

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

November, 2017

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30. The meeting is will be held at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

This month we will have our usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing, and auction.

In addition we will need to decide if we will do anything special at our December (Christmas) meeting.

### Coin Lore

#### 1873 No Arrows Open 3 Liberty Seated Half Dollar

*By Dennis Fortier*

Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club President  
Liberty Seated Regional Program Team Leader

1873 was an interesting year at the Mint with legislative and design changes making for multiple varieties. There are half dollars with no arrows and a closed 3, no arrows and an open 3, and finally there are with arrows half dollars.

The changes began with the 3 in the date. 587,000 half dollar coins with a closed 3 and no arrows were minted and released from the Philadelphia mint. People complained that the digit was so close to being closed it resembled an 8. Changes to the 3 were made to open it up and 214,200 half dollars were produced at the Philadelphia Mint.



Closed 3 example



Then Congress mandated a change in the weight of silver in coinage. The Mint determined it would place arrows next to the date to denote the increase in weight, as they did in 1853 to denote a reduction in weight. The legislation came during the year and took effect immediately so coins without arrows and a lower weight had already been produced and released.

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

November, 2017

The San Francisco Mint produced 5,000 half dollars without arrows but not one had been released. The Mint melted all of them and none are known to exist today. The Philadelphia and Carson City Mints had already released half dollars without arrows. Philadelphia however as earlier stated had produced closed 3 and open 3 half dollars without arrows.

214,200 no arrows open 3 half dollars were produced but only a few had been released before the weight change became law. The majority of the no arrows open 3 half dollars that still remained at the Mint were all melted. This created an instant rarity.

Today the total population of 1873 No Arrows Open 3 half dollars is believed to be approximately 70 examples<sup>1</sup>, making the 1873 No Arrows Open 3 a major rarity of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar series. A serious collector of the series would not feel the set complete without an example of this great rarity.

The PCGS/NGC population reports show a total of 55 no arrow open 3 coins graded from Poor -1 to MS-63. The AG-3 example shown here is a pop one coin at PCGS. That is not to say there are not others in this grade but like so many other Liberty Seated coins the 1873 No Arrows Open 3 is not immune to having problem coins. Also we must assume there have been some re-submissions inflating the total population numbers at the upper end of the grade range and possible crossovers at any grade.

NGC reports just five examples thru the VG grade, and PCGS reports fourteen examples. At the other end of the spectrum NGC reports four examples in AU-58 as the highest graded they have seen, while PCGS has two in MS-62 and one in MS-63.

With the 1873 No Arrows Open 3 having been known for decades these population reports confirm the rarity of this storied variety. Today even in the lowest grades the 1873 No Arrows Open 3 is a four figure coin and a major addition to any Liberty Seated Half Dollar collection.

If you are a collector of Liberty Seated coinage you might consider exploring a membership in the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. The kind of knowledge reported in this article is routinely shared by members of the club. Major rarities of this kind are often passed from member to member without ever seeing the open market. Membership is only \$25 per year and includes three issues of the LSCC's ANA award winning Gobrecht Journal. See us at <http://www.lscweb.org/>.

1. Estimate per Bill Bugert, noted Liberty Seated Half Dollar expert  
Mintage from 2017 Red Book

Dennis Fortier is an occasional visitor to our area having a time share at Fairfield Glade. I met him when he gave a presentation on L.S. coins at last year's Knoxville annual show. He plans to move here in a few years and join our club. - Editor

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

November, 2017

### Area Coin Shows

**December 2**      **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

**February 2-3, 2018**      **Knoxville;** 54th Annual Coin Show. Rothchild Catering and Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike.

**February 17, 2018**      **Cookeville;** Coin Show, Upper Cumberland Coin Club. Hyder-Burkes Pavilion, 2390 Gainesboro Grade

For more information on some of these shows see <http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html>

### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1881-S	Morgan Dollar	XF
1907-D	Barber Half	VG
1909 VDB	Lincoln Cent (1st year type - Red)	AU+
1863	Indian Cent	F+
1940-D	Jefferson Nickel (near gem, FS)	BU+
1988 (2)	Lincoln Cents (off-center error coins)	BU

#### Door Prize

1955-PDS Roosevelt  
Dimes (Better Dates -  
silver) – Average  
Circulated