



1839 'Gobrecht' Bust Half Dollars

'Gobrecht' Bust Half Dollars #5
by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

The year 1839 Reeded Edge Half Dollar has a reported mintage of 1,392,976 that is distributed between 8 known die marriages having 4 different obverses and 7 different reverses. Three of the die marriages are very rare and 5 are common, rated R-1 (over 1,000 known) to R-3 (201 to 500 known).



1839 GR-4 PCGS MS63 CAC Reverse (Image courtesy of Stacks Bowers)

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The example on the previous page is very easy to attribute as it is the only 1839 reverse that is missing dentils from 12 o'clock to 2 o'clock.

During the last week in May 2022, I did a survey of 1839 Reeded Edge Halves on eBay and found the following:

<u>Die Marriage</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u># Found</u>	<u>Die Marriage</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u># Found</u>
1839 GR-1	R-7	0	1839-O GR-1	R-1	30
1839 GR-2	R-5+	0	1839-O GR-2	R-8	0
1839 GR-3	R-5+	0	1839-O GR-3	R-8	0
1839 GR-4	R-1	12	1839-O GR-4	R-4	0
1839 GR-5	R-2	22	1839-O GR-5	R-4+	5
1839 GR-6	R-3	6			
1839 GR-7	R-1	12			
1839 GR-8	R-3	1			

The above chart looks normal except for 2 things, 1839 GR-8 is too few for its R-3 rating and 1839-O GR-5 has too many for its R-4+ rating.

Mintage Reported:

<u>Date and Mint</u>	<u>2023 Red Book</u>	<u>Dick Graham's Book 2012</u>
1839	1,392,976	1,392,976
1839-O	116,000	178,976

I think the mintage for 1839-O is closer to 178,976. A 1966 Red Book showed 162,976.

Interested collectors have been receiving my Newsletters on the 38 Most Common Reeded Edge Half Dollars since August 2019. These Newsletters contain large photos and information on each of the 38 Most Common and other important information such as R-4 and rarer sales, etc.

<u>Koenings' Reeded Edge Newsletter</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Scheduled Date to Email</u>
Newsletter #38	1839 GR-4	6-15-22
Newsletter #39	1839 GR-5	7-15-22
Newsletter #40	1839 GR-6	8-15-22
Newsletter #41	1839 GR-7	9-15-22
Newsletter #42	1839 GR-8	10-15-22
Newsletter #43	1839-O GR-1	11-15-22

Currently, 109 interested collectors are receiving my free Newsletters each month. If you would like to receive this information, please send your name and email address to:

bustcoin1@verizon.net

Keep up the Hunt!

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