages (Pow-Wow-er!), and of course Randy's 1861-Os.

Super quality stuff guys and the time you spend putting these journal articles together is greatly appreciated by at least this one single reader/member!

Jim Gray, your "Auction Review" News is fabulous information post-sale. Being able to formulate in one's mind what is happening on the auction block in many different sale venues is extremely helpful in planning one's own future purchasing strategies. Any chance you might consider commenting on sales results related to some of the major varieties in the series as well? Also, the timing may not work for when an auction is scheduled, or the auction catalog getting in your hands in time, vs. the deadline for *E-Gobrecht*, but it would sure be nice to get your reviews and predictions before a major sale too? What do you think?

Ron Feuer, reading about your long-term forever lasting treasure hunt for a 'cherry picked' 1873 DDO Dime was very interesting. Oh heck, does this mean I have at least another 600+ to go based on current trend? A really tough double die to find! Anybody got a couple of circulated bags of L.S. dimes squirreled away that they haven't looked through?

From **PK**: WANTED: Always looking for major die breaks/retained cuds/cuds/shattered terminal die states on Liberty Seated Quarters, and major rotated dies greater than 75 degrees CW or CCW. My Preference is for breaks/cuds in the field areas only, no rim cuds. Please reply through the e-mail venue of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter. Thank you!

From **Don Bennett**: Is the LSCC census made available to all members? I sent this year's dues to Len so it would be extremely helpful to have access to that information. I would assume that the LSCC census is only of members holdings so not quite clear on how that would relate to the total population. Whom would I ask to obtain LSCC census figures for all Liberty Seated denominations? (*Editor's reply: The half dollar census is in Gobrecht Journal issue 91, November 2004. Half dime results were in Issue 95, March 2006. The dime top 100 varieties are in issue 97, November 2006. The complete dime results will be in the March 2007 issue. The quarter survey is ongoing now. The dollars will be later. Copies of the past issues are available directly from John McCloskey, President of the LSCC.*)

From **Dave Schaefer**: In *Gobrecht Journal* issue #96, Jack White featured an 1869 Liberty Seated dollar with evidence of a misplaced "1" and reverse die cracks. I'd like to report that my EF- grade example of the 1869 Liberty Seated dollar has the same misplaced "1" and reverse die cracks as Jack's coin.

From **Saul Teichman**: I was wondering if anyone in the Liberty Seated Collectors Club knows who owns the copper 1839 Gobrecht dollar pattern Judd 109? We are trying to get a color image of it for not only the www.uspatterns.com website but also for a book on the 1836-9 Gobrecht dollars. This piece is illustrated in the first seven editions of Judd but we would like to get a color image. Ownership of the piece would be kept confidential. It is the only one we are lacking an image of other than the 1838 reverse hub trial. Any help you or your group could provide would be greatly appreciated. (*Editor, please email me any information and I will pass it on to Saul. Thanks!*)

From **Michael Kennedy**: I was filling out my Liberty Seated Quarter survey as I'm a member of the club. I know thru reading that it is believed the compass point reverse stops with the 1858, unless I'm not current with the research which would not surprise me! As I was checking out my 1859 P, I noticed that it has the same type of die mark on reverse in the exact position as the compass point. I first figured that some person or object dented the coin and by coincident it is in the same location. The mark on my coin is deeper than my 1849 Compass point and not as well formed. Therefore, I then dismissed the idea and continued with the survey.



After I thought about it for a few days, I have decided to send you a scan of the reverse for your comments or if other members have seen this reverse. (Editor: I sent this query to a couple of quarter experts. **Jim Gray** replied with: "My 1859 quarter had the compass point reverse so I know they exist. The depression on the subject coin is larger than mine was but the excessive wear my account for that." **Len Augsburger** replied with: "The answer may lie on the obverse. If it is post-striking damage, I'd expect to see some weakness at the opposite point on the obverse. The definitive article is in GJ #73 by Craig Sholley. He notes seeing it as late as 1876 (on halves) and secondly that it was a characteristic of many series, not just quarters." Michael checked his coin and found no weakness on the obverse. Any comments anyone else?)

From **Phil De Rosa**: You requested input as to format. Unfortunately, we don't have Microsoft Word on our computer so had to send it to a friend to reformat into Adobe or PDF format. Maybe it would be possible to send it in either HTML format, which everyone has, or alternatively Adobe/PDF format. Just a thought.

From **Jim Gray**: Responding to **AZ** and others reference the 1870 quarter (Editor, last issue of the *E-Gobrecht* had a request for information on whether you could tell if a CC mintmark was removed from an 1870 quarter.). They are all looking at the wrong side of the coin. All 1870 quarters are struck from a badly rusted obverse die involving all of Liberty and it can be seen on coins grading A/G-G. If you want to identify an 1870 quarter, look at the obverse.

From **Tom Baroody**: On the format issue, I converted your Word file to PDF and it makes for a nice presentation, see attached. If you would like to do for this and future issues (or even past ones), I'd be happy to do this for you if you don't have the Adobe Acrobat program. Let me know.

From **Bill Bugert**: INFORMATION WANTED: I am conducting extensive research on the life and interests of Martin Luther Beistle, the author of the 1929 reference of the half dollar book entitled *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub – Varieties*. I have determined that, along with hard green cloth editions, he printed 135 special edition copies of his book. These were individually numbered with a special soft leather bound with gold edge pages. I am trying to account for the special leather bound

editions. I do know that Copy #1 was given to Col E. H. Green and that copy #4 currently resides with MLB's family. Does any reader have a copy or know who has a copy of his special leather bound book? Please email me at wb8cpy@arrl.net. Thanks!

Advertisements for the Sale of Liberty Seated Coinage

Dimes For Sale

1864 Full VF obverse, Fine reverse, dark color, net F15 \$600.

1873 NA, CL3, VG10 (five clear letters in Obverse shield, reverse rim visible but flat in a spot), \$25

Call Whalen, LSCC #1890, @ 831-475-0934 or email m_t_whalen@yahoo.com.

Rare Coins for Sale: Since 1979, **David Lawrence Rare Coins** has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our web site for 6,000+ offerings of U.S. & World coins, currency, and stamps for sale and auction. We are also interested in buying or selling your coins at auction. <http://www.davidlawrence.com> or phone 1-800-776-0560, members: PNG, ANA (life), FUN, CSNS

Calendar

- Regional Meeting of the LSCC at the Baltimore Coin Show - Saturday, March 24th, 2007 at 9 AM, in Room 301 of the Baltimore Convention Center.
- Next issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* mailed to LSCC members – March 2007.
- Quarter census due to Len Augsburger – March 15, 2007.
- Regional Meeting of the LSCC at Central States, St, Louis, MO – May 11, 2007 at 9 AM.
- Annual Meeting of the LSCC at the ANA Convention, Milwaukee, WI – August 2007.
- 100th Issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* – November 2007.

Information, input, comments, criticisms, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to wb8cpy@arrl.net or by writing or calling:

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Information on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club

The LSCC Pledge. To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC Officers.

President: John McCloskey.

Vice-President: Larry Briggs.

Secretary/Treasurer: Len Augsburger.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are \$15 per year and include three issues of *The Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *The Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary Len Augsburger at:

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Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in *The Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President:

Dr. John W. McCloskey

President, LSCC, and Editor, *The Gobrecht Journal*

Email address: John.McCloskey@notes.udayton.edu

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