



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

2011 Volume 7, Issue 6

June 2011 (Whole # 77)

LSCC Meeting at the June 2011 Long Beach Show **Cancelled**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this weekend's regional club meeting has been cancelled. Look for the next meeting at the September 9th Long beach Show. See details on page 5.

Next LSCC Regional Meeting: Baltimore, June 17th

Convention Hall renovations have forced the Summer Baltimore Expo to be held in an adjacent (west) hall. Check the show schedule for exact details on the meeting location.

See meeting details on page 5.

The Case for a Liberty Seated Collectors Club Medal

See article and questionnaire on page 8.

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The *E-Gobrecht* is a twice award winning informal 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 on the last page.



Auction News by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

The Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Sale was the only auction of note in May. Unfortunately, it did not contain a single seated coin of interest.

[Editor: I do take note of an 1854-O NGC Specimen 63 half dollar listed as lot

823 in the Goldberg Sale. Pedigreed to the 2008 ANA Sale and the Reed Hawn Collection, this coin realized \$54,050 after an opening bid of \$39,000. Described as a needle sharp strike with full mirror fields with lovely golden and mottled blue toning, this is an NGC pop 1, the only one graded "Specimen." Congratulations to the new owner!]

Comment to last month's Auction News from Rich Uhrich: I really enjoy Jim Gray's auction results column in the E-Gobrecht. However, I think the article in the May, 2011 issue missed the point on the 1847/46 halves. The article noted that "two 1847 over 46 halves were sold. The first being a bold original in AU53 that went for \$8,970, and an XF duplicate that was cleaned, but toned back, sold for \$6,900." What was missed was the die states on the coins auctioned. The AU-53 coin was described in the auction catalog as "Late Die State The WB-102 attribution for this late die state example is confirmed by the presence of diagnostic doubling to the vertical stripes in the shield and the placement of the date in close proximity to the bottom of Liberty's rock." In other words, this coin had none of the under-digits (1, 4, or 6) visible. The EF details, improperly cleaned coin was described as "This is the early die state with the repunching strong and located well below the date to the left, showing the lower serif of the 1, the base of the 4 and of course the all important curvature of the base of the 6 sharp below the 47." I examined both coins and the auction catalogue descriptions were accurate. In short, the AU53 coin with none of the under-date showing sold for \$8,970, and the XF cleaned but toned back coin with the under-date strongly showing sold for \$6,900. This additional information makes these two coin purchases look quite different than presented in the article.

In my opinion, I would not recommend paying a significant premium for a variety coin when the characteristic that defines that variety cannot be seen. But of course, that's just my opinion.



1847/1846 Half Dollar date close up - early die state



The E-Gobrecht Chat Room and Social Club

By Paul Kluth, LSCC #1994

Chat Room Participation: Any subscriber can submit questions or comments related to any numismatic topic regarding the Liberty Seated Collecting Era. Send in your thoughts directly to the Editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net or to your Host at pcmdmp@msn.com --- Paul Kluth



Natural Toning

Eye-appealing Liberty Seated coins of any denomination is the topic this month. Some nice responses came in to be shared with fellow readers.

First, an especially attractive, mid-grade 1842 Seated Dollar from Michael Luck with no visual distractions that can be seen for the grade. Good color and even hints of originality in between the Eagle's feathers and reverse shield lines. Very nice photographs too. Would someone like to take a stab at the grade a grading service might likely assign?



(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

These two are the types of Liberty Seated coins where just the image is all that is needed to do all the talking, or at least after seeing an image or the coin itself, collectors of the series do all the talking among themselves.



Courtesy of Rich Uhrich (photos from www.eyeppealingcoins.com) is a beautiful 1841-O Half Dollar from the Eliasberg Collection. It grades PCGS MS63 and the toning is spectacular.

Thanks Michael and Rich!

For those of you not aware, it is always a challenge to get a photographic image to come out looking like the original coin, and sometimes good detail or color just do not come out as good as the specimen coin may happen to be. I'd have to say that the images for the two coins this month look pretty darn good!

Bill [Bugert], would you be willing to venture a die marriage attribution on this New Orleans beauty from your upcoming book on the O Mint Halves? *[Editor - This lovely coin is an 1841-O, WB-101, and WB-1 in my upcoming new book on early New Orleans Liberty Seated Half Dollar die varieties.]*

Seated Ponderings:
(while comfortably seated on the Rock...)

What ponderings are on your mind? There are plenty of chat rooms in this Social Club to book your reservations for continuing thought and dialogue. All Aboard!

Please respond with your chat's-worth!



Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

Dear fellow LSCC members,
Since arriving home on May 24, the northeast weather improved dramatically with lovely sunshine and temperate days.

My wife Diane had been complaining for several weeks about the dreary Maine weather but luckily a break in the rain and clouds occurred upon my arrival. Memorial Day holiday was pleasurable with friends spending a few days at our central Maine summer "camp" on Lake Androscoggin. As you can imagine, there is a substantial culture and life style shock when shifting from the crowded streets of Wuxi and Shanghai to the remote lake country of Maine. A good time was had by all....

During the Memorial Day weekend, an email arrived from Craig Eberhart indicating that the planned June 3 Long Beach LSCC regional meeting would need to be canceled. Unfortunately, Craig is unable to attend the Long Beach show this week due to a schedule conflict but he did promise a lively September 9 regional meeting at the fall Long Beach show. The LSCC regional directors seek LSCC membership understanding and patience when a regional meeting is canceled due to personal scheduling issues. As your Director of Technology and Marketing, I will strike to locate backup individuals in support of Regional Directors.

In mid June, the summer Whitman Baltimore show will be in full swing and the LSCC is planning a regional meeting on June 17. As usual, Len Augsburger will be the host of the club's marquee regional meeting and membership can anticipate a detail report of the meeting proceedings in the July *E-Gobrecht*.

Also during the Memorial Day weekend, Jason Feldman wrote about the forthcoming Summer FUN regional meeting planned for July 8 at 9:00am.

Jason expressed concern that the Summer FUN is typically not as popular with LSCC members as the January FUN show. In anticipation, Jason will modify the regional meeting emphasis towards an educational Liberty Seated forum for non LSCC attendees. Jason seeks to raise general awareness about Liberty Seated coinage and the LSCC for individuals to consider becoming club members. We wish Jason all the best at Summer FUN.

Later in July is the first attempt by the LSCC to work with the fine people of the Barber Coin Collector's Society (BCCS) for combined regional meetings and coinage displays. John Frost and Gerry Fortin are collaborating at the 9th Annual Manchester, NH coin show for significant Barber and Seated coinage displays and regional meeting on July 29 at 12:30pm. This is an opportunity for LSCC and BCCS members to vacation in the northeast US while enjoying the fun of a substantial coin show and social interactions during regional meetings.

On the heels of the Manchester, NH regional meeting is numismatic hobby's prime summer event; the annual American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money. This year's ANA show is held in Chicago and the annual LSCC meeting is designated for Thursday, August 18 at 9:00. A full agenda is planned with club annual officer elections, Hall of Fame and Kamal Ahwash awards and of course, the not to be missed fund raising auction for our club's treasury. I sincerely hope for a large membership turnout given substantial regional meeting efforts during the past year towards expanding club awareness.

For individuals who have questions about LSCC regional meeting, your primary information source is the LSCC website (www.lscweb.org) where an up to date regional meeting schedule is always available.



The Budget Collector: Seated Deals & Steals Under a Hundred Dollars

Fourteenth in a Series

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Last month, we were discussing the 1858 inverted date half dime, when our esteemed editor mistakenly cut us off midstream. As you will recall, the 1858 was punched into the die upside down, then repunched with the correct orientation. The misplacement of all four digits strongly indicates the use of a four-digit gang punch to impress the date into the die.

In the most recent *Gobrecht Journal*, Alex Fey and Gerry Fortin made an intriguing argument for the existence of a date punch which included not only four digits, but arrows as well. Certain anomalies found in the 1874 with arrows dimes varieties indicate the presence of arrows on the punch – the reader is referred to GJ #110 for the full story. The situation was somewhat reversed in 1853. Turning to the Wiley-Bugert seated half dollar encyclopedia, we learn that the 1853 arrows & rays half dollar dies avoided the problem entirely by simply punching the date into a temporary master die rather than the individual dies. It seems likely the Mint, faced with a large coinage demand, thought it more expedient to sink the date directly into the master. Messrs. Wiley & Bugert give as the evidence the complete lack of multiple date positions on the 1853 half dollars. These gentlemen are probably half blind from looking at seated dollar date positions, and I believe them.

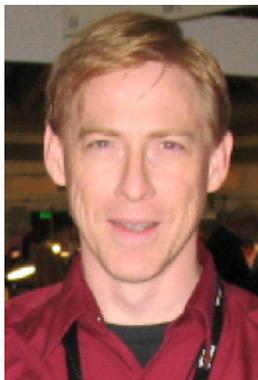
Inverted punching is found on earlier coinage. The 1836 LM-3 half dime features a “3” punched in upside down, then repunched, suggesting that the digits were punched into the dies individually. The inverted date struck again in 1865, this time on the 1865-S ten dollar gold piece. In this case, a “186” was punched in upside down, and then the date was repunched correctly. This now suggests the idea of a three-digit punch. The idea may have been that the three digit punch could be used for ten years, while each year the final digit was impressed into the working dies for that year. Other misplaced dates from the 1860s indicate a four-digit punch - a number of these were enumerated by Walter Breen in the *Whitman Numismatic Journal* (April, 1966):

1865 3CN: The set of four digits were first punched low in the exergue, then repunched slanting down to the left.

1866 5c: The entire four-digit date was punched twice, once to the left and once to the right, creating an “18666” variety.

1869 5c: Double date, with the four digits punched high, then repunched slightly lower.

Breen mentions others as well. The use of imperfect dies in production is a reminder of the effort required to produce 19th century coinage – and the reluctance of the Mint to discard otherwise serviceable equipment.



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The many varieties of Liberty Seated quarters, particularly amongst the early dates in the series, provide a great deal of material for numismatic study. There are times, however, when one has to wonder if the people who prepared the dies were blind, or drunk, or both. One case in point is the 1856 Philadelphia quarter. Larry Briggs, in *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Quarters* (Lima, OH 1991), listed one misplaced date for the 1856. Since publication of the book, three more have been identified with, given the high mintage of 7,264,000, the possibility of more to be found. The listed variety is Briggs' die pair 9-G. Obverse 9 has the flag of a 5 in the shield (Figure 1) and is a very rare coin. The second MPD, which appears to be fairly common and is becoming well known, has the flag of a one in Liberty's gown (Figure 2). There are also two distinct obverse dies that have what appears to be the loop of a misplaced six in the rock (Figures 3 and 4). Little appears to be known regarding these varieties, including their rarity, but we do have a couple more neat coins for which to be searching.

1



2



3



4





Coin Club Anniversary Medals

By Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Recently my local club, *The Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club*, began celebrating its 50th Anniversary (1962-2012) a little early with a commemorative silver and copper medal set (Proof and Satin finish 4 medals in total). I mention this because the 40th Anniversary of the LSCC is not far off. The LSCC was established in 1973; 2013 will bring that 40th Anniversary around soon enough. We (PVCC) spent two years designing and planning for our 50th Anniversary Medal. The night they were shown was electric. Members were pulling out their check books and buying as fast as we could put them into flips. Out of a total 300 (75 each) medals, we sold 160 that first night and did not even advertise to the members they would be for sale that night. We spent about \$2,800 in production cost (not including the silver and copper). If 2,000 medals were produced that would come to about \$1.50 over the cost of the silver.

The Regional Program was designed to promote the LSCC and attract new members. An Anniversary Medal would be very beneficial in that regard. Even more, we members would, I believe, to a large extent be enthusiastic to get our hands on a club Anniversary Medal. The design phase can be an exciting and creative experience. With the numismatic knowledge and highly creative members we have in the LSCC, I would be very surprised if we couldn't come up with a fantastic medal to mark 40 years of numismatic research and fellowship.

A small committee could be formed and ideas from the members or committee members kicked around until we settle on a design. Mintages, metals, and sizes, would need to be decided upon and a mint and designer chosen. I have some small experience from my serving on the PVCC Anniversary Committee and would be willing to serve on any such committee that the LSCC would care to put together.

The main thing is we would need the vocal support of the majority of the members. Without your expressed support such a worthwhile project would not get off the ground. Please contact me at ricajun@msn.com so we will know you're interested. If your interested is serving, please let us know about that as well.

Here are a few options to get started

- _____ 1 OZ .999 Silver (38 mm silver dollar size): Advantage, more space for detailed design
- _____ ¾ OZ .999 Silver (32 mm): Advantage, reduced cost
- _____ Similar size copper
- _____ Proof and Satin (Unc) finish for all metals
- _____ Proof only
- _____ Satin (Unc) only
- _____ number of each type of medal you would purchase

Design options to start

- _____ Liberty Seated design
- _____ Club Logo (wreath)
- _____ Club Logo with Christian Gobrecht likeness in center
- _____ Christian Gobrecht likeness
- _____ Club pledge: *To encourage, promote and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.*
- _____ Club mission: *To promote and share knowledge of Liberty Seated Coinage and cultivate fraternal relations among all persons interested in Liberty Seated Coinage.*
- _____ Abbreviated mission statement: *To promote and share knowledge of Liberty Seated Coinage*

Number of each type of medal to be minted, circle one

500 1,000 1,500 2,000 More

_____ I would be willing to serve on the Anniversary Medal committee

Other medal ideas: _____

Other Anniversary ideas: _____



Encounters with Counterfeiters on eBay

By Bill Luebke, LSCC #2208

This week's issue of "Region 8", the electronic newsletter [of one] of our sister organizations [Early American Coppers] EAC, had an item by John Wright about his emailing a seller on eBay who listed a fake 1799 Large Cent. My response may be of interest to LSCC members as well so here it is:

In response to John Wright's complaint in last week's issue concerning getting fakes off eBay, I have found that contacting the seller directly often doesn't work. Yes, some are appreciative and remove the offending item promptly. But eBay itself often discourages this. I had an hilarious episode a few weeks ago when I asked a seller to remove two obviously counterfeit Trade Dollars. He went ballistic, told me to "get out of my space," and even threatened to sue me for deformation [sic] of character. I politely informed him that his character was clearly deformed long before I entered the picture. He then complained to eBay about me and I received an email from eBay warning me not to contact sellers about items I have "no intention to bid on". So...I guess you have to bid on the counterfeit before you contact the seller! At least eBay saw that I was absolutely correct, removed the items and assessed no penalty against me.

This is what I do now. Click on "Report this item", click on "Prohibited (banned) items", click on "Other prohibited (banned) items" and click again "Other prohibited (banned) items". In the "Brief explanation" box type "COUNTERFEIT rare US coin". eBay is hit or miss on these. I usually report several items per week. Some weeks they remove all offending items quickly, other times few. Perhaps it depends on the volume of complaints and whether they have a knowledgeable numismatist available.

I have also discovered several counterfeit coins in counterfeit PCGS holders. These are easy. Simply send a link to the item to info@pcgs.com and the 800 pound gorilla will get it removed faster than poop through a goose!

Bill Luebke EAC #724, LSCC #2208

Upcoming LSCC Meetings

Cancelled - Long Beach Coin, Stamps, and Collectibles Expo, Long Beach, CA, June 4.

Please contact Craig Eberhart for more information at craig@eberhart.us

Whitman Coin and Collectibles Expo, Baltimore, MD, June 17, check details on show schedule.

Note that the show and club meeting will be in an adjacent (west) hall.

Summer FUN, Orlando, FL, July 8, 9:00 A.M., room TBD. Please contact Jason Feldman for more information at jasonfeldman@gmail.com

9th Annual Coin Expo, Manchester, NH, July 29, 12:30 P.M., room TBD.

LSCC Annual Meeting, World's Fair of Money, ANA Convention, Chicago IL, August 18, 9:00 A.M., Room TBD. Please contact John McCloskey for more information at john.mccloskey@notes.udayton.edu

Central Ohio Numismatic Association, Dublin, OH, September 2, Details TBD. Pleaser contact Steve Petty for more information at stephenpetty@sbcglobal.net



Your thoughts on Liberty Seated Coin Pricing? By Jason Feldman, LSCC #2003

I want to ask the readers about a growing concern which I have posted on the message boards: new collectors seem to feel that if you price over *Greysheet* you are overcharging them. This concern is that many new potential collectors may feel they are overpaying and become disinterested in our series when, in fact, they are paying the true market prices. I have taking much abuse over this with buyers on eBay and recently taken a negative feedback from a buyer (who never did buy the coin) over this value issue. What thoughts or idea are there we as a club can offer these new collectors to keep them interested in the Liberty Seated coins while helping the understand they are not overpaying?

I want to try and help people understand that Liberty Seated coins can not be purchased at *Greysheet* bid unless they are very common or have problems.

Comment from Rich Uhrich: I often have collectors looking to buy Liberty Seated coins at *Greysheet* prices. They can't understand why an EF 1884 half dollar costs more than the \$335 *Greysheet* Bid (GSB). When I explain that I regularly pay well over twice GSB to obtain that coin, many of them still can't understand the concept. And I had a collector who was interested in buying an 1874-CC half in PCGS Good-6 but couldn't accept that the price was about four times the GSB of \$235. His comment: "The *Greysheet* can't be THAT far off." Well, guess what: it IS that far off. I think that these collectors think that the *Greysheet* is close to reality, it might be off +/- 20% or 25%, but 400% is beyond their comprehension.

For you Liberty Seated dime folks, I am still waiting to buy an 1846 dime in Good at GSB of \$60, or an 1867 in Good for \$325. Or, how about a VG 1856-S dime which has a GSB of \$120 but Heritage recently sold a VG for over \$1,000? Did some collector jump on Heritage or their consignor for that price?

I don't know how the *Greysheet* is updated but it sure isn't updated with auction results for any auctions that I follow.

Just my 20c worth...

Any other comments from readers?

Coming soon!

The latest volume in Bill Bugert's half dollar series of books ...

A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume III, New Orleans Branch Mint, 1840-O to 1853-O No Arrows

Final edits are now being incorporated. Look for it soon. More details to follow.



Free Advertisements

Dr. Eugene Bruder is constantly updating his website, www.typecoins.com, which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. Pictures are generally available for all coins, and can be obtained if not posted. He will also take consignments for exposure at shows and the website. He attends most major shows, and will try to accommodate want lists. You can reach him at 530-894-0922 or email at: gene@typecoins.com.

1879-1890 Quarters and Halves Wanted to Buy: I'm looking for Philadelphia mint 1879-1890 quarters and halves, grades 35-45 only. Must be absolutely original, never cleaned or dipped. What do you have? Denis Loring, 561-207-6180, dwloring@aol.com.

Brian Greer, well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at:
<http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>

Rare Coins for Sale: Since 1979, David Lawrence Rare Coins has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our website 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 and offers his take on the coin market in general as well as Bust and Seated silver. 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.

I am still looking for those Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & major Rotated Dies: Cuds, shattered dies and significant rotations on other U.S. series of interest too. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth at pcmdmp@msn.com or 443-259-7134. Hey, thanks for reading my ad..

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.

Two Half Dollar Die Variety Books for Sale:

- *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint*
- *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties, Volume II, Carson City Branch Mint*

Copies of either are available now available in 3-hole punched format (ready for your binder) or plastic comb binding format each from two sources:

<http://www.richuhrichcoins.com/>
<http://www.dickosburn.com/>



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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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