

Warning – Counterfeits on Ebay **by Dick Osburn, LSCC #717**



Important Announcement:

As part of trying to keep up with Liberty Seated Dollar die marriages and looking at examples of the two dates of Seated Halves that I still study, I'm constantly looking at coins on Ebay. Recently, I've run into large numbers of obvious counterfeits, and some that may not be so obvious.

Recently a quick pass through the Ebay listings of Seated Halves revealed more than 20 dates that were obvious counterfeits. These included all the CC's and a few tougher dates like 1850 and 1852. They were offered for direct sales (not auction) at \$10 - \$40. Conditions appeared to be in the VF-AU grade range, with looks that appeared cleaned. Most would not fool an experienced collector, but there were a few exceptions. The coin pictured at the top of this article is one of those. I've ordered this coin, but don't have it in hand yet, so I can't yet comment on how good it is or if the coin pictured is the one I'll get; but the dies were clearly created from a genuine coin (1843 WB-15) so it differs from most of the others seen.

In a similar pass through the Ebay listings of Seated Dollars, I found more than a dozen dates that were obvious counterfeits. These included all the CC's. I purchased an 1873-CC dollar that's in borderline mint state condition. It cost me \$39. A genuine example would exceed six figures. I'm sure there are fakes out there for other series. I've seen trade dollars and bust halves. I haven't done

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any detailed reviews of the coins that are listed for anything except Seated Halves and Seated Dollars.

I've reported these counterfeits to Ebay on several occasions. On each report, I got a reply back within 12 hours that they looked at the listing and found no issues. Clearly, they don't care and would rather have the income from the sales than enforce their own rules.

I have about 20 coins on order. They take a while to get here because they're shipped from China. When I have them all in hand, I plan to take them to the U.S. Secret Service to see what they can do to shut down the Ebay sales. I don't have a lot of hope for that happening. I'm sure they've got a lot of bigger fish to fry. The consultation with the Secret Service probably won't happen until September. Meanwhile I'll have all the coins I've received at the Liberty Seated Collector's Club table at the ANA in Oklahoma City. I'll be glad to share them with anyone who's interested. I'm also working on a much more detailed article for an upcoming Gobrecht Journal. It will include pictures of many of the counterfeits that I've ordered and more information on how to detect them. For right now just remember that if the price seems unreasonably low, the coin is probably bogus.

Photo Credits: Obverse and reverse full photos: 1843 half – from the Ebay listing. Priced at \$39.99 each, with more than 10 available.

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Announcement about the new Trade Dollar Book:

From August 15-30, 2025, the pricing for the new Trade Dollar Book has been reduced by about 10% to coincide with the ANA Convention. Lulu just increased costs but ~5%, so this offer will more than offset the price increase for those who might want to buy it during this promotional period. Just wanted to share with the Gobrecht Journal folks!

Best, Joe Kirchgessner, author

Special Announcement: The Fourth Annual Gathering of the Seated Half Society (SHS) will be held immediately following the Annual LSCC meeting at the ANA in Oklahoma City on August 21.

If you wish to become a member of SHS, the ANA convention is an excellent opportunity to bring your collection and qualify.

For more information, Contact Dennis Fortier, SHS President at: ricajun@msn.com