

A “Glob” of 1861-O Half Dollars – Now Available in Snack-Sized Portions!

By Joel Meredith, LSCC #2987



Photo Courtesy of Adam Crum, Finest Known Rare Coins

News Item: Finest Known Rare Coins has recently “declustered” a large mass of approximately 1,000 1861-O half dollars recovered from the *SS Republic*. These coins are available for individual purchase. The cluster was previously displayed in a traveling exhibit. All coins are now certified by NGC with the “Shipwreck Effect” qualifier. Contact Rich Teschler (rich.teschler@finest-known.com) for further information.

Joel’s Remarks: For those of us who study and collect shipwreck Seated Liberty coins the news from Finest Known is extremely exciting! I touched base with my contact at Finest Known and he confirmed that these 1861-O coins are indeed the last group to be released by Odyssey Marine Exploration.

This is not surprising, as various date batches of 100 to 200 *SS Republic* coins have been released over the last three years through VaultBox and BullionPlus. In September of 2024 VaultBox released a batch of 1861-O coins in their “Series 8” group.

The release of such a large group of 1861-O half dollars further supports my research that close to 13,000 were recovered from the wreck. Odyssey Marine Exploration’s press release of April 23, 2004 states that 47,094 half dollars were recovered. My review of online sales and auction records seems to support this claim, as 1861-O listings are more than double any other related date. The next most available dates from the wreck are the 1858-O and 1854-O.

Even if you are not a passionate shipwreck collector, the 1861-O has a unique place in numismatic history and would be an ideal coin to obtain.

For More Information:

Product Page: <https://finestknown.com/product/1861-o-50c-seated-liberty-ngc-ssr-swe>

SS Republic Shipwreck Treasure Documentary: <https://finestknown.com/ss-republic-shipwreck-treasure-documentary>