



E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

2020 Volume 16, Issue 9
September 2020 (Whole #188)

Stepping back in time to a bygone era of the Liberty Seated coin design period, both far and wide, and a little before & after...

***“Virtual Zoom” Annual LSCC Meeting
in August draws nearly 70 members & guests!***

**** * ****

Special Honors & Awards Announced

****Newest LSCC Hall of Fame Inductee***

****Kamal M. Ahwash Award for
Gobrecht Journal “Article of the Year”***

****Numismatic Literary Guild’s Award for
“Best Club Publication” to Gobrecht Journal***

****Numismatic Literary Guild’s “Clemmy Award”
Top Honors to Two LSCC Members***

**** ANA’s “Young Numismatist of the Year”
Awarded to LSCC Member***

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Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



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Welcome to the following new LSCC Members this month:

*Fred Bourne
Bill Harrill
William Jachalke
Jesse Kraft
James Pulley
Michael Williams*

There are currently 991 active & invited subscribers to E-Gobrecht

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 U.S. Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this "electronic" e-mail newsletter from various sources "free of charge" as a general service to the membership and other subscribers with a numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available on a complimentary basis to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information for this publication can be found on the last page.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



President's Message

The Liberty Seated Collectors Club annual meeting is in the books. This year's meeting was a Zoom-based, virtual affair, a format shared by most coin clubs during the epidemic. We had nearly 70 attendees, which surely is a record for this event that normally draws 40 or so at the ANA summer convention. Many members who attended noted that they might not have otherwise done so, due to travel restrictions or other logistical issues. I was especially pleased to see LSCC Hall of Famer Randy Wiley online, in addition to many others.

Bill Bugert presented Dennis Fortier with the Kam Ahwash award, for best article in the *Gobrecht Journal*, presented for his article "What are the Most Challenging Dates in Liberty Seated Coinage?", published in *Gobrecht Journal* #135. The Ahwash award is made by popular vote within the Club and thus represents broad enthusiasm for Dennis's work. Bill continued with the Hall of Fame presentation, with John Frost receiving induction honors. John's work within the Club is exemplary, from maintaining the website to building a catalog of educational material to spearheading the LSCC course at the ANA summer seminar. I haven't even mentioned all the coin shows at which John capably represents LSCC. Finally, Len presented outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Dale Miller with the President's Award. Dale has been the "detail man" for several years in this capacity and we thank him for his exhaustive attention to dues processing and balancing the LSCC ledger.

Dale Miller then presented the Secretary/Treasurer's report. Suffice it to say that both the membership and club finances are in good order. Special thanks to Dale for his focused effort on chasing down dues payments in this last dues renewal cycle. The meeting was concluded by Garrett Ziss, ANA Young Numismatist of the Year, who delivered an excellent presentation on images of Seated coinage on obsolete paper money. Garrett has been working on this project for a couple years, finding many such examples and drawing out the major themes of such usage. This is well worth watching. For those who missed it, the meeting was recorded and is available on the LSCC home page (<http://lscweb.org/>).

I would also like to use this space to mention that Bill Bugert will be stepping down as *Gobrecht Journal* editor following the Spring 2021 issue. LSCC officers and contributors tend to leave things better than they found them, and this is especially true of Bill, who expanded the longstanding *Gobrecht Journal* format to a large-paper, full-color production. Anyone interested in stepping into this role is encouraged to contact me at leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com. ...Len Augsburger



Regional News by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

First Ever Virtual Annual Meeting A Success

Our first virtual Annual Meeting was a great success! With the Covid virus closing down the annual ANA Convention in Pittsburg, the Club turned to the virtual world to have our all-important Annual Meeting. Technical issues were extremely minor, and Club President Len Augsburger did a splendid job keeping the meeting moving along. Sixty-eight members and guests were in on the meeting from all over the country. Future ZOOM virtual meetings are being considered.

Garrett Ziss's presentation "*Liberty Seated Coin Images on Obsolete Paper Money*" was as eye opening as it was stimulating. Garrett's work was scholarly and he did a masterful job in his presentation of it. Well done Garrett!

(Continued on next page)

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Regional News cont.

Dale Miller gave his final Club Financial Report stating that the club is in good financial shape. Details of his report are available to any member that is interested. The Club Secretary/Treasurer position is being split up as it has become a bit too much for any one volunteer to manage. Stephen Petty is the new Club Treasurer and Jeff Ball has taken over as Club Secretary. Among other duties, Jeff will handle all new and existing member sign-ups/renewals and dues collection responsibilities. We are very fortunate to have these two well-respected members manage these vital club functions.

The Annual Awards were announced at the meeting. The **Kamal M. Ahwash Award for the Article of the Year** as voted by the members went to Dennis Fortier for his article ***“The Most Challenging Dates in Liberty Seated Coinage, Survey Results”***. The **President’s Award** went to Dale Miller for his hard work as Club Secretary/Treasurer over the last five years. Congratulations Dale!

This year we had a new inductee into the **LSCC Hall of Fame**. Induction to the HOF is the highest honor the LSCC has to bestow. Bill Bugert, Chairman of the HOF Committee made the announcement. Our newest inductee is Club Educational Director **John Frost**. Bill Bugert prefaced his announcement of John’s induction by saying “The best thing that ever happened to the LSCC was John’s retirement.” We all heartily agree as John has worked tirelessly for the Club. In addition to John’s work for LSCC, John is co-author of *“Double-Dimes, The United States Twenty-Cent Piece”* as well as his research on Mint Chief Engravers William and Charles Barber. Congratulations and well-deserved John!

An announcement that Bill Bugert is stepping down as Gobrecht Journal Editor was made at the Annual Meeting. Bill has done an incredible job as Journal Editor and Publisher, making the Journal a world class publication. It is an honor to just have an article in such a prestigious publication. Bill’s shoes will not be easy to fill. Bill is also giving up his role as Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. Club Vice President Dennis Fortier will assume the duties of HOF Chair.

It was also announced that the **Gobrecht Journal** won the prestigious **Numismatic Literary Guild’s Award for “Best Club Publication.”** This is the second time in three years the GJ has won this prized award. Well-done to Bill and to all his contributors!

The CONA show in Dublin Ohio will have just concluded as of this publication so a report on the show will be in next month’s Regional Report.

The Manchester NH show October 2-3 is a definite go! Our old friend and show promoter Ernie Bott got the necessary approval from the Board of Health, so unless there is some last minute problem, we look forward to seeing all our friends in the New England area. Northeast Regional Director Joe Casazza will host the Club table with John Frost and Dennis Fortier assisting. There will not be a Club meeting however due to covid restrictions.

The Fall Whitman Baltimore Show has been canceled. We are hoping some other venue can allow Whitman to have a Fall show. We will keep you updated on this one. Look for the most up-to-date information on this and other show announcements at the Club website as cancellations are occurring all the time.

Club membership has held steady in spite of the shutdown of Club Regional operations. This is a testament to the leadership team and the passion of Club members. Stay safe, be well, and stay connected to your LSCC friends.

(END)

2020 LSCC “Hall of Fame” Newest Member

JOHN FROST LSCC #2005



One of John’s other pastimes; climbing Mount Sunflower, the highest point in Kansas. At an elevation 4,039 feet, it is only a couple of feet higher than the surrounding plain. A funny place to visit after 15 miles of dirt road, in the middle of nowhere and only about a 1/2 mile from the Colorado border.

2020 Kamal M. Ahwash Award for voted “Best Article of the Year” in The Gobrecht Journal

DENNIS FORTIER LSCC #2016

Dennis with a sign that is a plaque on The Island of Orleans just outside of Quebec honoring his ancestor Antoine Fortier, one the early settlers (1667) on the Island.





2020 (NLG) Numismatic Literary Guild Clemy Award

LEN AUGSBURGER & JOEL OROSZ
LSCC #1271 **LSCC #2657**



Len at Garbo's Grill in Key West, FL
& Joel and Len on one of their writing
expeditions.

2020 (NLG) Numismatic Literary Guild's Award for "Best Club Publication" to The Gobrecht Journal

BILL BUGERT
Editor & Publisher
LSCC #455



Amateur radio operator Bill Bugert operating one of his stations in Gettysburg.



NLG Announces 2020 Awards Winners

By **Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG)** ...

Respected researchers and award-winning numismatic authors **Len Augsburger** and **Joel Orosz** have received yet another prestigious award. They have been selected as the joint 2020 recipients of **The Clemy**, the highest honor given by the **Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG)**.

"The Clemy is a coveted, annual award presented in recognition of writing skill, dedication to numismatics, sense of humor and dedication to the Numismatic Literary Guild," explained NLG Executive Director **Ron Guth**.

Founded in 1968, the NLG is a nonprofit organization open to any editors, reporters, authors, writers, catalogers, webmasters, bloggers, or producers of audio or video involving all forms of money, medals, tokens, and other numismatic collectibles.

The organization's annual awards presentation, known as "The Bash", was scheduled for August 6, 2020, in conjunction with the **American Numismatic Association's (ANA) Pittsburgh World's Fair of Money**. However, because of the convention's cancellation due to the pandemic, the NLG awards were announced this year with a video on **YouTube**. The video was produced by NLG member **Charles Morgan of CoinWeek.com**.

[Editor's Note - Other noteworthy award winners from the ranks of LSCC Members or E-Gobrecht Subscribers included]:

Best Specialized Books - a. United States or Early American Coins (Winston Zack, *Bad Metal: Copper and Nickel Circulating Contemporary Counterfeit United States Coins*)

Numismatic Feature Articles - b. U.S. Coins (1792 to Date) (Tom DeLorey, LSCC#273, "Not a Ghost of a Chance" - *The Numismatist*)

Numismatic Columns - b. U.S. Coins (1792 to Date) (David W. Lange, LSCC #488, "USA Coin Album")

Websites - c. Best Non-Trade Website (Newman Numismatic Portal)

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at: <https://coinweek.com>*

LSCC Member Application Form
on page 10 or at:
http://www.lscweb.org/LSCC_Membership.pdf





Highest ANA Awards Given to Numismatists Making a Difference

ANA Young Numismatist of the Year

Garrett Ziss, LSCC #2539

The American Numismatic Association recognizes that the future of the hobby depends on the recruitment and education of young numismatists. The **Young Numismatist of the Year** award honors young collectors for outstanding contributions to the hobby and industry. Receiving this year's award on September 1 is **Garrett Ziss**. He is an active member of 10 numismatic organizations, including the **Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC)**, the **Wilmington Coin Club**, and the **Currency Club of Chester County**.

Already an accomplished author, he has written eight numismatic articles over the span of four years that were published in the *John Reich Journal*, the official publication of the **John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS)**. He also creates **Excel** spreadsheets that simplify the organization of U.S. half-cent and large-cent collections, which he shares with **Early American Coppers (EAC)** for members to use.

Since July 2019, Ziss has been organizing an oral history project, which includes interviewing and videotaping members of the JRCS and LSCC to preserve club history for future generations. He coordinated the EAC table at the **2019 World's Fair of Money** in **Chicago**, headed a successful YN Benefit Auction during the 2019 **ANA Summer Seminar** and volunteered with the **ANA Kids Zone**. He also organized a JRCS video projected entitled "Early U.S. Silver Coins and the JRCS" to attract new club members and he gives yearly presentations at the Wilmington Coin Club Show's kids program.

Ziss has prepared a number of exhibits, including a six-case display titled, "The Face and Stories Behind the Treasury Signers of U.S. Paper Money". He's also presented many programs to local clubs and given talks at national numismatic shows.

Ziss received several first-place honors in the ANA's YN Literary Awards between 2013 and 2017.



Editor's View From the Rim

WOW!

It is like back-to-back-to-back home runs and more for LSCC Members this year with the major league honors given out by the ANA and NLG. See pages 3-9 for all the excitement. LSCC really cranks in the hobby these days through the efforts of its hard working members. As a member of LSCC receiving the Gobrecht Journal and/or as a subscriber to the E-Gobrecht newsletter, you are not only a part of this "live collecting action", but you get to enjoy the fruits of others efforts. And you can also actually participate by your own contributions to the Club and the numismatic hobby in your own special way! PK



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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New member join date	Amount Due	Gobrecht Journals To be sent to the new member
January thru March	\$25	3 (March, July, and November)
April thru July	\$20	2 (July and November)
August thru December	\$15	1 (November)

Fill in the above information and send this application with payment to:

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Footnote: The Stock Market and Spot Gold & Silver Prices are currently very volatile and will likely remain that way through the early part of next year. Keep your eyes and ears open on the economic and political news as the remainder of 2020 could be a real roller coaster!



LSCC 2020 Regional Events Schedule

** Details Mostly Finalized*

***CONA is a Go!** September 3-6 (Labor Day Weekend) **Ohio State Coin Show (CONA), Dublin (Columbus) OH** – Club Meeting at 9 am on Friday, Club Table “New” (Hosts: John Frost, Dennis Fortier & Stephen Petty) *EXTRA! EXTRA! The early word on this show is that it was well attended and a success!*

***Gettysburg is a Go!** September 10-12 **Fall National Battlefield Coin Show, Gettysburg, PA at the Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center** – Due to the shortage of public coin shows, this show is expecting a strong turnout. TBD as to a presence by LSCC Members though no Club table due to sold out bourse space.

***CANCELLED:** September 17-19 **Long Beach Expo, Long Beach CA** - Club table (Hosts: Brian Cushing, Bob Clark)

***SUSPENDED due to VA Governor’s Restrictions:** September 25 - 27 **Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) Annual Coin Show, Fredericksburg VA** - Club table, Educational Program (Tentative Host: John Frost)

***SCHEDULED:** October 2-3 **New Hampshire Coin Expo, Manchester NH** - Club table, Educational Program (Hosts: Joe Casazza, John Frost) Covid Restrictions expected.

***SCHEDULED:** October 29-31 **PAN Fall Coin Show, Pittsburgh/Monroeville PA** – Club table, Educational Program (Host: John Frost) **Covid-19 Update:** The Monroeville Convention Center is currently closed to events totaling more than 25 persons. The October 29-31 Fall PAN Coin Show is still scheduled with the hope that the closed restriction will be lifted. We were informed that each dealer booth (corners and straights) would need to be spaced 6' apart using low spacer drapes. We would have to use the full back room to fit everyone. Masks will be required and provided if needed for public, dealers and staff. PAN will also require temperature checks daily. Everyone will be required to fill out and sign a short health status questionnaire each day. A RN nurse will be on duty. We don't want anyone to become ill as a result of the coin show. It is our hope that we can have complete cooperation regardless of differing opinions of the severity of this disease.

***CANCELLED:** November 12-14 **Whitman Baltimore Fall Expo, MD at the Baltimore Convention Center** - Club table, Club Meeting & Educational Program on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (Hosts: LSCC Club Officers)

***CANCELLED:** December 13 **Mt Kisco Coin & Collectibles Fair, Mt. Kisco NY** - Club table, Educational Seminar (Hosts: TBD)

(END)

Upcoming Major Coin/Currency Auctions

September 18-20 & October 15-17, 2020 - “U.S. Coins Signature Auctions held in Dallas, TX by Heritage Auctions (Bidding conducted Online only w/preview by appointment only) (<https://coins.ha.com/>) (Please refer to website for all details)

September 9-10 & November 11-13, 2020 - “The September Collectors Choice Auctions & The November 2020 Auction” by Stack’s Bowers Galleries (Bidding conducted Online) (<https://www.stacksbowers.com/>) (Please refer to website for all details)



Notice of Club Elections

This is to notify all LSCC members of the regularly scheduled Club election for 2020. A ballot will be included with the next (Fall) issue of the Gobrecht Journal. Any member in good standing is welcome to submit his/her name to stand for one of the 4 Club elective offices. This election is for a full 2 Year Term.

LSCC Offices up for re-election are:

Club President
Club Vice President
Club Treasurer
Club Secretary

Please submit your name and the office you are interested in to Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com before **September 25th** for inclusion on the ballot. **All members** please open the Fall Journal when you receive it in the mail.

Included with your Journal will be the election ballot, **Dues reminder**, and The Kam Ahwash Award ballot. All Ballot's must be received no later than December 31, 2020.



**We need Your
articles and input for the
LSCC's printed journal...**

The Gobrecht Journal

The deadline for articles and advertisements for the Fall Issue (#139) of the *Gobrecht Journal* is October 1st. Publication is expected by mid-November.

Articles of a technical nature or observational nature are most welcome. Please also consider a "Letter to the Editor" if you don't have the time for an article.

Send all input to the Editor, Bill Bugert, at wb8cpy@earthlink.net.



John Reich Collectors Society Announcement General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 7 pm Eastern Time via Zoom video teleconference

JRCS will host a online meeting for the general membership (and other interested parties) on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7 pm Eastern Time.

If you would like to participate in this general meeting of the JRCS, please send an email to jrcsweb2@gmail.com and you should receive a link to the meeting (within 48 hours of the meeting time).

Among topics for this meeting, we may expect JRCS announcements on such topics as the JRCS Hall of Fame and the Jules Reiver Literary Award; a featured speaker and topic; and other discussions of member interest.

The JRCS will have as a goal holding quarterly video teleconference meetings, with the tentative schedule to be the third Wednesday of the months of November, February, May and July at 7 pm Eastern time zone.

Guest Commentary

by Keith Scott, LSCC #2006

Greetings from Planet Weird: Yes, I am in California near San Francisco, but that has become of little consequence today...

I took the reins of the Fremont and San Jose Coin clubs this year after 17 years of club membership. The last local show was Cupertino in late February when my Liberty Seated Half Dollar set was displayed (see August issue of E-Gobrecht).

With the major disruption of “Everything”, creativity blossomed and it was important to keep members amused, entertained, and informed. Pictures and articles were added to a normal newsletter and it was sent on a more frequent basis. Zoom starting back in June has made Board and regular meetings much easier, and far away clubs can be visited effortlessly. My photo skills and editing ability is improving (stupid slab glare!). I’m getting better at it all the time.

The Fremont Club has a social session on off-meeting weeks each Tuesday, like the Zoom cocktail hour where anything goes. The day after lightning storms started fires everywhere, there was an earthquake nearby. I went outside and awaited the herd of locusts or annoying pest *du jour*. They probably got hung up at the border.

The sanctuary of a coin show is really missed even though it violates my “don’t stay inside on a nice day” rule. Many attendees have a strong sense of adventure and lots of stories to share. It is also legal to brainwash the Youth (just bring flotsam as bribery). All presentations of the NNP program were really good, though the two on counterfeits were of greatest importance. I’m ready for another Virtual LSCC Meeting soon or maybe an abbreviated version with a LSCC Zoom social hour. I’ll supply the virtual lobster and caviar!

(END)



Liberty Seated Basics 101

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Issue IV - Security: Safe Deposit Boxes

One of the requests we often hear is for articles in club publications that reach back to more basic skill building. Members are at all different levels, and newer members are in some instances unfamiliar with commonly used terms in our little corner of the hobby. Mint production has changed over the last two-hundred +plus years. The Liberty Seated years (1836-1891) saw its share of production change during that time. Those changes came with a learning curve. A good deal of that learning curve had to do with the first few Branch Mints coming on line and Mint employee's at those Branch Mints needing to learn their craft.

Some of the topics we will discuss over the next several months will be: Weak Strikes (see Issue I in the June E-G), Die Wear (see Issue II in the July E-G), Security/Home Safes in last month's E-G, Design Changes, Mintage Versus Survival Rates, Type Collecting, Popular Versus Rare Dates and Varieties, Date and Mintmark Sizes, Die Lines and Lint Marks, Cuds/Rust Lumps/and Die Cracks, Dished Dies, Strike (Machine) Doubling, and more. "An Introduction to Liberty Seated Basics 101" also appeared in the just published *The Gobrecht Journal* Summer 2020, Volume 46.2.

(Continued on next page)



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L.S. Basics 101 - Security: Safe Deposit Boxes cont.

Another important aspect of safe guarding your collection is a safe deposit box. Regardless of whether or not you have a home safe (see last months column), a safe deposit box is a must. If you have certain key dates, semi-key dates, or rare varieties, those coins are mostly irreplaceable and costly to acquire.

No matter how good a home safe you have, the security provided by a bank will trump your best home effort. A home safe is excellent for temporary storage of expensive items or more permanent storage of bulky items such as holdings of 90% silver. Invariably collectors want their most precious numismatic items in a bank safe deposit box.

So, what parameters should you look for in a safe deposit box? Size of the box, bank location (convenient to you), availability, and cost are the most relevant factors.

Usually size comes down to needs and availability. Most collectors require 5x10 or 10x10 box(s). The modern collector often prefers certified coins. These certification slabs take up much more space in a safe deposit box than raw coins, no matter how they are stored. A 10x10 safe deposit box can sometimes be difficult to find available. Depending on where you live, they can be like panning for gold. Florida, for example, is notorious for a lack of availability in the 10x10 size. The result in such a circumstance is obtaining multiple 5x10's to fill your needs. Sometimes it is necessary to obtain boxes at multiple banks; a great inconvenience to be sure.

Prices can also vary by a large margin. Demand for safe deposit boxes, real estate square footage prices, and banking availability all play into the yearly fee for such boxes in your area. On average, boxes at local Savings and Loan associations are less expensive. Of course, you will need to join the association for access to their boxes.

If you are in an area that has or can experience flooding, obtaining a box that is 3 to 4 feet off of ground level is desirable to safe guard against water damage. In an emergency you will be more concerned about your family than your collection, so forethought in this matter is important.

Storage of the safe deposit box keys: It is important not to lose your safe deposit box keys. It is (a) costly to have the lock drilled, and (b) inconvenient because you will not be able to access your coins until the work is done. You will usually get two keys for each box. I put one key for each box in my safe and the other in a location that is convenient for me such as a sock drawer. Leave these keys always in the same location so you do not forget where they are.

Terms used in this article, if unfamiliar, can be found in literature published in series specific books by Liberty Seated experts. Some of these are available on the club website.

(END)



Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

Is It Time to Start Collecting Varieties?

There are many ways to define a coin collection. Many ways to set collecting goals. None are right. None are wrong. But they can, and do, differ a very great deal. At a high level, the universe of sets can be thought of as type sets, date/mintmark sets, and variety sets. These categories are not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather to describe some of the most popular ways to think about forming sets and selecting coins to be included in sets. Like specific series and types of coins, the styles of collecting defined by these categories fall in and out of favor.



Collecting varieties, either every die marriage of an issue or series, or by some other definition of variety, has long been popular among large cent and colonial collectors. This style of collecting then expanded extensively into the bust series, halves in particular, and has made some inroads into Liberty Seated coinage. Books by Al Blythe (Half Dimes), Brian Greer (Dimes), Larry Briggs (Quarters), and Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert (Half Dollars) in the early 1990's made collecting Liberty Seated coins by variety a realistic possibility for a significant number of people. I had just discovered Seated coinage as an interest and purchased both the quarter and half dollar books as they were published.

After a break from collecting, which was motivated by my family situation, I returned in 2004 to find that collecting seated coins by variety had become quite popular and was growing more so. I recall reading an article published by a coin dealer for other coin dealers in which he described the pros and cons of dealing with different types of collectors. The description that stood out for me was of "the professor type" who would purchase any cleaned, damaged, poor quality coin the dealer offered as long as it was a new die variety. The description was not much of an exaggeration in my experience. I even had a personal conversation with one dealer who strongly advocated buying rarity above all else. Brushing aside concern about grade, surfaces, strike, luster, or any other assessment of a rare variety's quality.

Selecting coins for a type set, a date and mintmark set, or a variety set involve very different lists of criteria. The type collector has, by definition, a much larger pool of coins to search for each piece to be added to the set. A particularly rare or expensive issue, a poorly struck variety, or a date and mintmark that just does not come with attractive appearance for whatever reason can often be avoided. Another example of the type that meets all of the collector's criteria can simply be chosen instead. The collector building a date and mintmark set has an entirely different set of decisions to make. Rather than avoiding rare or expensive coins, it behooves the date and mintmark set builder to study those issues with great care and diligence. What grades are most available? Least available? What grade provides the best value for the money invested? What does an exceptional example look like? What's a typical strike? What's an outstanding strike? Have most examples been dipped blast white? Are some available with attractive toning? Etcetera.

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Variety or die marriage collecting is yet another level. Many Seated die marriages are so rare that not only can't a collector determine what a nice example might look like, there may not even be any nice examples. Some die marriages I am seeking were most recently available to me more than 10 years ago. I've not seen a few of the listed marriages even once in almost 17 years of searching. Despite, and partly because of the challenges, the level of knowledge that can be gained through collecting by die marriage is well beyond that of the date and mintmark collector. The time it takes to acquire that knowledge can make it a fun and interesting long term, or even lifetime, project. The internet and the auction house archives help facilitate the effort in ways not previously available.

Collecting Seated quarters, and most other Seated series, by variety or die marriage is not currently at its most popular period. There seems to

have been a slow but steady decline in interest over the past ten years. Hopefully not as a result of this column. One significant factor appears to have been CAC. The CAC green bean criteria are based on a type collecting approach. The green bean identifies and rewards coins for having characteristics, particularly eye appeal, among the best for coins *of the type* at the assigned grade level. There is no adjustment of selection criteria based on characteristics of a particular issue or die marriage. Some, perhaps many, collectors have extended these type-based criteria to date and mintmark sets, trying to complete an entire set with coins that have appropriate quality and eye appeal for a type set. This has drawn attention, demand, and price pressure away from coins that do not have CAC approval. Even very desirable coins. Coins that are among the best for the date and mintmark, or for the die marriage. This is creating opportunity for astute collectors. Is it time to start working on that variety or die marriage set? Happy hunting!

(END)

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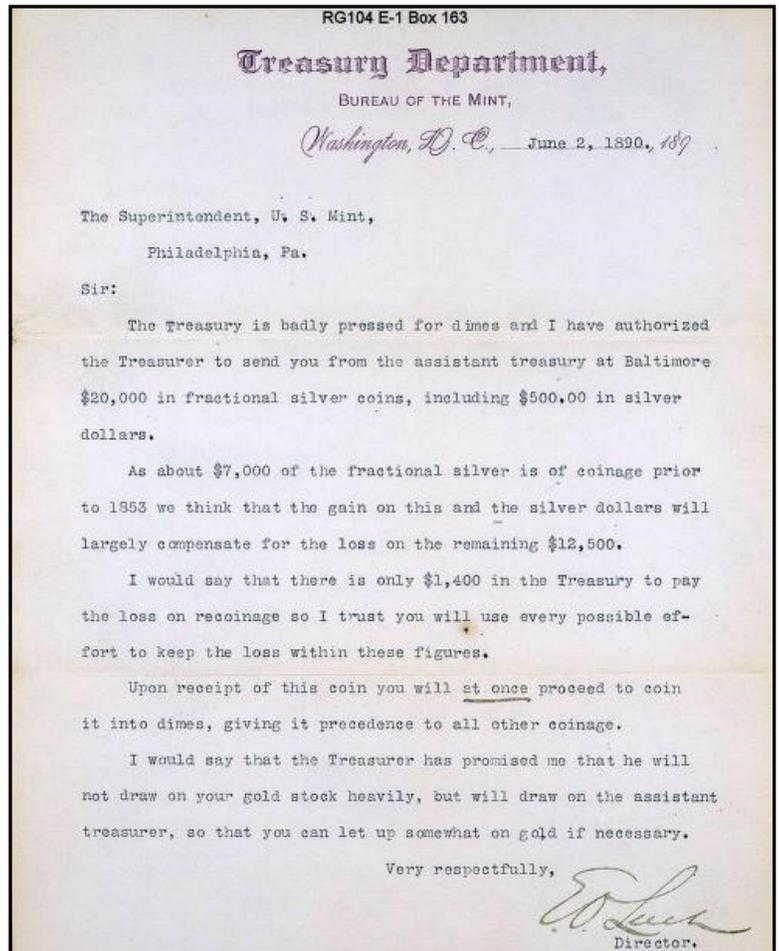
by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Coining Dimes in 1890

As Liberty Seated collectors well know, the Bland-Allison Act in 1878 diverted massive quantities of silver bullion into the production of Morgan dollars, with the result that mintage figures for quarters and half dollars are quite low from 1879-1890. The ample mintages of the mid-1870s, driven by western silver production, created a large supply of these minor coins, giving the Mint leeway to focus on the silver dollars beginning in 1878. The situation with the dimes was a bit more nuanced. Coinage was low from 1879-1881, and, beginning in 1882, we see mintage figures return to the millions. Of course, with smaller coins, it did not take as much bullion to get the production output back to a normal level. Despite increased production in the 1880s, the Mint Director found it necessary in June 1890 to order the Philadelphia Mint Superintendent to produce additional dimes:

“The Treasury is badly pressed for dimes and I have authorized the Treasurer to send you from the assistant treasury at Baltimore \$20,000 in fractional silver coins, including \$500.00 in silver dollars. As about \$7,000 of the fractional silver is of coinage prior to 1853 we think that the gain on this and the silver dollars will largely compensate for the loss on the remaining \$12,500. I would say that there is only \$1,400 in the Treasury to pay the loss on recoinage so I trust you will use every possible effort to keep the loss within these figures. Upon receipt of this coin you will at once proceed to coin it into dimes, giving it precedence to all other coinage. I would say that the Treasurer has promised me that he will not draw on your gold stock heavily, but will draw on the assistant treasurer, so that you can let up somewhat on gold if necessary.”

This letter packs a lot of numismatic history into a small space. We first note that Baltimore treasury was carrying some amount of pre-1853 (overweight) silver coins, and the Mint Director felt that some profit could be derived by converting them into lower weight, new coins.



(Continued on next page)



Coining Dimes in 1890 cont.

The Mint Director, Edward O. Leech, may have been in for a surprise on this point. As demonstrated in the 1902 Mint annual report, pre-1853 coinage still in circulation by this point had been badly worn, and by and large the full weight pieces had already been pulled out of circulation. Of course, we don't know how long the pre-1853 coins had been sitting in Baltimore. If these were uncirculated pieces, Leech would have been correct in assuming they were full weight.

Leech's next point refers to the Treasury budget for recoinage. Congress made allocations to pull underweight coinage out of circulation and recoin it to the legal standard. The general population needed to have faith in the nation's coinage, and the only way to do this was to maintain constant vigilance over the money supply and to verify that circulating coinage met the legislated standard. This was not a free, and if some scoff-law was scraping or "sweating" silver and gold coins, Congress had to pay the bill for it. Conversely, they also had the authority to throw the miscreants into prison! In any case, what we see here is the Mint Director fully understanding his responsibility to keep the circulating coinage at a standard weight and purity.



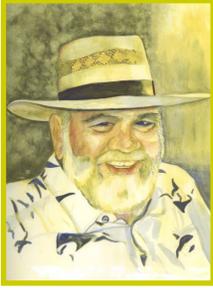
Leech also refers to the "loss" on recoinage \$12,500 of post-1853 coinages. There would have been some decrease of weight on these coins due to circulation, and the Mint had to make up that expense. Even if the coinage was full weight, there would still be overhead costs in terms of melting and assaying the coins, and paying Mint staff to carry out the usual steps in coining – rolling strip, cutting planchets, maintaining dies and striking the new dimes.

Finally, we see Leech understanding the circulating needs gold and silver. Leech needs dimes, and he has talked the U.S. Treasurer into accepting less gold production in the meantime. Even though he was asking for only 200,000 dimes (of the nearly ten million struck by Philadelphia in this year), this might have taken a week or two of production time, and some other task had to go undone in its place. One should not read too much into this, but, from a bureaucratic perspective, Leech was not going to give the Treasurer his dimes unless he got something in return. As usual, politics are timeless!

[Link to 1890 Mint letter on Internet Archive:](https://archive.org/details/Coindimesfrom20koldsilvercoins18900602/mode/2up)

<https://archive.org/details/Coindimesfrom20koldsilvercoins18900602/mode/2up>

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Auction News September 2020

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

Major Auctions in August 2020

Regretfully the Heritage and Stack's Bowers auctions could not be held at the annual ANA meeting this year due to its cancellation. However, there was a reasonable selection of Liberty Seated coins available from both companies in their August auctions.

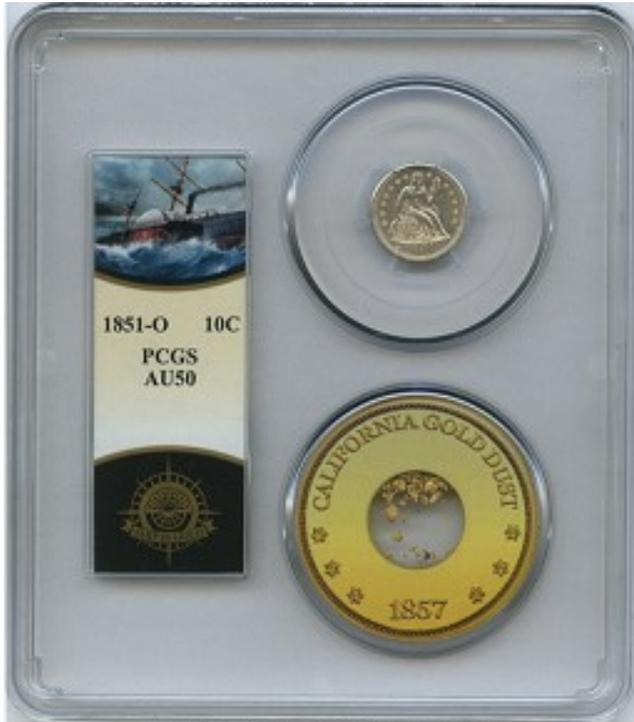
Heritage Auctions, August 3-9, Dallas

An 1851-O dime in AU was sold in a custom PCGS holder. This holder noted that the dime was recovered from the S.S. Central America and is encapsulated with a pinch of gold dust as seen below. I wonder if this holder will ultimately add value to this coin. This auction also included several scarcer San Francisco quarters and better date half dollars. A handful of choice AU Liberty Seated dollars were sold including an 1873, which many collectors consider a "sleeper" in choice AU.

1851-O *	dime	PCGS	AU50	\$1,440	See image next page
1852-O	quarter	ANACS	MS62	\$5,520	
1856-S/s	quarter	PCGS	XF45	\$7,800	B-4E, large S over small S
1859-S	quarter	PCGS	AU50	\$10,500	B-1A
1864-S	quarter	NGC	VF25	\$1,800	
1867-S	quarter	NGC	MS64	\$14,400	B-1A
1871-S	quarter	NGC	VF30	\$2,880	B-1A
1891-O	quarter	ANACS	XF45	\$3,360	
1840-(O)	half dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$1,620	Medium letters
1846-O	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$1,740	Tall date
1855-S	half dollar	ANACS	MS61	\$19,200	WB-2
1861-O	half dollar	PCGS	AU50	\$4,680	WB-11 (die crack to nose)
1840	Seated dollar	NGC	AU58	\$2,760	
1842	Seated dollar	PCGS CAC	AU58	\$1,800	
1849	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$1,500	
1869	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$2,400	
1871	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$1800	
1872	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$1,500	
1873	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$2,640	

(Continued on next page)

Auction News Cont.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

[For Chart below image at left]

Stack's Bowers Galleries, August 6-12, Las Vegas

An extensive collection of Liberty Seated half dimes was included in this auction. The 1838-O half dime was a high-grade example of the V-2 marriage struck with an obverse die that was damaged due to die rust or spallation. The 1840-O no drapery half dime was graded MS63, but subsequently received a gold CAC sticker. The selling price seemed comparable to an MS65. However, does this gold sticker entomb this coin similar to an over-graded coin or a modern coin that is the finest graded? The 1840-O with drapery half dime is rare in uncirculated condition and was previously owned by one of our long term LSCC members. The 1844-O half dime had a rotated reverse or medal turn that is the predominant orientation for this die marriage. The coin turn reverse is quite scarce with the small O reverse, but rotated reverses can be found in several other early New Orleans coinage die pairings.

1838-O	half dime	NGC	MS64	\$14,400	V-2
1840-O ND	half dime	NGC CAC	MS63	\$9,000	Gold CAC, V-2
1840-O WD	half dime	NGC	MS63	\$14,400	V-7
1844-O	half dime	PCGS CAC	XF40	\$1,440	V-2, typical rotated rev.
1864	dime	PCGS	MS63	\$2,160	F-102a
1885-S	dime	PCGS	Unc. det.	\$3,120	F-101, filed rims
1857-S	quarter	ANACS	AU55	\$2,040	B 1-B
1843	quarter	PCGS CAC	AU58+	\$2,640	B 2-C
1852	quarter	PCGS	AU50	\$660	B 1-A
1841	Seated dollar	PCGS CAC	AU50	\$1,620	OC-2
1842	Seated dollar	PCGS	MS62	\$1,800	OC-2
1859-S	Seated dollar	NGC	AU55	\$2,640	OC-1
1874-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$1,680	
1876-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$1,800	Type I/I

Legend Rare Coin Auctions, Regency Auction 40, August 27, Las Vegas

Only 12 Liberty Seated coins were available in this auction and none could be considered rare or scarce dates, but all appeared to be condition rarities.

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The Lovely Little "Half Dime"

The Half Dime America's Workhorse Coin by Phil Vitale, Pres. Albuquerque Coin Club

The following article is published with the permission of the author and the Albuquerque Coin Club from its July 2020 monthly newsletter "Pocket Change".

In the 1790s the American government structure was taking shape. 1792 saw President Washington sign the Coinage Act which would establish the country's Mint. Our young country of about 3 million people was hungry for American money. Our unit of currency had been determined to be the dollar, but in a time when a loaf of bread was purchased for 2 or 3 cents, a dollar was a substantial sum for much of the populace. The coin of the people was at the lower end of the fractional currency.

In 1792, after enactment of the Coinage Act, Thomas Jefferson took \$75 worth of silver and had a "contractor" produce 1500 "Half Disme" 5 cent coins, which some say are America's first coins. After the Mint was built and equipped in 1793, some copper cent and half cent coins were struck; silver coins would wait until 1794. The Mint's priority was to produce dollar coins; however, the other silver coins produced that year were Half Dimes and Half Dollars. Other fractional coinage would not be produced until 1796.

Half Dimes were minted between 1794 and 1873 (with a break in production between 1806 and 1828) primarily at the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints. Starting in 1863 they were also minted in the San Francisco mint. Throughout, they had the same general design as larger U.S. silver coins. Early coins from 1794 to 1805 were 16.5 mm in diameter, 1.35g in weight with .8924 fineness. In 1829 the diameter was changed to 15.5 mm, and in 1837 the weight was changed to 1.34g at .900 fineness. As with other silver coins, arrows were placed at the sides of the date from 1853 to 1855 to identify the reduction in weight from 1.34g to 1.24g.



(Continued on next page)

The Lovely Little "Half Dime" cont.

Half dimes minted in early dates were produced in very low quantities (generally between 3,000 and 44,000). Many of the surviving examples have high wear. Higher grade examples (EF-40 and higher) are scarce and expensive. Starting with 1829, production was generally over 1 million plus every year (with the exception 1863 to 1870 where production numbers varied from 8,000 to 535,000). Half Dimes from 1829 on are relatively affordable.



With the growing acceptance of the Shield Nickel starting in 1866 (with exception of the far west which strongly favored gold and silver coin), demand for the Half Dime declined. The Mint also wanted to save silver for other coinage. The Coinage Act of 1873 (or Mint Act of 1873) discontinued the production of the Half Dime along with the 2 cent coin and the silver 3 cent coin.



(END)



"Dimes" Are Your Destiny

**A Very Special Liberty Seated Dime
Presented by David Kahn Rare Coins
LSCC #2362**



"Now this is a Doubled Die! Naked-eye, arms-length identifiable! This 1873 Arrows DDO dime, aka Fortin 103 and rated by Gerry as Rarity 6, is a truly rare coin. Plus, it is generally found in lower grades and/or damaged where the doubling is not so easily seen. No such concerns here! This is the finest graded example, and the only one to grade Uncirculated. The coin is white, fully lustrous and without distractions... in fact, we think it's really a 62 in a 61 wrapper! But, that's a mere quibble. It's the finest graded! Check the PCGS Pops on this coin... they are very low. The Simpson/Gardner PCGS AU58 CAC has long been considered the finest. The PCGS POP Report shows one coin at AU55, one coin at AU50 and then nothing all the way down to VF35 (2 coins). You want cool? You want finest? You want rare? Here you go...!"

[Editor's Note]: This is the beginning of a new column/topic helpful to both LSCC Member "Dealers" who specialize in the Liberty Seated series and U.S. Gold designed by Christian Gobrecht. The intention here is to present periodic examples of especially nice "special" coins that our dealers across in their travels that should be highlighted in E-Gobrecht for the members/subscribers benefit before they get away and are sold from a dealer's inventory. Some of these beauties might not resurface in the market for many years and it would be a shame for their visually stunning appearance not to appear for others to enjoy while they can.

Let E-Gobrecht showcase some of those special coins in the market! E-G is looking for those stellar numismatic examples with special eye appeal or flash for the grade, superior toning/color/patina, and of course pure originality. E-G is also looking for those great examples of scarce and interesting die marriages, varieties and errors, and the true rarities too. Ironically, it is also an opportunity to soft sell a particular coin in front of a serious audience of E-G subscribers (collectors and other dealers). There is No cost, No obligation, just your time to let E-G know! Just share those special coins with the readers for everyone's enjoyment. Please direct further interest & inquiries to David Kahn Rare Coins.

Expecting A "Double Dime"?

Double Dime - 1876 BF-2

by John Frost, LSCC #2005 (September 2020)



This is the second in a series of a new quarterly column on the double dime or twenty-cent piece. Each article will highlight a specific issue, variety, or die marriage. This quarter's article features the scarcest and lowest-mintage of the regular issue circulation strikes, the popular 1876-P. Surprisingly, even with a mintage of under 16,000 pieces (including proofs), there are four known die marriages! Specifically mentioned here is the 1876-P BF-2, as detailed in the 2014 reference, *Double Dimes — the United States Twenty-cent Piece*, by Lane Brunner and myself, available online at www.doubledimes.com. BF-2 refers to Brunner-Frost 2, the die marriage designator as described in our book.

With no real demand for the coin in the eastern states, we believe many of the coins struck were made for souvenirs for the Centennial Exposition that year in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia mint struck 1876 double dimes in at least 9 distinct coining events from January 20th until the final striking on July 18th. Most of the batches were small, and with so many, and simply taking a pair of dies off the shelf each time, it is perhaps no surprise that there could be four die marriages.

Looking at the coins remaining in the hands of collectors and dealers alike, the vast majority, perhaps 80% or more, come from a single die pair, the BF-2, which is the subject of this article.

The BF-2 is easily identified, which is fortunate considering both obverse and reverse dies were used with others in different combinations.

The reverse of the BF-2 is most notable, as it is a doubled die, most visible in STATES, as well as TS in CENTS.



Die doubling on reverse in STATES

Expecting A "Double Dime"? cont.



Die doubling on reverse in TS of CENTS

The obverse features a date position which is vertically centered between the rock and the denticles (neither high nor low), and to the right (top of "1" well right of bottom point of shield). It also slopes very slightly downward from left to right.



Middle date, top of 1 well right of shield point

There is also a diagonal die scratch and two distinct lumps above the "6" in the date.



Diagonal die scratch and lumps above 6

Although the 1876 is fairly scarce (much more so than the popular and more expensive 1875-CC), it can be found with some looking. And when you do find one, most likely it will be the BF-2. Still, for a coin with a mintage of under 16,000, it is still a bargain at today's prices. They do come nice, so you won't have to settle for a cleaned or problem coin. Get a nice one! Happy hunting!

For more information on the 1876, and specially the BF-2 die marriage, see the following two web pages from our book:

<http://www.doubledimes.com/1876P-Summary.html>

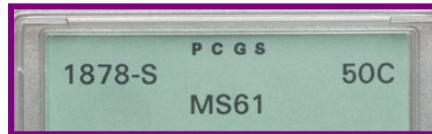
<http://www.doubledimes.com/1876P-BF2.html>



The Halves' And Half Nots'

An Ever Popular 1878-S Half Dollar

by John Cory, LSCC #2015



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

In reference to Bill Bugert's latest self-published book: [A Register of 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollars](#), here is an attractive PCGS MS-61 in an old green holder. Like many Seated Dollar collectors, I needed the 78-S to complete my set. At the time about 6-7 years ago, I felt the price was right.

Thank you for doing this latest Reference Bill! Being in an older green holder, maybe this example is suitable for a possible upgrade or a CAC sticker?

“Dollars” and Sense

The Case for Building an all CAC Approved Business Strike Trade Dollar Set

by Brishen (Crusty) Foley, LSCC #2671

Having only begun collecting Trade Dollars a little more than a year ago, I have learned so much about the series and would like to encourage others to join in on some of the fun I have been having. Trade Dollars are rich with history and will definitely be a worthy choice for any numismatist who is seeking a reasonably affordable series, but also desires a great history lesson regarding monetary silver and international trade. For now this series is severely lacking an updated reference guide, but in time I'm sure someone will step up to the plate and author a good reference book. That being said, the basics are readily available with some quick research.

Business strike Trade Dollars were minted from 1873-1878. Three different branch mints (Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco) pumped these beauties out and most were shipped overseas to Asia in trade. They were unloved and eventually demonetized by the U.S. The vast majority of the survivors have issues preventing them from being straight graded. Of the ones that manage to make their way into holders, only a fraction of those are actually worthy of being called problem-free. How many of them managed to survive to this day is almost a miracle.

There are a few roads that collectors can take once they decide on building a set. Many collectors seek a simple basic set of business strikes (PCGS defines this as 17 pieces). Other collectors attempt a full set of chop marked pieces which I am told is very tough and can turn into a whole new path (just collecting different chops). Some are crazy enough to take a deep dive into minor and major varieties of each type and date. No matter which path is chosen you are in for a tough rewarding adventure.



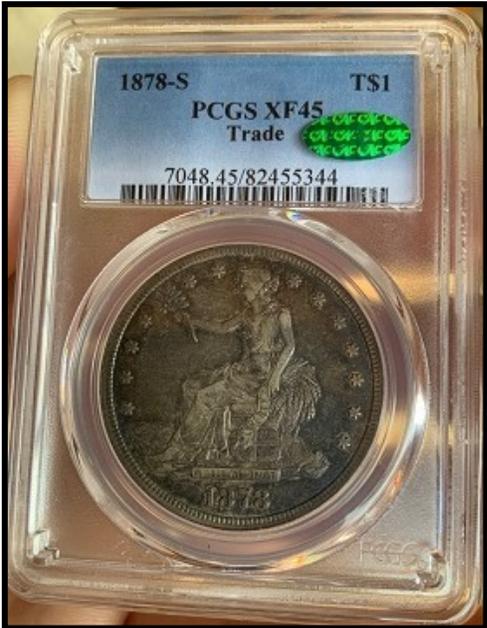
I am in the middle of a basic set that varies slightly from what is considered a full set by PCGS. I have chosen to eliminate the 1875-S/CC. Which is the only major variety that they include in their registry set. Since I don't participate in the registry, I do not feel the coin is necessary to complete a full date and mint mark set even though it certainly makes the set a little easier and less expensive to complete. However, I put other restrictions on my set to ensure my collection would be more challenging to complete.

The first restriction I self-imposed on myself was a grade range of EF45-AU58. I believe these grades provide a great amount of detail in the design while not breaking the bank. I also feel coins that actually circulated and did their jobs as intended are much more interesting than a coin that sat in a bank vault or someone's cabinet for over a century. This of course is a matter of personal preference and available finances. Don't get me wrong, I stand in awe looking at a couple of the mint state sets that have been put together (Legend, DL Hansen, and MnS Joint Venture come to mind). But for me, I am happy with a nice "crusty" original choice XF or AU coin.

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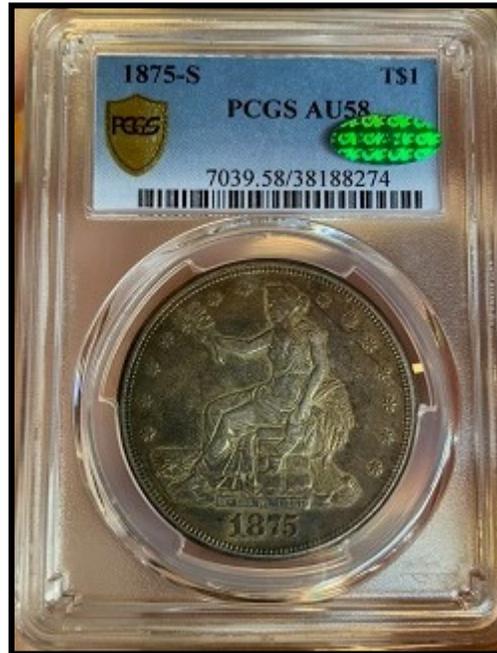


“Dollars” and Sense Cont.



only 1,000 (per PCGS), there are just 24 approved by CAC in all grades. That makes it the “CAC key” [maybe a new term we should all use] (excluding varieties of course). That was not a typo! The CAC key is the 1873-S. Go ahead and do a quick search on the internet. You won’t be able to find more than a couple if you are lucky and they will probably only be market acceptable pieces. Contrast that with the 1878-CC which is generally accepted to be the series key. I usually can find multiple examples for sale at any given time. This is the reason I chose to go with an all CAC set as it adds an extra level of toughness, which once a date is conquered provides an equal amount of pride in ownership.

Another self-imposed restriction I chose to go with was to mandate that each and every coin I purchase for my set be CAC approved. This has made my set build quite a bit more challenging. At any given moment, a collector with an open checkbook will be able to piece together a non-CAC set in a day using a variety of online shops. However, try putting together an all matched CAC set and you will quickly find out it becomes much tougher. Trade Dollars appear to have one of the lowest approval rates at CAC of all the different U.S. series.



If you have been thinking about starting a business strike Trade Dollar set, I believe now is a perfect time. This series has been gaining in popularity over the past decade and it is my opinion that it won’t take many more collectors in order to push prices upward. Prices for PQ examples are much lower than their rarity should command. A full set can be completed within a relatively short amount of time and there are no major keys that will force you to rob a bank in order to finish the set. You guys all know the old saying... “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink it.”

Most dates simply do not come nice. No coin makes this more obvious than the ultimate sleeper the 1873-S (see the +dollar \$ signs flashing). A coin with an original mintage of 703,000 and a survival rate of

(END)



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Vacant

LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org
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Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to Bill Bugert, Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor.

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Wanted: Submissions 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 a favorite coin, variety, neat find, nice cherrypick, happening at a coin show or local club, Liberty Seated coinage at 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 column writer to submit material of interest to others. "This is your monthly digital publication. It is what you make of it!"

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