

**Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #1**

Liberty Seated Half Dollar Survey San Francisco Branch Mint

In this month's issue of the Gobrecht Journal, Dennis Fortier will publish the results of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar, San Francisco Branch Mint Survey he has conducted throughout 2021. For the full survey results, there is still time to join the LSCC if you haven't done so already.

Feature Article

A Review of Bill Bugert's *"A Register of 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollars"* By Dennis Fortier

In June of 2020, Bill Bugert web-published his Register of 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollars on the LSCC website. From a forty year examination of all available information on every 1878-S example that has come to light, or been made available to Bugert (in auctions, dealer cases, and private collections) was documented.

The 1878-S is the undisputed key to the Liberty Seated Half dollar series. Bugert identifies fifty-one specific examples by "BB" number from MS-66 (shown above) to Fr-2, with detailed diagnostics and condition of each piece. Additionally, Bugert provides histories, auction records, and provenances as much as possible on each individual piece.

Up until now, such an example specific study has been reserved for grandiose rarities with just a handful of examples known. A far less cumbersome exercise for the numismatist and a playground of the rich.

Bugert also provides, a see-at-a-glance chart of the number of examples in each grade, minting background information, certification numbers, detailed diagnostics common to the issue, as well as some knowledge of coins that have been "cracked out" of TPG holders and put into other holders. Photographs of almost every example are found on each individual example's page. As could be expected, the photographs have a wide range of quality depending on what was available for reference.

Found below is a passage from Bugert's Registry which gives insight into how lovers of Liberty Seated Half Dollars feel about this significant rarity.

"Owning an 1878-S half dollar in any condition entitles you to informal membership of a very select group of elite collectors. Few collectors have or now own an 1878-S half dollar and, by owning one, you set yourself apart from many others. Simply put, few are available, and they are expensive, often

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outside the financial resources of most collectors. Even some of the famous coin collections lacked an 1878-S or had a low grade or problem coin. For example, Eric P. Newman did not have one, Anderson-Dupont had a damaged coin, and it was missing from the Garrett Collection. All 1878-S half dollar owners I know are immensely proud to admit they own one."

No one can doubt Bugert's devotion to the half dollar series after publishing five books, to date, detailing every die marriage known to this important numismatist. A historical reference detailing every known example of this significant key date must be taken seriously by numismatists, scholars and collectors. It is an essential "read" for every collector of the series, even if one never expects to actually own an example.

You can find Bill Bugert's "*A Register of 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollars*" at:

<http://lscweb.org/BillBugertBooks/Bugert-1878-S-Half-Dollar-Register.pdf>

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