



## Missing the Boat

### **“Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars #3**

**by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048**

I “Missed the Boat” in 1988 when I had the opportunity to buy Jules Reiver’s “Variety Identification Manual (VIM) for United States Reeded Edge Half Dollars, 1836-1839” for only \$10. In November 2009, I purchased a slightly used Jules’ VIM on eBay for \$25 and decided to try collecting them. With the help of Dick Graham, who wrote the most important book ever written on the subject “A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars, 1836-1839”. Today, I am the leading collector of “Gobrecht” halves. Jules Reiver passed in 2002 and Dick Graham sold most of his collection in July 2021, so I am the only person left to provide you with information on the series other than Dick Graham.

By November 2017, I had 53 of the 56 known die marriages. The remaining 3 were basically non-collectable; 1838-O (9 known), 1839-O GR-2 (1 known) and 1839 GR-3 (1 known). But that was when the real FUN began. I started looking into Die States and Rotated Dies with almost no competition. At this time, I know of only one or two collectors that may be studying die stages or die states.

In March, I turned 80 years old and have been sending monthly Newsletters on the “38 Most Common Reeded Edge Die Marriages” since August 2019. I currently have over 100 collectors that receive these Newsletters, but only 16 of them are LSCC members, so far...

I believe LSCC members are far better equipped to study “Gobrecht” halves as they use microscopes and investigate minute details whereas John Reich Collectors Society members are forced to look at hand stamped dies that were made before Christian Gobrecht.

In a recent telephone conversation with Dick Graham, he said that he no longer collects Reeded Edge Halves and has no intention of printing any additional copies. He helped David Kahn at the recent Baltimore Coin Show and autographed the last 10 of 100 reprints of his book. He now intends to spend more time with his wife and play more rounds of golf.

### **DON’T “MISS THE BOAT”**

If you would like to learn more about “Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars, I suggest the following:

1. Sign up for my Newsletters by sending me your name and email address to:

[Bustcoin1@verizon.net](mailto:Bustcoin1@verizon.net)

2. Buy the following die marriages:
  - A. 1837 GR-5 (see details on next page)
  - B. 1838 GR-11 (will be discussed in May)
  - C. 1839 GR-4 (will be discussed in June)

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### **1837 GR-5, Late Die State**

The above die marriage, with the circular die break, is very common. I found 6 specimens listed on eBay last month. I am sure you can find a specimen that fits your budget. If all 6 were sold, be patient another specimen will show up shortly. The reason I chose this die marriage is because the same obverse is used on 3 other 1837 die marriages. This die marriage comes with and without die breaks and it also comes with a rotated reverse and as not rotated.

Happy Hunting!

**(END)**