



# The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club

2008 Volume 4, Issue 9a

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## Special Edition!

### Voting for The *Gobrecht Journal* Literary Award - Best Article In Issues #76 - #100

This issue of the *E-Gobrecht* is a special edition and published late-September 2008. It is solely dedicated to assisting the Liberty Seated Collectors Club members with voting for the *Gobrecht Journal* Literary Award; best article in issues #76-100 of the *Gobrecht Journal*.

At the 2008 LSCC Annual meeting in Baltimore, one member raised a very valid question - "how can I vote for the best article in the past 25 issues if I don't have those issues?" To assist those members without the back issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, the officers of the LSCC decided to publish a short paragraph on the content of each of all articles on the ballot. That information is contained herein.

In this issue, you will find a short paragraph summarizing the contents of each article on the ballot. These paragraphs contain only facts and any editorials, either real or implied, are purely unintentional.

Please review this information and the articles (if available), decide on your voting, mark your ballot, and return it in accordance with the instructions provided with the ballot. The ballots were postal mailed to all LSCC members in late - September. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact John McCloskey, LSCC President, at the following address:

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Thanks for your participation in this club event and we look forward to receiving your ballot.

Bill Bugert

Vice President, LSCC



The *E-Gobrecht* is a twice 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 at the end.



# Article Summaries

## **An Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Half Dollars**

**by Dick Osburn**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #76, November 1999**

In this 14 page article, Dick Osburn cites the disparity of values and rarity for the Liberty Seated Half Dollars. He uses his knowledge and experience to provide an analysis of the rarity of the dates and major varieties of the series. He assigns them all into "Rarity Groups" which reflect various levels of rarity without regard for condition. Dick compares the individual mintages within that group and the *Coin World* Trends values. He then provides extensive comments of rarity within each Rarity Group and assigns an estimated population survival level for each group.

## **An Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Dimes**

**by Gerry Fortin**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #77, March 2000**

In this 13 page article, Gerry Fortin cites the disparity of the values and the rarity for the Liberty Seated Dimes. He uses his knowledge and experience to provide an analysis of the rarity of the dates and major varieties of the series. He assigns them all into "Rarity Groups" which reflect various levels of rarity without regard for condition. Gerry compares the individual mintages within that group and the *Coin World* Trends values. He then provides extensive comments of rarity within each Rarity Group and assigns an estimated population survival level for each group.

## **Recollections of a Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collector**

**by David Lange**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #77, March 2000**

In this 11 page article, David Lange recalls the experiences he had with assembling a nearly complete collection of Liberty Seated Half Dollars. His goal was to aid new collectors with his knowledge and lessons from his mistakes. David sold most of his collection and he provides valuable insights into how he found the coins for his collection, stories of the dealers and collectors involved, and lessons learned. David wraps up his article with a listing of each coin in his collection with variety, grade cost, purchase date, and pedigree.

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### **A Rarity Analysis for Liberty Seated Quarters**

**by Bob Foster**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #78, July 2000**

In this 12 page article, Bob Foster cites the undervalued and underpriced trends of the Liberty Seated Quarter Dollars. He uses his knowledge and experience to provide an analysis of the rarity of the dates and major varieties of the series. He assigns them all into "Rarity Groups" which reflect various levels of rarity without regard for condition. Bob compares the individual mintages within that group and the *Coin World* Trends values. He then provides extensive comments of rarity within each Rarity Group and details his listing for the top 20 most underrated dates and top 20 rarest dates in uncirculated condition.

### **The Missing San Francisco Mint Cornerstone**

**by Richard Kelly and Nancy Oliver**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #78, July 2000**

In this 4 page article, co-authors Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly discuss historical aspects of the cornerstone of the San Francisco Branch Mint building. They cite original documentation indicating one coin of each denomination from 1870-S was emplaced in that cornerstone. Nancy and Richard detail what those coins would be including an 1870-S half dime and an 1870-S dollar. Finally, they offer a possible explanation for why a cornerstone marker was not found during the 1974 building renovation.

### **Gobrecht Dollars Revisited – Parts I, II, and III**

**by Michael Carboneau and James Gray**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issues #79 (November 2000), #82 (November 2003),  
and #87 (July 2003)**

This listing includes three articles on Gobrecht Dollars by co-authors Michael Carboneau and James Gray. The 12 page Part I introduces the Gobrecht Dollar and explains their refinement of Walter Breen's die rotation alignments. Secondly, they cite specifics of the 1837 Gobrecht Dollar issue and support their theories by tabulating data of actual coins they studied. The 12 page Part II's introduction recalls the search for post 1836 die alignment I Gobrecht Dollars and introduces 1838 and 1839 Gobrecht Dollars. The majority of this part is dedicated to describing and illustrating the die alignment characteristics of the 1838 Judd-84 and 1839 Judd-104 Dollars. The 12 page Part III of this series introduces the J-58 "Name on the Base" Gobrecht Dollar, provides extensive historical infor-

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mation and general observations of the J-58, and summarizes information of a number of J-58 dollars studied for this article. Finally, the authors summarize their findings and provide conclusions.

### **An Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Half Dimes**

**by Stephen A. Crain**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #79, November 2000**

In this 11 page article, Stephen Crane cites collectors' earnest to know the rarity of specific Liberty Seated Half Dimes. He uses his knowledge and experience to provide an analysis of the rarity of the dates and major varieties of the series. He assigns them all into "Rarity Groups" which reflect various levels of rarity with notations regarding condition. Stephen compares the individual mintages within that group and the *Coin World* Trends values. He then provides extensive comments on rarity within each Rarity Group and assigns an estimated population survival level for each group.

### **Population Study of 1870-CC Quarters**

**by Leonard Augsburger**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #81, July 2001**

In this 11 page article, Len Augsburger presents the results of his efforts to detail the population of the known 1870-CC quarter dollars. He provides background information on the history of the finest known 1870-CC and introduces his "banding" of 1870-CC's into 6 condition census coins, 50 circulated collector coins, and, finally, 15 low grade and problem coins. Len provides detailed pedigree data for each coin and lists known identifiers for each coin. Finally, he estimates a surviving population for all 1870-CC quarter dollars.

### **Notable Business Strike Trade Dollars**

**by Joe Kirchgessner**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #83, March 2002**

In this 6 page article, Joe Kirchgessner shares his knowledge and experience with collecting Trade Dollars by describing several different guidelines for collecting business strike Trade Dollars. Joe starts by detailing a basic set, expands with inclusion of a Type I and Type II set, and then adds major varieties such as doubled dies and repunched dates. He discusses relative rarity and wraps his article up with a dialogue on chop-

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marks and Trade Dollars without the period after FINE.

**The Gobrecht Dollars of 1836 – 1839**  
**by Bob Julian**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #84, July 2002**

In this 6 page article, Bob Julian disputes some findings of previous Gobrecht Dollar articles by Mike Carboneau and Jim Gray and points out some corrections and clarifications. Bob presents his theories using historical information and cites information gleaned from actual coins. He wraps up his article by saying there is no definitive method of identifying original versus restrike Gobrecht Dollars.

**Seated Half Dollar Varieties**  
**by Dick Osburn**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #86, March 2003**

In this 11 page article, Dick Osburn describes 87 Liberty Seated Half Dollar varieties not listed in the Wiley-Bugert Complete Guide or the Kevin Flynn Misplaced Dates reference books. This article provides word diagnostics descriptions and his rarity ratings for selective dates in the series.

**An Analysis of the 1840 to 1853 No Arrows Quarters of the Philadelphia Mint**  
**by Ken Cable-Camilleis**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #87, July 2003**

In this 11 page article, Ken Cable-Camilleis provides results of his study of the pre-Arrows type Philadelphia Mint Liberty Seated quarter dollars. For each date, Ken provides a combined PCGS/NGC population for all grades, mintage, and miscellaneous notes on the varieties, diagnostics, and rarities. Ken then lists and compares the PCGS/NGC population report data for uncirculated grades for each quarter dollar data from 1831 to 1865. Finally, he tabularizes the number of non-proof no motto seated quarters offered on eBay over a 5-6 day period.

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**A Detailed Study of the 1842-O Half Dime**  
**by Mark Sheldon**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #88, November 2003**

In this 13 page article, Mark Sheldon provides an extensive study of the five distinct die states for the 1842-O half dime. Heavily illustrated, Mark provides background information on past studies on the 1842-O half dime and describes in detail each of the five obverse and reverse die states including the die depression and die cracks. He concludes the article with relative rarities of these die states.

**Warrant Listing 1870-S Seated Quarter Discovered**  
**by Richard Kelly and Nancy Oliver**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #90, July 2004**

In this 2 page article, co-authors Richard Kelly and Nancy Oliver provide the first evidence of the existence of an 1870-S Liberty Seated Quarter Dollar. During their research in the San Bruno, CA National Archives, they discovered a warrant for the coins that are contained in the cornerstone of the San Francisco Branch Mint. Among those listed was an 1870-S quarter dollar; none are known to currently exist!

**Riddell's Plan for the Melting Room at the New Orleans Mint**  
**by Greg Lambousy**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #91, November 2004**

In this 6 page article, Greg Lambousy provides a short biography of John Leonard Riddell, the New Orleans Branch Mint melter and refiner from 1839 to 1848. From Riddell's personal journals, Greg also quotes the regular system of operating the melting room at the New Orleans Branch Mint. This system includes everything from a step-by-step process of producing ingots, required attire for the workmen, and cleaning of the pots. The author concludes with a continuation of Riddell's biography until his death in 1865.

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### **The Best of Times – Recollections of a Dedicated Seated Collector**

**by James Gray**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #92, March 2005**

In this 12 page article, Jim Gray recounts the story of the acquisition and sale of his “Jim Gray’s North Carolina Collection,” a collection of 460 Liberty Seated coins of all denominations with an average grade of AU58. This story describes his twenty year project to collect high grade original coins of all the seated series and his evolution from a novice collector to a knowledgeable numismatist. Many of his sources, experiences, recollections, and lessons learned are described in this article.

### **Die Marriages of 1861-O Half Dollars, Parts 1 and 2**

**by Randall Wiley**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issues #94 (November 2005) and #97 (November 2006)**

This listing includes two articles on 1861-O Half Dollar die varieties by Randy Wiley. It details the results of his research effort and, most recently, his study of the *SS Republic* hoard of 1861-O half dollars. His 26 page Part 1 describes the background, emission sequence, information on Union, Louisiana, and Confederate coining authorities, and detailed descriptions of fifteen die marriages. Randy includes tables, photographs, and a step-by-step attribution guide. Randy’s 15 page Part 2 provides a historical timeline of operations of the New Orleans Branch Mint in 1861 and details answers to two questions: which coining authority made each die marriage and how rare it is. A table at the end of the article summarizes the die marriages and likely mintages for each die marriage.

### **The Major 100 Liberty Seated Dime Varieties**

**by Gerry Fortin**

***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #94, November 2005**

In this 7 page article, Gerry Fortin describes his selection of the top 100 Varieties of the Liberty Seated Dime series. He lists them and provides detailed descriptions with three goals: expanding the numismatic community with an awareness of an alternate approach to collecting dime varieties, desiring a universally accepted cross section of die variety types that are popular with collectors, and increasing the competitive challenge, comradeship, and excitement with a 100 dime variety set.

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**The New Orleans Branch Mint in 1840**  
**by Randall Wiley**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #99, July 2007**

In this 11 page article, Randy Wiley provides information gleaned from his research of the National Archives about New Orleans Branch Mint operations from 1838 to 1840. He recounts the turmoil of the early year's operations and includes information on dies prepared for New Orleans and monthly mintages. Randy also describes the re-engraved dentils for an 1840-O half dollar obverse die and how it applies to an 1840-O With Drapery large O reverse die.

**Martin Luther Beistle – A Biography**  
**by Bill Bugert**  
***Gobrecht Journal* Issue #100, November 2007**

In this 16 page article, Bill Bugert provides the results of his research efforts for a biography of Martin Luther Beistle, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania businessman, family man, and numismatist who authored the 1929 reference book on Half Dollar varieties. Bill summarizes Beistle's life, his business, his massive half dollar collection, Beistle's efforts to write his book, and his invention of the "Unique Coin Holder." Bill also provides a handy reference to the three original editions of Beistle's half dollar book.



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## Mark your calendar !

### 2008

- 35th Anniversary of the LSCC - 2008
- Deadline for articles for *Gobrecht Journal* issue #103 - October 3, 2008
- Deadline for advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* issue #103 - October 10, 2008
- LSCC voting for the 2008 Kamal M. Ahwash award - ballots due October 30, 2008
- LSCC voting for the *Gobrecht Journal* Literary Award (Issues 76-100) - ballots due October 30, 2008
- Deadline for yearly dues payment - October 30, 2008
- LSCC Regional meeting - November 21, 2008, Friday, 9 AM, Baltimore Convention Center, room TBA but probably room 301.

## 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 Membership Information. Dues are \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

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

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the Editor, *E-Gobrecht*.

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](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net).

### ***Wanted: Material for this newsletter!***

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 and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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.