



# The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club

2012 Volume 8, Issue 7

July 2012 (Whole # 90)

## The Find of a Lifetime! The 4<sup>th</sup> 1853-O NA Half Dollar “The Howell Coin”



Photos courtesy of Stack's-Bowers



### The 4th 1853-O NA half dollar - PCGS Secure VG8

What could possibly trump [Yep, I'm a bridge payer—Ed.] last month's announcement of the 4th known 1842 SDSL half dollar? Well we have another announcement this month! Another 4th known—the 4th known 1853-O No Arrows and Rays half dollar! After over 100 years, another example has been found and with an incredible story.

*Coin World* (remarkably buried on page 50 of the July 2012 monthly issue) and the Stack's-Bowers website relate the full story, in summary, of how this half dollar was found in a suitcase of silver coins almost sold for silver content. Herein dubbed “The Howell” coin, it joins the other three in history. A complete census with pedigree information of the first three can be found in Bill Bugert's latest book, *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume III, New Orleans Branch Mint, 1840-O to 1853-O NA*.

Look for this coin at the 2012 ANA World's Fair of Money where it will be auction by Stack's-Bowers.

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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 **Heritage** Long Beach Sale featured an 1842-O half dime in VF35 for \$518. An AU53 1846 dime with light toning sold for \$5,761. Four 1860-O dimes graded VG10, VF30, VF30 and XF40 sold for \$1,150, \$2,070, \$2,875, and \$3,450. The second VF30 sold for almost 40% more than the first, proving that grade does not always determine the value of a coin. An 1873-CC WA in VG8 with mottled toning hit \$3,220 while an original gray 1874-CC graded F12 soared to \$12,650.

An original VG8 1851-O quarter was worth \$633 while a nice for the grade 1861-S in G4 hit \$263. A VG10 1869 realized \$748.

Halves had a 1852-O in F15 for \$518 while two 1856-S pieces in F12 and VF35 realized \$334 and \$690. A deep gray 1866-S NM was worth \$1,495. A magnificent 1870-CC graded AU58+ with only one finer at NGC soared to \$54,625.

An original 1839 Gobrecht dollar graded PR63 rang the bell for \$51,750. An 1859-S dollar graded MS63 with mottled toning was worth \$17,250.

The **Stack's-Bowers** Baltimore Sale contained a nice 1838-O half dime graded XF40 for \$1,495.

An XF40 1846 dime with dark splotches eked out \$1,898.

A choice 1867 quarter graded AU58 sold for \$2,415 while a solid G4 1870-CC soared to \$12,075.

An 1866-S no motto half in XF40 sold for \$1,725 and a choice original XF45 1874-CC hit \$4,885.

An 1839 original Gobrecht dollar with questionable color and graded PR50 hammered for a strong \$15,525. An 1851 with UNC details, but cleaned and toned back, did not deter a bid of \$28,750 while an 1871-CC graded XF45 sold for the same amount. WOW! A VF30 1872-CC hit \$5,175 and a harshly cleaned and retuned 1873-CC with VF details sold for \$5,175.

## Wanted: Items for the LSCC Annual Benefit Auction

Attention LSCC members: please consider donating an item or two for the club's benefit auction to be conducted in conjunction with the LSCC annual meeting on August 9th in Philadelphia (with the ANA's World's Fair of Money).

The club officers request the donated items be "somewhat" related to the Liberty Seated coin series and can be small or large in value. We already have a few items but need more to have a successful auction. Sales of the donated items benefit the club Treasury and, in the past, we have purchased club banners for use at regional and annual meetings and overhead digital projectors for use at our meetings. Proceeds from this year's sale will help defray costs of the 40th Anniversary club medal program.

Please reply to the *E-Gobrecht* editor if you wish to help! Many thanks.



## Baltimore Show Report

### by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

The June edition of the Baltimore show arrived amidst a brutal heat wave in the Charm City. This show is more lightly attended than the March and November events, and local attendees were more than a little incentivized to stay in the air conditioning at home. For those flying to the show, there was no choice but to get inside the convention center as fast as possible and not leave unless forced to do so. I stopped first at the Stack's-Bowers lot viewing, which, not being chock full of Liberty Seated goodness, offered the opportunity to look at a few other coins. The highlight of the sale was an ultra-high grade set of proof and uncirculated Liberty nickels. While these performed quite well at auction, nickel doesn't do a lot for me. The metal simply isn't as lustrous as silver. I did like the black-and-white look of the DCAM proofs, and if I ever acquire one for a type set, this is what I would purchase first. I highly recommend in person viewing for these sorts of things - if you want to see the difference between a cameo proof and a deep cameo proof, pictures are no substitute for the real thing in hand.

The LSCC met at its usual time and place, 9AM sharp on Friday in room 301 of the convention center. I presented on the recent discoveries in the half dollar series. The fourth known 1853-O No Arrows & Rays half was front row center, and Stack's

had the actual coin on display - it will be auctioned next month at the ANA convention. Speculation was offered about the expected price, consensus seemed to be around the \$200K - \$250K level. The fourth known 1842 small date, small letters half dollar variety also made a recent debut in the marketplace and has been placed privately. Of the latter coin, I suspect a few more are out there - the variety was first discovered in 1998 by Brian Greer, and with four found in only 14 years, a few more are likely in hiding. An interesting trade dollar was

Continued on page 7



John Frost speaking on Seated/Trade Dollars (upper right) and the attendees at the Baltimore LSCC club meeting (above)



## Regional News by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

What an exciting time to be a collector of Liberty Seated coinage! The 2012 ANA World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia, PA is only five weeks away. Stack's-Bowers is aggressively marketing the Battle Born collection of Carson City coinage with the 1873-CC No Arrows dime being the headline attraction. The July 2012 *Coin World* issue features a cover story on the *King of the Carson City Coins, the Mysterious Past of the Unique 1873-CC Without Arrows Dime* and presents provenance research through current ownership. I'm sure there is much anticipation on who will be the new owner and the hammer price. Will the new owner be an LSCC member?

The Liberty Seated Collectors Club is also on a roll with its annual meeting on Thursday, August 9 at 9:00 AM. A lively agenda is planned with multiple awards, club news, and fund raising auction. The club is also announcing its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program and offering attractive proof and satin finish silver and proof finish gold medals with order forms being mailed out soon [*They will be postal mailed to all current status LSCC members on July 2nd – Ed.*] and available in this issue and on the LSCC website.

On behalf of the club leadership, we look forward to seeing LSCC members throughout the ANA show and especially at the August 9 annual meeting.



### Upcoming LSCC Events

Mid-July, latest issue of **The Gobrecht Journal** will be postal mailed to all current members by President/Editor John McCloskey.

August 9, 2012, **Philadelphia, PA**, ANA World's Fair of Money, Pennsylvania Convention Center, LSCC Annual Meeting, 9 AM, room TBD.

### Of interest to Liberty Seated enthusiasts

2012 ANA World's Fair Of Money (aka ANA Convention), August 7-11, 2012, Pennsylvania Convention Center, bourse, meetings, auctions, classes, presentations, exhibits, formal and informal social gatherings, and all around great camaraderie, **Philadelphia, PA**.

August 9, 2012, **Philadelphia, PA**, ANA World's Fair of Money, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Carson City Coin Collectors of America meeting, 1 PM, room TBD.

August 10, 2012, **Philadelphia, PA**, ANA World's Fair of Money, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Money Talk, "New Data Support Revisionist Theory of the Gobrecht Dollars," 2 PM, room TBD



## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

This month we feature a cherrypick from the King of Quarter varieties, Mr. Ray Lathrop. Ray has been at the quarter varieties game as long as anyone, a collector who knew the bourse floor backwards and forwards even before the invention of the Internet. Nowadays he is spending a lot of time online, and this month's find comes from a "lesser known auction site," which Ray has declined to share with us. In Ray's defense, I would not share it either! In any case, what we have here is an 1854-O seated dime, Fortin-102. Ray paid the bargain price

of \$40. The coin is number #38 in the Fortin top-100 varieties, described as a shattered obverse die. The die damage is dramatic and obvious without a glass. One is reminded of the 1854-O Huge-O quarter, and wonders what was going on New Orleans that year - what is certain is that damaged dies did not stop them for keeping the presses running. A neat coin, and when a faulty die leads to such a visible defect, a collecting prize is made. The true value? We won't know until a similar example shows up in a well traveled venue such as eBay or a national coin auction. In the meantime, a lot of collectors would be lined up to buy this one at \$40!



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**LSCC 40th Anniversary Medal Order form and info  
on pages 8-9**



## Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

Those who have collected coins for any length of time come to realize that the word “rare” only has meaning within context; when compared to other coins.

Likewise, the word “common” can mean many different things. A “rare” Walking Liberty Half, for example, would be amongst the most common of seated quarters. The issue becomes even more complex when varieties are considered, particularly varieties within a relatively thinly collected series like seated quarters. The key confounding issue is simply the lack of information regarding populations and relative numbers of the varieties. So, while this month’s quarter is considered “common” within the context of Liberty Seated Quarter varieties, I prefer to think of it as one veteran Liberty Seated dealer once described it to me, “much more popular with sellers than buyers.”

The 1853/4 quarter (PCGS Coin #5427) is a readily available coin that is listed in major catalogs and price guides. The attribution points are the bar of the 4, which appears under the 3 in the date, and a notable repunching of the right arrow. There is some debate regarding whether the under-digit is truly a 4, or possibly something else. The strength of the bar under the 3 digit, whether or not it is the upright of a 4, varies considerably, making the repunched arrow the more dependable attribution point. A total of 26 examples were reported in the 1993 LSCC survey and 31 in 2007. Though it represents a very small percentage of 1853 Arrows and Rays quarters, with some patience the variety can be found in almost any grade desired. The collector seeking an interesting, yet inexpensive, seated quarter variety might do well to consider a nice example of the 1853/4.





(Continued from page 3)

presented by John Coyle, with last minute photography supplied by the ever capable Tom Bush. This coin was double struck in the collar, with a significant amount of rotation (about 90 degrees) between the two strikes. Evidence of the remaining first strike is ample and the coin was later available on the bourse floor to inspect firsthand. This sort of error is extremely rare in the Liberty Seated series, and will no doubt be highly prized by its owner for a long time. John Frost finished off the meeting with a report on northeast regional activities - some of the smaller shows have proven to be a good place to recruit new club members. Many thanks to John as well for hosting a club table on the bourse floor and exhibiting such delicacies as an 1875-S proof 20c and 1844 proof dollar.

Looking forward to the ANA, Thursday, August 9th will be the day to be in Philadelphia. The LSCC Annual Meeting and fundraising auction will

occur at 9 AM, with the Carson City collectors club commencing later in the day at 1PM. All of this leads up to the sale of the Battle Born set, a complete Carson City collection, going under the hammer at Stack's at 6 PM. This set was on display in Baltimore, and although I had seen it before, a second viewing was more than necessary. I was inspired enough to purchase an 1876-CC double eagle on the bourse floor from Doug Winter - and at a much lower price than any of these coins will probably sell for!

Finally, mention must also be made of the LSCC Fun Run in Baltimore, a 5K event which occurred at 6:30 AM Friday morning. The sanity of running in such hot weather can reasonably be questioned, and I would not have to argue with the skeptics. Nevertheless, four of us braved the heat, although due to a variety of logistical blunders, not everyone met up beforehand. We will do better at the November show, and the cool weather should be much more inviting.

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## **LSCC 40th Anniversary Medal Ordering Information**

Club members can now order the LSCC 40th Anniversary medal. Complete information and an order form can be found on page XX of this issue and, if you are a current member of the LSCC, order form are being first class postal mailed on July 2nd. Additionally, there will be a discussion of the club's medal program at the LSCC annual meeting in Philadelphia.

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## **Volunteers Need! To staff the club table at the ANA**

The LSCC will have a club table at the ANA (actually, we will share one with the Barber Coin Collectors Society). We are looking for club members to spent some time at the table discussing the benefits of the club and answering questions from stop-byers. If you have never done this, it is really enjoyable as you get to see a lot of people and tell/hear some good Liberty Seated or coin stories. Please consider donating at least one hour of your time to support the club and relieve someone else who spends time at the table.

If you are interested and wish to help, please email the editor at [wb8cpy@earthlink.net](mailto:wb8cpy@earthlink.net). Many thanks in advance.



# Liberty Seated Collectors Club 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal Order Form

The officers of the LSCC are pleased to announce the pending availability of medals to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. Depicted below, this medal will be available in three options, all designed and minted by prominent medal maker, Daniel Carr.

Silver Medal, Satin Finish Example



Option	Characteristics	LSCC Member Pricing	Non Member Pricing
1. Silver, Satin Finish	1 oz. silver, 1.530" diameter, plain edge	\$70 <sup>1</sup> each	\$80 <sup>1</sup> each
2. Silver, Proof Finish	1 oz. silver, 1.530" diameter, plain edge	\$70 <sup>1</sup> each	\$80 <sup>1</sup> each
3. Gold, Proof Finish	1 oz. gold, 1.530" diameter, LSCC member number on edge, plain edge	\$150 plus 1 oz. gold coin <sup>2</sup> , one per club member	Not Available

<sup>1</sup>Price based on silver spot up to \$33/oz and subject to change in the event silver spot cost increases above \$33/oz  
<sup>2</sup>A one ounce Krugerrand, American Gold Eagle or Canadian Maple Leaf gold coin must be submitted by registered mail with your order for option 3. Your coin will be melted and reminted as the club medal.

Medals will be mailed to buyers during the first half of 2013. By **November 30, 2012**, return the completed order form, payment, and gold bullion coin (if applicable) to:

**Len Augsburg, LSCC Secretary – Treasurer**  
P.O. Box 6114  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

-----Detach here-----

LSCC 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal Order Form		
	LSCC Member	LSCC Non Member
Name: _____	Silver: Option 1 or 2	Silver: Option 1 or 2
Street Address: _____	Option 1: __ x \$70 each = \$ _____	Option 1: __ x \$80 each = \$ _____
City, State, Zip: _____	Option 2: __ x \$70 each = \$ _____	Option 2: __ x \$80 each = \$ _____
LSCC member #: _____	Option 3: Gold coin enclosed + \$150	Not Available
Email Address: _____	Amount enclosed: \$ _____	Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Continued on next page



## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

### Terms and Conditions

1. This order form can be used by LSCC club members, new members and non members. Non members must join the LSCC (see membership form below) for enjoying reduced LSCC member pricing and access to gold medal option.
2. Payment by check or money order only.
3. Prices include return insured shipping. Insured shipping to be use for silver medals up to 6 pieces and registered shipping for gold medals and silver orders above 6 pieces.
4. Silver medals are offered to club members and general public without order limit.
5. Gold medals will be strictly limited to one per club member.
6. Gold bullion coins submitted for melting will have receipt acknowledged by club Secretary/Treasurer.
7. Silver and gold medal orders will be accepted through November 30, 2012.
8. LSCC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has not set or will guarantee mintage limits for any of three medal options.
9. Finished medals will be packaged and delivered in *Coin World* high quality plastic holder in similar size as those used by leading Third Party Grading services.
10. Images of individual proof and satin finish silver medal options can be viewed on the LSCC website. Minting and anticipated shipment dates will also be listed on the website: <http://www.lscweb.org/SilverGoldMedal.php>.

LSCC non members are encouraged to join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, the best value in numismatics! LSCC members receive three *Gobrecht Journal* issues annually, the award winning monthly *E-Gobrecht* and opportunities to participate at regional meetings held throughout the United States.

\*\*\*\*\* Only LSCC members can order a gold 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medal and receive \$10 discount for each silver medal ordered.

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### Membership Application

## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee - \$20.00 for first year dues and initiation fee.

Fill in the above information and mail with \$20.00 to:

Len Augsburg - P.O. Box 6114, Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061



# Help wanted with an 1853-O A& R Half Dollar by Bill Bugert, LSCC #455

Randy Wiley and I wish to study an example of a specific 1853-O Arrows and Rays half dollar die marriage. Randy saw an example of this variety many years ago, scribed detailed notes, and passed on the coin hoping to find another in better condition. That has not happened. I need one for study and to photograph it for inclusion in my upcoming book *A Register of Liberty Seated Die Varieties, Volume IV, New Orleans Branch Mint, 1853-O to 1861-O*. I will include proper credit for the coin to the supplying collector. Please study your 1853-Os and see if the obverse and reverse die diagnostics match those below. If so, please respond to me at [wb8cpy@earthlink.net](mailto:wb8cpy@earthlink.net). I will pay all costs to borrow the coin.

### Obverse diagnostic



Nearly horizontal lines in the drapery below Liberty's elbow.

Note: this obverse die is paired with three reverse dies. I need the one paired with the reverse diagnostics as shown to the right.

### Reverse diagnostics



No ray inside the mintmark (photo above).



Die cracks thru arrowheads to (AMERIC)A and to the rim (as shown above)



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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 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](mailto:richuhrichcoins@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/>

**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

**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.



## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Contact Information:

**President and Editor, Gobrecht Journal**  
John McCloskey  
[mcclosjw@udayton.edu](mailto:mcclosjw@udayton.edu)

**Vice President and Editor, E-Gobrecht**  
Bill Bugert  
(717) 337-0229  
P.O. Box 242  
Fairfield, PA 17320  
[wb8cpy@arrl.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net)

**Secretary / Treasurer**  
Leonard Augsburger  
(847) 816-1649  
P.O. Box 6114  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
[leonard\\_augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto:leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com)

**LSCC website:**  
<http://www.lscweb.org>

### National Officers

**Gerry Fortin**  
[wuximems@hotmail.com](mailto:wuximems@hotmail.com)  
Director,  
LSCC Technology and Marketing

**Dennis Fortier**  
[ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)  
Director,  
LSCC Northeast Region

**Jason Feldman**  
[jasonfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:jasonfeldman@gmail.com)  
Director,  
LSCC Southern Region

**Steve Petty**  
[stephenpetty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephenpetty@sbcglobal.net)  
Director,  
LSCC Central Region

**Craig Eberhart**  
[craig@eberhart.us](mailto:craig@eberhart.us)  
Director,  
LSCC Western Region

## 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](mailto: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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