



'Gobrecht' Bust Half Dollars

'Gobrecht' Bust Half Dollars #7 by Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

Last November 2021, I listed 29 different die marriages of Reeded Edge Halves (1836 to 1839) in a Stacks and Bowers Coin Auction. Another collector added several additional coins to the auction.

Of the Top 18 Rarest Reeded Edge Halves, only 5 die marriages were missing as follows:

<u>Date & Die Marriage</u>	<u>Rarity</u>
1839-O GR-3	R-8 (1 to 3 known)
1839-O GR-2	R-8 (1 to 3 known)
1838-O GR-1	R-7 (4 to 12 known)
1839 GR-1	R-7 (4 to 12 known)
1837 GR-10	R-4 (76 to 200 known)

If one collector had bought all the Reeded Edge Halves in the auction and already had an 1837 GR-10 and several very common other Reeded Edge Halves, he would have had 52 of the 56 known die marriages and would represent the 3rd most complete collection. Only one collector has all 56 out of 56 known die marriages.

There were 3 coins in the auction that I totally regret selling as follows:

1836 GR-1 in PCGS AG3 details
1837 GR-25 in PCGS VG8
1838 GR-5 in NGC Shipwreck Effect

There were also a few die stages that sold and should have never been offered. However, two months later, the dealer that bought the rare die stages offered them on his website and I immediately bought them back.

As far as the 1836 GR-1 in PCGS AG3 details, I replaced that coin with an 1836 GR-1 in PCGS XF details.

Because of the sale of my coins, I was able to purchase 6 very important coins from Dick Graham, I now own the 1838 GR-5 in AU details that was the Discovery coin by Sheridan Downey in a Stacks auction in April 1988. Sheridan sold the coin to Jules Reiver and when Jules passed, Dick Graham bought the coin. It is especially sweet since Jules wrote his VIM and owned the coin. Dick Graham wrote his book and owned the coin and I wrote a book in February 2018 and now have the Discovery Coin (1838 GR-5). There were 3 specimens known when Dick wrote his book in 2012.

To complete the cycle, on June 5, 2022, I was the high bidder on the 1837 GR-25 that was sold by David Kahn on eBay. David described the coin as one of the final coins he was selling from the Dick Graham reference collection. Although in an NGC holder that said it was XF details, David thought the coin was closer to AU (see photo on next page below).

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If you would like to learn more about “Gobrecht” Bust Half Dollars (Reeded Edge), interested collectors can send their name and email address to:

bustcoin1@verizon.net

And you will be added to my list that receives monthly Newsletters that provide you with large photos and other information on the “The 38 Most Common Reeded Edge Halves”. I have been providing these Newsletters since August 15, 2019. The next Newsletter will cover 1839 GR-6 die marriage and should be emailed by August 15, 2022. 19 LSCC members are already receiving these Newsletters.

Happy Hunting!

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Half Crazy - The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society - Issue #4



Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the
Seated Half Society

Aug 2022, Issue #4

Current Membership - 28



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1855-S NGC-67 Liberty Seated Half Dollar (image courtesy of HA.com)

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