Beware of This Book! A Review of *Liberty Seated Half Dollars for Beginners*, by Roggie Mullis Clark III, 2026

By Dennis Fortier, Seated Half Society President

Recently was found on eBay a book titled *"Liberty Seated Half Dollars for Beginners"* by Roggie Clark. I immediately purchased the book in hopes I could recommend it to newer collectors of the series. When it arrived, I dove right in and read it cover to cover in one evening. What follows are my thoughts on Mr. Clark's work.

The book is 117 pages in total. After several pages of Disclaimers, copyrights, and image credits, the introduction finally began on page 11. A brief history of the series with historic events that shaped the series follows. Mr. Clark then fairly accurately lists the basic design changes that happened during the Liberty Seated Half Dollar run. However, on page 28, and repeated on page 39, I ran into my first point of contention. He says, *"…late in 1853 the Rays were removed…"* (from the half dollar). The Rays were **not** removed in 1853 – they were removed in **1854**. This may be a small point for knowledgeable collectors of the series, but this book is intended for beginning collectors of the series and could cause confusion.

My next area of concern is Mr. Clark's use of mintmark locations and descriptions from *other* half dollar series. This included a Denver mintmark that was never even used in the Liberty Seated half dollar series. The coins used in this mintmark section were a Barber half dollar, a Walking Liberty half dollar and a Franklin half dollar. Only the CC mintmark was from a **Liberty Seated** half dollar. This type of error is unpardonable. I would love to include pictures…but I'm afraid Mr. Clark's copyright notice would cause me concern.

His photos are average, taking up too much of the volume of the book's 117 pages with little benefit for the reader. By that I mean, he says little or nothing about the photos, shows few reverse images and no close-ups of designs or other important elements of the coins. His minimal grading section is too small and the photos too poor in quality to be of any real use to a novice collector.

He mentions counterfeits in the marketplace and discusses some things to look for but provides the beginner with no photographic evidence to educate them on this important issue.

Conclusions

For beginning collectors of the Liberty Seated half dollar series this work offers little basic in-depth series knowledge. He offers no advice on where to go in order to further a collector's knowledge (such as the LSCC website). Mr. Clark's work is a fairly good basic beginner coin collector book with some good generic collecting advice; however, he demonstrates little actual series knowledge. His errors are regrettable and not helpful for beginners of the series. A more concise and better product could have been helpful to collectors looking to delve into Liberty Seated Half Dollars. I'm sorry to say Mr. Clark's work doesn't hit the mark.

One final observation: The coin on the cover of his book is **not** a Liberty Seated Half dollar…but a **counterfeit** or **copy** Liberty Seated Dollar – remarkable.

