
The E-Gobrecht
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Whole Number 25

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. Gerry Fortin had a great idea last month – he posted the monthly question on his www.seateddimevarieties.com message board. From that, we received many answers to the March question and I have copied them to this newsletter for others' edification. For those of you who have not accessed it, this message board currently has about 75 active members who routinely discuss various interesting topics and questions of all denominations of the seated series. Try it; you will most likely like it! Go to his website at the link above and click on 'Message Boards.' It is easy to sign up – follow the directions.

We now have 242 subscribers, slightly down from last month (246) due to rejected emails, not dropouts. 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.

As I stated last month and due to popular demand, I will continue 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.)

Acknowledgements. Many thanks to Jim Gray, Len Augsburg, Gerry Fortin, Mike Locke and Bob Leonard, Ron Fueur, 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.

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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 replies and comments to the *E-Gobrecht* Editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Last 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?

From **Ross Bailey** (via email): As a seated half collector, I would definitely buy an 1878-S half that had not been certified by a major grading service. So few of these come on the market that one cannot afford to wait for one that is certified. Also, per Wiley and Bugert, there is a well known diagnostic that ensures authenticity of the 1878-S.

From **Whalen** (via email): Concerning non-certified, RARE coins in the Liberty Seated series, YES, I would and I have purchased some of these rarities OUT of slabs. The key to this process is "Do I know and trust the vendor?" You mention two coins, 1874-CC Dime and 1878-S half dollar. To this short list, I add the two Seated Dollars: 1851 and 1852. I have purchased two of these coins raw and two certified. All four were purchased from vendors whom I TRUST! The 1878-S Half and the 1852 Dollar were both obtained from Dick Osburn, a dealer many of us know and have complete trust in. The 1878-S half dollar was certified by PCGS and the 1852 Dollar was raw. When I bought them, the only thing I was concerned with was Dick! The price and certification were secondary. The 1851 Dollar was purchased from Duncan Lee, ex Pittman, but was slabbed by PCGS. I trust Duncan and I trust PCGS. Lastly, I bought my 1874-CC Dime from our local dealer, Carl "Bo" Boric. I am glad that it was raw because it had high, almost EF details with some slight rim dings. It would have been a real problem to have it certified by anyone but ANACS. I have done business with Bo for years and trust him

completely. In short, it is the vendor and the coin, not the slabber that are important to me.

From **Dennis Fortier** (via email): Chances are a rare coin, such as the ones mentioned in the March question, would likely be handled by a major auction house and would receive a lot of scrutiny. Let us assume for a moment that a major auction house or a well-respected Seated coin dealer is not handling the coin in question. In that case, I would not touch it unless it was certified. I am not experienced enough to make a major acquisition like that without some third party assurance. The real problem comes in lesser rarities. Seated dollars and Trade dollars are rife with forgeries. A local dealer just got a 1916-D Mercury Dime sent back in a body bag; it was a forgery. If an experienced dealer can be taken, I sure can.

From **Coinosaurus** (on the seated dime variety message board): I guess it all depends on the price 😊. I would trust myself to authenticate an 1874-CC dime given some time to study the coin. There are some fairly well known diagnostics. Not so sure about the 1878-S though.

From **bustseated** (on the seated dime variety message board): The 1878-S half has a nice die dot on the reverse in the space between the edge of the shield and the vertical lines furthest to the viewers left. The dot is in the recessed area near the top of this space and shows even on low-grade coins. I believe this was discovered by Julian Liedman. It usually shows clearly in auction plates. The obverse will have a consistent date placement relative to the denticles. This reverse die also comes paired with at least one 1877-S obverse die. Brian (*Editor note: I submitted a well illustrated article to John McCloskey for the Gobrecht Journal that depicts extensive die characteristics for both the obverse and reverse dies of the 1878-S half dollar. It didn't make the last issue because there already was a lot on half dollars but, hopefully, it should be in Issue 99...Bill*)

From **lickerish 0001** (on the seated dime variety message board): With the references available, I would feel confident in my ability to be able to tell right from wrong, especially with dimes. Date placements, mintmark placements, die markers, isn't that essentially what they are for?

From **seateddimes** (on the seated dime variety message board): Buying a rare and expensive raw seated coin takes knowledge and confidence in one's grading and authentication skills. Personally, I would have no problem buying an uncertified 1871-1874 Carson City seated dime, but would never think of buying a rarity in another seated series without certification.

From **mr breeze** (on the seated dime variety message board): My first response when reading that question was no. In addition, I also would hesitate to buy one that was certified, unless it was incredibly obvious that I could identify it, as well. I have already made the mistake of relying on a third party grader (TPG) once and I don't intend on doing it again. But, in thinking about the question in depth, I realize that my answer also depends on who was selling it. There are a couple of Seated dealers from which I would buy a key, certified or uncertified, trusting their judgement and expertise over a TPG.

From **lathmach** (on the seated dime variety message board): I would feel okay buying a rare raw Seated Quarter, but not the other denominations. Ray

From **DRJ** (on the seated dime variety message board): I think, given the current market place, that you'd have to be suspicious of any rare, expensive coin that is not in a TPG holder. And, frankly, you'd better be cautious even with those that are; we've all see significant mistakes made by the grading services. Someone (Mr. Breeze) mentioned in an earlier post that there are a couple of dealers who specialize in Seated coinage that he would buy a raw rarity from. I'd go a step further and retain one of them to represent me in the transaction (depending on the specific piece and the price). Though you cannot legitimately expect them to be infallible, I'm certain that the reduced risk of making a mistake would be more than worth what they earn in compensation. There is no substitute for experience and the most experienced people are those dealers who've been buying and selling seated coins every day for years. I do not yet have the confidence to rely on only my own judgement for a very expensive purchase of a raw coin.

From **seateddime** (on the seated dime variety message board): I would buy an 1874-CC dime raw if the coin was in hand. I would not buy an 1878-S raw unless the coin was being sold by a few people (Brian Greer, Dick Osburn, etc).

From **mrhalfdime** (on the seated dime variety message board): I most certainly would purchase a rare Seated coin that has not been certified and encapsulated by a major grading service. I routinely do so, and have for many years, with little regard to whether a specific coin has or has not been encapsulated, and once purchased, all of my half dimes are freed from their plastic tombs. Like many who participate here on this and similar forums, I have devoted most of my adult life to specializing in the half dime denomination, both Bust and Seated. I have studied literally tens of thousands of half dimes, and have purchased a few thousand for my reference collection. Accordingly, I have become intimately familiar with the designs, the specific die markers, and the individual striking quality of most die marriages. I also collect and study counterfeit examples of the same series. I consider myself to be equally as qualified as any TPG service grader or certifier to identify any bogus or counterfeit example, and if the number of misattributed coins in TPG slabs is any indication, I would submit that I am more qualified to attribute half dimes than most of them. Having said that, I would perhaps not purchase an 1874-CC dime or an 1878-S half dollar that was not certified, as they are not my specific area of expertise, but I would not rely solely on that certification. The TPG graders and certifiers are mortal beings, and are not infallible, and mistakes have been made by all of the grading services. Any collector who has achieved a level of collecting where he is considering the purchase of such a key date coin should also have learned to properly grade, attribute and certify the coin himself. In addition, a coin entombed in a plastic slab cannot properly be certified.

From **classic silver** (on the seated dime variety message board): For the key dates, I will only buy raw coins if it is coming from a known fresh collection (e.g. Stack's Northern Bay), otherwise my tendency is to purchase slabbed coins. Even looking at slabbed coins, there are many that I don't like. I've learned that patience is very important and I don't mind waiting for the right coin to show up.

From **bustseated** (on the seated dime variety message board): For most rare dates, it is easy to detect fakes. Die markers have been well documented. Any honest dealer would stand by the authenticity of his coin.

This Month's (April) Question

If you collect Seated by date, type and mintmark, which is more important, the coin or the grade?

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AUCTION NEWS

By Jim Gray

The Heritage Charlotte Money Show auction contained a large number of scarce and rare Seated coins. Most of the pieces were from the Reginald Mason collection, which were usually in lower grades or had problems.

An 1842-O half dime in AU-55 sold for \$1,380 and an 1846 in VG-8, but scratched, went for \$517.

An 1871-CC dime in VG-10, with the obverse grading fine or better, sold for \$5,750; a corroded 1872-CC VF-30 sold for \$2,760; an original 1873-CC in VG-8 and very nice sold for \$4,887 while a cleaned F-12 example of the same date sold for \$3,450. The 1874-CC was graded a sold fine with minute granular surfaces. This coin was well worn, but still very nice, and the bidders went ballistic as this coin was bid up to \$25,300.

An 1849-O quarter in F-15 and cleaned went for \$1,897 and an 1859-S in XF-45, which had been cleaned and retoned, went for \$2,300. A bright AU-50 1859-S, which had been cleaned, but had very little wear, went for a strong \$8,912. Quarters from the 1860's included an 1864-S in VF-25 for \$2,530; an 1865-S in AU-58 for \$2,760; an 1866-S in cleaned XF-45 for \$1,265; an 1867-S in XF-40, but cleaned, still brought \$2,185; and a very nice natural gray 1867-S in AU-50 soared to \$9,200.

An 1870-CC in VG-10 and very nice for the grade hit an amazing \$19,550, while an 1871-CC, which was a solid VG-8, sold for \$11,500. An 1872-CC in F-15 went for \$6,900 whereas a scratched 1872-S in VG-10 went for \$1,610. An 1873 closed 3 in AU-50 cleaned realized \$1,265 whereas a plugged VG-8 1873-CC sold for \$4,025.

Half dollars featured two 1842-O small date, an XF-40 for \$2,242 and another XF-45 for \$4,025. An 1855-S in XF-40, but scratched went for \$1,173 and an 1856-S in AU-55, but cleaned and scratched, went for \$546. An 1870-CC in XF-45, but cleaned, went for \$6,900 and a cleaned 1871-CC of the same grade realized \$1,265. Another damaged 1871-CC with XF details went for \$375. An 1872-CC with AU details, but corroded and bright, went for \$1,265 while an 1873 Open 3 in XF-40, but cleaned, did not sell. An 1873-CC no arrows in AU-50 went for \$4,312 whereas a magnificent specimen of the same date in AU-58 soared to \$10,062. An 1873-CC arrows in AU-50 cleaned went for

\$1,725 while three 1874-CC's, one in VG-8 for \$1,265, another in AU-53 cleaned for \$6,037 and a third in AU-58 cleaned went for \$8,625. An 1878-S in VF-30, but reengraved, repaired, and cleaned, was bid up to a strong \$37,375 by eight bidders.

Dollars featured an 1854 in AU-50 for \$4,887 while a cleaned AU-58 of the same date did not sell. An 1856 in MS-62, but with a weak head and flat left leg on the eagle, only brought \$4,312. Carson City dollars featured an 1871-CC in VG-10, but cleaned, for \$4,312, an 1872-CC in F-15 cleaned for \$2,530, an 1872-CC in F-15 with lots of marks for \$3,450, an 1872-CC in VF-35 with a nice wholesome look, but some pits on Liberty, sold for \$6,325. An 1873-CC in VF-20, with only L-----TY visible, still sold for an incredible \$32,200. An 1878-CC Trade dollar in XF-45, but cleaned, went for \$1,265.

There appears to be an insatiable demand for scarce and rare Carson City Seated coins, irrespective of the quality and level of preservation. Every scarce and rare CC coin in this sale sold and many went for very large prices.

The Stacks' Brooklyn sale featured an 1858-S dime in MS-61 that was well struck, but had rather unattractive dark, mottled toning, and did not sell. AN 1871-CC in AU-55, which was well struck with beautiful toning and hallmarked by a gouge above the left upper ribbon bow, was presented for sale. This coin had not sold at the ANR Prescott sale in January, 2006 and several months later sold at the Goldberg Pre-Long Beach sale for \$24,150. This time the coin hit the jackpot and sold for \$50,600, a nice doubling of the price of less than a year earlier. An 1871-CC in VF-35 and a decent piece did not sell, nor did an 1873-CC with AU details, but scratched. Another 1873-CC in F-15 with a bold LIBERTY sold for \$5,060.

Quarters featured XF-40 cleaned examples of the 1854-O Huge O and the 1860-S, which was nicely retoned, but neither coin sold. An 1864-S quarter in MS-68 ex-Eliasberg did not sell. There is a very limited market for extremely high grade Seated rarities, particularly quarters since there is no way that a date collector could ever complete a set of Liberty Seated quarters in mint state much less in any grades approaching this. These extraordinary coins from the Eliasberg and other collections normally do not sell since about the only buyer would be a rare date type collector.

Halves featured two lovely 1856-S half dollars, one in AU-55 and the other in AU-50. The former sold for \$2,760 and the latter sold for \$1,840. It is a rare day when two desirable 1856-S halves are sold back to back in an auction. An attractive 1857-S in AU-53 went for \$2,530 despite some dark toning below the eagle's left wing tip, and a nicely toned XF-45 example of the same date went for \$1,092. An 1870-CC in XF-40 was well struck and the wear had just barely crossed the drapery line above Liberty's left breast and the scroll edge was raised. Under ANA standards, this coin is at worst an XF-40 and probably an XF-45. The Liberty was complete, but the E was a little soft and the coin had nice toning. After the smoke cleared, this coin realized a strong \$14,950. Two 1873 no arrows Open 3 half dollars were featured. The one in F-15 did not sell while the AG-3 specimen hammered for \$1,265. An 1873-CC with arrows half in XF-45 with beautiful toning went to a happy buyer for \$2,530.

An 1871-CC in VG-8 went for a solid \$8,050 whereas an 1872-CC in VG-10, but with some scratches, only realized \$1,610.

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The Ancient Origins of Seated Liberty

By Mike Locke and Bob Leonard

(edited by Bill Bugert)

The March 1987 issue of *The Gobrecht Journal* presents an article by Dillon Frost regarding the appearance of seated Liberty style designs on ancient coinage. This article notes the strong similarity of Britannia to Sully and Gobrecht's seated Liberty design as well as the presentation of British coins to the creators of the USA seated Liberty design as reference material. In addition, it is noted that Britannia is a symbol dating from Roman times that was apparently derived from the seated figures that appear on Roman Sestertius.

Regarding the origin of the Britannia design, Peter Seaby, in *The Story of the English Coinage* (1952), p. 10, wrote "The coin...of Hadrian in Fig. 24 [Hadrian, AE sestertius, reverse. 143-44 A.D.--Note: Hadrian is an error for Antoninus Pius here, as these dates are in Pius' reign. Hadrian did issue Britannia coins, but not with this design] has the inscription BRITANNIA and the personification of the Province seated with spear and shield and with her foot upon a pile of stones. It has been suggested that this alludes to the construction of Hadrian's [sic] Wall. The coin of Antoninus Pius in Fig. 25 [I think this is the real coin of Hadrian] depicts Britannia seated on a rock in an attitude of sadness..." Both coins show Britannia seated left, with a shield and spear, though the shield and spear are arranged differently. A *Guide to the Exhibition of Roman Coins in the British Museum*, 1963, p. 65, includes "With No. 48 we return to the sestertii: it is a coin of Antoninus showing Britannia seated as a warrior, on rocks that suggest a wall: the fortification of the line of Forth and Clyde by Antoninus may be in view here." It is believed that some coins of Antoninus Pius with the Britannia type were actually struck in Britain, as they are commonly found there. Whole articles have been written about this design.

Coins from various Greek colonies, including Kyzicus (near modern Bursa in north western Turkey) present the standing or seated figure of ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ (Eleutheria), the Greek symbol of freedom (see photo). Eleutheria is most often illustrated standing with a wreath in one hand, a scepter in the other hand and name fully spelled out. The coins of Kyzicus were struck in the 5th century BC, although it is unclear to this author if this figure is linked to Britannia, it is clear that the seated version of the Greek Eleutheria strongly resembles Britannia as well as the seated Liberty that appears on USA coins.



1/24 Stater of Kyzicus (410-330BC) with seated Eleutheria obverse. Apparently unique.
Larger denominations have EΘ in field to right.
6.7mm diameter, 0.65 grams

The symbology of Liberty, Britannia, and Eleutheria doesn't explain the seated female, only other elements in the allegory. It seems that she somewhat resembles Athena/Minerva. Perhaps older depictions of the goddess provided a common inspiration of all of the above? All females are seated on rocks, with a spear or pole and a shield and one arm outstretched (not so much for Sully's seated Liberty). Athena wears armor and a helmet while the others wear somewhat billowy garments. Athena has the head of Medusa on her shield while the others have different symbols. However, the overall composition is similar.

==> A review of the LSCC Regional meeting in Baltimore by Ron Feuer. Sixteen collectors and dealers attended the regional meeting of the LSCC held on Saturday, March 24th, at the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention. Secretary-Treasurer, Len Augsburger, opened the meeting and discussed various topics related to the LSCC. Those included new books on the horizon (a Gray-Carboneau Gobrecht Dollar book, a Redbook seated only edition, and the *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volume #5), the new LSCC website, the upcoming *Gobrecht Journal*, the quarter survey [60 responses so far – still time to send them in], and then the coin quiz. Len then presented a most intuitive program dealing with members' ability to identify different denominations of US Seated Coinage by viewing obverse only photographs. The reverse of each respective coin, where, of course, the denomination is disclosed, was not shown until club members had a chance to see if they could identify each coin by its respective obverse *only*. Everyone had a lot of fun to say the least, which produced varied answers. Anyway, it was a truly delightful program.

The highlight coin discovery of the meeting was a coin produced by long time LSCC Member, Dick Osburn. Dick had a coin that is certainly at the pinnacle of most any Liberty Seated Collector's List of rarities, that being a rather fabulous example of the Rare 1870-CC quarter. I could hardly believe my eyes, when I saw this coin close-up at Osburn's Baltimore show table. It was a truly wonderful example, that one could hardly believe came from the ground, in an old Nevada ghost town location (*Editor, see the current issue of the Gobrecht Journal for more information on this 1870-CC quarter*). I have read in recent *Gobrecht Journals* of two other examples of this rare date being located in "ghost towns" in that area, but to my knowledge this example was the eye

popper of that miniscule group. *Unbelievable* was the expression that came immediately to my mind.

Anyway, a truly great meeting was had by all attendees in Baltimore. I hope that old-time member Bill Bugert will come up with a fabulous photo of those attending the meeting (*Editor, here it is, see below!*), as he had his trusty digital camera on hand to take a photo of all the smiling faces that attended a fun-packet regional meeting of the LSCC - the foremost club in numismatics that I have had the pleasure to participate in as a member for the past 24 years. Sincerely, Ron Feuer, LSCC # 775 from North Carolina.



==> Review of *Gobrecht Journal* Issue Number 98 by Len Augsburger. The March 2007 issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*, Number 98, is in the mail. I received my copy here in Chicago on Thursday, March 29th. Paul Bradley kicks things off with the remainder of the seated dime survey, following up on the top-100 seated dime variety survey by Gerry Fortin in the November issue. Next comes Weimar White discussing an 1860-O half dollar, slabbed, which had toned over the years while residing in a bank box. I have observed the same effect myself, although not to the extent described here. Mike Fey holds court with a twist on how to view rarity. Here, he suggests we think of rarity in terms of die state, die marriage, condition rarity, WB variety rarity (for half dollars), and finally rarity by date and mintmark. An analogous idea for grading is to issue separate grades for strike, marks, luster, and wear. Clearly, there are many ways to attribute a given coin!

Bill Bugert follows with some new research on the 1858 WB-106 half, identifying new die marriages not identified in the Wiley-Bugert reference, now out of print and highly prized on the secondary market. Len Augsburger next entertains with tales of buried treasure, in this case an 1870-CC dug up with the assistance of a metal detector. A short review of the second edition of Weimar White's *Coin Chemistry*, by Don Locker, follows. Paul Brill then analyzes misplaced digits on 1874-CC halves, nicely summarizing previous research on the topic of misplaced digits in general.

Len Augsburger presents a membership profile of the LSCC, with listings on a state-by-state basis, and follows with a short note on the club website, www.lscweb.org. John McCloskey comes next with a review of the Stacks' Byers seated half dollar auction in October 2006, featuring any number of spectacular seated gems. Of note is that two key

coins in the sale, the 1853-O NA and 1878-S, went to active and enthusiastic LSCC members. John also has a note on the 1849 quarter, displaying a date placement not shown in Briggs. Dennis Fortier contributes a note of appreciation to Bill Bugert, *E-Gobrecht* editor, for sharing his comprehensive knowledge of seated coinage.

Bill Bugert's article on 1856 notched 1 half dollars is next, a curious and universal effect on 1856 halves, for all three mints. If anything else, this shows that date punches were used on an annual basis, at least for 1856! Q. David Bowers sent in some images of Civil War tokens struck over seated dimes - a true delicacy for a seated dime collector. Ironically, the tokens were struck precisely because hard currency was hoarded. So, one has to assume that these were all test pieces.

John McCloskey finishes up with articles describing the condition rarity of the 1859-S dime, and a summary of the greatest San Francisco seated coins survey. Finally, Randy Wiley is announced as the Ahwash award winner for 2006 for his thorough treatment of the 1861-O half dollar appearing in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue Number 94. This Wiley's second Ahwash award, having also won in 1988 for his study on a hoard of 1870-CC halves.

==> Subscriber correspondence.

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 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? In addition, the timing may not work for when an auction is scheduled, nor the auction catalog getting in your hands in time, versus 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 doubled die obverse 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 Liberty Seated. dimes squirreled away that they haven't looked through?

From **Gerry Fortin**: Volume 3 is a great issue! I like the change to the .pdf format. The task of posting E-G issues to the seated dime website will be easier when working with an Adobe .pdf file. Have you noticed that the *E-Gobrecht* content is shifting towards

individual correspondences? I took the time this early morning (its 2:00am and jetlagged) to read all of the commentaries and found a significant amount of information on individual seated denominations. The correspondence section of the E-G reminds me of early *Gobrecht Journal* content where the articles tended to be shorter in nature. Many of today's *Gobrecht Journal* articles are long multi-page in-depth studies on a particular topic. Overall, I see a good balance emerging between the *E-Gobrecht* and the *Gobrecht Journal*. Keep up the good work.

From **Ross Bailey**: I recently purchased an 1876-P half dollar on eBay that was the doubled date variety (i.e. WB-106). This was not a cherry pick since the coin was attributed by the seller. Because of this, I paid what I considered a reasonable premium for the coin. Wiley-Bugert assigned an R8 rarity to this variety at the time their reference book was published, since there was at that time only one example known. Since then, others have been discovered and I note that in the recent LSCC census of half dollar varieties there are a total of six coins listed of this variety amongst club members. My question is does anyone have a methodology for updating the rarity rating of this seated half variety?

From **Gerry Fortin** (on March 8th): I posted the Question of Month on the Other Seated Denomination forum. There are nine responses already. This should have fill out the next issue a bit.

From **Len Augsburger**: Here's something for the *E-Gobrecht* - an 1841 dime was recently found during the exploration of the Confederate submarine, H.L. Hunley -- <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/03/22/ap3544308.html>. (For those of you unfamiliar with the subject, the Hunley was a Confederate submarine that successfully sank the Federal's Housatonic just outside the Charleston, SC harbor on February 17, 1864. It vanished that night and remained one of the great-unsolved mysteries of the Civil War until it was recovered on August 8, 2000. Since then, it has been an archeological beehive of activity with many interesting finds including some numismatic. The Hunley is on display near Charleston and well worth a visit if you are in the area. I did so in 2003..Editor.)

From **Dick Osburn**: We just finished two big back-to-back shows, the Spring ANA Show in Charlotte, NC, and the Baltimore Coin & Currency Show.

Dealers at Charlotte reported mixed results. Those that had rare material did well. Those that carried generic coins and investment material were generally complaining. As with many previous shows, my biggest sellers were bust halves. Most price guides have raised the levels on these coins significantly in recent months, but they continue to bring strong prices. Seated dollars also continued to be in strong demand. These wonderful big coins have lagged the market for a number of years, but they are coming on strong now. Seated halves and quarters continue to sell well, as did early type, flowing hair and draped bust. Again, problem-free coins with eye appeal were bringing the strongest prices.

Auction results were mixed. We attended auctions by Heritage, Stacks, and Bowers & Merena. Rare coins generally went for strong prices, with the biggest jumps being low

grade examples of the great rarities, some of these bringing almost unbelievable prices. Coins with outstanding eye appeal also continued to be in strong demand. Higher grade examples, MS65 and above, continue to be a little more subdued, with a few bargains to be had here and there. My message is the same as it has been for some time. If you're waiting for the rare dates to come back to earth, it may be a long wait. There are more collectors coming into the market who need them than there are coins to go around. The only bargains to be found are in the higher grades, where the prices can eliminate all but the deepest pockets.

The activity on my web site, www.dickosburn.com, confirms that the market is still strong. You've been finding the new purchases as fast as I put them out on the site. The hottest series continues to be the half dollars, both bust and seated, with demand now increasing for seated dollars, and continuing strong for seated quarters. Rarities in all series are in strong demand. Collectors are continuing to push to fill the final holes in their sets. This is putting even greater pressure on prices for the rare dates.

I expect the general upward trend in collector coins to continue, though possibly with a little less enthusiasm and with more selectivity than we saw last year. That trend could conceivably continue for 5-10 years as the baby boom generation continues to add new collectors to the market. However, the higher prices are bringing some nice coins onto the market. Don't miss the opportunities. Some of the best buys in today's market are higher grades of the rare dates. If your pocket book can afford them, these coins have enjoyed far less increase than the lower grade examples.

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

- Quarter census were due to Len Augsburg – March 15, 2007.
- *Gobrecht Journal* Issue Number 98 was mailed – March 26, 2007
- Regional Meeting of the LSCC at Central States, St, Louis, MO – May 11, 2007 at 9 AM, Room 122, Convention Center.
- Color photos for the *Gobrecht Journal's* 100th Issue accepted – until August 1, 2007.

- Annual Meeting of the LSCC at the ANA Convention, Milwaukee, WI – August 2007.
 - Dues notice and ballot for The *Gobrecht Journal* Award – September 2007.
 - 100th Issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* – November 2007.
 - LSCC Seated Dollar census – 2008.
 - LSCC Trade Dollar census – 2009.
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Information, input, comments, criticisms, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to wb8cpy@arrrl.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*
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