



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

**Liberty Seated
Collectors Club**

2009 Volume 5, Issue 3

March 2009 (Whole # 49)

Club members meet at the Long Beach Coin Expo

LSCC members attended a regional meeting of the LSCC at the Long Beach, CA Coin Expo on Saturday, February 7, 2009. Brad DePew opened the meeting and reports on the meeting. "The meeting went well, considering it was our first. There were 5 people in attendance including me.

Gary Rosner, who has the web site for 3 cent nickel pieces, was there with interesting ideas. He collects 20 cent pieces and bust and seated halves. He has a web page at www.3centnickel.com where he lists a bit of info on the varieties of this coin. I haven't viewed it yet. After building a *Red Book* set of Bust halves, he is now turning his attention to Seated half dollars.

Ron Feuer was there in between sales. He has been to many meetings, but was glad to attend one in California again. As you know, since he is a regular at the LSCC meetings, he collects dimes and quarters.

David Thomas was there, also between customers; another regular at LSCC meetings. He collects halves and dimes in the Seated series. He had some good stories and seemed to know everybody that was discussed. He told of how he found a dime variety that was new, how he researched it, and how everyone seemed to find one just after he confirmed the variety. Such luck.

Jeff Strutzel specializes in dimes. He has written a few articles for the *Gobrecht Journal* in the past. He is working on a few interesting ideas.

All in all, everyone seemed very glad they came. We covered the topics that I got from John McCloskey and we talked about coins and collectors. We discussed how we each do what we do with coin collecting and got some interesting perspectives.

At that point, the dealers had to depart and we concluded the meeting. I promised the others that I would organize the next meeting in the May Expo. Our meeting lasted about an hour and 40 minutes, and was the highlight of the Expo for me."

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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.



Auction News

by
Jim Gray

After a busy January, auction activity was much slower in February.

The Superior Elite Sale did not have any coins of interest.

The Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Sale featured an 1842-O half-dime in MS66 with lovely toning, which was well struck except for a little softness on the head and bow knot did not sell. An 1852-O quarter in AU50 and brightly cleaned but with full stars and talons only realized \$862.

The Heritage Long Beach Sale featured an 1840-O with drapery half dime in XF45 with nice golden brown toning for \$1,035. A cleaned 1846 AU half dime still managed \$4,025. An absolutely gorgeous 1853-O no arrows half dime in MS64 with almost a full date rang the bell for \$23,000.

An 1838-O dime in AU58 with perfect rims and nice toning did not sell but an 1841-O large O closed bud reverse that was original and very attractive sold for \$2,990. Eight 1844 dimes ranging from VF20 to XF40 with two impaired were sold as follows: \$462, \$503, \$503, \$575, \$517, \$862, \$546, and \$1,495. The 1844 dime is often touted as a rare date but Heritage has sold 26 different specimens in the last three months ranging VF20 to MS65. While

some of these coins came from a horde, you will never see such numbers with truly rare dimes such as the 1843-O and 1846. A brightly cleaned 1859-S dime in AU55 eked out \$1,495, while a decent 1860-O in XF45 sold for \$3,882. A dipped out 1862-S in AU50 realized \$920 and a light gray 1873-CC in VF25 soared to \$8,050. A cleaned XF40 duplicate did not sell.

An 1842-O small date quarter in AU+ that had toned back nicely from an old cleaning and very well struck realized \$4,025. A light gray 1864-S in VF35 went for \$2,530 and an 1866-S in the same grade with original golden brown toning hit \$2,300. An 1873-CC quarter in VG8 but with some scratches hammered for \$3,450, and a duplicate with XF details and attractive despite some reverse damage sold for \$6,325 and had not sold in a January sale.

A nice original 1870-CC half in VF30 did not sell but a similarly graded original 1872-CC hit \$2,070. A nicely toned 1873-CC no arrows in XF40 was strong at \$2,760.

An 1852 original Dollar with deep russet toning and some marks still sold for \$25,300. An 1857 with a good strike and lovely toning in MS 64 hammered for \$19,550. An absolutely beautiful 1871-

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2) **(Auction News)**

CC in XF45 that was well struck and problem free with gray and blue toning soared to \$21,850. F12

specimens of the 1872-CC and 1873-CC, both impaired by scratches and cleaning, managed \$1,610 and \$6,900, respectively.

Questions of the Month

Topics for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

Two Questions this month, the first one is an important question regarding the Club... your feedback is greatly appreciated!

#1. *[Editor: Gerry Fortin provided this question this month to Paul, who forwarded it to me. Some background information will help with this question. Len Augsburg, the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer, provided some alarming statistics with his recent LSCC membership report. In short, he says that "Regarding the decline in membership, it seems that it has to do as much with current members leaving as with not getting new members. Last year we had 39 non-renewals, this year we are at 85, for a net loss of 46." This trend is particularly disturbing because the level of benefits to the membership is at an all time high: expanded Gobrecht Journal issues with colored cover photographs, monthly electronic newsletter E-Gobrecht, more regional club meetings, and more awards. When you add all these with Gerry Fortin's message board on all the Liberty Seated series, the club officers are perplexed and plan a questionnaire for non-renewing members. Perhaps the current economic downturn has much to do with the decline. In any case, Gerry's question is also very relevant and we would greatly appreciate feedback.]*

The long term success of the Liberty Seated Collector Club can be attributed to those individuals who demonstrate a passion for numismatics and the individual Liberty Seated denominations. At recent club meetings, it is obvious that the median age of club members is increasing with few "younger" collectors joining the LSCC and supporting the *Gobrecht Journal* and *E-Gobrecht*.

What strategies or approaches would you recommend to market the LSCC to the next generation of club members? Recognizing the challenges for attracting younger members is important; implementing new programs will take time and additional volunteer support. I hope this Question of the Month stimulates a healthy dialogue on this matter.

#2. Is there a question you would like to ask the E-Gobrecht readership related to any Liberty Seated topic or collecting area of interest? Your response can become next month's question(s).

All responses are welcome! Please give us your thoughts and opinions. Send your reply to the *E-Gobrecht* editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.



Answers to Last Month's Questions

Topics for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

Only one answer can in to the range of four questions from last month.

From **Dennis Hengeveld**: Regarding the question by Steve Crain on Seated Half dimes, here is my answer:

Ever since I bought my very first seated coin, I have been attracted to the smallest denomination of the liberty seated series. Maybe it was because my first seated coin purchase happened to be a seated half dime (1871 PCGS MS-64) or that my second was a top-pop variety (1843 V-6 PCGS MS-63), but probably not. There is something about these little sisters that make me feel sorry for them...as there are much less people collecting these by date/mint mark.

At the FUN meeting of the LSCC, during the regular introduction, I noticed that I was the only person of the whole audience of 25 members that mentioned half dimes. All other denominations were mentioned at least a couple of times. All denominations...except for the half dimes.

I don't know why this is...although there are no real stoppers in the date set, except for the 1846, and the date/mint-mark set adds a few more rare issues this set is hard to complete in upper AU and Mint-State. Of course, if one had the money he could buy pieces in those grades easily...but the majority of those pieces will be weakly struck, dipped, or sometimes even cleaned. Original with nice colors, they just don't come easy, except for the later dates and a couple of common dates with high mintages. A lot of searching is needed to find original pieces in grades AU and higher.

But I don't think that this is the real reason why these are so unpopular compared to the larger denominations. I think it is just that...the size. When I just started collecting the series I was looking for some advice on one of the message boards on grading half dimes, as I had a hard time seeing the difference between an MS63 or an MS65. One person responded that a 5x loop is the minimum for grading these pieces the same as a quarter. To that, another person responded that he thought that "any coin which I can't grade with a naked eye isn't considered to be collectable for me" to which he add that he could never collect the half dimes because of their size.

So I guess that is the main problem, along with the fact that these were never really much "marketed" as some of the other series. By the time coin collecting got on in the late 19th century, the denomination had been obsolete for a couple of decades. The first reference book on the whole series was published in 1931 and has not been updated since. People remembered them, but mostly because they were so small and easily lost. So basically, this issue...it's all about size.



“Analysis of U.S. Trade Dollars” DVD

By Bill Cowburn

[Editor: While searching the internet for some information on U.S. Trade Dollars, I came across an obscure listing for a DVD called “Analysis of U.S. Trade Dollars” by Bill Cowburn. Not having heard of this before, I immediately emailed Bill asking for some additional information.

It turns out, Bill Cowburn, who happens to live nearby, is a well known speaker at the FUN shows on different series. In 2007, he gave a talk on U.S. Trade Dollars at the Convention that was recorded and is now offered for sale. I obtained a copy from Bill and eagerly watched it. It is great! I think I know a lot about the series and I thoroughly enjoyed the DVD and learned much more than I thought I would. Bill is an excellent presenter and keeps the audience interests up. I highly recommend it.

I asked Bill to write a synopsis of the DVD and it is included here. Look for other DVD's of Bill; in 2006 he gave a presentation on Bust Half Dollars and, in 2009, on Liberty Seated Half Dollars.

By the way, Bill Cowburn is quick to point out he gains no financial benefit from the sale of these DVDs. The DVD's have been sponsored by the major collector organizations, i.e. FUN, ANA, EAC, CSNS, and are for sale from various distributors and coin supply dealers such as Coinvideo.com. Bill]

The DVD 'Analysis of US Trade Dollars - Narrated by Bill Cowburn' is available to collectors interested in the history behind the creation of the United States Trade Dollar. The video was recorded during the educational program that Bill presented at the FUN Show in January 2007.

While the video is titled 'Analysis of US Trade Dollars', Bill's working title was 'The US Trade Dollar - History and Variety'. The viewer will learn of the political and economic factors leading to the creation of the Trade Dollar in 1873 as well as how those same factors lead to revoking the legal tender status of the coin in 1876 and the subsequent offer by the US government to redeem the Trade Dollar coinage in 1887.

In addition to covering the history of the coin, Bill reviews major varieties that are found in this short lived series. Besides the Type I and Type II obverse and reverse designs, other lesser known varieties are discussed (and shown) such as 1874 issues without the period after FINE. Included is a discussion of his discovery of a previously unreported variety of the proof 1876 Trade Dollar. The viewer of this video will be encouraged to study in more depth this often overlooked coin.

Wanted: LSCC Members to staff the Club Table at the ANA

The LSCC officers are organizing an effort to have a club table at the 2009 ANA's World's Fair of Money. We are doing this to raise the public's awareness of the existence of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and to increase our membership. The Club has the table at minimal cost but we must have a club representative at the table for the entire period of the Convention (August 5th Wednesday thru August 9th Sunday).

We are asking for volunteers to assistance in representing the LSCC at this table for a minimum of 4 hour time blocks.

If you are interested and available to help, contact Len Augsburger or Bill Bugert at the contact info on the last page of this newsletter.



Wanted: Information on New Orleans Coins

From club member Jason Feldman: I am looking for help from LSCC members who are aware of any rotated reverse seated coins from the New Orleans mint. I am working on an article for the *Gobrecht Journal*. I believe I have a full listing of half dimes from Stephen Crain and I think I know all the dimes. I do need help on the quarters, halves, and dollars.

My email is jason@seated.org

Upcoming LSCC Meetings

LSCC Western Regional meeting, Portland, OR ANA National Money Show, March 2009, Saturday March 14, 2009, 9 AM, room 126. Club member Scott Mickelson will host this meeting.

LSCC Eastern Regional meeting, Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Convention Center, Friday March 27, 2009, 9AM, room 301.

LSCC Mid-West Regional meeting, Cincinnati, OH, Central States Numismatic Society Convention, Duke Energy Center, Friday, May 1, 2009, 9 AM, room TBD (check Convention Program)

LSCC Western Regional meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Long Beach Coin Expo, Saturday, May 30, 2009, room 102A.

LSCC Annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA, 2009 ANA World's Fair of Money, August 2009. Details TBD.





New Liberty Seated Coinage Website

By Dr. Eugene Bruder

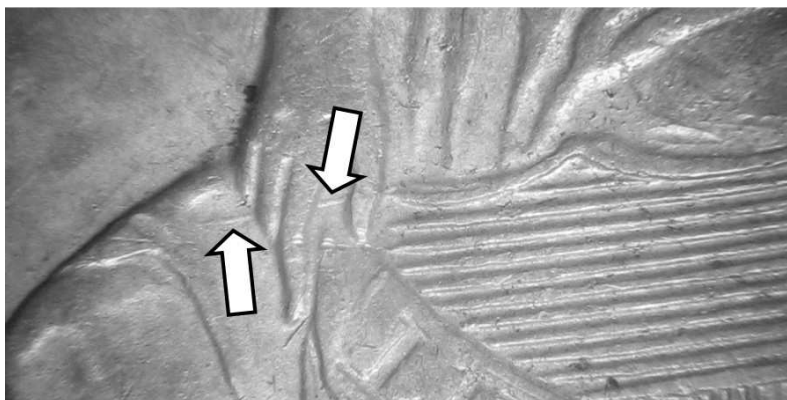
Dr. Eugene Bruder reports information on his new website. My new website, www.typecoins.com, is up and running. I will be listing my entire inventory over the next 12 months or so. I have a large inventory of seated coins, from half dimes to dollars, and the site is searchable by date, mintmark, condition, and variety. I try to have good pictures of my coins. I cover U.S. from Colonials to modern coins, also U.S. currency and Canadian coins and Currency. I have a few books (now including *Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars* by Wiley-Bugert) and am selling a great lamp for coin shows and your home.

I will offer free shipping on the first order to new LSCC member-customers who mentioning finding the website on the *E-Gobrecht*.

I buy, sell and trade, offer a lay-a-way program, and try to service want lists. The website includes my show schedule also.

1876-S “Smoking Liberty” Half Dollar

Here’s one to look for...an 1876-S half dollar with a heavy die line in an appearance of a cigarette between the fingers of Liberty’s hand. It is paired with a very small S mintmarked reverse. Please report any finds of this variety to the Editor.





Subscriber Correspondence

From **Dick Osburn**: As this is written the Long Beach show is nearing its close. As with FUN the auction and the collectors have been operating in two different worlds. Collector demand at the show has been strong. Thursday was the biggest single day we've ever experienced at this show. When the final totals are added I believe it will be the biggest Long Beach show we've ever had. Collector coins were in demand across the board, from the \$25 common stuff to the major rarities. We sold a bit of it all. The attendance was probably down a little, reflecting the state of the California economy, but the sales totals didn't show it.

The auction, on the other hand, was soft, possibly not as soft as the FUN auction, but still with a lot of notable bargains. It seems to reflect the continuing problem of dealer liquidity. The collectors are obviously buying. About half the coins in the Heritage auction went to electronic bids on Heritage Live.

From **Dick Osburn**: The market for early U. S. coinage continues very hot, in spite of, or maybe because of, the current economic crunch. Our sales at the recent Long Beach show were about 50% over our previous Long Beach record. That continued a trend that started at the FUN show in January. Our sales on the web site are also continuing at a record pace. We've lost a few sales because of the economy, but we've more than made up for it from new customers who are looking at the coin market as a more attractive place to put their money than that the stock exchanges. The demand for early U. S. type, particularly the rarer dates, and eye appealing coins in general, just seems to be insatiable.

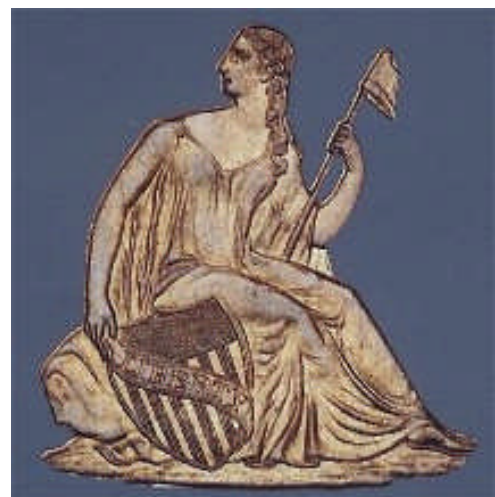
The only weakness in the market has been the recent auctions. We'll get another data point on that at the upcoming Spring ANA show in Portland, Oregon. We hope to see some of you there. It should be a great show in a wonderful city.

From **Tom DeLorey**: The segment on doing digital overlays to investigate clashmarks was interesting. Of course, 35 years ago, at Collectors Clearinghouse, we did the same thing with film negatives!

From **Ken Potter**: I'd like to do a very short review of the Shattered Dies article in this issue [of *Coin World*] and then link readers to an uploaded PDF version of the story (if you can supply) or the entire Feb issue. Is the *E-Gobrecht* Newsletter only available to paid members and editors? Why is it sent to me? I am not a member but have been getting it for a long time not knowing if I can do reviews and upload specific journals to our site or not.

From **Dave Perkins**: The February issue has to be the finest issue ever! Congratulations to you and all who contributed.

From **Michael Luck**: Overall, the February issue was the best newsletter yet! It will be close to impossible to top this one. But I have not doubt it will be done. Keep up the good work!





Information Wanted on Half Dime Errors

I'm currently working on the large task of cataloging the known seated half dime errors known to collectors by date/mintmark. If you own any seated half dime errors, please send me an e-mail at the address below and provide the following information to make this survey as accurate as possible:

- Date and Mintmark of coin
- Type of error
- Grade
- Certification service if graded
- Photographs of both sides of the coin (if possible)

Information about any known errors including blank planchets is welcomed. The results will be published in an article at the end of this year. Dennis Hengeveld, Hengeveld.dennis@gmail.com

Notice: Availability of past issues of the E-Gobrecht

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>

Advertisements

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

Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies

Wanted: Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ pcmdmp@msn.com or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter.

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted: I am

looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Wanted to Buy: Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: www.vtcoins.com, email: puro@vtcoins.com, phone: 1-800-655-1327.

Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted: I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Mark your calendar !

- Next issue of *Gobrecht Journal* - March 2009
- LSCC Western Regional meeting, Portland, OR ANA National Money Show, March 14, 2009, room 126.
- Trade Dollar census - Forms due April 1st
- LSCC Eastern Regional meeting, Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Convention Center, March 27, 2009, room 301.
- LSCC Mid-West Regional meeting, Central States Convention, Cincinnati, OH, May 1, 9 AM, Duke Energy Center.
- LSCC Western Regional meeting, Long Beach Expo, CA, May 30, 2009, room 102A.
- LSCC Annual meeting, 2009 ANA Convention, LA, August, details TBD.

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.

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.

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