



The E-Gobrecht

**Liberty Seated
Collectors Club**

2016 Volume 12, Issue 9
September 2016 (Whole #140)

Fortier wins Ahwash Award!

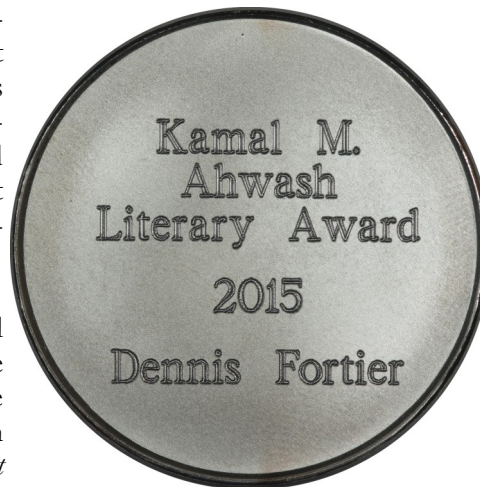
At the 2016 LSCC annual meeting, LSCC Editor and Publisher Bill Bugert announced that LSCC member and Regional Director, Dennis Fortier, won the 2015 Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award. Dennis was not in attendance and will be presented the actual award (medal at right) and the November 2016 Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo.

The Kamal M. Ahwash is an annual award presented to the author of the article voted most popular by the membership. The voting occurs each Winter concurrently with the call for club dues payment and all *Gobrecht Journal* articles for the year are considered.

Dennis' article entitled "Overrated and Underrated Liberty Seated Coins, Part 1" in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #121 was most popular with 74 votes. It is important to note that every article received multiple votes indicating a wide range of collector and membership interests.

Congratulations, Dennis!

The next issue (#127, Fall 2016) of the *Gobrecht Journal* will list full voting results.



Group photograph, 2016 LSCC annual meeting in Anaheim, CA

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The *E-Gobrecht* is an 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 on the last page.



Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

The American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money was held from August 9-13 in Anaheim, California.

As part of the show, major auctions of U.S. coins were held by Stack's Bowers Galleries on August 9 and 11 and by Heritage Auctions on August 10 and 12. I attended a number of the auction sessions, reviewed many of the Liberty Seated coins, and have added some comments based on my notes made during lot viewing.

Stack's Bowers 2016 ANA Auction

The first Liberty Seated coins to be auctioned were in the Stack's Bowers auction which began on Tuesday morning August 9th. An 1840-O dime with the large O mintmark, F-101a, graded PCGS AU55 sold for \$1,527. It was followed by two better Philadelphia date dimes: an 1844 PCGS EF45 sold for \$881 and the much rarer 1846 in PCGS VF25 which sold for \$1,057. Two low mintage double dimes or twenty cent pieces were sold with an 1875 in PCGS MS63 going for \$1,292 and an 1876 in NGC MS64 selling for \$2,115.

An 1843-O Large O quarter graded PCGS CAC VF20 sold for \$763. This major variety has been showing up with some regularity in recent auctions and prices seem to have dropped, but I still consider it to be scarcer than the 1854-O Huge O. Apparently the more recent recognition of this variety and the subsequent influx of new coins has fulfilled much of the demand. A beautifully toned 1848 quarter, the rarest Philadelphia Liberty Seated quarter from the 1840s, graded NGC MS63 sold for \$3,525. An 1854-O Huge O quarter in PCGS VF30 CAC sold for \$3,055. A rare 1860-S quarter graded NGC VF25 sold for \$3,760.

An 1862-S quarter graded PCGS MS62 in an old green holder with a gold CAC sticker, sold for the

very strong price of \$7,637. This price is higher but comparable to historical sales of MS63 graded coins, but the 1862-S PCGS MS63 quarter in the Heritage Signature auction the following day sold for **less than half** of this price! Apparently more than one bidder thought there was a possibility of a two-point upgrade or that the gold CAC sticker itself added value independent of the coin. I have seen a few gold stickered coins sell for prices beyond what would be possible if the coin were fully graded (e.g., a gold stickered coin with wear selling for an MS63 price).

An 1853-O half dollar graded PCGS AU58 sold for \$2,585. An example of the rare 1855-S half dollar graded AU53 by PCGS did not sell. A nice selection of better date Carson City half dollars, all graded by PCGS did sell: 1870-CC F12 \$3,290; 1871-CC F12 \$998; 1872-CC EF45 \$2,115; 1873-CC no arrows VF30 \$2,115; 1873-CC with arrows \$1,762; 1874-CC VF25 \$2,820; and an 1878-CC VF30 \$3,055.

A limited number of Liberty Seated dollars were in this sale. An 1848 graded PCGS EF45 sold for \$1,645. Two 1872-CC dollars in the auction were graded by PCGS as VF30 and F12. The VF30 coin sold for \$3,055, but the F12 did not sell.

Heritage Signature Auction

The Heritage signature auction began at noon on Wednesday August 10th. An 1838-O half dime, the V-1 variety without the extensive die rust prevalent on many V-2 coins, graded by ANACS as an AU55 sold for \$4,700. A very nice 1853-O no arrows half dime in PCGS AU55 sold for \$4,230. An 1860-O dime graded PCGS VF20 sold for \$1,997.

An 1843-O Large O quarter graded PCGS VF35 CAC sold for \$1,116. An 1856-S quarter with a

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

large S over small s mintmark was graded by PCGS as a VF30 and sold for the strong price of \$3,055. An 1861-S quarter, one of many rare San Francisco dates before 1870, graded PCGS XF40 sold for \$3,768. The PCGS MS63 1862-S quarter previously mentioned above sold for \$3,525.

Several better date Carson City half dollars graded by PCGS were in this auction as they were in the Stack's Bowers auction: 1872-CC XF45 \$2,232; 1872-CC AU50 \$2,820; 1874-CC XF40 \$4,935; and 1875-CC MS62 \$2,820.

Another nice run of coins was sold in the Liberty Seated dollar series. The following coins were all graded AU58 by PCGS: 1841 \$1,292; 1842 \$1,645; 1844 \$2,350; 1844 CAC \$3,055; 1845 \$2,937; 1846 \$1,645; 1846-O \$2,820; 1848 \$3,290; and 1859-O \$1,175. A nice selection of other dates was also sold along with these AU58 dollars. Several Carson City Trade dollars were in the auction. Two 1874-CC dollars graded by PCGS as MS61 and MS62 were sold for \$3,877 and \$3,760, respectively. An 1876-CC with several chopmarks was graded MS63 by PCGS and sold for \$9,989. Years ago this coin would have been considered damaged or impaired by most U.S. collectors. However, Trade dollars were minted primarily for trade in Asia and the chopmarks were added for a variety of reasons including verification of their silver content and a guarantee of acceptance. Collecting these chop marked dollars with their associated history is now quite popular. Perhaps the guarantee has come full circle!

Heritage Platinum Night

On Wednesday evening August 10, Heritage held its Platinum night auction. A number of high grade expensive Liberty Seated coins sold in the auction for weak prices compared to recent auctions or did not even sell. The following three Gardner coins, all PCGS graded with CAC stickers, sold for less than their Gardner auction prices: the finest graded 1838-O half dime in MS66+ for \$47,000; an 1853-O no arrows half dime in MS65 for \$22,325; and an 1838-O dime in MS65 for \$19,975.

A rare transitional 1841-O dime with Large O closed bud reverse graded MS62 by PCGS, perhaps the only uncirculated dime of this variety, sold for \$15,862. I was wishing I had bid on this one! The 1855-O quarter previously from the Gardner collection, was graded NGC MS67 CAC, but did not sell. An 1856-S half dollar in PCGS MS64 tied for the finest graded sold for \$18,800. Two MS62 1850-O dollars were in the auction. An untoned PCGS graded coin sold for \$12,337 and the iridescently toned NGC coin sold for \$8,518. Three CC dollars were sold: an 1871-CC in NGC AU58 sold for \$25,850; an 1872-CC in NGC MS61 sold for \$17,625; and the rarest CC date, an 1873-CC PCGS VF35, sold for \$16,450.

The Stack's Bowers Rarity Night

This auction was held on Thursday evening August 11th. Many coins in this auction did not meet their reserve. Two 1838-O dime were offered: the PCGS MS65 with a CAC sticker did not sell while the PCGS MS64 sold for only \$4,935. An 1856-S quarter in PCGS CAC MS62 sold for \$11,162.

One of the most interesting comparisons was the prices for the two AU50 1870-CC half dollars in this auction. The first coin was graded PCGS and the second by NGC. I examined both coins. The first coin was a beautiful problem-free originally-toned coin. The second coin had a bit more wear, "average" toning (if there is such a thing), and no significant problems. It might have looked fine by itself, but it paled in a side-by-side comparison to the previous coin. The first coin sold for \$28,200 and the second one sold for less than half of this amount at \$12,925. I think this price difference would have been just as dramatic no matter what company graded each coin. An 1878-CC half dollar in PCGS MS63 sold for \$18,800.

An 1846-O dollar graded PCGS MS63 sold for \$18,800. The "1851-O" dollar (actually a restrike 1851 dollar on a New Orleans Seated dollar) reappeared in this auction and did not sell. Two PCGS graded 1859-S dollars in MS63+ and MS61 sold for \$30,550 and \$8,812, respectively.



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LSCC Calendar

September 2-4, 2016. **LSCC regional meeting. Dublin, OH.** Ohio State Coin Show, Crowne Plaza-Dublin, 600 Metro Place N., Dublin, Ohio. **LSCC meeting and educational program**, Friday, September 2, 9 AM in room 183. Steve Petty will host.

September 8-10, 2016. **LSCC activities. Long Beach, CA.** Long Beach Convention Center, Hall A, 100 South Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802.

- Bob Clark will host the **club table** on the bourse floor.
- Brian Cushing will host the **club dinner** at The Rock Bottom Brewery at 7 PM on Thursday September 8th.

October 1, 2016. Deadline for articles and advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #127.

Early-mid November 2016. Publication of *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #127. This issue will be postal mailed to all current LSCC members.



Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Summer is a busy time for cook-outs, swimming, boating, and things other than numismatics. That is the nice thing about a hobby. You can set it aside for family picnics and it is there when you want it. For

many, the high point of the numismatic calendar is the ANA convention.

This year's convention gave the members on the West Coast a chance to enjoy the big show. The LSCC annual meeting was well attended and the annual club auction raised nearly \$4,000.

Chris Sutter, an LSCC member and President of the Missouri Numismatic Society set up a table at the Missouri Numismatic Society annual coin show. On it he placed LSCC club information and membership brochures. Many thanks Chris for your efforts to promote the club.

The Ohio State Coin Show in Dublin, OH, is September 1-4 at the Dublin Crowne Plaza Hotel. Steve Pet-

ty will be hosting the Liberty Seated Collectors Club Midwest Regional meeting on Friday, September 2, 2016 at 9:00 AM in Room 183 for an hour.

Steve Petty will be introducing attendees to the LSCC and be presenting on the Gobrecht Dollars. The meeting is open and free to the public, dealers, and collectors.

The Long Beach Expo is September 8-10 with Bob Clark hosting the club table at the show. Stop by have a chat and see what surprises Bob has on display.

Brian Cushing will host the club dinner at The Rock Bottom Brewery at 7 PM on Thursday September 8th.

A busy fall calendar for club activities is planned so stay tuned to this column for happenings in your area. If we have not gotten to your area, please contact me at ricajun@msn.com to help get the club to your favorite regional show.

FYI

From John Frost

The recordings of the 2016 LSCC Annual Meeting at the World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, CA have been added to the LSCC website. The video and audio quality are both fairly good, and I think those who want to watch the videos will have an acceptable experience. File sizes very large, about 350 MB total in 6 files. The two auction files (about 200 MB total) are the two largest. The others are between 25-50 MB each.

See both on the LSCC home page (<http://www.lscweb.org/>) and the Recordings page (<http://www.lscweb.org/Recordings.shtml>).

Other recordings are also available on this website.



The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

2016 LSCC Annual Meeting Auction Raises \$4,169

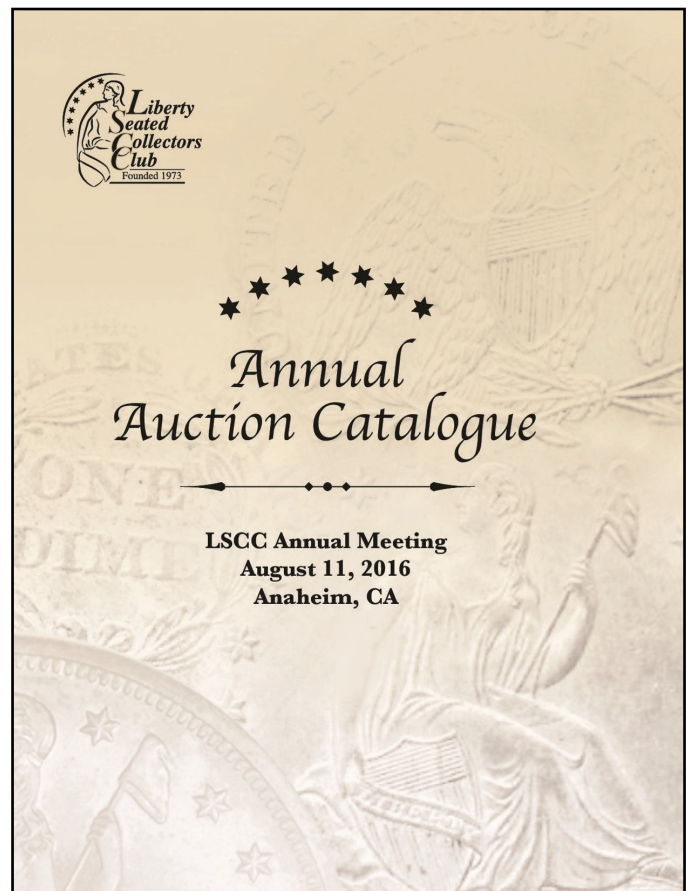
As has been the tradition in recent years, the LSCC held a fundraising auction at the LSCC annual meeting. This year's sale featured 18 lots of coins, dealer gift certificates, literature, and exonumia. Many thanks to all the contributors – with one exception all lots were donated and 100% of the sale proceeds went to the club. The prices realized were as follows:

- Lot 1 – Seven piece group lot of Liberty Seated coins - \$55
- Lot 2 – 1833 10c, PCGS VF25 - \$90
- Lot 3 – 1850 10c, NGC AU55 - \$190
- Lot 4 – 1871-S 10c, PCGS AU50 - \$450
- Lot 5 – 1883 10c, NGC MS62 - \$320
- Lot 6 – 1839 25c, SEGS VF30 - \$210
- Lot 7 – 1854 25c, PCGS VF35 - \$85
- Lot 8 – 1859-O 50c, PCGS EF40 - \$165
- Lot 9 – 1866 \$1, NGC G4 - \$420
- Lot 10 – Four piece denomination set of 1840-O Liberty Seated coins - \$140
- Lot 11 – Gerry Fortin Rare Coins gift certificate - \$210
- Lot 12 – Rich Uhrich Rare Coins gift certificate - \$180
- Lot 13 – Toivo Johnson silver medal - \$423
- Lot 14 – Mounted and signed cover of the Liberty Seated Guide Book - \$253
- Lot 15 – Cover art for *Gobrecht Journal* #125 - \$55
- Lot 16 – Beistle's Liberty Seated Half Dollar *Register* - \$460
- Lot 17 – Bill Bugert's Liberty Seated Half Dollar *Register*, Volume 5, pre-publication draft - \$203
- Lot 18 – Deluxe set of Gene Gardner auction catalogs - \$260

We are grateful to Bob Merrill of Heritage Auctions for calling the sale. Merrill is a gifted storyteller and kept the audience well entertained between

bids. Many thanks to all who bid or donated for making this another great LSCC auction.

Each meeting/sale attendee received a special catalogue with details and images of the lots. A limited number of color copies of the auction catalog are available at \$5 each, first come, first served. Orders may be sent to **Len Augsburger, 16 N. Fiore Parkway, Vernon Hills IL, 60061**. The catalog is full color with card stock covers (see below) and was designed to match the 2015 auction catalog.





Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

CACed LS Quarter Dollars

Some of the columns and articles I have written for the *Gobrecht Journal* and *E-Gobrecht* have referred to “appearance rarity,” a term that I picked up from a Doug Winter blog some time ago. Mr. Winter, a dealer who specializes in U.S. gold coinage, is also an accomplished writer and an astute observer of numismatics in general. As a regular reader of his articles and market blog I recently saw his article “10 Rare Date Gold Coins with Surprisingly Low/High CAC Populations” and found myself motivated to take a hard look at Liberty Seated Quarter CAC Populations. Although far from perfect, the CAC populations seem to be a reasonable indication of appearance rarity, as distinct from absolute or grade rarity.

For those who may not be familiar with Certified Acceptance Corporation (CAC) and their “green bean” stickers, the following description of the criteria is from their website: For many years, coin dealers and advanced collectors have used the letters A, B, and C among themselves to further describe coins. C indicates low-end for the grade, B indicates solid for the grade, and A indicates high-end. CAC will only award stickers to coins in the A or B category. C coins, although accurately graded, will be returned without a CAC sticker. Most collectors appear to agree that, in practice, coins with CAC stickers are more attractive than those without.

Prior to getting into the details a few caveats are in order to warn readers against over interpreting any analysis of CAC numbers: 1) it is impossible to know how many or what percentage of coins have been reviewed; 2) it is likely that rarer (more valuable) coins are submitted preferentially which may result in approval totals regressing towards the mean (i.e. rarer coins appearing more common and common coins appearing less represented than actual survival would merit); and 3) there are many very attractive and desir-

able coins which do not received CAC stickers for some reason.

Table 1. Histogram Data for Number of CAC Coins per Issue

Number of CAC Approved Examples	Number of Liberty Seated Quarter Issues (115 Total)
<10	16
10-19	43
20-29	26
30-39	11
40-49	8
>50	11

The analysis is based on publicly available data from the CAC website as of 8/20/2016. There are 2,968 Liberty Seated quarter dollars with CAC stickers for an average of 25.8 stickers for each of the 115 issues recognized by CAC. Based on the known, observed approval percentages it is likely that CAC has reviewed between 6,000 and 10,000 coins to get to nearly 3,000 with approval. Note that this is a wide range reflecting a lot of uncertainty in any estimate of just how many have been submitted. If the data is organized into a histogram (or in this case the histogram-like Table 1), it is apparent that the data is skewed towards the right. That is, a few coins with a really high number of CAC examples make the distribution such that most issues have a total number of stickered examples that is less than the average. Specifically, 36 of the 115 issues have 26 or more examples stickered while the other 79 issues have 25 or fewer examples stickered. Table 1 summarizes the distribution. Most of the Liberty Seated quarter issues have a fairly consistent total CAC population with 80

(Continued on page 8)



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of 115 issues having between 10 and 39 stickered examples; only 16 have less than 10 CAC examples and 11 have more than 50.

There are no surprises in the top two tiers (i.e. 40 or more CAC approved examples). Anyone who has studied or collected Liberty Seated quarters could quite accurately list the 20 most common issues with just a little thought. The 16 least stickered issues in the bottom tier are another matter. There are some unexpected members of that group. Specifically, four Philadelphia quarters 1840 (9), 1842 (9), 1872 (8) and 1873 Open 3 No Arrows (8) make surprise appearances in the less-than-10-CAC-examples club. There are fewer CAC examples of these issues than there are of the 1870-CC (13), 1872-CC (10), 1860-S (14), 1861-S (14), 1871-S (10) and 1849-O (10). There are also some seemingly odd numbers among the S-mint quarters in the second tier with the 1865-S (11), 1873-S (11) and 1875-S (10) having fewer CAC examples than the 1858-S (12), 1859-S (16), 1860-S (14) and 1861-S (14) is-

sues.

I have to repeat the caution about over interpreting this information. There are too many uncontrolled and unknown factors to make any firm conclusions. That said, there are some interesting and unexpected findings within the CAC population information.

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Cracked, Shattered, and Terminal by Benny Haimovitz, LSCC #2494

The 1843 Briggs-1A Quarter Dollar

In 1843, the Philadelphia mint produced ‘shattered dies’ for almost every denomination. The Liberty Seated quarter was no exception.



1843 Briggs 1A

This die state was identified in Greg Johnson’s Quarter of the Month column in the April, 2013 *E-Gobrecht*. Since that time, he has seen several additional examples and would call it very scarce, although not a rare Liberty Seated quarter variety. No image of the Reverse A, shattered reverse, is shown in the Briggs 1991 “Encyclopedia,” but it is clearly described and provides an excellent example of a shattered reverse die.

A closer view of the upper portion of the reverse shows die crack #1 from rim through the first T in STATES and die crack #2 from rim through the edge of M in AMERICA intersecting at the inner shield line.



Die crack #1 (above)



(Continued from page 9)



Die Crack #1 above



Die Crack #2 (above)

A closer view of the lower portion of the reverse shows die crack #3 (two images below) from rim through the D in DOL., stem of olive branch, and arrow feathers, ultimately forming the third “piece of the pie” with the two upper die cracks along the inner shield line. (The line that appears from the bottom on the N in UNITED is a thin piece of plastic inside the holder and not a part of the die state diagnostic.)



Die state diagnostics courtesy of *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Quarters* by Larry Briggs (1991) along with additional information provided by Greg Johnson including his April, 2013 *E-Gobrecht* Quarter of the Month column.

Images by DMRC Photography with this example graded XF40.



The Strike Zone

by Rich Hundertmark, LSCC #2347

Original Toning on Collector Grade Circulated Liberty Seated Dollars

My biggest worry is that when I am dead and gone, my wife will sell my coins for what I said I paid for them.

- Koos Brandt

As a fly fisherman there is nothing more beautiful than when a lovely, wild brook trout is first lifted from cool, clean waters. The trout's colors exhibit vibrant reds, purples and greens flashing before you. The moment is always short lived as release is quick, instantly captured in one's memory, and maybe with a quick picture for a special trout.

With coins, color originality is also coveted, and with many artificially toned coins on the marketplace, original pieces are eagerly sought with premiums paid by savvy collectors and dealers.

I came across this 1842 No Motto Seated Liberty Dollar a while back, pulling it from an old estate. I immediately loved the even toned gray and brown surfaces combined with the overall condition of the coin.

Older, circulated Liberty Seated dollars, if original, should exhibit a natural, "crusty" look, some with a bit of rim toning if lucky enough to have found sanctuary in an old time album, the fishing equivalent of fresh, cool, waters.

The third year of issue 1842 Seated Liberty Dollar is a slightly better than average date, with a listed 184,618 mintage. The newly published *Liberty Seated Red Book* lists availability for the date as between 3,500 to 5,000+ in grades F12 to AU58. This equates to about a 2%-3% survivability in collector grades. I

grade the present piece as EF45 which puts it in the upper half of the circulated grade population. It should be noted that the 1842 is available in mint state grades MS61-MS64 for advanced collectors.



I particularly like the coin's good star definition on the obverse, with star #13 particularly strong. The horizontal and vertical lines on both the shields are full and complete. Slight detail is missing on both Miss Liberty's and the eagle's head. Overall, the coin's light wear is even and consistent for the grade on both obverse and reverse, with essentially problem free surfaces.

One additional point to mention, I recently invested in a digital weight scale that can calibrate up to 100 grams. The 1842 Dollar weighed in, as Michael Buffer would say, "at a lean fighting weight of 26.51 grams." The guide book lists 26.73 grams as minted. This is 99.2% of "as struck" and within acceptable limits given the slight wear

and rim bruises. As a quick compare I referenced an article published in the *Gobrecht Journals Collective Volume 2* by John Kroon on page 332 that cited a 1841 counterfeit dollar at 25.18 grams (94%) which is obviously light and an easy disqualifier. Although not as counterfeited as often as Trade Dollars, there are fakes on the marketplace and this is always something to be aware of.

Happy hunting !



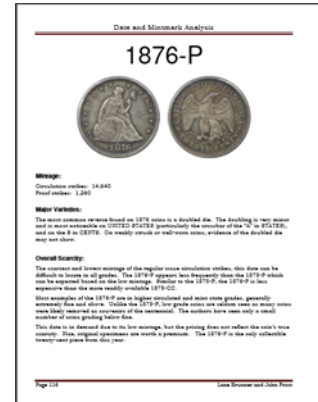
Addendum 2 Available for *Double Dimes Book* by John Frost, LSCC #2005

As announced in *Gobrecht Journal* #125 (Spring 2016), Lane Brunner and I confirmed two new die marriages of the 1876-P twenty-cent piece. One new obverse and two new reverse dies were discovered in two new combinations, which is surprising given the total mint-age of just 15,900 coins, including proofs!

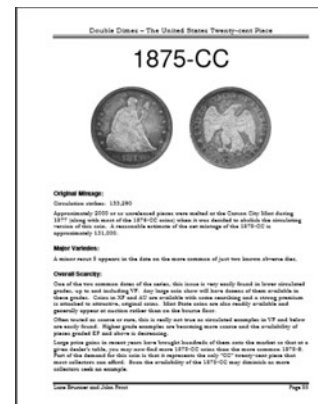
Lane and I have now completed Addendum 2 for the *Double Dimes* book and it is now posted for download on our www.doubledimes.com website. In addition, the website pages themselves have been updated to include these new die marriages, minor updates to one of the 1875-P listings (that reverse die was re-used in 1876), as well as a rewriting of the 1876-P Summary pages themselves.

This addendum is the second one created - we had previously announced in the spring 2015, the discovery of a new 1875-CC reverse die and die marriage, which was announced in the *E-Gobrecht* (Volume 11, Issue 4, Whole # 123, April 2015).

For those readers with the Print Edition of our book, both Addendum 1 and Addendum 2 are available for download and printing, so they can be included in your book (link addresses are shown below the images).



Addendum for 1876-P
(<http://www.doubledimes.com/DoubleDimeBook-Addendum-June2016.pdf>)



Addendum for 1875-CC (and 1875-P BF-2)
(<http://www.doubledimes.com/DoubleDimeBook-Addendum-March2015.pdf>)

Miscellaneous News and Notes

⇒ Connor Falk, a writer for the *Numismatic News*, authored an article entitled "Seated Liberty coinage offers challenge, excitement." It is worth reading and can be found at:

http://www.numismaticnews.net/article/seated-liberty-coinage-offers-challenge-excitement?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=nmn-cfb-nl-160722&utm_content=864652_NMNF160722&utm_medium=email.

⇒ Complete coverage of the 2016 LSCC annual meeting will be in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #127.



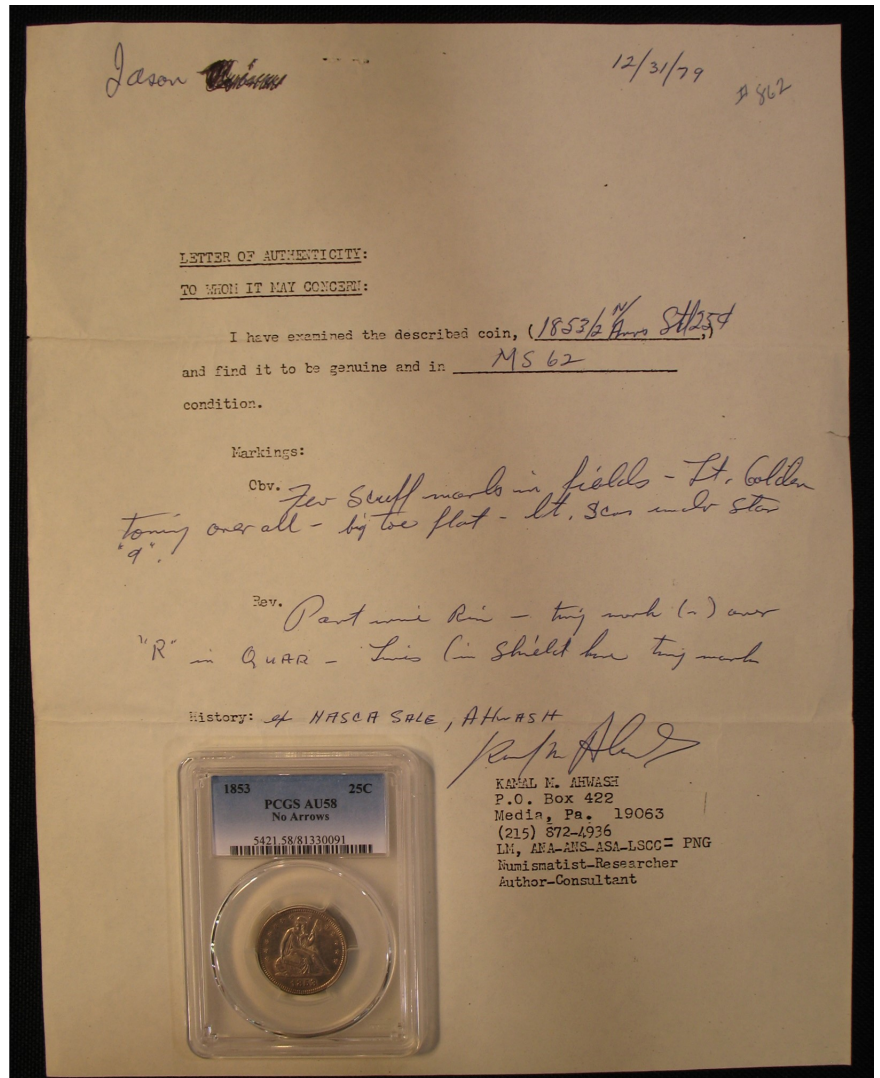
Seen at the ANA

During the recent 2016 ANA World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, CA, a club member called an interesting offering to my attention. Depicted at the right is a photograph of a letter of authenticity from Kam Ahwash along with the authenticated coin (an 1853 No Arrows Liberty Seated quarter dollar now in a PCGS AU58 holder).

What makes this so interesting is that no one I spoke to knew that Kam had written this type of letter and no one has seen another. The letter is dated "12/31/79," addressed "To Whom it may concern," and has details of the coin's description and provenance. It is a form letter so others likely exist.

Has anyone seen another?

The Editor



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LSCC Member in the Spotlight: Mark Archambault, LSCC #2206 by Tony Barreca, LSCC #2151

1. *When did you first become interested in coin collecting and numismatics?*

I started collecting coins when I was about 6 years old and like most I started with Lincoln cents. We used to spend weekends with my grandparents and they provided us (my brother and I) the countless number of coins to look for so that we could fill our Whitman folders. After starting with Lincolns, I moved to half dollars, Barbers, and Franklins after receiving a few for birthdays and holidays.

2. *How did you initially become interested in Liberty Seated (LS) coins?*

I was always intrigued by the design, and the years of production seemed overwhelming. Joining the LSCC was a tie in with a club I was previously a member, The Carson City Coin Collectors of America.

Currently, I enjoy the half dollar series focusing on the Carson City minted coins. I started that collection after I attended the 2010 ANA in Boston. I actually need one last coin to complete the subset, that being the 1873-CC with Arrows Large CC mintmark. My set at this time contains an example of all the different sizes of mint marks used in this set for the years 1876 and 1877.

Previously, I was working on a set of Liberty Seated dimes when I decided to take a different direction and focused on the Liberty Seated half dollar series.

3. *Within the series of LS coins you focus on, do you consider yourself a variety collector? If so, what is your approach to variety collecting?*

I initially started my Carson City Mint quest just before I read Dennis Fortier's article in the *Gobrecht Journal* #110, Collecting Carson City Mint Half Dollars on a Budget. I purchased a copy of Bill Bugert's book on Carson City half dollars and now I am working on a die marriage set of 1877-CC minted coins. At this point in time I have 6 of the 16 varieties for that date. I had a surprise email from Bill

Bugert advising me that Brian Greer had discovered the 16th die marriage and that at this time there are two examples currently known. I know where they are, but Bill and Dennis refuse to let theirs go! I will keep asking them though.

If so, what is your approach to variety collecting?

Patience!!! Living in the Northeast I do not get to view many CC half dollars and not all internet searches have great pictures, especially when hunting varieties. I try to network as much as I can to find that elusive variety I am currently looking for.

4. *How long have you been an LSCC member?*

I joined the LSCC in 2010. The friends and acquaintances that I have met along the way are priceless. I mean having a busy guy like Bill Bugert take time out of his schedule and personally let me know of the new die marriage discovery and on top of that sending me an updated page so that I could try and find my one example, was a highlight for me. Attending the Seated Dime Fest in Manchester NH, chatting with Gerry Fortin, and meeting Gene Gardner would not have happened if I hadn't join the LSCC.

5. *Do you ever participate in Club activities?*

Yes, though not at a national function yet. I have attended several meetings over the years at the New Hampshire Coin Expo show. I also have gone on the message boards when time permits, and have learned so much from the other members of the club. Any meeting that I can attend is so worthwhile that by going I have learned about many series that I may attempt in the future.

Which activities could you see yourself participating in at a future time?

I have volunteered to help man the club table at the NH Coin Expo. The camaraderie with other collectors is so enjoyable!

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Have you ever actively recommended that a collector friend join the LSCC?

I am trying to get my brother to join.

6. If you could change one thing about the LSCC, what would it be?

The club is great the way it is. Wouldn't change a thing.

7. In your collecting career, what was the greatest coup you ever pulled off when purchasing a coin?

I found an 1877-CC WB-8 in a PCGS AU55 holder that may be the finest known graded in a 3rd party holder that was previously unattributed. This is an R-6 coin! To get that WB-16 1877-CC of his, Dennis Fortier has kidded me about a trade.

Your biggest mistake?

Not getting into Carson City Liberty Seated material earlier in life.

8. Do you think of the hobby as being a form of investment as well?

Yes, I do. My plan is to leave my collection to my grandchildren. So hopefully the collection grows in value.

While we don't want to make anyone uncomfortable by getting too personal, it would be a real opportunity for your fellow club members to get to know you a bit if you'd also answer one or more of these optional questions.

A) What is/was your work/career?

I am the superintendent of a grocery wholesaler warehouse that currently serves customers in nine states.

B) What other hobbies/interests do you have besides numismatics?

I love collecting anything and everything related to the Carson City Mint.

C) Is there anything about your family or family history that you'd like to mention?

I aspire to getting one of my grand children interested in collection coins.

D) What is your greatest or most memorable personal achievement?

Meeting and marrying the love of my life, and enjoying all the grand kids. Second most will be completing my Carson City half dollar set.



Impromptu lunch in Chambersburg, PA - February 2016
(l to r: Bill Bugert, John Frost, and Dennis Fortier)



Two Half Dollars Sent Adrift, 1856

by Jim Laughlin, LSCC #876

The following article was published in the *New York Sun*, October 1st, 1897, under the title, "Two Persistent Half Dollars, Stamped and Set Adrift in 1856, They Return to Tickle Their Former Owner." This article was picked up by corresponding newspapers and published by a number of different newspapers including...

Mariposa Gazette (California), November 13, 1897

ERRANT HALF DOLLARS. Sent Adrift Forty Years Ago, They Return to Their Former Owners....

One day in the summer of 1856, when Albert George and Humphrey Pinhorn of the village of East Orrington, Maine, were in Bangor marketing, they received two half dollars fresh from the mints. As both were young men with plenty of money for their immediate wants they stamped their initials in stencil upon the new coins and took them to a hotel where they exchanged then for two dinner. In the Lincoln-Douglas campaign of 1860 the two young men, who had become voters, joined the Wide Awakes, a political organization that paraded the town with torch-lights. One evening after a parade in Rockland they went out to supper, and in exchange for a bill paid to the cashier Pinhorn received a half dollar marked "H.P." It was the coin he had sent adrift four years before.

The war came on, and both of the young men enlisted, following the fortunes of the Twenty-second Maine regiment. For five or six years after the war there was no silver or gold in circulation, and nothing was seen of the marked coins until the Garfield-Hancock campaign of 1880. Then Mr. George received the half dollar marked "H.P." in exchange for beef which he had sold. He turned it over to Mr. Pinhorn, who paid it out for tobacco at the local store. After that the "H.P." half dollar returned frequently. Mr. Pinhorn got it in 1882, Mr. George in 1884 and again in 1885 and Mr. Pinhorn in 1886. In 1888 Mr. Pinhorn had it three times and in 1891 Mr. George received it and paid it out four times. It was taken in

by Mr. George in 1894, after which it made a sojourn in other parts.

Meantime, Mr. George grew anxious about the half dollar which bore his initials and advertised, offering \$5 for its return to him. Several spurious imitations of the real article were sent in and promptly returned, as the stencil marks were not made in the right kind of type. Though he kept an advertisement standing in all the local papers and in two of the Boston dailies for nearly a year he received no tidings of what he wanted.

The other day he went to a Bangor bank to get his pension check cashed, and in the money which the cashier passed out were two half dollars. Upon the face of one were the old initials, "H.P." and on the other were the letters of his own name, "A.A.G.". It was the long lost half dollar which he had stamped and spent for dinner in 1856 and for which he had been offering a reward. Mr. George has framed his half dollar and hung it up over his desk, with orders to have it placed in his coffin. The coin marked "H.P." was turned loose again to go out and make history for itself—*New York Sun*.

This is the first newspaper article I have come across that seems to have tried to follow a coin in circulation, if it can be believed. It is a rather amazing coincidence that the same two marked half dollars are paid out together to one of the original creators some 40 years after being spent at a hotel.

Not to dwell too deeply, but this article indicates the same half dollar (marked "H.P.") came back to one of the two individuals fifteen times over a period of 40 years (1860, 1880, 1882, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1888 (3), 1891 (4), 1894, and a final time prior to 1897 when the article was written). The half dollar marked "A.A.G." only came back once. As the town of Orrington is apparently but six miles from Bangor, most of the circulation was apparently in the same immediate locality. Only the mention of receiving the "H. P." coin in Rockland, was that coin located about 60 miles



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from Bangor. It appears the general population would have been around 20,000 for the two communities. (Orrington population in 1860 is 1,950; 1,406 in 1890. Bangor in 1860, 16,407; 19,103 in 1890, per Wikipedia).

The article surely indicates Yankee ingenuity, as when a reward of \$5 was offered for the "A.A.G." marked half dollar, Mr. George received numerous submissions.

A quick internet search indicated that there was a Humphrey Pinhorn in Company C of the 22nd Maine during the Civil War; Albert A. George is listed however in Company D, 30th Maine, not the 22nd. (Google Books, History of Penobscot, Maine). So there is likely some truth to this story. Anyone having a half dol-

lar of say 1853-1856 vintage with the initials "H. P." stamped on it may choose to research this story further. U.S. Census data and searches of the local Bangor newspapers might shed still further light such as the individual's occupation; maybe the original story and whether Mr. George did in fact advertise a reward; but alas, only Mr. Pinhorn could identify the initials he stenciled that day in 1856. (Well maybe Mr. George could have too, as both were together that day stamping their half dollar from the same stencil set.)

Sources:

California newspapers: California Digital Newspaper Collection, University of California, Riverside, <http://cdnr.ucr.edu>

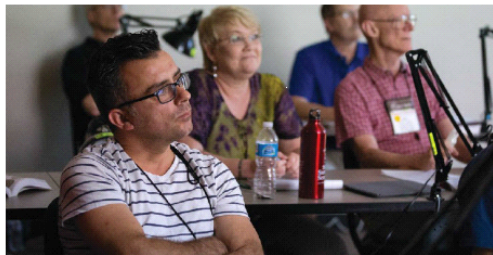
From John Frost: I just saw the ANA's *Numismatist* for September. The image below refers to the Summer Seminar (including a photo of some of our students). I took two excerpts and joined them together.

* The Numismatist

FROM JUNE 18 to 30, the ANA hosted 438 students and instructors during its 48th Annual Summer Seminar at Association head quarters and the adjacent Colorado College campus for two week long sessions of numismatic instruction and activities. The highly anticipated event in Colorado Springs, Colorado featured 30 courses and 11 evening mini-seminars.



ANA Seminar Director Susan McMillan (top) welcomed attendees during the Session I opening ceremony. Students (from left) Salvatore Anello, Debbie Williams and John Barber worked on "Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage."



"I couldn't be more pleased with this year's turnout," says ANA Seminar Director Susan McMillan. "The ANA staff and volunteers came together to make the event a smashing success. I can't wait to see what new surprises next year will bring!"

Many first-time instructors joined this year's roster, and a handful of new courses were introduced.

Two other new courses—"Ducats to Dollars: Trade Coins from the End of the Middle Ages Until the 20th Century" with instructor Ian Fenn and "Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage" led by Gerry Fortin and John Frost—also were popular with Seminar students.



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Holt Rarities is Buying and Selling Liberty Seated, Federal, and Colonial Issue coins of all denominations. Check out our website at www.holtrararities.com or call (931) 581-1890. Brad Holt has collected coins for over thirty years and is a member of the ANA and LSCC.

Wanted to Buy. Collector of Liberty Seated Dollars wants engraved and/or counter-stamped (love tokens) or rotated reverses. All mints, any condition, holed OK. Carl Feldman: carlscoins@gmail.com or (973) 479-9956.

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Dr. Eugene Bruder is constantly updating his website, www.typecoins.com, which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. You can reach him at 402-475-0350 or email at: gene@typecoins.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

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/>.

W. David Perkins - Large Selection of Gobrecht and Liberty Seated Dollars in Inventory. W. David Perkins, LSCC #790, has many Gobrecht and Liberty Seated Silver Dollars in inventory, including many better dates. Please contact Dave at wdperki@attglobal.net or visit his new website at www.davidperkinsrarecoins.com.

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.



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LSCC Mission

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 bargain priced at \$25 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/Treasurer.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the LSCC Publications Editor.

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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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