
The E-Gobrecht
Volume 3, Issue 5, May 2007
Whole Number 26

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

Announcements. There will be an LSCC Regional meeting on Friday, June 29, at the Baltimore show. Take note of the change in day; the last LSCC meeting at Baltimore was conducted on Saturday. This is a Friday meeting.

Acknowledgements. Many thanks to Jim Gray, Len Augsburger, Gerry Fortin, Bill Cowburn, 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.
- ==> Seated Coinage Registry Update at www.seateddimevarieties.com by Gerry Fortin.
- ==> Why was the legend moved from the obverse to the reverse in 1860 by Bill Cowburn.
- ==> 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 replies and comments to the *E-Gobrecht* Editor at wb8cpy@ar1.net.

Last Month's (April) Question

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

From **Alan Zischke**: If it's a matter of filling the hole or grade "my holes are getting to be in rarified territory and I think the holes would have it, although I always like to buy the best grade I think I can afford...if you catch my drift. Heh. Durn Credit Cards!

From **Keith Scott**: Collecting by major varieties (Redbook, Greysheet) is hard enough. I've had a few bargains through eBay (with good pictures) that I deem as a variety instead of duplicate. Best was from the UK. In deciding on acquisitions, I choose condition and rarity as most important. There is often dart-throwing and coin tossing.

Second is commentary. There is a list of words the include cleaned, scratched, corroded, rims filed, counterstamped, holed, repaired, artificially toned, tooled, whizzed, reengraved, altered surfaces, and a few others. Other than a "natural coin" that is not messed with, one or more "bad adjectives" will reduce the normal value by some discount. A collector can always spend more than a dealer and when a very rare "problem coin" is offered there is a very strong desire to fill the space.

Discount and eye appeal are good guides. I have respect for NCS and a nice slabbed "genuine" or even "holed-repaired" would be welcomed. Filling spaces can involve waiting years while watching prices climb from very high to even worse. A lifetime is hardly long enough, but I will keep going anyway.

From **Many Others**: Monthly *E-Gobrecht* questions are posted on Gerry Fortin's message board at www.seateddimevarieties.com. To avoid duplication here in the *E-Gobrecht*, anyone can access those questions and answers on Gerry's website. 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.

This Month's (May) Question

Is it easier to complete a date, type and mint mark Seated series today that it was 25 years ago?

==>

AUCTION NEWS

By Jim Gray

Stacks Clara sale in April featured no Seated coins of interest.

The Superior sale featured an 1842-O small date half dollar in VF-20 with the ER of LIBERTY worn off the ribbon. This coin sold for \$662 and it is clear that the grading purists have lost the battle with regards to VF-20 through XF-40 coins requiring a full, bold LIBERTY.

An 1872-CC dollar that was well struck with deep original toning and graded AU-58 did not sell.

The Heritage Dallas sale featured the following half dimes: 1838-O in XF-40 with nice toning for \$1,150, an 1842-O in MS-64 with a flat head, upper stars and bowknot, still sold for \$5,750. An attractive well struck 1844-O, which had uncirculated details, but had been cleaned, did not sell. A deep gray, well struck 1846 half dime in XF-45 went for \$4,025.

Dimes featured a cleaned AU-50 1858-S that had retoned, but was still glossy, for \$805. An 1871-CC in VG-8 with scratches, was a decent coin with one long scratch on the obverse, and sold for \$2,760. A bent and damaged 1872-CC in XF-40 did not sell, while an 1873-CC in VG-10, but scratched and cleaned, gave a nice appearance and sold for \$3,220. An 1874cc dime with some marks and deep artificial toning in an AU grade did not sell.

Quarters featured an 1870-CC in AG-3, which had been cleaned and damaged, still realized \$4,600 while an 1872-S in AU-50, which had been heavily hairlined and toned back with dark blobs particularly on the reverse, only realized \$4,025.

An 1844-O double date half dollar in AU cleaned had nice toning, which was perhaps artificial, and still realized \$3,565. A cleaned and damaged 1870-CC in F-12 realized \$1,610 while five bidders ran an AG 1873 No Arrows Open 3 half dollar to \$1,955.

Dollars featured an 1850-O in MS-64 and tied for the best graded. The coin was much darker in the picture in the holder than the large sized picture displayed in the catalogue and realized \$31,050. An 1852 original dollar in MS-62, which showed some dark areas in the color photograph, but some much darker areas photographed in the slab did not sell. An 1854 dollar with Unc details, but cleaned and with a planchet flaw, realized \$4,600 while a very well struck 1856 dollar in MS-62 soared to \$8,625.

A cleaned and dipped AU-55 1872-CC dollar did not sell nor did a cleaned AU 1878-CC Trade dollar.

==> Seated Coinage Registry Update at www.seateddimevarieties.com by Gerry Fortin.

Liberty seated coinage specialist have accepted and supported the concept of an open registry for the inclusion of raw and certified coins. Initially, the registry was limited to Liberty seated dimes sets including Top 100 Die Varieties, Business Strikes Basic set and Business Strikes with Varieties set. Six collectors supported the new open registry concept and offered their seated dime sets to begin populating the registry. These sets ranged from existing mint state PCGS or NGC registry sets to fully raw submissions. One could feel of the enthusiasm of collectors being able to post their raw sets or partially certified sets in a registry format. After a month of open registry publicity, I decided to highlight individual branch mint sets subsets from the main seated dime sets. Needless to say, four collectors instantly agreed and the branch mint open registry sets were born. As of the writing of this update, the open registry lists 29 seated dime sets.

In late March, Steve Crain completed the definition of the seated half dime Business Strikes Basic set and Business Strikes with Varieties set. Steve was kind enough to offer his impressive collection as the anchor set for the seated half dime open registry. The definition of individual date weights is in progress and I hope to have the half dime open registry module completed by the end of May. To date, four half dime sets are listed.

On the www.seateddimevarieties.com message boards, I asked for volunteers to aid with the development of the seated quarter and seated half dollar registry modules. The response was favorable and I am looking forward to support from Bill Bugert in building the half dollar registry module. Seated halves are a strong favorite of many collectors and I expect the half dollar registry module popularity to grow quickly with numerous listings by mid summer. Remaining will be the seated quarters and seated dollars series to round out the open registry. I understand that several individuals are developing seated quarter registry set definitions and rarity weights. I welcome their efforts, and look forward to future content and set submissions.

E-Gobrecht subscribers are encouraged to review the seated coinage registry at http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/registry/reg_index.htm. Please consider participating by downloading an excel submission form from individual set registry pages. Otherwise, individuals can write to me directly at wuximems@hotmail.com to work out their set submission approach.

Some of you may wonder why I am placing so much effort towards the construction of a manual seated coinage registry. My response is simple. I believe that numerous completed sets of seated coinage are in existence. However, most of these sets are in circulated grades and their owners are not inclined to spend monies for certification fees. The open registry is a chance for collectors to exhibit their uncertified sets on the internet, in a format consistent with the major TPG companies. I hope that more LSCC members will feel comfortable to exhibit their collections to others in the numismatic community and secondly, take pride in their accomplishments.

As Always...Happy Hunting. Gerry Fortin

==> Why was the legend moved from the obverse to the reverse in 1860 by Bill Cowburn. (*Editor, during a recent discussion with Bill at the last Baltimore coins show, Bill raised an interesting question to which I had no answer. I suggested he submit it to the E-Gobrecht for the readers to ponder and respond. Here it is.*) Here is my question regarding the move from Reverse to Obverse of the legend in 1860. I am hoping that several members will reply with their thoughts and perhaps even with original documentation that will answer why the legend was moved.

In 1860, the legend 'United States of America' was moved from the reverse to the obverse on both half dimes and dimes. Do any readers know why this was done? Moving the legend was a flagrant violation of the Act of January 18, 1837, which required that the legend 'United States of America' be on the reverse of all silver coins. That legislation was still in effect in 1860.

Breen suggests that the move was done to improve the quality of striking; however, this seems to me to be a weak argument since the old design had been struck more than 20 years. Would not a change to improve the quality of strike have been done much sooner?

It was also suggested (in the words of Longacre) that the new wreath of cereal on the reverse was more national in character. Is this perhaps some hint that the changes were being made as a patriotic effort (from the view of the North) since even in 1860, it was clear that civil war was coming? After all, in 1859 John Brown led the revolt at Harpers Ferry and no less of a statesman than Henry Clay stated that if a Republican was elected in 1860, the Union would not hold.

So, why was the legend moved in 1860 breaking the law as it was done? What was so important that it was done? I am asking the readers of the *E-Gobrecht* to submit their thoughts on this subject and especially ask that any reader that has any official documentation explaining the reasons for the move to share that information with the group.

==> Subscriber correspondence.

From **Jim Gray**: In response to View from the Rim (*in last month's issue of the E-Gobrecht*), I would say the following: Thanks for the kind remarks about Auction News and I am glad that you and other readers find it worthwhile. When presented I do give results for major varieties such as the 1854-O huge O quarter, 1844 double date half dollar, etc. As for pre-sale predictions, the major problem is that I do not get the catalogue in time to get predictions prepared a month before the sale. Another point is that while modern photos are great, you still cannot give a valid valuation without examining the coin in person. The only true test of what a coin is worth is the hammer price at sale. We appreciate inquiries from you and other readers and will make every effort to make the *E-Gobrecht* as informative as we can.

From **M. T. Whalen**: (*Backgroun: Whalen has a Mac computer and was having problems opening the Adobe Version of the E-Gobrecht. His Mac computer kept saying*

that it is a corrupted file and will not open it. He has both Adobe and Word installed on his computer. Here is his solution.) The problem that we were having on our end of opening the E-Gobrecht in the format in which you send it now, has been solved. I want to share the solution w/you because someone else might have the same problem. Normally we open everything in and work in Safari. Safari will not let this type of file be opened. However, we tried opening in Firefox instead and the file opens easily. Both genres have Adobe Reader.

From **Len Augsburger**: An interesting item recently appeared on www.abebooks.com:

Manuscript Notebook and Sketchbook.

GOBRECHT, Christian.

Bookseller: BOOKPRESS LTD. (Williamsburg, VA, U.S.A.)

Price: US\$ 9350.00 [Convert Currency]

Quantity: 1, Shipping within U.S.A.:US\$ 3.50

Book Description: (Baltimore and Philadelphia: 1806, 1806. Manuscript Notebook and Sketchbook. - 1823). Small 4to. (8 x 6 1/2 inches). Shee spine, decorated paperboards. 72 leaves, of which 2/3 are used. Christian Gobrecht (1785-1844) was a noted American engraver, punch cutter an inventor. This notebook can be divided into three sections. The first has nineteen pen and graphite sketches of an organ he invented between 1816 and 1821, "a reed organ made of an assemblage of metallic tongues placed in a case and operate with a bellows and keys." The second section concerns itself with punch cutt and type founding machinery from the early 1820s when Gobrecht worked for Murray, Draper, Fairman & Company, Philadelphia, where he was noted for his designs and models for the United States Mint. Manuscript material on Americ engraving of the period is especially rare. The third section is fifty-three pages of recipes and receipts, many of which deal with gilding and faux-gild using brass, cast steel and silver, along with great details on aquatinting, soldering for organ pipes, and other craft functions. At the beginning are early drawings and later a proof of an engraved calling card for 'Capt. Isaac Hull, U.S.N. The book contains the engraved bookplate of Chr. Gobrecht. The book remained in the Gobrecht family until 1928 when it was presented to the Franklin Institute and sold by them in October 2006.

Bookseller Inventory # 36384, I inquired about this item yesterday and was told that it had already sold. A pity. The second section would be the most interesting - Gobrecht is thought to have created date and letter punches for the US mint during this period - perhaps this sketchbook had further information on this?

From **Rich Uhrich**. I am happy to announce: My website is now live at www.richuhrichcoins.com. I deal in rare U.S. coins from 1792 to date, especially silver, nickel, and copper coins, as well as varieties and errors. My areas of focus are Bust and Seated half dimes, Bust and Seated dimes, Bust and Seated quarters, Seated halves, and Seated dollars. I enthusiastically buy scarce and rare dates in my areas of focus.

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](mailto: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 Central States, St, Louis, MO – May 11, 2007 at 9 AM, Room 122, Convention Center.
- Regional Meeting of the LSCC at the Baltimore Coin Show - June 29, 2007, Friday.
- 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.

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:

Bill Bugert
Editor, *E-Gobrecht*
P.O. Box 3761
Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927
(717) 337-0229

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to wb8cpy@arrl.net.

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 Augsburg.

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 Augsburg at:

Leonard Augsburg
P.O. Box 6114
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Phone: (847) 816-1649.
Email: leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com.

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

The *E-Gobrecht* is not copyrighted; use its content freely but please be sure to quote the *E-Gobrecht* and the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.
