



## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### 2026 Liberty Seated Predictions with an assist from ChatGPT

1. Someone Discovers a Completely New Subtype: the “Liberty Slouching” Half Dollar  
Only one known. Immediately becomes the centerpiece of an exhibit titled “Ergonomics in 19th-Century Engraving”.
2. A Sensational Auction Lot Lists an Unpublished Fortin Die Marriage. Experts debate for months whether it’s real. Turns out the consignor just rotated the coin 28 degrees before taking the photo.
3. The Red Book Adds QR Codes for Each Liberty Seated Entry. Unfortunately, every QR code opens the same page: “Check eBay Sold Listings”.
4. Liberty Seated Coin Dealers Introduce New Show Etiquette Rules.  
Rule 1: No leaning over cases like you’re inspecting a lunar landing site.  
Rule 2: No asking “What’s your best price?” in the first four seconds.
5. Coin YouTubers Launch a New Genre: “Reaction Videos to Greysheet Updates”  
Shocked faces everywhere: “SEATED DOLLARS DID WHAT??”

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6. The Gobrecht Journal Publishes a 90-Page Study on the “Slightly Tilted Shield” Die Marriage. No one is sure the tilt actually exists, but the plates look convincing.
7. The ANA Museum Launches a “Coin Escape Room”  
You must solve attribution puzzles to get out. Final challenge: Determine the WB-variety for a low grade 1861-O half dollar.
8. A 2026 Slabbing Controversy Erupts Over the First-Ever “Fully Seated” Designation. PCGS awards it only to coins where Liberty appears to be sitting with perfect posture. Yoga instructors are hired as consultants.
9. A Well-Known Liberty Seated Researcher Announces a Breakthrough in Attribution Science. He can now identify die marriages by sound alone when the coin is gently tapped on a wooden table.
10. ANA Convention Exhibit Wins People’s Choice Award: “Liberty Seated Coins With Regrets”. Includes coins harshly cleaned in the 1920s, dipped in the 1960s, and overgraded in the 1980s.
11. A Major Auction Features the First CACG “Triple Bean” Liberty Seated Quarter. One green, one gold, and one holographic bean signifying: “We don’t know how this coin exists, but here it is”.
12. The First Slabbed Liberty Seated Coin With a Built-In Digital Loupe Is Released. Tap the holder twice and it zooms in on the date, mintmark, or that suspicious spot nobody wants to talk about.

(END)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On December 4th, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club held one of its periodical Virtual Meetings for both members and the general collecting public. An Educational Program was presented by John Frost about his recent visit to the National Archives in San Bruno, CA and the Carson City Branch Mint Museum.

John shares interesting insights about conducting numismatic research with historical U.S. Mint documents.

**Tune in to the YouTube video recording at the link below:**

<https://youtu.be/bJRxguezUrQ>