



Reeded Edge Halves (Also known as Pre-Liberty Seated Halves)

IT'S ABOUT TIME

by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

Prior to August 2021, there were about 16 specimens of 1838 GR-5 known, however, none have ever been attributed and sold at auction. Recently, Heritage Coin Auctions sold two 1838 GR-5, one for \$1,560 on August 17, 2021. According to my records, this would be the 17th specimen. The other coin was attributed and listed as R-6+ and graded PCGS VF25, Lot 3817 and sold for \$5,400 on August 20, 2021. According to my records, there was a VF25 specimen known, but I did not have a photo of it. I assumed this is the same coin. Both of the above coins were the Die State listed as a 75% die break on the reverse.

A few years ago, I purchased an unattributed 1838 GR-5 in a Stack's Bowers Coin Auction. I had been willing to purchase the coin for \$4,000 but only had to pay a small portion of that as it was unattributed and listed as AU Details. My coin has a 50% die break on the reverse.

In 2012, when Dick Graham's book was printed, there were only 3 specimens of the 1838 GR-5 known. Dick sold one to Dr. Charles Link and I believe the other two were sold at the ANA Coin Show in Chicago, August 2021.

In February 2019, I found a Raw AU55 1838 GR-5 in a coin shop just 15 miles from where I live. Again, today there are about 17 specimens known and only one was attributed by an auction firm. As more and more collectors realize the potential of Reeded Edge Halves, I am sure several more will be discovered.

The 1838 GR-5 is known for its weak ALF and the die break that starts at the rim under the 2nd arrowhead and continues eventually to the rim under the right top of U in UNITED. So far, 4 different die stages have been discovered, 0%, 50%, 75% and 100%.

If you would like to learn more about Reeded Edge Halves, please send your email address to Jim Koenings at bust-coin1@verizon.net and I will send you my monthly Newsletter. The next Newsletter will contain information and large photos on the 1838 GR-4 die marriage.



1838 GR-5 Reverse with 75% Die Break