

## The MnS Liberty Seated Dollar Collection

by Stephen Petty, LSCC #2077

The MnS Liberty Seated Dollar Collection was started in 2006 by me and my son Mark (hence "MnS" – he suggested "SnM," but I told him this was not a good idea). The set is reportedly only the fifth set (44 coins excluding the proof only 1858) to ever be completed in Mint State. The collection was motivated by a comment from my brother Robert that this series is both tough and under-rated in terms of the coins and their rarity. Like most collectors, I set about to collect the affordable coins in the series in very fine (VF) to extra fine (XF) but, like many, increasingly liked the higher graded coins. Early on, I recognized it would be nearly impossible to complete given the rarity of the 1870-S (nine known in my opinion and rarer though less popular than the 1804 dollar). Five other stoppers (1851, 1852, 1871-CC, 1872-CC, and the 1873-CC) were also in the series. Nonetheless, I started collecting Liberty Seated dollars simply due to their rarity with little hope or need to finish the series. When my businesses had some good years, I was in the position to purchase coins I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to purchase. However, with high-end Liberty Seated dollars, access, not resources, often limits what one can acquire. Many times, I lost coins to those with more access/resources but I acquired them later when they sold their collections. Laura Sperber of Legend Numismatics must be given credit for the access and guidance in acquiring many of the Liberty Seated dollars in the MnS collection. I hope you enjoy seeing some of these large, rare, and wonderful coins shown in this Centerfold!

Here are my comments on the Liberty Seated dollars shown in the centerfold on the following pages; generally, I have attempted to purchase coins with great strike and eye appeal:

**1840 PCGS MS63 CAC.** A very original coin in the top four Liberty Seated dollars for this date. The date is somewhat pricier than it should be due to its first year of issue for type collectors.

**1842 PCGS MS63.** A very common date, but perhaps my favorite Liberty Seated dollars due to its spectacular electric blue toning. I have had many opportunities to upgrade this coin, but never found one I believe looks better.

**1843 PCGS MS63+.** Again, this is a common date for Liberty Seated dollars but in higher mint state this coin is very rare. This example has excellent eye appeal (toning) and is the top pop for the date.

**1844 PCGS MS64.** A very difficult date in Mint State. This coin drips with originality and is the second finest known example after the Legend coin.

**1846-O PCGS MS63.** Again, a very difficult date in Mint State and a coin that typically comes ugly. Ex-Ashland City, the coin is very original and has nice toning.

**1850-0 PCGS MS64.** A wonder coin and by far the top pop. Housed in an old PCGS MS64 rattler with wonderful originality and toning, this coin had been off the market since 1968 sale in St. Louis when purchased. All who have seen this coin believe it is gem in today's market which would put it two points ahead of the next best 1850-O.

Bruce Lorich in *The Gobrecht Journal*, March 1979, noted that he had reviewed 100 years of auction appearances and concluded that Uncirculated 1850-O dollars appeared at auction less often than did 1844, 1848, 1851, 1852, 1859-S, 1870-CC, 1872-CC, 1872-S, and 1873-CC in the same grade. "In fact, in Uncirculated condition only four Liberty Seated dollar issues (out of the total of 45 struck) appeared at auction in my study, less often than the 1850-O. These were 1855, 1870-S, 1871-CC, and the non-existent 1873-S."

**1851 PCGS MS63.** In mint state, this is perhaps the second toughest of the Philadelphia Liberty Seated dollars after the 1852; only 1,300 were minted. The 1851 is another coin that comes ugly; I have found few with any kind of eye appeal. This Ex-Wong example is nicely toned and has good eye appeal.

**1852 PCGS MS63.** In mint state, this is the toughest of the Philadelphia Liberty Seated dollars; only 1,100 were minted. This Liberty Seated dollar has excellent originality and a nice toning. It took nearly 12 years to locate and purchase this coin.

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**1859 PCGS MS64+.** Almost all the 1850 Liberty Seated dollars are very tough to obtain, the 1853 being perhaps the easiest. This 1859 has excellent originality, eye appeal, and toning. Only two examples have been graded higher.

**1859-S PCGS MS63.** All of the three San Francisco branch mint Liberty Seated dollars (1859-S, 1870-S, and 1872-S) are extremely rare in choice to gem mint state. For over 10 years my set included a very nice XF-45 example; it was not until last year that an original, nicely struck example for this date was identified and purchased.

**1862 PCGS MS64+.** A spectacularly toned and original specimen; Ex-Eugene Gardner. I have used this the coin in a local grading seminar and many mistakenly feel the coin is cleaned, but the lines don't go through the devices and are die polish lines – this condition is rarely seen on Liberty Seated dollars.

**1870-S PCGS Genuine.** A date/mintmark rarer than the famous 1804 dollar; 9 vs 15 specimens. This is the Boyd specimen, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 9 specimens I am aware of. The initials "FHP" were carved in the obverse fields and removed in the 1920s. This dollar is genuine (tooled) on the obverse and an AU coin on the reverse, so it is appropriately graded by PCGS. Nevertheless, I was thrilled to be able to acquire an 1870-S to complete the collection. It is worth noting that in my opinion, except of the Legend specimen, all other eight specimens are probably properly graded genuine.

**1871 PCGS MS64.** Again, while one of the most common dates, this specimen was completed because it has an unusual lavender toning I have not seen in other Liberty Seated dollars, or rarely in other silver coins. The reverse is probably the best overall quality of any of the Liberty Seated dollar I own. The picture does not do the coin justice!

**1871-CC NGC AU58.** I included this coin, not only for its rarity, but to show how difficult it is to photograph luster on a heavily toned coin. This specimen, when tilted, has electric toning. The photographs were taken using a shift-tilt lens which allows one to

show the luster but often leaves a portion of the coin out of focus or negatively impacted by lighting.

**1872-S PCGS MS63.** Of all the coins, and while not technically a sleeper, most collectors do not realize how rare this coin is in mint-state. Despite the population counts, I think the number of mint state coins may be a little as one-half dozen. I was aware of this coin for nearly 10 years, and only recently had the opportunity to acquire it from the Ex-Bel-Aire collection.

**1873-CC PCGS AU55.** Housed in an older PCGS holder and stated as being Ex-Carter, it is actually the Ex-Stack's coin. With grade-flation, my belief is that this is the third nicest example of this date/mintmark. It is quite original and wonderfully toned.

I hope you have enjoyed these 16 examples from the MnS Collection of Liberty Seated dollars; feel free to contact me with your questions, comments, and criticisms of this work on Liberty Seated dollars ([spetty@eesinc.cc](mailto:spetty@eesinc.cc)).



The MnS Collection Poster, April 2011

**Featured Collection**  
**The MnS Liberty Seated Dollar Collection**  
 by Stephen Petty, LSCC #2077



1840 \$1  
 PCGS MS63 CAC



1842 \$1  
 PCGS MS63



1843 \$1  
 PCGS MS64+ CAC



1844 \$1  
 PCGS MS64



1846-O \$1  
 PCGS MS63



1850-O \$1  
 PCGS MS64



1851 \$1  
 PCGS MS63



1852 \$1  
 PCGS MS63



Photos on this page are actual size.

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1859 \$1  
PCGS MS64+



1859-S \$1  
PCGS MS63



1862 \$1  
PCGS MS64+



1870-S \$1  
PCGS Genuine



1871 \$1  
PCGS MS64



1871-CC \$1  
NGC AU58  
(imaged to highlight proof-like surfaces)



1872-S \$1  
PCGS MS63



1873-CC \$1  
PCGS AU55



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