

# The Final Eliasberg Sale

by

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The final session of the Eliasberg Coin Sale was held in New York City on April 6-8, 1997. It would be an understatement to say that this was simply an awesome event. Words abound, yet not enough superlatives exist to truly describe the coins, the quality, the rarity or the pedigrees of the pieces sold. It was indeed an honor to just be there and witness this fabulous sale. I believe that any coin in this sale would make its owner proud. Unlike many coins in the half dime and dime portion of the sale held in May 1996, all of the larger denomination silver coins were outstanding.

The first great rarity in the Seated series was a Gem BU 1876-CC twenty cent piece. This coin brought a record price of \$148,500! Next came the Seated quarters, many of which were magnificent. The 1838 No Drapery quarter was a superb Gem BU that brought \$25,300. The 1839 quarter was a semi-prooflike Gem BU that sold for \$37,400. The 1840 quarter was a rare Choice Proof that brought \$25,300. The extremely rare 1842 Small Date coin was a Choice Proof and sold for \$66,000. The 1843-O Small o quarter was Choice BU and the rare 1843-O Large O quarter was a Gem BU. This is significant when you consider that the next finest Large O coin is only an XF-45. Several other proof rarities were the 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848 and 1849 quarters, all very rare and all with great pedigrees. This sale also contained a Gem BU 1848 Doubled Date quarter that sold for \$15,400. What may be the only Choice BU 1849-O quarter sold for \$17,600. I considered the 1853 Arrows & Rays quarter to be a proof, and apparently so did a few others as it sold for \$71,500. The 1853-O quarter was a Gem BU and the finest that I have seen. It sold for \$25,300. From 1854 onward, all of the Philadelphia mint coins were Choice Proof or Gem Proof. The Gem BU 1854-O quarter brought \$34,100 and the second finest 1854-O Huge O quarter brought \$4620. The 1855-O quarter was a superb Gem BU and definitely the finest known. It sold for \$88,000. The 1856-O coin was a superb Gem BU, the finest known that sold for \$9900. The 1858-O, 1859-O and 1860-O coins were all Gem BU and the finest that I have ever seen. The rarity of the San Francisco mint coins of this period is clear from the quality of the coins of these dates in this sale. The 1858-S was an AU+, the 1859-S an AU+, the 1860-S an XF with problems and the 1861-S a cleaned VF. The 1862-S was a Gem BU and the 1864-S was a spectacular Gem BU coin that brought \$104,500. The 1865-S, 1867-S and 1869-S were all Choice BU coins while the 1868-S was a superb Gem BU specimen.

The early Carson City quarters were all spectacular examples of coins from this western branch mint. The 1870-CC coin was a prooflike Choice BU and the only known uncirculated specimen of this date, with nothing that I have seen approaching mint state. This spectacular coin brought \$187,000. The 1871-CC was a prooflike Choice BU that sold for \$165,000. The 1872-CC was a Gem BU. In my opinion this date is the rarest in grade of the Carson City quarters. This specimen is definitely the finest known and sold for \$99,000. The 1873-CC No Arrows quarter was Choice BU and brought \$187,000. The 1873-CC With Arrows quarter is the last of the Carson City rarities, it was a prooflike Choice BU coin that sold for \$88,000.

The final rarity in the quarter series is the 1891-O. It is the finest known of the mint state specimens and brought \$61,600.

The Liberty Seated halves were just as nice as the quarters. Most of the Philadelphia mint coins in the sale were rare proof coins and either Choice or Gem examples. The 1842-O Small Date half dollar was the only uncirculated example of this issue that I had ever seen and it was a nice prooflike Choice BU. It brought \$33,000 in the sale. The rarest of the Seated halves was the 1853-O No Arrows coin, one of only three known examples. It was VG/F and sold for \$154,000. The other New Orleans coins were all as nice as they come and probably the finest known mint state examples in many cases. However the early San Francisco mint coins came in a wide range of grades. The 1855-S was an XF-40 and sold for \$2750. The 1856-S was a superb Gem BU and brought \$14,300. The 1857-S Medium S was graded F-12 while the 1857-S Large S was graded F-15. The 1858-S Medium S was a Choice BU and sold for \$5720. The 1859-S Medium S and the 1859-S Large S were superb uncirculated coins as reflected by the prices they realized. The 1859-S Medium S sold for \$50,600 while the 1859-S Large S sold for \$52,800.

The rarity of the San Francisco mint coins of the 1860s is again reflected by the range in grades of these coins. The 1860-S Medium S was an AU coin while the 1860-S Large S was graded MS-60. The 1861-S Medium S was MS-62, the 1861-S Large S was MS-64, the 1862-S Small s was MS-62 while the 1862-S Medium S was barely MS-60. The 1862-S Large S was Gem BU and brought \$14,300. The 1863-S Small s was only AU while the 1864-S Small s and 1864-S Large S were barely MS-60. The 1865-S Small s was an MS-61 and the 1866-S No Motto was MS-62. The 1867-S was a Gem BU coin that sold for \$8250 while the 1869-S was also a Gem BU that sold for \$13,200.

The 1870-CC coin was a nice VF showing the rarity of this issue in high grades. The 1870-S coin was Gem BU and sold for \$15,400. The 1871-CC was Choice BU and brought \$9900. The 1872-CC was the only mint state example of this issue that I had ever seen and sold for \$27,500. The 1873-CC No Arrows coin was a nice AU that brought \$5720. The 1873-CC With Arrows Small cc coin was Gem BU and sold for \$35,200. The 1873-CC With Arrows Large CC coin was Choice BU and sold for \$18,700. The 1873-S was a superb BU and brought \$25,300. The rare 1874-CC was a prooflike BU and sold for \$60,500. The 1874-S Small Wide S was a superb Gem BU that sold for \$55,000. The 1878-CC was a prooflike Gem BU and brought \$77,000. The rare 1878-S was a prooflike Choice BU but brought only \$39,600.

The dollars featured one breathtaking coin after another. The Gobrecht dollars were all Gem proof specimens. The 1836 name below base brought \$99,000 while the 1836 name on base brought \$29,700. The 1838 proof went for \$31,900 while the 1839 proof sold for \$15,400. Most of the Philadelphia mint Seated dollars were again proof coins and most of them were choice. The 1844 was the best among these and sold for \$99,000. The 1846-O was a prooflike Gem BU and brought \$46,200. The 1849 was a Gem proof and sold for \$44,000 while the 1850 was a Choice proof that brought \$33,000. The 1851 was a proof restrike that brought only \$16,500. The original 1852 proof sold for \$25,300. The 1854 was a Choice proof that sold for \$33,000 while the 1855 was another Choice proof that sold for \$25,300.

The 1870-CC coin was a prooflike Choice BU that sold for \$22,550. The 1870-

S was AU and among the finest known examples of this rare date that sold for \$264,000. The 1871-CC was listed as a prooflike AU-58 and it sold for \$25,850. The 1872-CC was a prooflike BU that sold for \$25,300 while the 1872-S was a Choice BU that brought \$35,200. The 1873-CC was a prooflike AU-58 that brought \$39,600.

The Trade dollars were the last of the Eliasberg Seated coins to be auctioned and they brought some impressive prices. An 1873 Gem Proof sold for \$23,100. The 1875-S Type I/I was Gem BU and brought \$25,300. The 1876-CC Type I/II was Gem BU and sold for \$63,800. The 1876-S Type I/I was also Gem BU and sold for \$22,000. The Gem proof 1877 coin sold for \$27,500 while the Gem BU 1877-S sold for \$17,600. The Gem proof 1878 sold for \$22,000 while the 1878-CC was an AU that sold for \$5720. The 1884 and 1885 Trade dollars were both spectacular Gem proof coins that brought spectacular prices. The 1884 Trade dollar sold for \$396,000 while the 1885 Trade dollar brought \$907,500.

Words cannot describe the honor that I felt while attending the sale of this fabulous collection. The numismatic community is deeply indebted to Mr. Clapp and Mr. Eliasberg for their efforts in preserving some of the finest examples of 19th century Seated coinage. Their collection has given us the opportunity to document the existence of many rare and beautiful coins of the last century. Recognition should also be extended to Q. David Bowers and Raymond Merena and their fine staff for a truly professional and historic event, the sale of the fabulous Eliasberg collection.

