

**Contributions from LSCC Members & Subscribers of E-Gobrecht cont.****Rich Hundertmark (LSCC #2347):****My FUN Show & the Heritage John McCloskey Sale...**

As I write this article on the final Thursday of January in seasonally cool North Carolina, I can finally claim closure to my FUN Show activities. Why might you ask? Today, FedEx arrived with my Heritage winning lot, an 1835 NGC \$5 AU53 ex-John McCloskey collection Half Eagle that will fit very nicely into my 19th Century type set.

The acquisition of this coin really began when I listened in on Len Augsburger's December 7th LSCC Zoom Call that focused on the McCloskey Collection Heritage sale to kick off at FUN. Mentioned in the call was the sale of the McCloskey Classic Quarter & Half Eagles. As I had previously acquired a 1835 Quarter Eagle for my type set, the McCloskey sale represented a great opportunity to acquire the complimentary Classic Half Eagle denomination.

After the Zoom call, I continually checked the Heritage site for the on-line auction catalog which I first viewed in mid December. My notes revealed an initial list of 18 coins as possible Half Eagle type set candidates, ranging in grades EF45 to AU58. This was a very wide spectrum, but I wanted to initially cast a wide net and while doing so thoroughly, further research price, population and variety rarity pre-sale.

The breakout of potential coins by grade distribution looked like this:

XF45, 6 coins  
AU50, 3 coins  
AU53, 2 coins  
AU55, 4 coins  
AU58, 3 coins

So opportunities abounded with my primary grade focus of AU53-AU55 as the Quarter Eagle in my type set is a lovely 1834 graded PCGS AU55. My thought was to match this grade level or go one grade lower for a nice Half Eagle.

Heading into the auction, I was met with some unexpected crosswinds; Omnicron had started to rear it's ugly head and Heritage sent out a notice right before the show that live bidding would not take place on site, but rather the auction would be moved back a week post-show to their Dallas offices (but the live viewing sessions would still be held). Thank goodness!! I had done my homework and was eagerly anticipating viewing the McCloskey Half Eagle lots live and in the raw (so to speak).

I arrived in Orlando Tuesday evening, a quick takeout dinner, early to bed, an early 6:30 wake-up, shave, shower and off to the OCC for 8AM lot viewing. Heritage registration was easy, and discussion with the on-site representative resulted in changing my shipping method to FedEx (my USPS confidence has waned).

The viewing of the McCloskey lots was an absolute learning delight. I had reviewed the McCloskey Half Eagles in great detail, many of the varieties were easily identifiable, the lots in hand generally nicer than the photos. I did note one coin with a scratch not described in the catalog or visible on the photograph, that coin was immediately DQ'd (disqualified).



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After the viewing I decided on my strategy, I would bid first an 1835 AU53 HM-2, R3 that I liked very much. The obverse has distinct die clashing below the ear and the coin has nice original surfaces with amber gold toning highlights. If this bid failed, I had 2 more candidates to bid on, an 1836 in AU50 and an 1837 in AU53, each with nice original surfaces.

When the live bidding occurred on the Friday following FUN, I was lead bidder going in, I was bid up another increment and then won the coin.

Success!!! My pre-auction homework had definitely paid off.

Adding the McCloskey pedigree on my new Half Eagle is a bonus. Some (actually many) pedigrees mean very little to me. The McCloskey pedigree is special because of John's expertise and variety attribution work in the series.

I would also like to reinforce the value of the LSCC, in this case the Zoom call was great shared information and was clearly the catalyst for my auction success.

Finally, if you are a new collector and haven't viewed in person, I encourage you to do so. There is nothing quite like going through boxes of rare coins and comparing coins for strike, eye appeal and originality. It's a great learning opportunity.



**1835 \$5 HM-2 NGC AU53  
Half Eagle - John McCloskey Collection  
Heritage FUN Sale January 2022**