

2024 Liberty Seated Half Dollar Year-end Report

by Bill Bugert and Dennis Fortier
LSCC # 455 and # 2019

Dennis writes: 2023 was the year of a new (unknown) 1878-S' coming on the market with three previously unknown pieces being sold on the internet. 2024, we believe will be known as the year of in-depth half dollar research. With the groundwork that has been laid by Bill Bugert in his series of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Registers, numismatic researchers can and are taking a deep dive into individual issues in the series.

Craig Sholley and John Danreuther published two works on half dollar proofs, *"Two Rare 1877 Proof Half Varieties"*, and *"Two More Very Interesting 1878 Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollars"*. These two articles are part of a larger project to study the entire Liberty Seated Half Dollar Proof series that has not been studied in-depth.

Finally, Dick Osburn has been making a study of the 1876-CC half dollar. His recently published article *"1876-CC Halves – More Than You Ever Wanted to Know"* details many new die varieties of that issue that he has discovered in the past few years. With Craig and JD working on Proofs, and Bill working on the final issue of his Registers, the tedious grind of researching common dates with many, many die varieties is where the future of half dollar research will be found.

Bill writes: Many collectors answered my call for assistance in locating the 1849 WB-6 Dramatically Doubled Date and 1873 No Arrows Open 3 half dollars. Thank you!

This year I plan to publish Registries of those die varieties similar to what I did with the 1878-S half dollar. The 1873 NA Op3 has turned into a more complex challenge than I realized. Not to fear, it is coming!

Also, I am working albeit very slowly on die diagrams for the last of my Registers (Arrows half dollars and 1875-1891). For example, with the study of Dick Osburn's collection, I now have over 80 die marriages for 1876. **2025 will be a good year!**