



# The E-Gobrecht

**Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club**

2013 Volume 9, Issue 7

July 2013 (Whole # 102)

## Large Attendance at the June 2013 Baltimore LSCC Regional Meeting

With almost 30 attendees, members and guests of the LSCC met on June 21, 2013 at the Whitman Baltimore Coin and Collectibles Show. LSCC Regional Director Gerry Fortin called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

Please see Gerry's details of the meeting's activities on page 3. His program's slides are shown on page 8 and the CAC submission program details as briefed by Greg Shishmanian are on page 9.

Thanks to all those taking the time to attend and to Gerry for organizing the meeting.



June 2013 Baltimore Regional Meeting Attendees  
(at least those available for the group photo)

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## Auction News

### by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

The **Goldberg** Pre-Long Beach Sale had two splendid coins and nothing else. An 1852-O half dime with proof-like fields and lovely toning sold for \$8,625 in MS65 and a MS67 1839 no drapery half dollar with nice toning, and two points higher than any other specimen, soared to \$138,000.

The **Heritage** Long Beach Sale had mainly lower grade coins. An 1846 half dime in G6 sold for \$881. An 1838-O dime graded XF40 was worth \$705 while a 1842-O in AU58 hit \$1,410. A G6 1871-CC and decent for the grade cost \$2,820 while a VF35 1885-S sold for \$2,115.

VG10 1851-O and 1858-S quarters hit \$646 and \$441 while a F12 1859-S sold for \$1,351. An 1856-S half dollar in XF45 hammered for \$1,116 and an XF40 1866-S NM was strong at \$1,880. A G4 1873-CC NA eked out \$329 while an original gray 1873-CC WA graded AU50 cost \$2,820.

A blast white PR60 coin turn Gobrecht dollar soared to \$25,882 while a lightly toned AU50 1871-CC was strong at \$18,800.

The **Stack's-Bowers** Baltimore Sale contained a number of Carson City coins but many of them were impaired. An AU55 1844-O half dime did not sell while a weakly struck 1853-O NA graded XF40 still got \$2,585.

A nicely toned XF40 1846 dime sold for \$2,820 and a deeply toned and well struck AU55 1871-CC soared to \$27,025. Two AU details and cleaned 1872-CC pieces were worth \$4,113 and \$4,553 while a nice VG8 1873-CC sold for \$3,290. A F12 cleaned duplicate hit \$3,408. An XF details, corroded, 1874-CC sold for \$8,225.

An 1854-O huge O quarter graded VF20 sold for \$2,820 and an original XF40 1859-S went for \$3,466. A choice VG10 1870-CC soared to \$14,143. WOW (see images below)! An 1871-CC in VG8 also impressed with a bid of \$9998 while an 1872-CC in F15 hit \$3,055. An 1873-CC, holed and plugged, with VG details managed \$1,645.

A VF35 1852-O half cost \$734. A cleaned AU 1870-CC still sold for \$11,750 and another in the same grade but corroded, eked out \$3,525. An AU 58+ 1872-CC hit \$10,575 and a nicely toned AU53 duplicate hammered for \$4,847. A nice 1873 NA open 3 in AU58 did not sell but a choice 1873-CC NA in MS61 sold for \$9,988. An deeply toned MS64 1874-CC soared to \$32,900 and a brightly cleaned 1878-CC with AU55 details still sold for \$7,638.

Two 1871-CC dollars, both cleaned with AU and VG details, hammered for \$8,813 and \$4,113. A 1872-CC in AU50 with uniform toning sold for \$11,750.



1870-CC Quarter Dollar  
PCGS VG10 CAC, Briggs 1-A

Stack's Bowers Baltimore  
Sale, 6/2013:1232 at \$14,143

Images courtesy of  
[www.stacksbowers.com](http://www.stacksbowers.com)





## Regional News

### by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

It is difficult to believe that July has already arrived and it is time for another Regional News column. June's highlight was the Whitman Baltimore show along with accelerating my new rare coin business venture entitled Rare American Coins. The Baltimore show attendance was noticeably down as compared to the March event. But this is to be expected during the summer months. The Whitman people moved the Baltimore bourse floor to a smaller hall in Convention Center Concourse E and the entrance area support facilities were stark. Bourse floor activity was light with some dealers only setting up for two days.

Attendance at the Friday LSCC meeting was strong as many club members make a point of attending all of the Baltimore show meetings. The club covered several topics including a moment of silence in memory of Bob Hammond, a review of the CAC 10 free submission program negotiated be-

tween John Albanese and LSCC representative Greg Shishmanian, and an update by Bill Bugert on his latest New Orleans half dollar die variety book.

July is a quiet month for LSCC regional meetings as most everyone is taking personal holidays and focusing on outdoor recreational activities. However, preparations are already underway for the LSCC annual meeting to be held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the ANA World's Fair of Money convention. This year's convention is being held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center from August 13-17. Specific details concerning the annual meeting agenda, club awards, and benefit auction will be featured in the August *E-Gobrecht* issue.

## Upcoming Events of Interest to LSCC Members

July 2013, 40th Anniversary special issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* printed and mailed.

August 15, 2013, **LSCC annual meeting**, ANA World's Fair of Money, Chicago, IL, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 9-10:30 AM, Room 14.

August 15, 2013, **Carson City Coin Collectors of America annual meeting**, ANA World's Fair of Money, Chicago, IL, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 1-3 PM, Room 14.





## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

American numismatics recently lost a giant with the passing of Richard G. Doty, the curator of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian. John Kraljevich

summed it up best, "He was a legend in his own time, one of the few technical numismatists who also got the big historical and economic picture too. Besides that, he was just a really great guy, with one of the best senses of humor I ever encountered." I only met Dick once or twice in passing, going to see him in Washington, D.C. was always on the "to do" list that never got done.

The National Numismatic Collection is something of an enigma to most collectors of Liberty Seated coins. There's no catalog which describes all the Seated coins they have, much less see pictures of them. The gold portion of the collection has been well covered by Garrett and Guth's *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins*, which was largely based on

the U.S. gold content in the collection. The silver collectors have a harder time of it. Even if you go to Washington, most of the "good stuff" won't be on display, and if you want to look at their runs of Liberty Seated, nothing less than an appointment with the curator is necessary. Bill Bugert has looked at their Liberty Seated half dollars, but I suspect there is much more to be explored in the collection.

The Smithsonian also holds a fair amount of Christian Gobrecht memorabilia, some of which is unpublished. This material originated from Gobrecht descendants and other sources, and came to the Smithsonian c. 1960. Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, curator of the collection, published many of the drawings in 1991, but there are other Gobrecht-related items in the collection which await investigation. Footnotes in the 1991 publication indicate there are portrait miniatures in the collection, for example. I'll miss looking at this material with Dick Doty, and for now it stays on the "list."



## Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The quarters of the 1840's are personal favorites for many reasons, including the existence of many interesting die varieties and die states. It seems like no matter how long one looks, or how many varieties

are acquired, there is always something new just around the corner. That was the case at the March 2008 Baltimore show when I visited Rich Uhrich's table and he said, "Hey, have you ever seen one of these?" He then presented me with a nice, original, choice VF 1845 quarter; the sort of coin that could correctly be called uncommon at the time and which is even more elusive 5 years later. Though one of the most common 1840's quarters, today a complete search of a large show like Baltimore might not turn up even one original, problem free, mid-grade example of the 1845.

The coin, an example of which I had in fact never seen before, or since, had a notable die crack bisecting the reverse. Careful examination subsequently revealed that it closely matches the reverse shield diagnostics listed in Briggs' for reverse B. However, no prominent reverse die crack is noted in

the book or reported elsewhere. Nor has a second example been found since the acquisition of this example in 2008. The coin is pictured at right (with enhanced die cracks) and below.



1845 Quarter Dollar– reverse die crack





## Coin Usage in the Old West

### by Dave Ginsburg, LSCC #1813

In my ongoing quest to find contemporary references that illuminate the day-to-day usage of coins during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and as a sort-of follow-on to my brief note in the August 2012 issue of *The E-Gobrecht*), I recently came across the following portion of *Roughing It*, which is Mark Twain's description of his time in the West, including his 1861 journey from St. Joseph, MO to Carson City, NV, accompanying his brother, who had been appointed Secretary of the Nevada Territory. He writes:

“The high prices charged for trifles were eloquent of high freights and bewildering distances of freightage. In the East, in those days, the smallest moneyed denomination was a penny and it represented the smallest purchasable quantity of any commodity. West of Cincinnati the smallest coin in use was the silver five-cent piece, and no smaller quantity of an article could be bought than “five cents’ worth.” In Overland City [now Julesburg, CO] the lowest coin appeared to be the ten-cent piece; but in Salt Lake there did not seem to be any money in circulation smaller than a quarter, or any smaller quantity purchasable of any commodity than twenty-five cents’ worth. We had always been used to half-dimes and “five cents’ worth” as the minimum of financial negotiations; but in Salt Lake if one wanted a cigar, it was a quarter; if he wanted a chalk pipe, it was a quarter; if he wanted a peach, or a candle, or a newspaper, or a shave, or a little Gentile whisky to rub on his corns to arrest indigestion and keep him from having the toothache, twenty-five cents was the price, every time.”

In case you don't have a copy, the book is available via Google Books, at [http://books.google.com/books?id=DUnDAGLdt\\_oC&printsec=frontcover&dq=intitle:roughing+intitle:it+inauthor:twain&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Vgy9UeruCeG-0AGZn4BQ&ved=0CD4Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=DUnDAGLdt_oC&printsec=frontcover&dq=intitle:roughing+intitle:it+inauthor:twain&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Vgy9UeruCeG-0AGZn4BQ&ved=0CD4Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false). The quoted text begins on page 121.

This quotation gives modern numismatists valuable context that illuminates our primary source for how coins were actually used in commerce in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – *Fractional Money* by Neil Carothers. It gives us some support for Carothers' statements that the use of large cents was largely confined to the cities of the northeast and helps us understand why the New Orleans Mint never produced cents, the San Francisco Mint didn't produce cents until 1908 and the Denver Mint didn't produce cents until 1911. It might even give us some insight into why the Carson City Mint never produced half-dimes or why it produced more half dollars than dimes and quarters in its early years – perhaps until the transcontinental railroad became sufficiently well established that freight rates declined somewhat.





## Subscriber Correspondence

**Harry Duncan** sent in some interesting images and information on a silver set stamped with “C. Gobrecht.” He asked if anyone was knowledgeable of this set and if the club knew of Christian Gobrecht’s engravings. Here is his email note:

“Attached are the photos of the silver service (see images below) which I have. The middle picture has the stamping of C. Gobrecht along with R & W Wilson. There is too much glare to get the full effects of the engraving. The engraving is GRE for Griffith Rutherford Elizabeth. Griffith Weakley Rutherford was a Revolutionary War General of which two counties, Rutherford County North Carolina and Rutherford County Tennessee were named. The silver service is coming from his youngest son with the same name... Hope you can make it out. Let me know if you should need anything else.”



I [*the Editor*] appealed to Christian Gobrecht expert Len Augsburg for more information and possible leads for more information. He emailed John Krajljevic of JK Americana, the expert of early silver stamps, who replied:

“Robert & William Wilson were EXTREMELY prolific silversmiths in Philly around 1825-45. Robert died about 1846, so that's when the partnership ended. If I had to guess, the Wilsons produced this set but Gobrecht was contracted to do the engraving -- lots of silversmiths hired out their fancy finishing work.

I haven't seen a Gobrecht mark before, but I'm almost positive that's what this represents.

Cool item!”





# Solving a 25 Year Seated Dime Mystery

Gerry Fortin's Slides from the June 2013 Baltimore LSCC Meeting

## Solving 25 Year Seated Dime Mystery

Gerry Fortin

### The 1842-O Verification Seated Dime

Purchased January 2013



- Obverse: Same device weakness, flat stars, date and two depressions
- Reverse: Same general device weakness

### The 1842-O Seated Dime *Mystery Coin*

Purchased July 1988



- Obverse Issues: Weak head, breasts, flat stars and date digits and three depressions at the base
- Reverse Issues: Overall weakness in wreath and legend

### The 1842-O *Solution* Seated Dime

Purchased June 2013 – PCGS VF35



- Obverse: Same device weakness, flat stars and date but **No Depressions!**
- Reverse: Same general device weakness
- Dime is under graded based on wear characteristics

### 1842 New Orleans F-101 Obverse Die History



F-101  
PCGS MS63

F-101a  
PCGS VF35 (EF45)

F-101b  
VF30

- Early Die State
- Normal Dies
- R3
- Lapped Dies
- R5
- Lapped Dies
- Filled Obverse Die
- R5-R6?

### 1842-O F-101 Die Life Conclusions

- F-101 dies produce best 1842-O full strikes though details are delicate
- F-101 obverse/reverse dies lapped for unknown reason; no die cracks or clashing
- F-101a lapped dies lose substantial device details
  - Loss details occurs on die periphery and not center area
  - Dies returned to production for more coinage
- F-101b die state occurs during lapped die coinage, obverse suffers a filled die event





## CAC Free Submission Program by Greg Shishmanian, LSCC #1494

*[I mistakenly announced this program early in last month's E-Gobrecht. My apologies! Nevertheless, here is the information again. The LSCC owes our gratitude to member Greg Shishmanian for arranging this and to John Albanese for his willingness to support the LSCC. - The Editor.]*

John Albanese who generously John Albanese of the Certified Acceptance Corporation (CAC) has generously approved a program whereby LSCC members may submit a limited number of certified coins for free CAC approval. Symbolized by the frequently seen CAC sticker (shown at right), CAC holds coins to a higher standard so you can be confident in the value of your coins. They verify previously graded coins and award their sticker only to those coins that meet the standard for today's sophisticated buyer.



Guidelines are contained below:

- This CAC offer is for a ten (10) coin review regardless of CAC approval outcome.
- CAC will accept up to **ten coins in one free submission postmarked before December 31, 2013**. Please note that CAC will only accept **ONE** free submission and **NOT MULTIPLE** submissions totaling ten (10) coins.
- **Non-CAC members must apply for CAC membership.** When you contact CAC, please ask for Ivonne or Michelle [(908) 781-9101] and identify yourself as an LSCC member. Members will be moved to the front of the CAC waiting list and granted CAC membership.
- **All U.S. coins that CAC accepts are eligible for this offer.** Please check <http://www.caccoin.com/> for details.
- All coins must be certified by PCGS or NGC.
- LSCC members must use the CAC submission form and provide their **LSCC and CAC member numbers**.
- **LSCC members are responsible for all shipping fees** and will be billed by CAC. All submissions will be returned from CAC via USPS registered mail.
- This information is also available on the LSCC website at <http://www.lscweb.org/>.

Many thanks to Greg Shishmanian for coordinating this and to John Albanese for his tremendous generosity.



## Free Advertisements

**Buying and Selling Seated Dime Varieties.** Gerry Fortin, Liberty Seated Dime Varieties Web-book author, is buying and selling dime varieties including Top 100, major die cracks and cuds. New discoveries posted in web-book as a courtesy. Consignments and want lists wanted. Over 25 years in hobby with proven integrity and customer service. Other denominations also offered. Web:

[www.seateddimevarieties.com](http://www.seateddimevarieties.com) (Rare American Coins - For Sale Lists), Email: wuximems@hotmail.com, Cell: 207-329-9957.

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**Dick Osburn Rare Coins** specializes in early U.S. Silver coinage, particularly Liberty Seated and Bust material. Please visit our website [www.dickosburn.com](http://www.dickosburn.com) to view our extensive inventory. If you'd like to buy, sell, trade or consign contact Dick or Brian Cushing at [rarecoins@dickosburn.com](mailto:rarecoins@dickosburn.com) or 703-373-7399.

**Larry Briggs Rare Coins.** New updated website with many photos—check us out at: [www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com](http://www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com)

**David Kahn Rare Coins.** Please check out my website—I have an easy to use website and list many original bust and seated coins with excellent photos. [www.davidkahnrarecoins.com](http://www.davidkahnrarecoins.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](mailto:dwloring@aol.com).

**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](http://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 ac-

tively services want lists. He is an authorized PCGS and NGC dealer and a member of ANA, LSCC, EAC, and JRCS. Contact him at [richuhrich-coins@comcast.net](mailto:richuhrich-coins@comcast.net), 717-533-2935 or 717-579-8238.

**Dr. Eugene Bruder** is constantly updating his website, [www.typecoins.com](http://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](mailto:gene@typecoins.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/>

**Cuds, Cuds and more Cuds.** I am interested in purchasing cuds, major die breaks, and shattered dies on Liberty Seated Quarters. Cuds on other U.S. series of interest too. Also wanted are major reverse rotations on all U.S. series. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth at [pcmdmp@msn.com](mailto:pcmdmp@msn.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://www.vtcoins.com), email: [puro@vtcoins.com](mailto: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](mailto:davethomas333@hotmail.com) or 1-949-929-2830.





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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 remain bargain priced at \$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@arri.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arri.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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