



Apparently a Lack of Information

“Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars #4

by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

PCGS Registry has a category entitled “Capped Bust Half Dollars Reeded Edge Basic Set, Circulation strikes 1836-1839”. Under “Current Finest List” it lists 23 collections with the Number 2 Set containing the following:

1836 Reeded Edge	=	MS64
1837 Reeded Edge	=	MS66
1838 Reeded Edge	=	MS65
1839 Reeded Edge	=	MS65
1839-O Reeded Edge	=	MS66

For a comparison, the Number 13 Set contains the following:

1836 Reeded Edge	=	F15
1837 Reeded Edge	=	VF30
1838 Reeded Edge	=	VF35
1839 Reeded Edge	=	VF35
1839-O Reeded Edge	=	F15

And the Number 23 Set had:

1837 Reeded Edge	=	AU53
1838 Reeded Edge	=	AU55
1839 Reeded Edge	=	XF45
1839-O Reeded Edge	=	XF40

The positioning depended on a point system where the rarer dates like 1836 and 1839-O received more points than 1837, 1838 and 1839 so if you were missing 1836 you lost a lot of points. Higher grades also affected the point system.

Every LSCC collector should have at least an 1837, 1838 and 1839 Reeded Edge Half.

Lack of information appears to be the biggest problem in collecting “Gobrecht” Reeded Edge Halves. Since August of 2019, I have been sending Newsletters of the “38 Most Common Reeded Edge Half Dollars every month. Last month (April) I suggested LSCC members look for the 1837 GR-5 die marriage (Very common). I saw at least 6 specimens offered on eBay. The obverse of 1837 GR-5 is important since it was previously used on 3 other die marriages.

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

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2. Buy the following die marriages:
- A. 1837 GR-5 (discussed in April)
 - B. 1838 GR-11 or GR-12 (see photo below)
 - C. 1839 GR-4 (will be discussed in June)



1838 GR-11 and GR-12 Reverse

On the above specimen, there is an obvious die break from the eagle's middle talon that goes between A and L of HALF, and continues to the rim. I saw (7) GR-11's and (3) GR-12's on eBay last month. Anyone signing up for my Newsletters, this month, will also receive Newsletter #34, that contained large photos and information on 1838 GR-11 that was emailed on February 15, 2022.

Happy Hunting!

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