



# The Auction Realm

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

## February 2022 Sales Activity

In his column this month, Len Augsburger covered some of John McCloskey’s most valuable coins sold in January by Heritage Auctions. More of McCloskey’s coins will be sold in February and will be covered here next month.

Several Liberty Seated coins were recently sold that demonstrate very strong demand. A few auctions brought prices that are multiples of what they would have sold for two years ago as shown by several examples below. The 1866 half dollar has the “rare” gold CAC sticker that places it in an unknown price range. A well-known dealer once told me that the gold bean is worth more than any upgrade he has ever seen. Most “retail” pricing guides are not keeping up. If you are selling or buying, recent auction prices from reliable companies are probably an even better choice than usual for determining value.

Attributions are mine while rarity ratings come from books by Larry Briggs and Bill Bugert/Randy Wiley.

Date	Denomination	Grading Service	Grade	Auction Price	Company	Apparent Die Marriage, Rarity
1840-O	quarter	ANACS	AU53	\$1,140	Heritage	B 2-C, R3+
1853-O	half dollar	PCGS	AU50	1,800	Heritage	WB-21, R-3
1853-O	half dollar	PCGS	AU53	1,744	Great Collections	WB-16, R-3
1860-O	half dollar	PCGS CAC	AU58+	1,260	Heritage	WB-10, R-3
1866	half dollar	PCGS Gold CAC	AU55	2,316	Great Collections	unknown
1860-O	Seated dollar	PCGS	MS61	4,320	Heritage	unknown
1860-O	Seated dollar	PCGS	MS62	3,240	Heritage	unknown

A couple of months ago, I guessed that certification fees would go up. NGC raised their fees effective February 1 with the standard grading fee now \$40. PCGS has not raised theirs. Historically, PCGS has raised fees at the beginning of the year, which I hope they will continue to do. Perhaps more burdensome is that both NGC and PCGS are estimating much longer processing times with NGC at 80 days for U.S. coins and PCGS at 60 business days for regular/standard service. Three months of waiting?!