



The Auction Realm

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'Abigail Collection' of Liberty Seated Half Dollars

On April 5, Stacks Bowers Galleries auctioned an extensive selection of Liberty Seated half dollars from the Abigail collection. Unless I missed a coin or two, twenty half dollars were graded as choice AU (AU55 or AU58) and all sold for strong prices. These coins are listed below along with the values as published on the PCGS website in early April. Many of the coins sold for prices comparable to the PCGS values, coins with CAC green beans generally sold for more than the PCGS values, and a few sold for exceptionally higher prices. These included the 1840-O, 1857-O and 1864-S that brought prices comparable to MS63 retail values.

At the recent Central States Numismatic Society Annual Convention, I had the opportunity to talk with Mark Feguson about the PCGS Price Guide. He regularly reviews recent auction prices for PCGS coins, including Seated half dollars, and updates the PCGS Price Guide as needed. This auction might precipitate some additional PCGS price increases!

Date	Variety	PCGS Grade	Sale Price	PCGS Retail Values			
				AU55	AU58	AU58+	MS60
1840-O	WB-5	AU58+ CAC	6,600.	750.	1250.	1750.	2500.
1842 small date	WB-6	AU55	780.	900.	1250.	1500.	1750.
1842 med. date	WB-14	AU58 CAC	1380.	750.	1000.	1100.	1250.
1842-O med. date	WB-4	AU58	1800.	1250.	2000.	2250.	2500.
1844	WB-13	AU58 CAC	1080.	550.	750.	800.	900.
1846 tall date	WB-17	AU55 CAC	900.	850.	1400.	1500.	1600.
1846-O med. date	WB-1	AU58	2160.	750.	1500.	1750.	2000.
1848	WB-13	AU58	1920.	1000.	1250.	1350.	1500.
1853	WB-101	AU55 CAC	1140.	1100.	1500.	1600.	1750.
1854	WB-101	AU55 CAC	528.	500.	600.	650.	750.
1857-O	WB-6	AU58+ CAC	4200.	800.	900.	1000.	1750.
1859-O	WB-5	AU58 CAC	900.	500.	650.	700.	900.
1860-O	WB-7	AU55 CAC	660.	500.	650.	700.	750.
1864-S	WB-1	AU58 CAC	3840.	1750	2000.	2250.	2500.
1870-S	WB-4	AU58 CAC	5280.	1250.	2250.	2500.	2750.
1871-S	WB-5	AU55	720.	600.	1000.	1100.	1250.
1875	WB-101	AU58 CAC	1080.	400.	450.	475.	500.
1876	WB-101	AU58 CAC	1020.	400.	450.	475.	500.
1878	WB-101	AU55 CAC	1050.	600.	650.	675.	700.
1884	WB-102	AU55	1080.	1600.	1750.	1800.	1850.

One group of coins I missed this month was the Karl Moulton 1849 Reference Collection. These U.S. coins were sold in the April Stack's Bowers Collectors Choice Online Auction. His collection included 90 lots of 1849 coins, 25 of which were Liberty Seated coins.