

Featured Collection
1843-O Liberty Seated Quarter Dollar Varieties
by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460



Briggs 1-A. Pictured Example: PCGS MS64 Ex-Gardner.

One of the most challenging die marriages. Usually quite well struck.
Obverse 1. Right side of 1 lines up with shield line #6. Die rust in Liberty's gown.
Reverse A. Mintmark right of center. A sharp "spike" protrudes from the eagle's left (facing) leg.



Briggs 1-B. Pictured Example: PCGS VF35.

Usually a decent strike.
Obverse 1. Right side of 1 lines up with shield line #6. Die rust in Liberty's gown.
Reverse B. Mintmark slightly left of center. Later die states show a number of cracks. The most prominent crack runs from rim near arrowheads to tip of shield to the middle of the left wing. The pictured coin is an early die state example and does not have this crack.



Briggs 1-C. Pictured Example: PCGS XF45 CAC.

Usually strong strike, but from highly polished dies.
Obverse 1. Right side of 1 lines up with shield line #6. Die rust in Liberty's gown.
Reverse C. Mintmark centered in crotch. This reverse die is very highly polished with a lot of outer letter detail missing. There is also a heavy die crack through the bottom of "STATES OF".

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Briggs 1-D. Pictured Example: PCGS VF35 CAC.

Usually weak strike with flat head and stars on obverse.
 Obverse 1. Right side of 1 lines up with shield line #6. Die rust in Liberty's gown.
 Reverse D. Mintmark slightly left of center and high in the crotch.



Briggs 2-E. Pictured Example: PCGS XF40 CAC.

Usually strong strike.
 Obverse 2. Right side of 1 lines up with shield line #5. Repunching of crossbar on 4.
 Reverse E. Mintmark entirely left of center. Very highly polished die with no eagle tail feathers remaining at all. The top of the eagle's left (facing) wing is also entirely missing feather detail. This reverse gives a very striking appearance. High-grade examples make a first impression of being counterfeit or of a different design.



Briggs 3-F. Pictured Example: PCGS XF40 CAC.

Usually strong strike.
 Obverse 3. Right side of 1 lines up with shield line #6. Recutting of the lower serif of the 1. Die rust in drapery.
 Reverse F. Large O mintmark. Notable die rust lumps throughout reverse fields.

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[Editor's Note: This narrative accompanies the "Featured Collection" images at the centerfold of this issue.]

The 1843-O Liberty Seated quarter dollar is a scarce and underrated issue. It can be found quite consistently in grades below VF but becomes very challenging in XF and unequivocally rare in higher grades. "The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters" (Briggs, 1991, Lima OH) lists the 1843-O as R4 (76-250 known) in XF/AU and R6 (13-30 known) in Mint State. These numbers appear to include coins that fail to meet criteria for certification by the TPG services. As of January 14, 2017 PCGS lists nine grading events for Mint State pieces and 45 for XF/AU coins. These meager certification numbers are typical of early New Orleans Liberty Seated coins. Examples of 1843-O quarters can be found with poor striking, defective planchets, and some very late die states with cracks and erosion in evidence. In addition, many examples have been harshly cleaned or otherwise mistreated. The kind of preservation and originality preferred by CAC is thus far less common for the issue than TPG certification. A total of 24 pieces have CAC approval. Those include four at the XF level, two AUs, and a single Mint State coin.

Despite its scarcity as a date/mint there are six rather easily attributed die marriages of the 1843-O quarter, each individually quite hard to locate in most grades. The most well known features the large O reverse. The change from the small O mintmarks on New Orleans quarters of 1840-1843 to the large O mintmarks of 1844-1860 took place during 1843. The final die marriage of the year included the first use of a large O on a Liberty Seated quarter since 1840. Though the large O reverse variety is the most common 1843-O die marriage, its average grade is also the lowest of the six known die marriages.

Attribution of die marriages for the 1843-O is aided by prevalent die rust resulting from storage of the dies in 1840's New Orleans. The resulting lumps on the coins and absence of detail from polishing to remove rust are typical features. The two rarest 1843-O die marriages can be identified by a sharp spine that extends from the eagles left leg on Reverse A (Die Marriage 1-A) and by die polishing that completely removed the eagles tail feathers from Reverse E (Die Marriage 2-E).

It has been both very interesting and very challenging to assemble a six-piece die marriage set of 1843-O quarters. I hope you enjoy the display prepared by photographer Bill Bugert.

Call for Nominations for the **LSCC HALL OF FAME**

The Hall of Fame Committee composed of club members Len Augsburger, Bill Bugert, Tom DeLorey, Gerry Fortin, and Mark Sheldon wishes to inform the membership that we are accepting nominations for the Liberty Seated Collectors Club's 2016 Hall of Fame (HoF). Please consider honoring a noteworthy individual to this prestigious distinction for his/her contributions to the club and/or to the advancement of collecting Liberty Seated coinage.

Basic qualifications for club member nominees are significant advances in or contributions to at least one of the following four criteria:

- Numismatic Research on Liberty Seated coinage
- Numismatic Literature related to Liberty Seated coinage
- Collection(s) of Liberty Seated coinage
- LSCC Club officer (for at least five years).

Previous inductees to the HoF include Kamal M. Ahwash (deceased), John W. McCloskey, Alfred E. Blythe (deceased), Randall E. Wiley, Brian Greer, Jim O'Donnell (deceased), Gerry Fortin, and Eugene Gardner (deceased). This year's inductee will be announced at the LSCC 2017 Annual meeting at the August ANA Convention.

The nominations must be received no later than April 15, 2017 and are due to the HoF Chairman, Bill Bugert, via email at wb8cpy@earthlink.net or via postal mail at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927 or to Bill via telephone at (717) 337-0229.