

Attribution Exercise – The Solution!

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Note: Please see last month's *E-Gobrecht* for the first half of this two-part series!

A couple months back reader MK wrote in, asking about a die attribution for an 1861-O Half Dollar. These are extremely tricky coins, and I quickly weighed in with an incorrect attribution. Reader RC commented "Looking at the 1861-O half dollar pictures in the newsletter and trying to find out what attribution it might be is not easy due to the lower resolution of the photos in the newsletter, especially when blowing them up to capture details. Nonetheless, my vote is W-03, although a fair amount of guessing was involved."

MK now reports PCGS has attributed the coin as a WB-13, with the bisected date. The PCGS True Views make the case much more obvious. As seen here, there is a very faint die crack ascending from the dentil beneath the left side of 6. Additionally, the horizontal die lines to the far right of the date match Bill Bugert's description of the WB-13 obverse. The example represents an early die state.



This piece exhibits obverse 6 in the Wiley-Bugert classifications, which was used on both the WB-13 and WB-14. The WB-13 and WB-14 are further differentiated by the mintmark placement, which is left on the WB-13 (pictured here at the left) and more centered on the WB-14.



Two Big Takeaways Here:

- 1) PCGS True Views should be consulted when available!
- 2) Many such coins require **in-hand inspection**. The bisected date on this piece is likely **much** more apparent under a glass.

Editor's Note: Apologies to anyone who may have been...less than successful...when trying to access the EXCELLENT online resources in last month's article on this topic. Please see the corrected hyperlinks, below.

- Randy Wiley's attribution guide for the 1861-O half dollar, published in *Gobrecht Journal* #94, accessible via: <https://archive.org/details/gobrechtjournalfn094libe/page/2/mode/2up>
- Bill Bugert's guide, published in the *Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollars Varieties*, Volume 4, and available here: <https://archive.org/details/LSHDVol4NOpart2/page/456/mode/2up>