



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Help wanted at the Baltimore Show LSCC to share a club table with BCCS

Club member John Frost reports an effort to have a joint Liberty Seated Collectors Club and Barber Coin Collectors' Society (<http://www.barbercoins.org/>) table at the upcoming Whitman Coin and Collectibles Baltimore Expo from March 22-25, 2012. The purpose of the club table is to broaden the exposure of the clubs to the public and to increase the interest in collecting Liberty Seated and Barber coinage. During the past few years, both clubs have been working together to share and reduce show manpower resources with great success.

The LSCC officers are looking for volunteers to help staff the club table. For as little as an hour of your time, you can promote the club and its activities. Handouts and information will be provided to the volunteers. This is a great opportunity to support the club and to meet and greet other numismatists with similar interests.

Volunteers and those seeking additional information can contact John at frosty@barbercoins.org. Please consider supporting the club.

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Nominations wanted: LSCC Hall of Fame

Email Bill Bugert at wb8cpy@earthlink.net. Deadline April 15, 2012.

Get ready for the 40th...



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 **Heritage** FUN Sale featured an 1846 dime in AU 55 with no toning and a good strike that sold for \$11,500. A nicely toned 1849-O in MS62 realized \$2,530 and an 1856-S in AU58 hit \$3,335. Two 1860-S dimes in MS61 and MS63 hammered for \$2,300 and \$6,900. An 1871-CC in VF35 and nice for the grade realized \$12,650 as did an 1872-CC in XF45 with a soft strike. Two 1873-CC pieces in F12 and VF20 went for \$4,888 and \$7,475. An 1874-CC in G6 that was rough and spotted sold for \$7,475, proof of its rarity.

An 1843-O quarter with a large O and graded AU53 sold for \$8,050. A dipped white 1859-S graded AU50 soared to \$16,100. An 1864-S graded VG8 hit \$863 and a well struck 1865-S in MS62 sold for \$4,744.

A nice AU50 1855-S half sold for \$5,319. An AU50 1870-CC with original toning and a few marks hammered for \$25,875. I bought that coin

from Jonathan Kern for \$3,150 in October, 1983. An AG3 duplicate realized \$1,093. A nicely toned 1873 No Arrows Open 3 was sold for \$8,625. An 1873-CC NA graded XF45 hit \$3,738. A magnificent MS65 CAC 1878-CC with light toning was worth the \$48,475 it realized. A VG8 duplicate sold for \$1,093.

Stack's-Bowers Americana Sale contained an 1846 VF35 half dime for \$2,156. Three rare dimes from the 1840's were sold: 1843-O VF 25 \$1,323, 1845-O VF35 \$604, 1846 VF20 \$966. An 1872-CC grading VG8 hit \$1,610 while a VF35 original 1885-S with the usual soft strike still managed \$1,725.

A well struck, nicely toned 1874-CC half hammered for \$8,154

An 1851 original dollar was well struck with mottled toning, which was not attractive, soared to \$37,950. An 1872-CC which was original with AU55 details, but with the reverse rim badly damaged, eked out \$4,715.

John McCloskey's wife, Norma, hit by car! In recovery!

The McCloskey family is having their share of bad luck lately. According to John, "On Saturday January 21st my wife Norma was walking in a parking lot and was struck by a car. She has a fractured pelvis which is a very painful injury but is now in a Rehabilitation center trying to develop enough skills so that she can return home. Her care keeps me busy but I will find time to work on the [Gobrecht] Journal and get it in the mail without too much delay."

Please remember them in your thoughts and/or prayers. Well wishers may contact Norma at:

Norma McCloskey
5718 King Arthur Drive
Kettering, OH 45429



Norma and John, Summer 2007



Martin Luther Beistle

A first hand account of his death

Reproduced here by Bill Bugert, LSCC #455

Martin Luther (ML) Beistle was an early twentieth century numismatist, author of the 1929 half dollar book *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub – Varieties*, and inventor of the Unique Coin Holder. He died on seventy-two years ago last month on January 11, 1935 in his home in Shippensburg, PA. His son-in-law, Henry E. Luhrs, penned a first hand account on page calendars of the dates January 11th and 19th 1935. I have a photocopy of those pages and his account of ML's passing is reproduced here for your information.

“Mr. Beistle died today at 12:20. He was at work all morning, in good spirits and left, without any indication of impending doom at 12 noon – to drive home. Arriving he told his wife “I’m tired and believe I’ll rest a few minutes before eating lunch.” He sat down in the chair at the radio of the living room. Mrs. B noticed he was pale & asked if he was sick. He said “I believe I’ll take a drink of whiskey” and while she was getting this from the medicine chest, he went off in a heart spell. She called thro the telephone operator “Mrs Jacoby” – for 3 doctors & Arthur [*his son – Ed.*] & I. – Dr Berry was located and responded at once. I was preparing rice dump-lings for soup for the children when the phone rang and word was given something “terrible” had happened at the Beistle home. I rushed up – getting their [*sic*] first – tried to give the whiskey and after asking him if he couldn’t take it – He dropped his jaw and I poured some into his mouth but it choked him. Arthur arrived by this time & we lowered the back of the chair & rubbed his wrists & temple. Dr Berry then arrived and injected adrenalin in the arm but the circulation was practically stopped – his heart was merely fluttering and noticing the blueness of his neck & ears he whispered to me “He’s dying.” Mr. Beistle must have heard because this was the only time he gave a twist or squirming struggle – a minute or so later the Dr asked “Do you have any pain M.L. and he tried to open his eyes and did shake

his head “no.” And in another moment, when I told Mother the inevitable and she begged the Dr. to do something he said – “I can’t – He’s passed out” no one checked the time accurately but the Dr was back home by 12:30 and he remained a few minutes to tie up his lower jaw – so the estimate is believed correct. Henry E Luhrs” [*M.L. Beistle’s son-in-law*]



ML Beistle circa 1929



Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

Dear fellow LSCC members,

This regional news update is once again being written in Wuxi, China after the Lunar New Year holidays. 2012 is the

Lunar year of the Dragon which is a coveted as a birth year of good fortune second only to the Pig lunar. During Lunar New Year, China experiences one of the largest migrations of humanity on Earth as people use all forms of available transportation to complete their annual journeys to home towns for family visiting and consumption of bountiful meals and rice wines. The festivities are also characterized by wholesale release of fireworks on every urban street corner during New Year eve which was January 22. I walked the Wuxi downtown area at midnight and experienced an incredible display of businesses and random citizens launching spectacular fireworks that would be domain of professional fireworks companies in the U.S. Taxis were still trying to navigate through streets littered with piles of spent firework "cakes" while 100-500 piece firecracker strings and cherry bombs were omnipresent. The situation can best be described as controlled chaos

which the Chinese people know how to manage without large numbers of personal injuries. Several years ago, a large Beijing building housing local television station caught fire as a result of fireworks and was severely damaged. So mishaps do occur on occasion.

Moving back to the LSCC regional meeting calendar, the next LSCC meeting will be held at the Long Beach Coins, Stamps and Collectibles Expo. Craig Eberhart is hosting this regional meeting on Friday February 3 at 8:30 A.M. in Room 102a. Please note the earlier starting time as Craig is planning a robust agenda for attendees.

In March, the club returns to the Whitman Baltimore Coins and Collectibles Expo for next regional meeting scheduled for Friday March 23 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 301. Len Augsburger, LSCC Treasurer/Secretary will be hosting this event and I sure provide an interesting agenda and meeting environment for all.

Gong Xi Fa Cai, Xin Nian Kuai Le!

Upcoming LSCC Events

February 3, 2012, **Long Beach, CA**, Long Beach LSCC Regional Meeting, 8:30 A.M., room 102a. See notice above for additional information.

March 2012 Gobrecht Journal. To be mailed during the last week of March 2012.

March 23, 2012, **Baltimore, MD**, Baltimore Coin and Collectibles Expo LSCC Regional Meeting, 9 A.M., room 301.

Now thru April 15, 2012, LSCC officers are accepting nominations for the **2011 LSCC Hall of Fame**. See nomination guidelines on page 1 of the January issue of the *E-Gobrecht*.



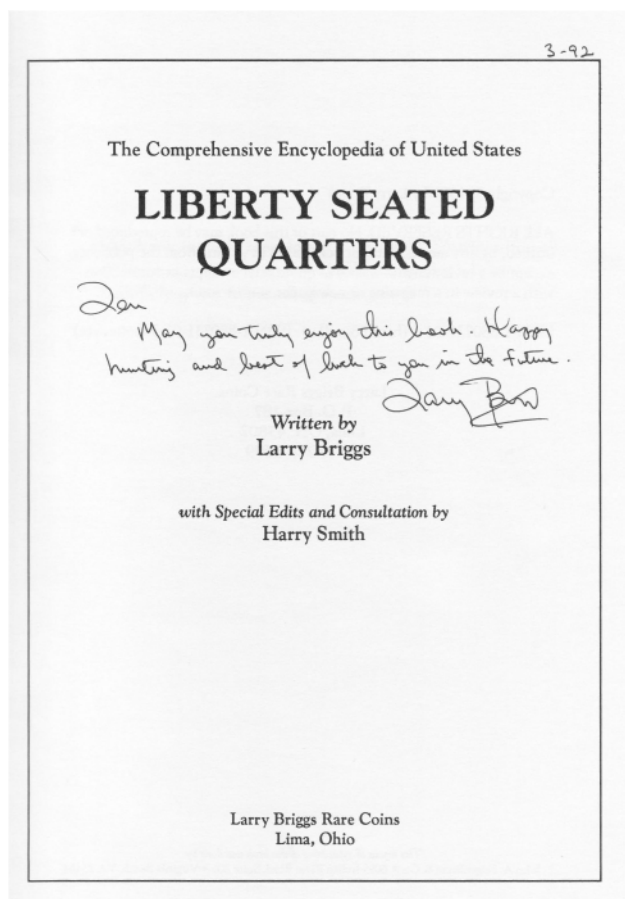
The Budget Collector: Seated Deals & Steals Under a Hundred Dollars

Twenty-second in a Series

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

This month we start an occasional series on literature related to Liberty Seated coinage. I'm assuming most collectors have already acquired the collective volumes of the *Gobrecht Journal*. If not, go get them and then come back! But there are other important resources, too. Let's jump right in to the seated quarters. I started collecting these circa 1990, and Larry Briggs' book on the series fortuitously appeared shortly thereafter. My copy is inscribed by Larry and dated March, 1992 (see image below). The book was issued in both hardbound

and soft cover formats. Five copies were leather-bound, none of which have appeared on the open market. One is held by a California quarter specialist and another by a well-known old time New York dealer. Briggs retains a copy, the other two are currently unaccounted for. Long out of print, used copies of the hardbound and soft cover editions must now be hunted in the stocks of numismatic literature dealers and online booksellers. A softbound copy is currently listed on www.abebooks.com at \$170, which strikes me as excessive. With persistence a copy can be found at a much lower level. On the other hand, if you want it this very instant, pay up!



Briggs' book is absolutely indispensable to seated quarter collectors. The first and only substantive study of these die varieties, Briggs forever draws the line in the sand as the reference point for further research. Briggs nailed the die varieties for most of the coins with lower mintages. For some of the highest mintage coins, die marriages may well number over a hundred, and Larry made the wise decision to not insist on completion before publishing. As Larry states in the book, one could take a single issue (1853 w/arrows and rays, for example) and make a lifetime of its study. For these coins he has noted the more prominent and obvious varieties for each date. The photography in the book is excellent and the detailed illustrations nicely facilitate die attribution. The dedicated quarter collector will give this book a work out. My personal copy has a tattered dust jacket, other quarter collectors have reported copies being so dog-eared that they have chosen to tear off the cover and spine and start all over again at the bookbinders.

(Continued on page 7)



Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The 1848 Liberty Seated quarter has long been a favorite coin of mine. Reviewing reference materials, the Heritage archive, and the population reports in preparation for this column has reminded me why. The reported mintage of

146,000 would certainly lead one to expect that survivors would be scarce; but in a series where a great many dates are at least scarce, that does not make the issue particularly special. Yet, it is a special coin – and one that is not always recognized as such by collectors. The 1848 is, arguably, the rarest Philadelphia seated quarter in mint state. It is one of the keys to a set of Philadelphia seated quarters in any grade, and with no New Orleans quarters produced during the year it is also a key to a date set. The higher grade the set, the more “key” the 1848 becomes. This is particularly true because estimates put the number of proof 1848 quarters at eight to ten so that, unlike the scarce and rare later Philadelphia issues, there aren’t proof examples providing another option to collectors inclined to add proofs to their set in place of mint state business strikes.

Briggs’ estimated rarity of the 1848 quarter as R5 (31-75 known) in XF/AU and R7 (4-12 known) in mint state. There were 34 examples reported by LSCC club members in the 1993 survey. Only one of those examples was mint state and only 3 were AU; eleven examples were reported in XF. The 2007 survey featured 46 examples – three in MS, nine in AU, and 14 in XF. The grading services (PCGS and NGC) have certified 74 examples in all grades, with 21 of those in mint state. There have been only nine mint state 1848 quarters certified by PCGS, ranking it first in rarity amongst the P-mint quarters (in mint state and in PCGS holders). Only five other P-mint quarters have fewer than 18 mint state examples certified by PCGS: 1869 (11), 1842 (12), 1850 (14), 1840 (15) and 1846 (17).

Another interesting feature of the 1848 quarter is that it comes with two, and only two, die pairings - both featuring repunched dates. Briggs 1-A pairs an obverse with a double punched date (Figure 1) with a



Figure 1. 1848 ¼ dollar doubled date

reverse having the so-called “compass point” defect in the eagle’s shield (Figure 2). Briggs 2-B pairs an ob-



Figure 2. 1848 compass point reverse

verse with a triple punched date (Figure 3) and a reverse that does not have the “compass point” defect. There are no known examples of 1-B or 2-A die pairings, nor are there any known examples without a doubled or tripled date. Briggs states that the 1-A die pair is the scarcer of the two. This is contradicted by the LSCC surveys showing that the doubled date outnumbered the tripled date 25 to 9 in 1993 and 32 to 14 in 2007. Personally, I found that the tripled date was much more difficult to find than the doubled date in



The Budget Collector (Continued from page 5)

While the Briggs book is well known, what is not so well known is a follow-up article published in the December 14, 2007 *Coin Dealer Newsletter*, which offered Briggs' updated opinion on die varieties and condition rarities within each issue in the series. Later, in 2011, in *Gobrecht Journal* #111, Greg Johnson published a monster article on the Top 25 varieties within the quarter series. For the quarter collector, this issue should be torn up and pasted into the Briggs book page or by page, or at least be close at hand. Johnson updates the Briggs book on a number of varieties and in addition offers critical commentary based on a further twenty years of market activity. The photography, like the Briggs book, is once again well suited for making attributions.

A number of auction catalogs should also be in the library of the seated quarter collector. First up are the two collections upon which Briggs based much of his work. Briggs' personal quarter collection was sold at the September, 1999, Heritage Long Beach auction. The auction catalog is still online at the Heritage website, and while Heritage has a rock solid reputation for making available their auction archives, I still like to have a hardcopy in my library. Many of the coins from this collection, in SEGS holders and attributed as Briggs coins, still float around the open market. Every quarter collector

should have at least one. There were several hundred in the sale, so there are plenty to go around. I was looking at one such coin in my collection and after studying the Briggs' book realized it was one of the plate coins - a pleasant surprise. Briggs also used many coins from the Frog Run collection as plate coins. This high grade quarter collection was sold by ANR in November 2004, and March, 2005. Finally, the Eliasberg auction catalog (Bowers & Merena, April, 1997), while focusing on very high grade specimens, summarizes a wealth of research on the seated quarter series.

I would be remiss in the discussion of the quarter literature if I did not mention the two-volume photographic record of the Gene Gardner collection. Issued in oblong format with matching slipcase, the full color presentation of the Gardner collection is no less than stunning. Published privately in 2010 in an edition of ten, only one set has appeared on the open market, selling for \$700 at the LSCC ANA club meeting auction in Chicago in 2011 to a proof quarter specialist. The Gardner volume is the sine qua non of the quarter literature, as it would be virtually impossible to match the quality of the coins depicted therein, not to mention the physical production of the volume itself. As the numismatic bookseller Charlie Davis likes to point out to book buyers, "No, the coins DO NOT come with the book!"

Quarter of the Month (Continued from page 6)



Figure 3. 1848 ¼ dollar tripled date

XF/AU. Once I purchased the AU tripled date that is now in my collection, during 2008, it seemed like they were suddenly available and the doubled date far harder to find than the tripled date die pair. Another

observation that I have made is that the two varieties tend to appear in closer to even numbers in higher grades, such as Choice XF and better. Though there is relatively little hard data to support this opinion, the larger number of doubled date examples appears to be mostly due to larger numbers of lower grade specimens. The 2007 survey reported each variety by grade, listing seven doubled date examples in AU and MS versus five tripled date examples in the same grade range.

References:

1. *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*, Larry Briggs (Lima OH 1991)
2. *Gobrecht Journals* Issues 59, 60, 100, and 102
3. Images Courtesy of Heritage Archives.



Subscriber Correspondence

From **David Lange**: Hi Bill, I want to correct an error in Ross Bailey's article about buying coins on eBay. He indicates that problem coins will not be certified by NGC, but rather by its associate company, NCS. This has not been true for the past three years or so. NCS no longer encapsulates coins at all, and those coins submitted to NGC that fail to meet the criteria for numeric grading are encapsulated by NGC itself with a non-numeric Details Grade and a description of the problem condition.

From **Charles Sullivan** (comment on Ross Bailey's "How to Buy Rare Coins on eBay:"): The most significant advantage to snipe bidding is NOT to prevent someone from rebidding after your last-minute bid. Rather a snipe bid made at the last instant keeps you totally anonymous during the bidding process. During the sale the competition will often check the number of bidders and perhaps even detect the presence of a known specialist (by virtue of his feedback rating). In many instances, this information will spur competitors to make higher bids if they think more buyers are interested in the coin or that a known specialist is pursuing it.

From the **PCGS eCollector**: Congratulations to [LSCC member] **Craig Eberhart** from Los Alamos, NM, who has won a MS65 PCGS Secure Plus™ \$20 Saint Gaudens. Craig had the highest score out of the 35 people who participated in the PCGS Photograde™ Online grading contest in Orlando. There was a three-way tie for first place with 8 out of 20 coins correctly graded. Craig won because he received two bonus points for being a half point away from the correct grade on two coins.

From **Rich Uhrich**: Here is a link to a coin just sold on eBay - an 1867 dime in PCI Fine-12, cleaned: <http://www.ebay.com/itm/220931387364?ssPageName=STRK:MEWAX:IT&trksid=p3984.m1423.l2649&autorefresh=true>. It sold for \$1,137 and received 18 bids. [This] Seems like a bargain for a business strike 1867 dime in F-12 cleaned. However, when I examined the pictures and compared them with Gerry Fortin's pictures on his excellent website on Seated Liberty Dimes, I believe that the coin is a circulated proof and not a business strike. A circulated proof is worth quite a bit less than a business strike. So, maybe it was not so much a bargain as the top bidders thought!

From **Rich Uhrich**: Not mine, but check this one out: http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&trksid=p4340.l2557&hash=item19cc8a5fa0&item=110805802912&nma=true&pt=Coins_US_Individual&rt=nc&si=RLf5okicTeXMoIgmFeI%252B9kU2twM%253D&orig_cvip=true&rt=nc. This coin is a medium grade 1873 No arrows Open 3 half dollar. Not bad for \$50!



Free Advertisements

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Three 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*
- *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties, Volume III, New Orleans Branch Mint (1840-O to 1853-O NA)*

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 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@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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