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**The E-Gobrecht**  
**Volume 3, Issue 8, August 2007**  
**Whole Number 29**

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.

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**Miscellaneous Notes from the Editor**

Editor's comments. This month's issue is much shorter than usual. I attribute this to most of the regular contributors are busy preparing their masterpieces for the 100<sup>th</sup> Issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* and are also busy readying for the ANA Convention in Milwaukee.

Please try to attend the LSCC annual meeting at the ANA Convention in Milwaukee. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning at 9 AM in the Midwest Airlines Convention Center. There are many interesting items on the agenda including approving the LSCC Hall of Fame and discussions of the *Gobrecht Journal* issue #100. Besides, this is good opportunity to meet and visit with your fellow seated liberty collectors.

LSCC members Len Augsburg and Darrell Low are presenting a talk entitled "Liberty Seated Coinage: A Collector's Overview" at the ANA Convention on Friday, August 10, 2007, 10 AM. Please try to attend and support Len and Darrell.

Don't forget to cast your vote for the LSCC officers for the upcoming year's term. A ballot was included with the latest issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*. Take a few moments and send it to John McCloskey by the August 15<sup>th</sup> due date. Results will be announced in mid-September.

We have 11 new subscribers this past month, some resulting from the press we received in the latest issue of *The Numismatist*. Every month I seem to get rejected emails – if you change your email address, be sure to let me know so I can update my private email address listing and you can continue to receive the *E-Gobrecht*.

Acknowledgements. Many thanks to Jim Gray, 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.*

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### Features in this issue

- ==> Question of Month by Jim Gray.
- ==> Auction News by Jim Gray.
- ==> National Gallery of Art portrait of Christian Gobrecht?
- ==> Contention on Gobrecht Dollars.
- ==> Recent subscriber correspondence.
- ==> Advertisements for Wanted or Sale of Liberty Seated Coinage.
- ==> LSCC Calendar.
- ==> Information on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.

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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](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net).

For the June question, *Will Seated coins ever be collected by die variety with the same enthusiasm as large cents and bust halves? If so, which Seated series gives the most opportunity to collect by die variety?*

From **Alan Zischke** : My opinion that the enthusiasm experienced through looking for the R5 to R8's, hunting for those rare Overtons now that they pretty well all have been covered. Bust Half Collectors should be made aware through our unbeatable publications the *Gobrecht Journal* and of course the *E-Gobrecht*. Plenty of talented writers cross both Series. For those that don't, to me should be planned on Die Varieties and tales told of a vast new hunting ground all they have to do is move from cherry picked out capped bust half land (my apologies Busties) over to this fertile land of similar varieties except in our language we call them WBs. Yes, if we write the books "they shall come". With tongue, albeit, in cheek.

From **Keith Scott**: Die varieties will be the up and coming rage. Auction catalogs are pushing these and even quoting reference books verbatim. Grading companies certify varieties and Dealers are more careful to keep cherry- pickers at bay. The real turning point is when a die variety is listed in a major price guide. It would help if more reference books were available (i.e. WB?).

## Last Month's (July) Question

*If you needed a rare Seated coin such as an AU 1878-S half dollar for your collection and one was for sale by a dealer or at an auction, how would you determine what price you would pay or bid in order to obtain the coin?*

From **Bill Bugert**: Since I went through this experience within the past nine months, I thought I would pass on my thought process. In my case, I successfully bid on an MS-62 1878-S half dollar. From my research and from talking to my good friend Randy Wiley, we knew that only 10 mint state 1878-S half dollars are currently known to exist. In looking at past auction results (e.g., my research files, Heritage archives, auction catalogues, Dick Osburn's inventory, etc), I knew that the price difference between an MS and a low grade circulated 1878-S was not in proportion to the grades of the coins. I decided to try for the MS coin (even though the average grade on my half dollar collection is a high end XF). I used Coin World's *COINValues* magazine (The Greysheet was of no value but I will not get into that now) and previous auction results and private and public sales to determine my bidding window and fortunately, with a nudge from Randy for the high side of my window, I was successful in obtaining it.

From **Keith Scott**: How to buy a key date. Study the coin or the picture and determine the real grade. Look at the Greysheet, laugh, and then go to Heritage auction archives while looking through a reference book for die variety info. Look at Dick Osburn's site for current retail comparables. Gather additional retail info if there is any. Digest all data and place maximum secret bid or offer. I made a purchase from Heritage at FUN with a maximum bid a little higher than the slab grade. It was one bid increment lower, and very much in the "fair retail range, and I have a key date filled - JOY. Key dates do not follow rules - wait and the price will go up more.

*No other answers this month! Is everyone too busy vacationing, gardening, and cutting grass to spend a few moments for an answer?*

## This Month's (August) Question

Are the three circulating Gobrecht Dollars, i.e. the circulation issues of December, 1836, March, 1837 and December, 1839 legitimate parts of the Liberty Seated series?

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### AUCTION NEWS By Jim Gray

The summer doldrums hit the coin auction market with only the Heritage, Summer FUN sale being conducted in July.

The sale featured a VF-30 1844 dime for \$805, an AU-58 1858-S dime, which only sold for \$1,092 due to scratches, and a cleaned AU-50 1859-S dime for a reasonable \$1,610.

Quarters included an 1842-O small date in cleaned F-12 for \$920, a cleaned XF-40 1858-S quarter at \$632, and a wholesome 1861-S quarter in XF-40 that went to a happy buyer for \$1,725. A cleaned 1862-S quarter in AU brought \$920, whereas a very nice original VF-35 1864-S quarter rang the bell for \$3,220. A corroded 1866-S quarter in F-12 realized a meager \$632 and a cleaned and corroded 1867-S in VF-30 did worse at \$747. A very nice 1870-CC quarter in VF-25, and a find for the fine/very fine collector, soared to \$32,200.

An AU-50 1870-CC half dollar, corroded and porous, did not sell, but a nice original 1871-CC half in XF-40 went for \$2,990. A problem free 1873-CC arrows half in XF-45 hammered for \$2,550.

An 1855 dollar in AU-58, which was slabbed and in spite of an old cleaning, still realized \$5,462. An attractive 1878-CC Trade Dollar in XF-40 sold for \$2,300 while a cleaned AU-58 example of the same date did not sell.

Some great Seated coins are to be sold at auction in August so I am sure that next month's auction news will have some exciting results.

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==> **National Gallery of Art portrait of Christian Gobrecht?** Len Augsburger, aka "The Christian Gobrecht History Detective," sent in a link to a photograph in the National Gallery of Art that could possibly be an early portrait of Christian Gobrecht. Depicted below, with credit to the National Gallery of Art, is that portrait with the accompanying information.



Origin: American  
Entitled: *Portrait of a Man*, circa 1840  
Oil on canvas, 86.5 x 68.7 cm (34-1/16" x 27-1/16")  
Andrew W. Mellon Collection  
Catalog number: 1947.17.37

Len originally thought this portrait was of Christian Gobrecht but as he says in an email to me, "I exchanged some email with the curators. They are no longer attributing this painting to Asher Durand or identifying it as that of Gobrecht. I have not looked into this in detail, but the provenances of many of the other paintings that came from the original Mellon gift are also doubted. What we can be sure of is that this painting was exhibited multiple times around 1900 and presented as Gobrecht. I also have the 1948 Smithsonian report identifying it as Gobrecht. Other than that, we have only the other portraits to compare against, and I do not see a definite match there. So, for now it is just a curiosity. I think we should go ahead and run this item in the *E-Gobrecht*." Hopefully, more will come about on this. Thanks, Len.

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==> **Contention on Gobrecht Dollars.** The July 31, 2007 issue of *The Numismatic News* contains an interesting article entitled "Revisionist theory wrong about Gobrecht."

Briefly, this article's authors, R. W. Julian and Craig Sholley, present their argument for reinstating "... (Walter) Breen's theory that original Gobrecht dollars can be determined by noting that the eagle flies upward when the coin is properly rotated..." Previous arguments by Michael Carboneau and Jim Gray, called "Revisionists" by Julian and Sholley, claim otherwise and have been widely accepted by the *Redbook* and the grading services. Seemingly, more discussion will abound on this issue. For the Carboneau and Gray theory, see *Gobrecht Journals* Volume 27, Issue 79 (November 2000 – Part I), Volume 28, Issue 82 (November 2001 – Part II), and Volume 29, Issue 87 (July 2003 – Part III).

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==> **Recent subscriber correspondence.**

From **John McCloskey**, President, LSCC: I have enclosed a draft copy of the Hall of Fame document that I would like you to include in your next *E-Gobrecht* newsletter. (*Editor, it was emailed in its entirety in a Special Edition of the E-Gobrecht on July 21<sup>st</sup>. It is also posted on the LSCC website at [http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC\\_Hall\\_of\\_Fame.php](http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC_Hall_of_Fame.php).*) I would like to have a vote on this document at the meeting in Milwaukee and the newsletter would be a good way to get a copy of the document in the hands of members before the meeting.

From **Dennis Hengeveld** (In the Netherlands): Dear Mr. Bugert, although I'm not a member (I live in the Netherlands so I'm not even sure that is possible) I enjoy reading the E-journal of the LSCC. Personally, I collect Seated Half Dimes although I plan to expand that with the other Seated Series.

One of my biggest hobbies related to coins is writing articles about them. Although I have never visited the US, I still enjoy writing about these coins, even when the fact that I have never seen many of the coins I write about taken into consideration. I am finishing a new article about collecting Seated Coins by date only. I expect to finish the article this weekend, and it will total up at about 3,500 words. (Its one of many articles I've been working on more or less during the last 5 years. My biggest project was started 20 months ago and futures the 4 CC Seated Dollars. I hope to have it finished by the end of the year has a large online article or possible a small book). Is there a possibility to include this edition (spread over) the *E-Gobrecht*? I think many people will enjoy the article as have many done with my previous projects.

Thanks for your consideration. Dennis Hengeveld, Doetinchem, The Netherlands  
P.S. A nearly complete list of the online articles I wrote can be found here:  
[http://forums.collectors.com/messageview.cfm?catid=26&threadid=468233&highlight\\_key=y](http://forums.collectors.com/messageview.cfm?catid=26&threadid=468233&highlight_key=y)

*(Editor: Check out this link – he has some great articles and we look forward to the articles on Liberty Seated coins!)*

From **Anonymous**: "I know we like to track auction results on some of the better seated coins. I wanted to inform you I successfully purchased an 1871-CC seated dime in a PCGS VF35 with a good possibility of grading a XF40 in a private sale at the FUN show. The coin is the former Richmond sale coin that was graded VF35 by NGC thereby the population count is overstated by 2. It will show up two times at NGC and now 1 at PCGS. The price paid was \$14,000." (*Editor, Great looking coin – congratulations!*)



From **Bill Bugert**: For those of you who haven't seen the auction catalog, the Stacks sale of the J. A. Sherman Collection is full of Liberty Seated coinage, many of them very rare. Scheduled for August 5, 2007 in Milwaukee before the ANA Convention, lots include a PCGS-65 1866-S half dime, two 1871-CC dimes, three 1873-CC dimes, an 1874-CC dime, an NGC-58 1856-S/s quarter, two 1870-CC quarters, two 1844/1844-O half dollars, an MS 1855-S half dollar, three high grade 1870-CC halves, two MS 1878-CC halves, an 1878-S half dollar, and seven Gobrecht Dollars. Next month's "Auction News" should be noteworthy.

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### Advertisements for Wanted or Sale of Liberty Seated Coinage

**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

**Cuds & Rotated Dies Wanted:** Looking to purchase major die breaks / retained cuds / full cuds / shattered die states on Liberty Seated Quarters and Halves. Also, major rotated dies of greater than 75 degrees CW or CCW. Preference is for breaks/cuds in the field areas only, no rim cuds please. Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ [pcmdmp@msn.com](mailto:pcmdmp@msn.com) or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter. Thanks!

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### LSCC Calendar

- *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #99 - was postal mailed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July 2007.
- Color photos for the *Gobrecht Journal's* 100<sup>th</sup> Issue accepted – until August 1, 2007.

- Annual Meeting of the LSCC at the ANA Convention, Midwest Airlines Convention Center, Milwaukee, WI – August 9, 2007, 9 AM.
  - “Liberty Seated Coinage: A Collector’s Overview” by Len Augsburger and Darrell Low - ANA Convention, Friday, August 10, 2007, 10 AM.
  - Ballots due for the next term of LSCC officers – to John McCloskey by August 15.
  - Dues notice and ballot for The *Gobrecht Journal* Award – September 2007.
  - LSCC officers’ election results announced – Mid-September.
  - 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@arri.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arri.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 website. [http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC\\_Hall\\_of\\_Fame.php](http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC_Hall_of_Fame.php).

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:

Leonard Augsburger  
P.O. Box 6114  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
Phone: (847) 816-1649.  
Email: [leonard\\_augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:John.McCloskey@notes.udayton.edu)

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