



## How I Began Collecting Liberty Seated Coins by James Shake - LSCC #2905

When I was growing up, I started collecting coins – mostly 20th century coins, but also Indian Head pennies. An older friend of mine (“Bob”) a few houses away also was a collector. We became coin collecting buddies.

“Bob” went off to college, but came home one summer saying that he wanted to sell some of his coins. Among them were some odd-denomination coins. I was only able to afford a handful. Among those were five Liberty Seated half dimes (1853 to 1861), as well as four Liberty Seated dimes (1857-O to 1891). I paid about \$2 each for the half dimes. I later went to college, got married, and started a family. Coin collecting took a back seat to other responsibilities for several decades. I would occasionally buy a coin magazine to keep up with what was going on.

Fast forward to the end of 2017. I was about to pay off my mortgage and thought that I would like to get back into coin collecting. I started in April 2018 with trying to finish some of my 20th century collections. I began attending coin shows again.

I then remembered that another neighbor/friend of mine had been a coin collector. I contacted him. We got together and he showed me some of his coins that he might be willing to sell. One set of coins that he was offering for sale was a 34-coin type set of Liberty Seated coins in three lucite holders. The 34 coins included 7 half-dimes (including the 1859 hollow stars variety), 8 dimes, one double-dime (20 cents), 8 quarters, 8 half dollars, and two one-dollar coins. The 8 types of dimes, quarters, and half dollars included: (1) no stars, (2) stars but no elbow drapery, (3) 1840-53, (4) 1853-55 with arrows, (5) 1856-60 no arrows (lower weights), (6) 1860-73 with legend, (7) 1873-74 with arrows, and (8) 1875-91 no arrows (higher weights). The coins were all Fine or better, with the 1839 no drapery half dollar being in EF.

I purchased the set and began looking to upgrade a few of the coins – one with a deep cut, and 2-3 that had been polished. I bought Dave Bowers’ book on Liberty Seated Silver Coins to help me out. I recently downloaded Al Blythe’s guide to LS half-dimes and Brian Greer’s guide to LS dimes to further help me out.

Earlier this year, the same friend who I bought the Liberty Seated type set from also indicated that he would be willing to sell me his mostly-completed sets of Liberty Seated half-dimes and dimes. I’m currently finalizing the purchase of those two sets. I will inevitably be looking to upgrade some of those coins.

I never imagined decades ago that I would be seriously collecting Liberty Seated coins today!

**[Editor’s Note: Other testimonials and stories about your collecting pursuits are most welcome for publication in E-Gobrecht.]**