Valentine's Day Affection for an 1840-O Quarter & its History
by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1271

More than 20 years ago I was assembling a high-grade New Orleans type set, which, of course, included a no motto with drapery Liberty Seated quarter. I had several uncirculated examples that "filled the hole" but none were particularly exciting. I finally saw the quarter I wanted in a 2008 Heritage Long Beach auction. It was an 1840-O in an NGC MS63 Star holder. I was one of the underbidders because it sold for much more than I expected. However, a couple of years later it appeared on the Pinnacle Rarities website. I immediately called Kathleen Duncan and bought it at the next major coin show.

I showed the coin to several friends, including Len Augsburger who called a few weeks later when he found the coin in the 1985 Jimmy Hayes auction. This Stack's sale was one of the early auctions with color plates which provided a definitive match. As a raw coin it was cataloged as "gem brilliant uncirculated".

This quarter was crossed to PCGS and the Jimmy Hayes provenance was added to the holder. Several years later I sent the coin to CAC for stickering thinking that it had a chance to get a gold sticker, but not even a green sticker (twice!). I kept this New Orleans type set together for several years, but any significant upgrades would require sacrificing other parts of my collection, which I was not willing to do. As I broke up this set, I consigned several to the April 2020 Central Sates Heritage auction. I regretted this decision to include the 1840-O quarter almost immediately and even more so when the Covid pandemic seemed to depress prices. I didn't think I would ever own this coin again, but it reappeared in the Stack's Bowers August 2024 sale. I bought it again, sent it to CAC, again, with an appeal emphasizing that the coin was essentially identical to the color plate from 1985 and finally got a green bean. It was love at first sight and now at the heart of my collection!

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