



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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2010 FUN - A hot market warmed up in snow-like weather

By Jason Feldman, LSCC #2003



This year the FUN show was one of the best in several years. The floor had a considerable amount of new merchandise priced at reasonable prices. With all of the new coins that have been coming from collectors hands to the market place this year, there has been a lot of nice varieties falling into the hands of knowledgeable dealers.

The LSCC meeting [*see attendees in the group photograph above*] had many of the same attendees as in previous years and who often are not present at that the Baltimore or ANA meetings. Larry Briggs opened the meeting with a topic he really wanted to share. The quality of Chinese counterfeits. It would seem some unethical people here in America are paying in excess of \$300 per coin for "perfect" fakes that are so good that Larry claims many are actually getting into PCGS holders...a very frightening concept. If this problem grows it will be much worse than the whizzing of the past. Those coins at least have some value as they are really, these will have bullion value. Larry spent about 30 minutes educating the crowd on the topic and was the main focus of his attention.

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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, LSCC #664

The Heritage FUN Sale contained a problem free G6 1871-CC dime for \$2,990, while an 1872-CC dime with XF details but corroded and scratched only managed \$1,265. A VF 1873-CC dime that had been cleaned but toned back hammered for \$1,495.

A very nice 1854-O, huge O quarter in VF35 rose to \$3,737, while an 1871-CC quarter in AG3 with the obverse fully good went for \$1,725 and an F12 duplicate that was granular and scratched, but helped by uniform toning, sold for \$2,070.

Two 1844-O double date halves and nice for the grade sold for \$1,380 in F12 and \$4,025 in XF45.

A well-struck and attractive 1850-O dollar in AU58 went for \$4,600 and a well-struck, nicely toned 1855 in MS61, ex-Richmond, rose to \$6,900. An 1871-CC dollar with AU details, but cleaned and corroded, eked out \$4,888, while a VF30 1872-CC with some obverse marks over beautiful gray toning hit \$4,313. Two nicely toned XF45 1872-S dollars went for \$2,415 and \$2,300, respectively. An 1873-CC dollar with VF details but holed and crudely plugged did not sell. An 1878-CC trade dollar in VF20 with uniform deep gray toning hit \$1,380.

Heritage Platinum Night featured an 1853 no arrows half dime with the typical weakness at the date but a nice coin in MS63 for \$14,950.

The beautiful AU58 1846 dime from my collection did not sell again. An 1873-CC dime in XF45 with uniform toning and

a dream come true for the XF/AU collector soared to \$19,950, and an 1874-CC dime with AU details that was corroded but still gave decent appearance with a good strike went for \$13,800.

A nicely toned 1857-S quarter in MS62 and tied for the finest graded hit \$16,100.

An 1870-CC half in VF35 that was nicely toned but had many small marks and scratches still realized \$10,063. An 1873-CC with arrows half in MS64, but not attractive with streaky mottled toning, did not sell.

An 1846-O dollar in MS63, with only one finer at PCGS, was well struck and attractive hammered for \$17,250. An 1873-CC seated dollar with XF details but with numerous marks and light scratches only hit \$13,800.

A number of these coins had a notice beside the prices realized to "make an offer" to the owner.

The Bowers & Merena Rarities Sale featured a very nice 1860-O dime in F12 that did not sell.

An 1852-O quarter in MS62, with only one finer, was well struck with full talons on the eagle and was nicely toned. This coin was much nicer than the flatly struck MS63, which is the finest certified, and sold for \$26,450.

An 1872-CC half dollar with XF details but cleaned did not sell, while an attractive VF35 duplicate sold for \$1,323. An 1878-CC half dollar in MS63 that was well struck and untuned except for some streaky toning on each side still soared to \$21,275.



Question of the Month

Topic for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth, LSCC #1994



Shown below is an **1854-O Seated Half Dollar**. The 2x2 holder from the dealer was marked "reverse damage." As it turns out, the reverse actually has a large section of detached planchet metal better known as a lamination.

Does anyone have any ideas as to why the design image of the Eagle's head, top of right wing and parts of the lettering still appear (though much more faintly) when the section of planchet metal split off and fell away as it did? Shouldn't the reverse design be missing altogether where the lamination occurred?

As a bonus, this particular die marriage also has a nicely repunched date that is doubled from a re-cut or re-engraved die, a WB-101 according to Wiley-Bugert. Can anyone also attribute this 1854-O to a specific Mike Lloyd attribution #? (see Lloyd's reference work: "Varieties of 1854 New Orleans Liberty Seated Half Dollars").

All responses are welcome! Please consider taking a few moments and sending in your thoughts and opinions. Send your reply to the *E-Gobrecht* editor at wb8cpy@arri.net.



Answer to last Month's Question

Here are some better shots of that 1842-O Liberty Seated Quarter shown last month. Sure wish it were a Small Date, but as a Large Date it appears to be a Briggs 4-F(?) Late Stage. This coin may even be a later stage than described in the Briggs Quarter reference with further developed die breaks.(?) The shelf doubling on STATES OF is not apparent on this later stage reverse die and on such a worn coin.

That funny looking O mintmark is probably some form of damage. The reverse does have some pitting. At first glance, the reverse was thought to possibly be the same reverse as the 1841-O Briggs 4-E ("Broken O" with heavy die polishing having removed most of the mintmark), but that is not likely the case here. A newly discovered carryover reverse die from the prior year would certainly be neat.

Other readers' thoughts on this topic would be greatly appreciated?





1861 Half Dime with Die Clashing – A Follow-up

By Don Bennett, LSCC #2084

In the January 2009¹ issue of the *E-Gobrecht*, Steve Crain commented on a heavily clashed 1861 half dime reported by subscriber Dan Backman. Most interesting was that Steve had never seen an example of the 1861 half dime with this strong die clashing. Steve states further that “such clashing is rather spectacular, though, and nice examples which exhibit this characteristic help us to further understand the minting process.”

Upon rereading this article I was motivated to search for myself of any such examples. To my amazement, I found an unsold Heritage lot² in MS68 condition; the finest known by either PCGS or NGC. The lot description states:

“1861 H10C MS68 NGC. Highly lustrous surfaces are untoned, and give off a frosty finish. Both sides are heavily clash marked, but bear no post-strike impairments. The design elements are well brought up throughout. A few Mint State examples have been certified, but this is the single finest piece seen by either service.”

This truly spectacular example makes every other 1861 die-clashed coin, including the Dan Backman specimen, appear ordinary by comparison. Furthermore, the auction cataloguer missed the most important detail in his description; that this coin was twice clashed as evidenced by the doubling of clashed devices on both the obverse and reverse.



If coin dies could talk the ones that produced this issue would have one heck of a story to tell of the ordeal they endured in the making of this unusual and possibly unique 1861 half dime. To Steve's point, I wonder if a coin like this presents us with more questions than it answers about the minting process.

1 <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/47-E-GobrechtVolume5.Issue1.pdf>

2 http://coins.ha.com/common/view_item.php?Sale_No=430&Lot_No=2822



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Some discussion and news was shared by the LSCC. There was a reminder that John McCloskey has in stock *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volumes 1-5 for sale. As many may recall after the first run of Collective Volume 5 there was a wait for a copy.

There were two major announcements. The winners of the Ahwash Award for the best annual article and the Pryor Numismatic Research Award awarded for the best research article to appear in issues 76-100.

Dennis Hengeveld was the winner of the Ahwash award for his article on "Collecting Half Dollars by Date." Dennis was present at the meeting and we had an opportunity to discuss the some of work and factual presentations that went into writing it.

The James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award winner was Randy Wiley for his article on 1861 O Half Dollars. Both Dennis and Randy will be receiving their award plaques at the LSCC annual meeting this August at the Boston ANA convention.

There was an announcement concerning the top ten Seated Dimes. The survey will be coming out in a few months. I offered my best guess at what would be the top choice and there was no contest in the choice. Seventeen coins will be voted upon and the survey will be mailed in March.

We discussed the plain talk interview Gerry Fortin had given in *Collectors Weekly* and the appreciation Gerry expressed towards Brian Greer. While there was very little offered in terms of numismatic knowledge, it was a very nice piece on being a collector, which was the objective of the article.

There was a effort this year to make this meeting more interactive between the members and guests in attendance. All of the

members spoke briefly about their collecting interests as well as the usual dealers.

There were collectors from around the country and around the globe all together for this year's meeting. I think people were excited to get to know each other better as many people did not know each other well.

Both before and after the meeting was an extended interaction between those who attended. There was a good amount of buying and selling that took place during this period. I offered for display the 1876-CC with the 180 rotation as well as a Gem Mint State prooflike 1891-O dime with an excessively clashed die. Both coins sparked a nice amount of interest.

I received many compliments on my recent article in the *Gobrecht Journal* and again want to thank everyone for them. It is really nice to see people share in your interests and take appreciation on a topic so few pay attention to. I realized that I will need to follow up the research with those from other mints.

I would rate this years meeting as being better than in the past. The LSCC topics were about 20 minutes long and very interactive. There were a lot of questions coming from the attendants on all kinds of subjects. The level of interaction during the meeting from the floor was very robust and I think a lot of people got a lot out of it. It reminded me of the great meetings of Baltimore. I would see we all had fun. Most everyone stayed long than usual for a FUN meeting.

The show itself was very active. There was a lot of action the whole time. The floor was crowded and some of the Seated dealers had customers three deep waiting to look at coins. All the dealers I spoke with were very happy with the show. A market that seemed only a few months ago to be very slow seemingly exploded with buyers eager to pick up

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fresh material.

I had attended the NGC luncheon and managed to drag Chris Pilliod with me. We were lucky enough to get a great giveaway, a free NGC conservation certificate which included free return shipping. These are worth about \$100 each. NGC put on a excellent luncheon and who could argue with free beers? The topics included some World paper money which is a growing segment and talk about coin conservation. There was a

long Q&A session where some great information was shared.

There was some nice cherry picking of great coins this year. A fellow LSCC member was sitting at a table when I was able to purchase the rare 1854-O Shattered obverse dime. I think as soon as I asked to see the coin he realized what I just purchased. Another example of the rare 1856 half dime with a rotated reverse was found.

While the weather at FUN was very chilly, the show was very hot. It was a great

More LSCC Exhibits Coming to Baltimore

Following last November's very successful LSCC member exhibits in Baltimore, once again, through the efforts of club Secretary/Treasurer Len Augsburger, we will have a floor table with more exhibits at the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo, March 4-7, 2010 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Sure to draw show attendee interest, there will be four exhibits at a table location TBD:

- Greenwich Collection of Proof Seated Quarters (PCGS #1 Set)
- Top-100 Liberty Seated Dime Varieties
- Martin Luther Beistle Tribute, Featuring Seated Half Dollars
- Selections from the Chicago Collection of Seated Quarters (PCGS #1 Set)

Please stop by, check these exhibits out, and socialize with fellow club members.

Many thanks to Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo, LLC for providing the club with a table for exhibit use.

Scheduled LSCC Meetings

March 5, 2010	Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Friday, 9 AM, Room 321. (LSCC Regional meeting)
April 30, 2010	Central States Convention, Milwaukee , WI Friday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting)
August 12, 2010	World's Fair of Money, Boston ANA Convention Thursday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Annual meeting)



An Interview with Liberty Seated Dime Collector and Author Gerry Fortin

As Featured in The Collectors Weekly

[Editor: I was included on an email from Maribeth Keane of *The Collectors Weekly* who stated: "...I'm writing again from The Collectors Weekly (www.collectorsweekly.com). I thought you might be interested in reading a new interview we posted with Liberty Seated Dime collector Gerry Fortin: <http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/an-interview-with-liberty-seated-dime-collector-and-author-gerry-fortin/>]

I'm also including a link to our Liberty Seated Dimes page:
<http://www.collectorsweekly.com/us-coins-dimes/seated-liberty>

Take a look.....If you like it, will you please share it with your members? Cheers."

I read the article on Gerry and it is very well done. It includes a lot of interesting information on Gerry's life, how he got started in collecting, and about his interest in Seated dimes. It is worth reading and I guarantee you will learn something about Gerry you did not know. Congratulations Gerry! All your efforts are paying off. Here is an extract of the first few paragraphs from that article...]

"I grew up in a relatively small town in Maine, and our family was definitely not middle class. My father had to work constantly just to pay the mortgage and our family's expenses. My mother was a sales clerk at an old 5- and 10-cent store in the downtown area. With my parents busy trying to make ends meet, I had quite a bit of time on my hands, and I put much of that time into coin collecting—reading "Coin World" at the library, going through coin rolls, and generally getting tied up in coin collecting as a major hobby. My mother would aid my hobby by bringing home interesting coins she would find when she worked as the cashier.

By the time I was 15, I had moved on to other pursuits. I was more into rock 'n' roll—this was the late '60s. It was the time of the Vietnam War, the protests, and the music from San Francisco and the British invasion. I focused on music, put the coins away, and worked in a record shop for a few years during high school. I got involved in building stereo equipment and that sub-

sequently led to a university education with a major in electrical engineering. I did not touch coins again until I was 31.

After graduating from the University of Maine, I went to work for IBM in East Fishkill, New York. This was during the early stages of the computer mainframe age. By 1978, IBM was building sophisticated mainframes, so I was involved in the production and testing of the bipolar chips that would drive them. Marriage occurred in 1980 followed by leaving IBM in 1985 and returning to Maine to work for Fairchild Semiconductor.

During the Christmas of 1986, my mother-in-law gave my wife and I a roll of Morgan dollars. That gift lit the collecting spark inside me once again. When I was a kid, I always dreamed of owning some Morgan dollars, but I was just too poor to afford them. I was collecting Lincoln pennies, Buffalo nickels, and occasionally Mercury dimes; to have a real Morgan dollar in my hand, let alone a roll, was just incredible."

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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

Seated and Bust Coinage for Sale: Rich Uhrich Rare U. S. Coins Inc. specializes in Bust and Seated silver coins, especially scarce and rare dates and varieties. His website www.richuhrichcoins.com lists his complete inventory, has pictures of coins over \$100, and is updated frequently. He offers a newsletter which notifies you when significant new purchases are available, offers his take on the coin market in general as well as Bust and Seated silver, and has a trivia contest for which the prize is an Uncirculated American Silver Eagle. He also actively services want lists. He is an authorized PCGS and NGC dealer and a member of ANA, LSCC, EAC, and JRCS. Contact him at richuhrichcoins@comcast.net, 717-533-2935 or 717-579-8238.

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 af-

fordable 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.

New Half Dollar Book for Sale: I have a new book which details all known San Francisco Branch Mint LS Half Dollar die marriages (228) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc. and includes nearly 1,400 photographs. Written with Special Edits by and Consultations with Randy Wiley, this book is a large 313 pages in 8.5 by 11 inch size, is printed on high quality 100# anthem gloss paper, and is available in 3-hole punched format (ready for your binder) or plastic comb binding format. Copies are available now for \$45 plus \$5 postage for U.S. delivery (Specify which format you desire) directly from me at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-0229.





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Mark your calendar !

- Deadline for articles for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #107, February 3, 2010 to John McCloskey
- Deadline for ads for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #107, February 12, 2010 to John McCloskey
- LSCC Regional meeting, Baltimore Coin and Collectibles Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Friday, March 5, 2010 at 9 AM, Room 321.
- Next issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*, postal mailed in March 2010.
- See more meetings on page 7.

LSCC

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 still \$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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