

“Quarter” for Your Thoughts: The 1845 Briggs 1A Variety

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In February of this year, Great Collections featured the Palos Verdes Registry Set of Seated Quarters. After viewing the selections several times, one coin piqued my interest: an 1845 quarter housed in a PCGS Gen 6.1S holder graded EF 45. The variety was quickly attributed as a late die state of Briggs 1A. Unfortunately, the coin did not sport the coveted CAC “green bean”. After some contemplation, I decided to acquire the coin and take the shot. Sadly it did not pass; however, some coins need to be accepted for what they are and I felt this was one of those pieces.

Since Briggs reported it was paired with both the A and B reverses, I decided to do a little research of my own. Searching through several auction archives yielded thirteen examples that could be conclusively attributed. From this small sample, I made several interesting observations. Of the three O1-RA combinations identified, two had prime state obverses and the bisecting reverse crack. Neither had the second crack from the rim up through the letters EMA F. One matched the late

die state of my coin.

The other ten coins are the Briggs 1B variety. One displayed an obverse die state more advanced than either of the two 1As. This coin also displays severe cracking on the reverse, none of which are listed in the Briggs reference book. So far, there does not appear to be any linear emission sequence indicating it may have been intermittently used with both reverses.

Liberty Seated quarters are the product of technological advances not available in the 1830s. All small Capped Bust quarter dies had most of their elements added by hand. This gives each die a signature which can be readily learned. The working dies for Seated quarters were produced in a more uniform manner. When prime state 1845 A, B, and C reverses are compared, they all show the same anomaly with the ‘C’ in AMERICA indicating the same master die. I have not been able to identify reverse D to see if this finding holds up. Time will tell as I am heading further down the rabbit hole of the 1845 quarter die pairings.