

A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties

Volume II

Carson City Branch Mint



By Bill Bugert

With special edits by, consultations with,
And featuring the CC Collection of
Randy Wiley

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ISBN 978-0-9824075-3-0

Revised Second Edition (40 copies), July 2013

First Edition (175 copies), May 2010

Gettysburg, PA

Cover coin is the 1873-CC NA WB-1 Half Dollar from the Randy Wiley Collection, ex-Reed Hawn.
Cover artwork by Jane Waldron

To My Good Friend, Randy Wiley
For your personal friendship and numismatic camaraderie
During the past 30 years.
Thanks for the many enjoyable hours.

Foreword

The first edition of this reference was an immediate success and the 175 printed copies sold quickly. Published in May 2010, it was the second in a series of planned books on the die marriages of Liberty Seated Half Dollars and listed the die characteristics of the 96 known (at that time) die marriages. Since then, astute collectors have discovered an additional four 1876-CC die marriages. This reference also won an Extraordinary Merit Award from the Numismatic Literary Guild at the 2010 ANA World's Fair of Money. I have received many supportive comments on this and my other books but the Carson City half dollars are the most very popular, in so much that I decided to update this volume before completing Volume IV.

In this Second Edition, I have included new information on the four new 1876-CC die marriages, die linkage diagrams for each date, an interesting section on die layout lines, and minor updates and corrections.

This reference contains information for the 100 half dollar die marriages of the Carson City Branch Mint. Minted for nine short years from 1870 to 1878, these coins enjoy immense popularity for the old western mystique; a mere 5.3 million Carson City half dollars were minted for all dates, which by comparison, is the same as the total mintage of 1877-S half dollars alone.

I mentioned this in the foreword of the First Edition but it is worth repeating again. This Register does not include everything everyone wants to know about Carson City Branch Mint Liberty Seated half dollars. Specifically, little information is included on condition census (generally, I have little interest in that) and there is no pricing information (pricing information has limited value because it is too volatile and including it would quickly outdate this reference). Alternatively, I have included estimated rarity ratings and will leave the condition census tracking and valuations for others to study and to report.

It is no coincidence that the name of this Register is similar to ML Beistle's 1929 reference on half dollar die varieties. He provided me with my initial impetus to collect half dollars by die marriage. I have studied, written, and exhibited information about ML Beistle extensively and have an admiration for his personal and professional accomplishments.

Lastly, this publication could not have been possible without the cooperative efforts of Randy Wiley. He knows more about Liberty Seated Half Dollars than anyone I know. He and I have been studying the die marriages of these coins for decades and much of the information we derived together is contained herein.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope this Register finds its way into your numismatic library.

Bill Bugert
Gettysburg, PA
July 2013

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Introduction

The purpose of this Register is four-fold:

- **To document all the currently known Liberty Seated half dollar die marriages produced at the Carson City Branch Mint**
- **To assist the beginning or advanced Liberty Seated half dollar collector into expanding beyond type, date, or date/mint collecting into die marriage collecting**
- **To aid the casual collector or dealer with proper variety identification and other pertinent information**
- **To establish a standard nomenclature for the Liberty Seated half dollar die marriages.**

At the time of publication, all known Liberty Seated Carson City Branch Mint die marriages are documented in this register. For 1876, and 1877, more die marriages may be discovered - the mintages and number of dies known are exceptionally high and it will take many years of collective effort to discover and document all the various possible die combinations. For those dates, this Register is an excellent starting point. For all other dates, any new die marriage discoveries are less likely and probably scarce or rare.

In this Register, I included the key characteristics of obverse and reverse die marriages so that you could readily identify your half dollar. It is important to note that the mid-1800 minting technology had advanced to a state that, in contrast to the pre-1836 bust style designs, the date, with the exception of 1853-1855 Arrows half dollars, and mintmarks were the only design elements emplaced into the working dies used to mint coins. The other design elements such as dentils, Liberty, stars, denomination, legend, motto, and eagle were all in the hub and, consequently, have no variations when transferred to the working dies. These advancements, however convenient for the minting process, vastly compound the difficulty in identifying characteristics of the individual working dies and consequently, the die marriages. We must rely on variations in the placement of the date, mintmark, and die imperfections for proper variety identification.

For ease of the readers' use, I desired to depict one obverse and reverse die marriage per page; this space limitation forced me to be selective on the die characteristics that I specified and photographed. Consequently, I picked the die lines and cracks that I thought were most prevalent for that variety and that could be easily identified using a quality hand held 10-power magnifier and, for date-grid measurements, a 10-power hand held optical comparator. Make no mistake about it, a good 10-power stereomicroscope with a reticule is a worthwhile investment when studying and attributing varieties of all denominations at home.

Excluding the Beistle number system, which is today used only infrequently, the current standard Liberty Seated Half Dollar variety nomenclature is the WB-100 series system. This WB number, for Wiley-Bugert, is derived from the 1993 book, *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*. Many WB-100 numbers by design include more than one die marriage per number because that book lists major varieties only. For example, the 1870-CC WB-101 Large Mintmark half dollar includes 5 die marriages of three obverse and three reverse dies. This system is unsatisfactory for the serious half dollar variety collector where a single number represents a single die marriage. This Register starts anew with separate die marriages with WB-X series numbers.

It is very important to note that the die characteristics photographed and/or described herein may or may not be visible on your coin. Die states, coin wear, toning, damage, etc. may affect the visibility of these characteristics and, for those reasons, you may find some diagnostics on your half dollar that are not listed in my descriptions. In many cases, I have included photographs of the latest die state and may include comments of other die states. Coins grading below VG will not show most of the die characteristics I have depicted simply because the key die diagnostics are worn away.

In discussing my plans with others before this reference was published, some collectors and dealers wanted an online version while others wanted a useful physical media. I chose the latter in a workbook style three-ring binder and plastic spiral binding formats for easy desktop reference work and for portable operations at a coin show. I wanted a user to be able to quickly and easily pluck useful attribution information from this Register. I believe this format accomplishes that. All too often, the hardbound books in my numismatic library are too tightly bound, making page turning awkward and potentially loosening the binding glue or breaking the binding's back. I did not want my readers to suffer this inconvenience, especially when I wish my Register to be used often.

It is my desire that this reference creates sufficient interest in collecting by die marriage and someday the "Seated Half Nut Club" (i.e., similar to the "Bust Half Nut Club" where a requirement for membership is owning at least 100 different varieties of the bust half dollar series) is a well-known and popular club.

I know it will be a disappointment to many, but I did not include pricing information, availability, or valuations of the die varieties in this Register. In my experience, that type of information is very quickly outdated and useless after a few months if not updated. Collector interest and the market will drive most valuations. The financial complexities of the rare coin market are best left to the numismatic economists. As an alternative, I included initial rarity estimates. Almost all the rarity numbers are my estimates based primarily on years of observation and by discussions with other knowledgeable individuals. I have a varying comfort level with many of the dates; for the extremes, the later high mintage dates are rough guesses because there are so many out there and it will take years to properly associate a correct rarity number with a specific die marriage. Conversely, estimating the 1870-CC rarity is rather easy because it is a very well known key to the series. I have a moderate comfort level with the rarity estimates for the varieties of the other dates in between.

This book does not include a tutorial on basic coin collecting, grading half dollars, or a lengthy history behind the Liberty Seated series. I assume the reader has a basic understanding of these numismatic topics; besides, many other references cover them in great detail and I will not duplicate the efforts of others here. The following introductory sections contain a lot of background information required to understand the variety attributions of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar series. Please take sufficient time to read and understand them before attempting to use this Register.

At this point, I think it appropriate to provide some advice and encouragement to collectors of die marriages of Liberty Seated Half Dollars. But first, if you are looking to complete a die marriage set in a few short years, look elsewhere. It will literally take many years of aggressive searching to fill all or most of the holes. Even with the benefit of a thick wallet, many die marriages seldom appear on the market and when they do, are quickly snatched up by other serious collectors with similar goals. If you limit your goal to collecting a few years, mints, or types, then the target becomes easier to attain. Otherwise, collecting all the die marriages of all the dates is an expensive lifetime commitment. I know of only three collectors, including myself, with the stamina to attempt this and, I can attest, I have spent over three decades collecting die marriages of these halves. However, it is a wonderful pastime that has kept my interest for many years and provided many hours of enjoyment; it also helps to have a supportive spouse or partner. I wish you the same.

Lastly, as I mentioned in the Foreword, this Register would not have been possible without the efforts of my numismatic friend and colleague, Randy Wiley. He and I have been studying these half dollars together since the early 1980's and we've spent many hours together engrossed in determining die diagnostics, counting reeds, taking notes, and discussing new finds. His astute analytical collecting techniques, motivation, phenomenal memory, and sheer determination are in a large part responsible for what is being published herein. For that and for his friendship, I thank him.

Abbreviations, Conventions, and Definitions of Terms Used in this Book

It is very important to understand the terms used throughout this text so that my written descriptions convey the proper meaning to you, the reader.

Liberty and LIBERTY. “Liberty” in lower case letters refers to the figure of Miss Liberty on the obverse. “LIBERTY” in upper case letters refers to the words LIBERTY found on the scroll of the obverse design.

Viewing a coin. Often confusing if not clarified, the terms “right” and “left” are used when viewing a coin and referencing features from the viewpoint of the observer’s right and left respectfully. For example, when referring to the eagle’s left claw, the claw referred to is that on the viewer’s left and NOT the eagle’s left claw (which would be on the observer’s right).

Star numbering. Obverse stars are counted clockwise starting with the first star on the lower left to the thirteenth star at the lower right.

Measuring units. I opted for the U.S. standard of inches to measure date height, mintmark size, and diameters of coins.

Photographs. Almost all images are not actual size but scaled to annotate various desired features. I chose to establish a common arbitrary reference point for the mintmark on each die marriage; mintmark positions are depicted relative to the flat topped upper edge of the letter F in HALF. Additionally, some collectors may want to reference date positions to the dentils below the date instead of the date grid technique. Consequently, date position images include the lower dentils.

Date Grid measurements. See the detailed explanation on page 10 of this Register.

Device and device naming. A device is the primary motif on the obverse and reverse die. For the obverse, the primary device is the figure of Liberty while on the reverse, it is the eagle. Supporting devices are also on the obverse and reverse. See the supplemental diagrams and descriptions on pages 8-9 of this Register.

Die Variety versus Die Marriage. These terms, although different, are used almost interchangeably. Die variety refers to a coin struck from dies and, irrespective of die states, all pieces from those dies have the same characteristics. Die marriage refers to a coin struck from a combination of three dies; the obverse, reverse, and collar dies. The differences are subtle but they, as mentioned, are almost used interchangeably. It is important to note that a die crack may help to identify a die variety but is a die state and not a separate die variety or marriage.

EDS, MDS, LDS, VLDS. These acronyms are short for early die state, middle die state, late die state, very late die state and refer to a subjective progress of die deterioration.

K-1 thru K-12. The abbreviation for a clock’s hour hand position (i.e., 1 o’clock thru 12 o’clock) specifically around the outer circumference of a coin.

Lines, Lumps, and Gouges. These terms are utilized when describing the various die diagnostics for each variety. A *line* on the coin is raised and results from a scratch, stray mark, slip of the engraver's tool, or polishing of the dies. A *lump* is a raised piece of metal on the coin that resulted from die damage, rust, or clashing of the dies. *Gouges* are also raised metal on a coin resulting from oddly shaped heavier damage to the die. These three items are critical to differentiating dies and identifying the key die characteristics.

Reverse olive leaf numbering system. Reverse olive leaves are numbered 1 thru 5 starting with 1 as the lowest olive leaf then numbering clockwise 2 thru the uppermost leaf as #5. Note: leaves 2 and 4 show only partially.






Reverse shield line numbering system. Reverse vertical shield lines are designated alpha-numerically with a letter designating a group of shield lines and a number referencing an individual vertical shield line within that group. For example, B-3 refers to the third (3) vertical line (counting from the left) in the second grouping of shield lines (group B). C-2 refers to the second shield line in the third grouping. Possibilities include A thru F-1 thru 3.

WB-#. Die marriages are designated with a WB-#; WB is an acronym for Wiley-Bugert. I gave much thought to what numbering system to use in this reference. Randy Wiley and I used a WB-100 series numbering system in our 1993 book, *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*. Although seemingly ideal, I couldn't use that same system because some WB-100 series numbers used in our 1993 book include many die marriages lumped under a single WB variety number. I wanted to have a compact, easily remembered and referenced system that, for inventory and display purposes, could be readily sorted on a computer. The WB-# format was the next best option and is used herein. To aid the reader and long-time collectors, cross references to our first book's WB-100 series numbers are included for each die marriage.

Cross references. References of a specific die marriage to other publications are provided with each varieties' description. WB is a reference to Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert's *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*.

Carson City Half Dollar Design Types


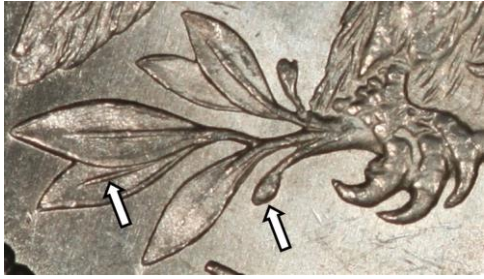
Liberty Seated Half Dollars were minted at the Carson City Branch Mint from 1870 to 1878. The following table details the major design types of Carson City Half Dollars minted during this period.

Major Design Type	Dates of Design Type	Design Characteristics
With Motto	1870 - 1878	 <p>All Carson City half dollars have the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll on the reverse field above the eagle. These were added to the Liberty Seated half dollar design after the American Civil War in 1866.</p>
With Motto <u>No Arrows</u> at Date	1870 - 1873 1875 - 1878	 <p>Most Carson City Half Dollars do not have arrows at the date. When compared to the With Arrows design, this No Arrows design is the normal for the series and only modified in 1873 - 1874 with the addition of the arrows.</p>
With Motto <u>With Arrows</u> at Date	1873 - 1874	 <p>In 1873, out-facing arrowheads were added to each side of the date signifying an <u>increase of the planchet weight</u> from 192 grains to 192.9 grains. These arrowheads were not added to temporary master dies as in 1855 and, therefore, 1873 - 1874-CC Arrows half dollars have date and arrows position variations. Since this design change occurred after January 1, 1873, some 1873-CC no arrows half dollars were minted before the change.</p>

Note: The Closed 3 and Open 3 dates are not a design change but a minor style modification to the 3 in the date. More details are included in the 1873-CC die marriage section.

Reverse Hubs

Subtle alterations were made to the reverse hubs during this timeframe. Identified as “Types,” they are not specifically a major design change (as on the previous page) but minor adjustments to the characteristics of the reverse hubs that eventually transfer to the working dies and then to the coins themselves. These types are differentiated here.

Type 1	Type 2
1870 to 1877	1877 to 1878
Open lower bud Closed talons on claw Weak olive leaf stems	Closed lower bud Open talons on claw Bold olive leaf stems
	

Note: The Type 1/ Type 2 transitional hub (open lower bud and bold olive leaf stems) found on some 1876 - 1878 and 1881 Proof Philadelphia and one die marriage of the 1877 San Francisco half dollars are not currently known to exist for the Carson City Branch Mint half dollar issues. Undoubtedly, if found, a Carson City Type 1/ Type 2 half dollar would be of extreme rarity.

Naming Conventions: Obverse



The central obverse design includes the figure of the Goddess Liberty seated on a rock looking over her right (observer's left) shoulder. Liberty is wearing a Greek chiton, or loose fitting gown, with a clasp at her shoulder. Her neck, upper chest, and arms are exposed. Liberty's hand supports the Shield of the United States, a sign of national preparedness, which is wrapped in a

scroll inscribed with LIBERTY; her other hand grasps a pole surmounted by a pileus, a liberty cap emblematic of freedom. Thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original states, are spaced around the outer design from K-8 to K-4. As with all early silver coinage, the outermost design has equally spaced design elements called dentils.

Naming Conventions: Reverse



The central reverse design portrays an eagle with wings displayed bearing the Shield of the United States on its chest. The eagle is clutching an olive branch, which symbolizes peace, in its right (observer's left) claw and three arrows, symbolizing preparedness for war, in its left (observer's right) claw. The denomination abbreviated HALF DOL. is below

the eagle and the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is above the eagle. Like the obverse, the outermost design has equally spaced design elements called dentils. All Carson City half dollars have the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll in the field above the eagle's head.

Date Grid Measurements

Unlike bust coinage, all Liberty Seated Half Dollars were struck from dies with most of the designs (e.g., Liberty and stars) impressed initially from a hub. Consequently, differentiating dies is difficult at best and the die marriage collector must rely on non-hubbed die diagnostics. For the obverse die, these diagnostics include die lines and cracks, die gouges, die maintenance remnants, and most importantly, date placement. Dates were emplaced into the working die with multi-figure and sometimes single digit logotypes and, therefore, obverse dies may have noticeable die placement variations. Mastering a technique to define a date placement will facilitate a quick method of identifying possible die varieties for a given date placement, especially when no other diagnostics are evident. Here is such a method: the date grid measurement (e.g., M3.5, .030”).

The date grid is based on the position of the date's 1 and consists of two components: the position of the right vertical edge of the 1 with relation to Liberty's shield lines and, secondly, the distance between the top of the 1 and the base of the rock. A stereomicroscope with a linear scale on a reticle or an optical comparator is ideal for viewing and measuring the date placement. The photograph below symbolically depicts a microscope's reticle (vertical line) aligned in the correct measuring position. The shield lines are assigned an alphanumeric system whereby, the three center sets of shield lines are L (left), M, (middle), and R (right) and the individual shield lines are 1, 2, 3 (4, 5 are virtual shield lines equidistant in the large space between the shield line sets). The date placement is the real or virtual shield line (including a decimal increment between shield lines) where the reticle (aligned adjacent to the right edge of the 1) intersects the bottom inside shield edge. Increments of .5 signify an interpolation between two lines or virtual lines such that M2.5 is the seam between vertical stripes 2 and 3 while M3.5 is the right edge of vertical stripe 3, as below. Furthermore, the distance in inches between the top of the 1 and the bottom edge of the rock is the second component of the date grid. The example below is of an 1840 half dollar with a date grid of M3.5, .030”.



Be aware that date grid is not meant to be an absolute identifier for a specific obverse die. It is merely a tool for identifying a numeric date position for possible obverse die identification. In my experience, two experienced numismatists with the same equipment on the same coin may come up with two slightly different date grids. Measuring a date grid is not absolute and I, therefore, do not use it to positively identify a specific obverse die. Many half dollars of different dies have the same date grid and, additionally, die states affect a date grid's measurement.

As a general rule, severe die wear or die polishing will cause the date distance measurement to be greater and the date grid measurement to be further to the left (e.g., an early die state coin with a date grid measurement of M3.5, .030" may measure M3, .032" in a later die state).

Identifying known die marriages by the date grid allows comparison of an unknown die variety's date placement, thereby narrowing down an unidentified obverse die to a limited number of known varieties. In my experience, many date placements are similar for a given date but different enough to allow minute differentiation. The list below represents the date grid measurements for hypothetical half dollars of a certain date:

Obverse	Date grid
1	M3 , .008"
2	M3 , .025"
3	M3.5, .028"
4	M4 , .022"
5	M4.5, .027"

When encountering an unidentified half dollar, measure the date grid and compare it to the list of known obverse dies for the same date. You should be able to identify it to one or two of the obverse dies. In my photo example, the obverse die is closest to obverse 3. Further study of other die diagnostics may confirm the identification.

Die states affect date grid measurements. Late die states with heavily polished or worn dies will have different measurements than the same die of an earlier dies state. For example, the distance between the top of the 1 and the rock may be greater on the polished die than the non-polished die. Consider this effect when comparing date grid measurements.

The date grid is a useful measurement to aid in identifying Liberty Seated half dollar obverse dies. Collectors of other Liberty Seated denominations utilize date placements in relation to dentils but I believe this method is more accurate and useful for half dollars.

Edge Reeding and Collars

Often overlooked, the edge of a coin contains reeds. Reeds were implanted with a collar, the coin's third die, and were meant to deter nefarious efforts to clandestinely remove silver from the edges of coins for profit. All non-error Liberty Seated Half Dollars have reeds.

Reeded collars were heavy steel plates with a bore the size of the minted coin. A blank planchet was placed in the bore and reeds were raised on the edge of the coin at the same time the coin's designs were raised by the obverse and reverse dies.

Reeding on a coin was not standardized. Collars were obtained by the Branch Mints through various efforts including in-house manufacturing, local procurement, and from the Philadelphia Mint. These practices resulted in variances in numbers and widths of reeds on half dollar edges.

Reed counts are useful information in counterfeit detection, authentication, and determining die emission sequences. For example, all 1878-CC half dollars, a key to the series, have 143 reeds. The 1878-P half dollars have reed counts in the 150's; notwithstanding other die diagnostics, an 1878-CC half dollar without the correct reed count would be suspect for an added mintmark. At least one such forgery exists and is detailed in the 1878-CC section.

The following table itemizes reed counts for all Carson City half dollars.




Edge Reed Count					
<i>Date</i>	143	144	152	153	154
1870-CC					√
1871-CC					√
1872-CC					√
1873-CC					√
1874-CC					√
1875-CC					√
1876-CC	√	√	√	√	√
1877-CC	√				
1878-CC	√				

On January 31, 1870, the Carson City Branch Mint acknowledged receipt of nine collars of unknown size from the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Assuming one or more of these were half dollar sized collars (with 154 reeds), from the information included in the table above, it is very likely this/these collar(s) were used for seven years from 1870 - 1876.

Years later, collar dies were made by Branch Mint personnel as evidenced in a letter dated December 15, 1875 to U.S. Mint Superintendent James Pollock. U.S. Mint Engraver William Barber, when trying to explain some minting problems at the Carson City Branch Mint stated "...which collar they make themselves...". These collars most likely had the reed counts other than 154 (as shown in the table above) and were used from 1876 thru 1878; a 154 reed collar was not used in 1877 or 1878.

Carson City Half Dollar Mintmark Sizes

The Carson City Branch Mint had working dies with only three mintmark sizes; small, medium, and large. Mintmarks were added to the working dies at Philadelphia most likely just before shipment to the Branch Mints; in this situation, all dies for one specific shipment were probably lined up and the mintmark emplaced by the same punch one after the other. A single punch with the letter “C” was hammered by hand into the working die(s) twice in two locations to form the “CC” mintmark; variances in the exact placement of the letters exist from die to die and account for the differences we enjoy today. In some instances, multiple blows from a hammer were necessary to emplace the mintmark with a proper depth and appearance. If the alignment of the punch varied between blows, repunched mintmarks consequently appeared. The different mintmark sizes and styles are depicted below.

<i>Mintmark Size</i>	Small	Medium	Large
<i>Height of mintmark</i>	.028 - .030”	.034 - .036”	.041 - .043”
<i>Sample photo</i>			
1870-CC			√
1871-CC			√
1872-CC			√
1873-CC No Arrows	√		
1873-CC With Arrows	√		√
1874-CC With Arrows	√		
1875-CC		√	
1876-CC	√	√	√
1877-CC Reverse Hub 1	√	√	
1877-CC Reverse Hub 2		√	
1878-CC		√	

Large CC dies. Six different reverse dies with a Large CC mintmark were used on half dollars of the Carson City Branch Mint. These six dies were used during five years (as shown in the table above) and it is interesting to summarize their use throughout the years as depicted in the table below.

Date	Large CC reverse (Rev) dies					
	Die 1	Die 2	Die 3	Die 4	Die 5	Die 6
1870-CC	Rev A	Rev B	Rev C			
1871-CC		Rev B	Rev A	Rev C	Rev D	Rev E
1872-CC		Rev B	Rev A	Rev E	Rev C	Rev D
1873-CC				Rev C		
1876-CC				Rev B	Rev H	

A few observations are readily apparent. Die 1 was only used in 1870, Die 4 was used in four of the five years (1871, 1872, 1873, 1876), and five of the six dies were used in 1871 and 1872. After dies 4 and 5 were used in 1873 and 1872 respectively, they were then set aside and not used again until a few years later in 1876. These two dies must have been stored with care as they did not rust while in storage and were as serviceable in 1876 as they were in previous years. No large CC dies were used in the intervening years of 1874 or 1875 (well, at least no coins have been found with a large CC).

Mintmark Die Layout Lines. Shortly after I published the first edition of this reference, a collector contacted me with interesting images of an 1877-CC WB-4 half dollar. His images showed raised perpendicular lines above and thru the mintmark; he was wondering what they were. After studying his images and Randy's and my 1877-CC WB-4 half dollars, I concluded that his lines were common to our coins as well (why did I not notice these before – can't see the forest for the trees?) and that they were on the working die. In the images below, arrows annotate the die lines in the upper image and overlaid white lines arrows accentuate the die lines in the lower image. As shown, the horizontal line is from the outside upper left corner of the serif on the H(ALF) across the field to the outside upper right serif of the (DO)L. The vertical die line is from the right side of the upright of the (HAL)F to the middle of the feather tip.



1877-CC WB-4 reverse die layout lines (photo above)



1877-CC WB-4 reverse “annotated” die layout lines (photo above)

Considering the possible uses for these lines, I can offer no other explanation for these lines other than that they were etched on the working die with a straight edge and were used by a Mint employee to position the letter punch when the CC mintmark was punched into the die. Note in the images above, the top of the letters CC are positioned along the lower edge of the horizontal line; the vertical line is almost evenly between the two letters.

It is probable that these lines should have been polished off the die before it was used and this die escaped that step of the die preparation. I have not conclusively determined if these lines are on other CC half dollars (an 1877-CC WB-2 may have them as well); the Mint may have been experimenting with a technique for positioning the CC mintmark on the working dies. Perhaps, additional examples of CC half dollars with these layout lines, other than 1877-CC WB-4, await discovery.

Counting Reeds

Periodically I have been asked that if determining a reed count is so important, then how do you easily count reeds? Randy Wiley and I have successfully been using a simple technique for years; with it, I have counted reeds on well over 1,500 Liberty Seated Half dollars and many other smaller denominations.

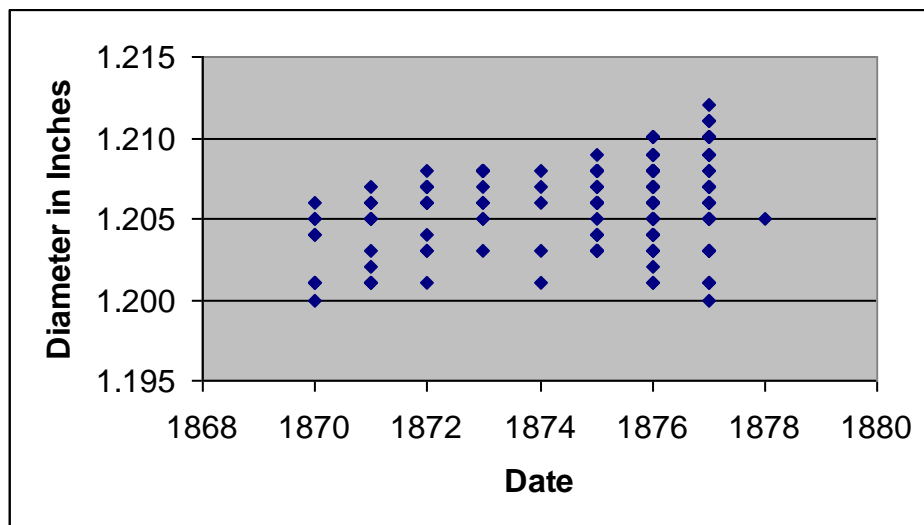
Counting reeds is actually quite simple if you understand the technique and have a few simple tools. Simply remove the reflector from an inexpensive flashlight, place the coin into the reflector under your stereo microscope, and slowly rotate the reflector with the coin while viewing the in-focus edge (i.e., reeds) through the microscope. Start at an obvious flaw (all

coins have them) and count (aloud is best so that you can ignore distractions) the reeds using the reticule of your scope to keep track of your position; stop for breathers at easily referenced places (e.g., nicks, lint, cracks in the collar, etc.). Continue until you get to the starting reed. You may have to initially adjust the coin in the reflector to keep it in focus for the entire counting session. With practice, you can easily and accurately count the reeds on a coin in about 2-3 minutes. Be careful with the reflector surfaces; they scratch easily and you may end up replacing it more often than you like. One more thing, you can also photograph the edge of the coin with this technique.

Carson City Half Dollar Diameters

The standard size of a half dollar diameter has been since 1839, and still is, 1.205 inches. I've measured the diameter of about 1,500 half dollars and few have that exact diameter. Since the diameter of a coin is dictated by the diameter of the opening in the collar and collars were procured through various methods (local, procured from the Philadelphia Mint, made in-house), there is no wonder that slight variations in half dollar sizes can be found.

The following graphic presents summary information for the diameters of over 180 Liberty Seated Half Dollars struck at the Carson City Branch Mint. As you can see, values are all over the graph, above and below the standard. Few half dollars are of the standard diameter and 1877 seems to have the largest variance. 1878 has a small sample size currently at the standard.



Rarity Ratings

Included with the description of each die marriage is an estimated rarity rating. These ratings are based on the Sheldon Rarity Scale as depicted in the following table. All rarity estimates are my own and are based on my observations and, in some instances, educated guesses. Few varieties are rated R-6 or above and a few are rated R-2. I will be the first to admit that it will literally take years to establish more accurate rarity ratings for each variety but I believe most will range as listed in the R-5 to R-3 range.

The *rarity rating* I assigned to each die marriage is a single number that *includes coins of all grades*. In my experience, listing by-grade rarity values can lead to misrepresenting

the rarity of a die marriage by misquoting grade rarities rather than overall rarities. Naturally, some grades are rarer than others, specifically Uncirculated coins, but I will leave that study and accompanying condition census listings to others.

Care must be exercised when trying to relate a die marriage's worth to rarity. There is no direct correlation between value and rarity and trying to correlate the two would produce misleading results. Some die marriages are rare but not noteworthy enough to gain the prominence enjoyed by some more popular rarities. Rarity is only one factor in determining market value.

Rarity Rating	Estimated number of known pieces
R-8	1 - 3
R-7	4 - 12
R-6	13 - 30
R-5	31 - 75
R-4	76 - 200
R-3	201 - 500
R-2	501 - 1,250
R-1	1,251 or more

If you sum the upper estimates of the known pieces for all the varieties listed in this Register, the total population of Carson City half dollars is approximately 25,000. This number equates to ½ of 1% of the original mintage, which is within the generally acceptable attrition estimates.

Emission Sequence

With the exception of the four new 1876-CC die marriages included in this 2nd edition (WB-37 thru 40), the die marriages of all dates are listed in ascending WB-X order per an estimated die emission sequence order; the first number is the first minted die marriage to the highest number being the last (usually the transitional die with the preceding or subsequent years). Factors considered to estimate this die emission sequence include die wear, die abrasions, die defects, collar groupings, and use of mintmark sizes.

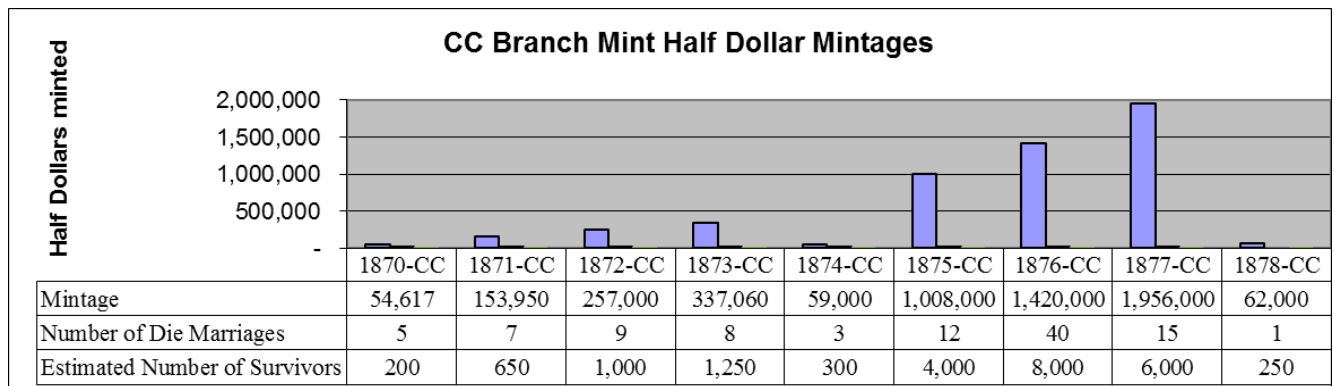
Miscellaneous Information

History of the Carson City Branch Mint¹. The Carson City, Nevada Branch Mint was authorized by the U.S. Congressional Act of March 3, 1863 and opened to serve the western coining needs brought about by the discovery of the Comstock Lode, the largest silver strike in the Nation's history.

The cornerstone for the Carson City, Nevada facility was laid on September 18, 1866. This facility was officially opened for coining operations and prepared to receive bullion deposits on January 8, 1870. All gold and silver coins produced at this facility bear the "CC" mintmark on the reverse. Production was temporarily halted from 1885 to 1889, and finally discontinued in 1893 when this facility continued to function as an assay office until it officially closed in 1933.

The State of Nevada purchased the building for \$10,000 in 1939. After being renovated by the state in late 1941, the facility was reopened as a museum and art institute.

Major U.S. Government actions affecting CC Coinage². To further understand Carson City half dollar coinage, a macro examination of the variations in half dollar mintages is necessary. The figure below depicts the mintages and the number of die marriages found for all the Carson City half dollars from 1870 - 1878.



As shown above, the half dollar mintages were fairly constant and low (well below 500,000) from 1870 thru 1874. From 1875 - 1877 the mintages dramatically increased, fell off again in 1878, and were totally eliminated at Carson City after 1878. U.S. monetary policies and a few major historic developments influenced these mintage figures.

Specie Redemption Act of 1875. During the American Civil War, for the lack of circulating gold and silver coinage, the U.S. government issued nearly \$500 million worth of paper notes ("greenbacks") and fractional currency ("shin plasters"). This paper currency was not backed by specie (gold or silver) and maintained value only through trust in the government (starting in late 1861, the federal government sought to raise revenue for the War effort without exhausting its reserves of gold and silver by suspending specie payments). These green backs and shin plasters circulated freely in daily commerce and were generally accepted by the public from early 1862 thru the mid 1870's.

After the war the debtor elements, desiring inflation, wanted the greenbacks to remain in circulation and for replacement notes to be issued for the worn. Conservative forces, abhorring inflation, opposed these schemes and wanted all paper currency backed by gold. Politicians hotly debated this issue but the conservatives prevailed.

¹ For complete information on the history of the Carson City Mint and its coinage, see Goe, Rusty. The Mint on Carson Street. Reno, NV: Southgate Coins and Collectibles, 2003.

² For details of this and other monetary history, see Carothers, Neil. Fractional Money. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1930.

On January 14, 1875, Congress passed the Specie Redemption Act, which provided for the replacement of the Civil War fractional currency by silver coins. It also reduced the greenback total to \$300 million. Specifically, the Secretary of the Treasury was “authorized and required, as rapidly as practicable, to cause to be coined at the mints of the United States, silver coins of the denominations of ten, twenty-five, and fifty cents, of standard value, and to issue them in redemption of an equal number and amount of fractional currency of similar denominations.” Hence, there was a large demand for and large increase in half dollar coinage at all Mints starting in 1875.

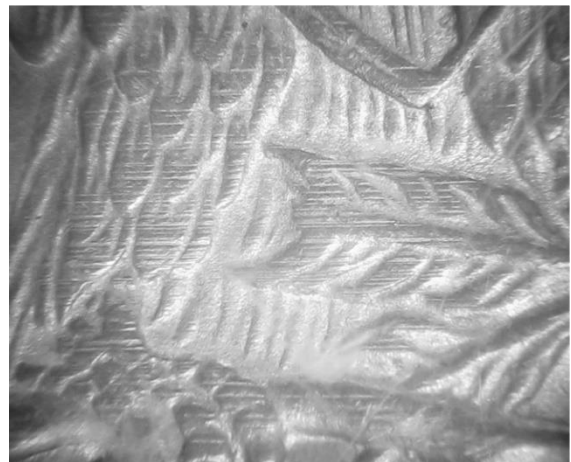
Return of old silver. In late 1877, at least \$22M worth of silver coinage, including half dollars, which disappeared from U.S. circulation in the early to mid-1860s, re-appeared from Canada, Central America, and South America. Long thought melted for bullion, these evidentially served as local currency and returned when it was profitable to do so. With this unforeseen influx of coinage, U.S. Secretary of Treasury John Sherman suspended subsidiary coinage in December 1877, most of this returned coinage sat in government vaults because the coins were badly worn and not acceptable to the public. Eventually, they were melted and re-coined at the end of the century. Sherman’s suspension of subsidiary coin mintage resulted in vastly reduced half dollar coinage.

Bland-Allison Act of 1878. In 1873, the U.S. Congress de-monetized silver. Dubbed the “Crime of ’73,” the U.S. monetary system was on a gold standard. The western mining interests (with a large surplus of silver from the Comstock Lode) and debtors wanted silver in circulation and years of political debate ensued (if you are interested in our Nation’s monetary policies, this is worth studying).

So named for Missouri House of Representative Bland and Iowa Representative Allison, the Bland-Allison Act of February 28, 1878, which passed by Presidential veto override, was intended to subsidize the silver industry in the Mountain States and to inflate silver prices. Under this law and among other provisions, the Treasury would purchase vast quantities of silver bullion valued between \$2 million and \$4 million per month, which would be used to mint legal tender coins, specifically standard silver dollars. This Act instituted a return to bimetallism (paper currency backed by gold and silver).

The Bland-Allison Act is responsible for the dramatic decrease in the mintages of the subsidiary coinage including half dollars of all mints in the late 1870s and 1880s. It is also responsible for the enormous quantities of Morgan silver dollars widely collected today (interesting side note: To the U.S. monetary system, this Act was actually a failure. The vast quantities of minted silver dollars mostly sat in bank vaults; few circulated and those that did were primarily in the West and South.).

Planchet roller marks. Many Carson City half dollars have mint made planchet roller marks (see horizontal lines in photo at right). Usually seen only on coins of high grade (because the lines are so shallow that they quickly wear away), these marks are easy to identify by the parallel incused lines seen running often diagonally across the surface (including fields and devices) of a coin. These lines likely resulted during planchet preparation when rolled metal strips were passed through drawbars or rollers to reduce the strips to proper thickness; roller wear or debris on the pinch dies could account for these roller lines. Roller lines are commonly found, are mint made, and should not, but often do, negatively influence a coin’s value.



Cracked dies. Although occurring less frequently in pre-1875 coinage, starting in 1875 many half dollars have extensive obverse and reverse die cracks in later die states. These die cracks all have remarkably similar patterns around the circumference of the coin and primarily thru the obverse stars and reverse legend and denomination. The reverse die seems to initially start cracking along the top of the letters (AME)RICA thru the arrowheads (see the reverse of an 1877-CC half dollar below).



These cracked dies did not go unnoticed at the Carson City Branch Mint. Carson City Superintendent James Crawford, in a June 4, 1875 request for additional dies to Director of the U.S. Mint Linderman, stated "...As we cannot temper the dies here, and many of them which were received from Philadelphia are either too hard or too soft, our breakage of dies is great. I will endeavor to make some arrangement which will enable us to temper here."

This side note caught the attention of the U.S. Mint Engraver William Barber who stated in a lengthy letter dated June 19, 1875 to U.S. Mint Superintendent James Pollock "...I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Carson City dies were made at the same time, as ours of the same steel and treated in every respect the same as our own, and that with our three presses, we have not had as much breakage as they have had with one press and we are working some of the same dies now. The cause of the breakage therefore must be looked for in some other process..."

I am unaware of any further actions or correspondence but the half dollar dies continued to be heavily cracked into 1878.

Concave/Convex coins. Half Dollars of this Branch Mint are found with concave/convex ("dished") surfaces, which can be easily detected by "rocking" a coin, even in a 2 x 2 holder, on a flat surface. The obverse is usually convex while the reverse is concave.

The reasons for this vary with different theories including the use of radius plates but a plausible contemporary theory is contained in a letter dated December 21, 1875 to U.S. Mint Superintendent James Pollock. A U.S. Mint Coiner, in describing why “dies sink” on Carson City coinage (i.e., resulting in concave/convex coins), stated “...*When dies sink under the great pressure in coining or from defective hardening, the pieces struck therefore are very imperfect, presenting a battered and unsightly appearance.*”

In any case, since the coin surfaces are not parallel, many Carson City half dollars have what is usually called a split grade, the obverse grades often much lower than the reverse because the raised (convex) surfaces of the obverse wear quicker than the sunken (concave) surfaces of the reverse. Consideration must be given this characteristic when grading Carson City half dollars.

Unfinished under chin. Almost all Carson City half dollars have a rough looking “unfinished” area below Liberty’s chin. This resulted from the preparation and final polishing (or lack thereof) of the working dies and is typically not useful in identifying a specific die.



How To Attribute Your Liberty Seated Half Dollar

Armed with the introductory and the die marriage information contained in this Register, most CC-Mint Liberty Seated Halves can be readily attributed to a correct variety nomenclature and WB- number. Date and mintmark close up images are displayed at the top of each die marriage page because they are position dependent. Additional die diagnostic information and images are contained for the obverse and reverse dies.

At a coin show, you will most likely be able to scrutinize a prospective purchase to determine a correct die marriage. Additionally, with advances in the internet, high speed data downloads, and digital imaging technology, many auction companies depict excellent quality images on their websites for upcoming auctions.

With a half dollar of an unknown variety in hand, proceed through the following steps.

- Obtain or estimate the date grid location. Compare this measurement to the date grid table contained for the coin's date. This measurement will provide a few obverse die possibilities and you can then check the mintmark position.
- Match the mintmark position of your coin to those images contained for each date.
- Finally, refer your possibilities to each variety description and check the die diagnostics for your coin against those listed for each die marriage.

With a close-up image of half dollar of an unknown variety on the computer screen (e.g., from an auction website), proceed through the following steps.

- Estimate the date position of the 1 by using a straight edge such as a piece of page. Compare this measurement to the date grid table contained for the coin's date. This measurement will provide a few obverse die possibilities and you can then check the mintmark position.
- Match the mintmark position of your coin to those images contained for each date.
- Finally, refer your possibilities to each variety description and check the die diagnostics for your coin against those listed for each die marriage.

Both techniques work well. I have personally tested these attribution techniques either with a coin in hand or over the internet with the digital archives of a few well known auctions houses. In over 90 per cent of the coins or images checked, I was able to attribute the variety for a high grade (VF+) Liberty Seated Half Dollar. I hope you have similar successes.

The Carson City Branch Mint Liberty Seated Half Dollar Die Marriages

1870-CC



The 1870 is the first year that half dollars were minted at the Carson City, Nevada Branch Mint. With a very low mintage, and as one of the keys to the Liberty Seated half dollar series, there are most likely a total of 200 now known for all die marriages in all grades. Many of these halves grade below Fine and have problems such as damage and/or heavy cleaning. Also, even in high grades, many are weakly struck, have a weak BER in LIBERTY, and most do not have a full drapery below Liberty's elbow.

There is only one mintmark size known, Large CC, but there are three obverse dies and three reverse dies paired to make five die marriages. Two of the reverse dies were also used in later years. All dies can be readily identified with the correct diagnostics; the reverses by the mintmark position and the position of the Cs in the mintmark with respect to each other. The obverse dies can be identified by the date position and amount of drapery below Liberty's elbow. I usually do not like to identify Liberty Seated halves by the drapery below the elbow because the amount of drapery is an indication of die state but, for 1870-CC, the drapery below the elbow definitively helps to identify the obverse die.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
54,617	Requested		Unknown	Unknown	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	Unknown	Unknown	
	Known	5	3	3	

Die Shipments. At least two 1869 dated half dollar die pairs were on hand at the Carson City Branch Mint in 1869. Apparently, they were not used but ... they were almost used!

In a letter dated December 20, 1869 to James Pollock, the Director of the Mint, Abraham Curry, Superintendent of the Carson City Branch Mint, stated *"I propose to open this Branch for the reception of bullion on the first Monday in next month, and to commence coinage as soon thereafter as possible using the dies for 1869 now here (unless otherwise instructed by telegram or letter from you) until new dies shall be received..."* Director Pollock denied Curry permission to use 1869 dies in 1870 because Curry acknowledged this in a telegram dated January 4, 1870.

Curry finally received an unknown number of 1870 dated gold and silver dies in mid-January and, in a letter dated March 25, 1870, Curry stated "...I shall immediately receive bullion and coin half and quarter dollars." Hence, 1870-CC half dollars were minted after March 25, 1870.

For extensive information of 1870-CC die shipments, see Randy Wiley's July 1988 article in the *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume III*, page 377.

Louisiana Hoard of 1870-CC half dollars. In April 1986, Randy Wiley examined the "Louisiana Hoard" of 1870-CC half dollars. Half dollar collector Roy Pohler accumulated this massive hoard of 90 genuine 1870-CCs, about half the number known, over 13 years. [Details of this hoard are contained in *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume III*, pages 367-376.] In this hoard, Randy identified three obverse and three reverse dies paired in the five die marriages (Wiley #1 thru #5) detailed herein. Randy dispersed this hoard in subsequent years. A summary of the grades and varieties of the hoard are contained in the following table, which is extracted from the above reference with some minor revisions for clarification.

Variety	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	Total	Percent
Wiley 1 (WB-1)	1	2	4	0	2	2	2	13	14%
Wiley 2 (WB-2)	1	8	12	4	6	3	0	34	38%
Wiley 3 (WB-3)	2	3	3	1	3	0	0	12	13%
Wiley 4 (WB-4)	1	3	4	2	3	2	1	16	18%
Wiley 5 (WB-5)	1	4	6	0	2	2	0	15	17%
Total	6	20	29	7	16	9	3	90	100%

A few conclusions of the data in this table are obvious. Over half of the hoard graded AG-VG and the most common die marriage by far was the Wiley 2 (WB-2). Information from this hoard can be observed of the surviving population of 1870-CCs; most are low grade and the most readily available die marriage is the WB-2. Additionally, some of the coins in this hoard originally graded as VGs may, at the time this reference was written, grade Fine or Very Fine by the current more relaxed grading standards. I have seen some 1870-CCs in F12, F15, and even VF35 third party grading holders that would have graded VG in the mid-1980s when most Liberty Seated coinage had to have a full LIBERTY to grade Fine; they may be included in the numbers above.

Condition Census. While extremely scarce overall, the 1870-CC is rare in XF and above with only two known Mint State coins. According to Randy Wiley, the top coins by condition include the following:

1. **PCGS MS62**, Stack's Queller Family Collection 10/2002: 624 (Raw in sale, later encapsulated)
2. **NGC MS62**, Stack's Bowers Sale of the Dick Osburn Collection, 8/2011: 7101
ex-ANR Kennywood Sale 1/2005: 576
ex-Bowers & Merena James Bennett Pryor Collection 1/1996: 204
et al.
3. **NGC AU58**, Randy Wiley Collection (Plate coin on previous page)
ex-Heritage Auctions 4/2009: 2473
ex-Bowers & Merena Frontenac Sale, 11/1991: 3309
ex-Bowers and Ruddy Dr. Edward B. Willing Collection 6/1976: 81, et al.
4. **PCGS AU55**, Goldberg's Kardatzke Collection 2/2000: 1088
5. **PCGS AU53** (at least two at this grade)

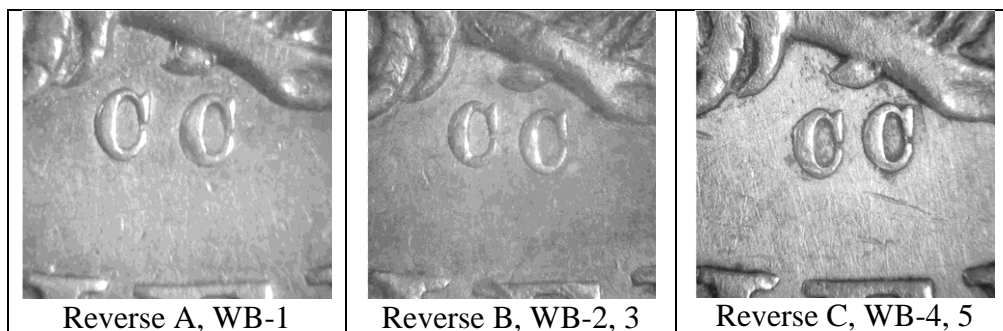
1870-CC date grid quick reference table




Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M2.5, .022"	WB-3
M2.5, .023"	WB-4
M4 , .026"	WB-1
M4 , .026"	WB-2
M4 , .030"	WB-5

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I have included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.

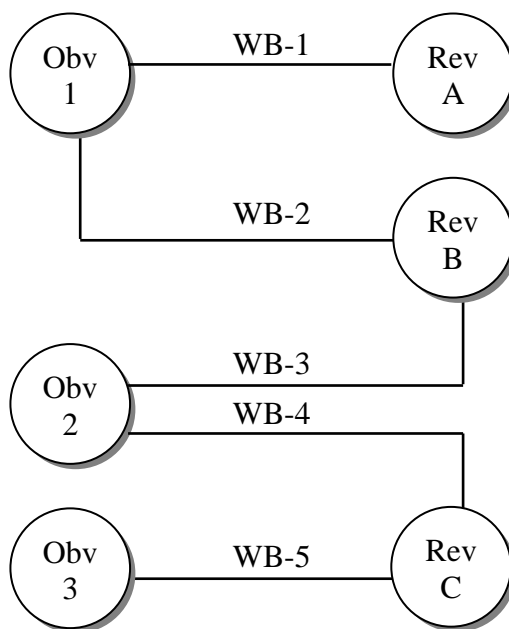
Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Large CC	.070	.063	.016
B		.070	.064	.012
C		.062	.065	.011

1870-CC Half Dollar Mintmarks



1870-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		2 nd C low, Heavy clash in shield's lower right	2 nd C low, Small raised dot to upper right serif of (I)N	2 nd C high
		A	B	C
				
Large CC				
Centered date, partial drapery below Liberty's elbow	1	WB-1	WB-2	
Date high and left	2		WB-3	WB-4
Heavily impressed date low and slanting slightly up to the right	3			WB-5

1870-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram



1870-CC WB-1, Large CC

Obverse 1



- Date centered (photo)

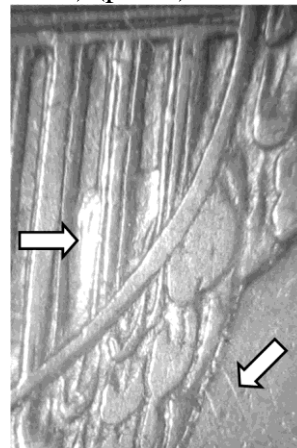


- All die states: partial drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)

Reverse A



- Large CC with normal spacing and CCs slanting down (2nd C low) (photo)



- All die states: heavy clash mark inside lower right shield and below the eagle's right wing (photo)
- This reverse die was used only in 1870.

This is the first use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1870.

Date grid: M4, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 6
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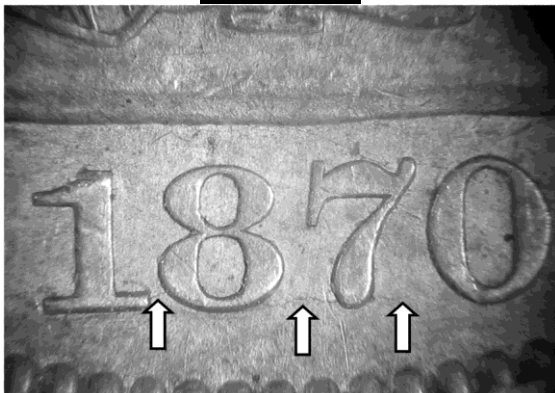
Drapery die state: Partial to None	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: PCGS XF45	Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection
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Cross reference: WB-101 and Wiley 1.	Version 2.33
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1870-CC WB-2, Large CC

Obverse 1



- Date centered (photo). LDS: weak die crack along the base of date (photo) to dentils left of date, mostly visible between the 87

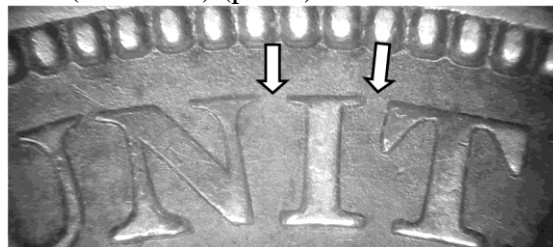


- All die states: very weak to no drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)

Reverse B



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting down (2nd C low) (photo)



- LDS: faint die crack along the top of (U)NIT(ED) (photo)



- Small raised dot to upper right serif of (I)N (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1872-CC (reverse B).

This is the second use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1870.

Date grid: M4, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 5
Drapery die state: Very weak to None	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU50		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101 and Wiley 2.		Version 2.33	

1870-CC WB-3, Large CC

Obverse 2

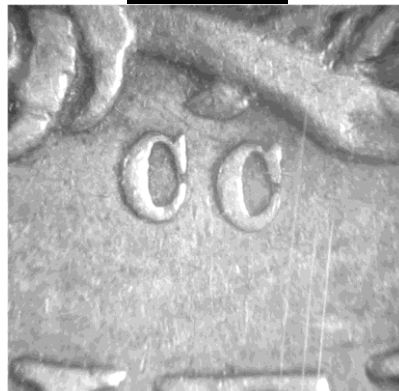


- Date high and left (photo)

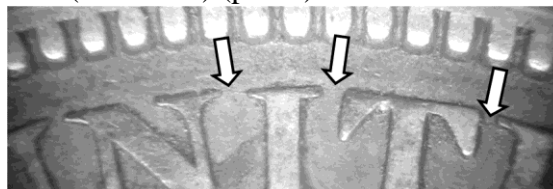


- All die states: drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)

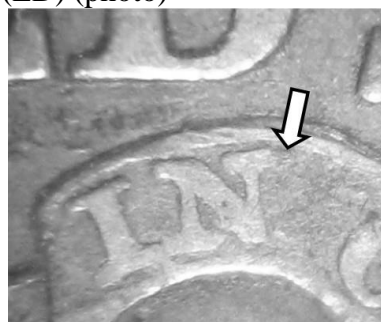
Reverse B



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting down (2nd C low) (photo)



- All die states: faint die crack along top of (U)NIT(ED) (photo)



- Small raised dot to upper right serif of (I)N (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1872-CC (reverse B).

This is the first use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1870.

Date grid: M2.5, .022"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.204"	Rarity - 6
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS VF35		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101 and Wiley 3.		Version 2.33	

1870-CC WB-4, Large CC

Obverse 2



- Date high and left (photo)



- All die states: drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)

Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting up (2nd C high) (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse A) and 1872-CC (reverse A).

This is the second use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1870.

Date grid: M2.5, .023"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.204"	Rarity - 6
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU50		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101 and Wiley 4.		Version 2.33	

1870-CC WB-5, Large CC

Obverse 3



- Heavily impressed date low and slanting slightly up to the right (photo)

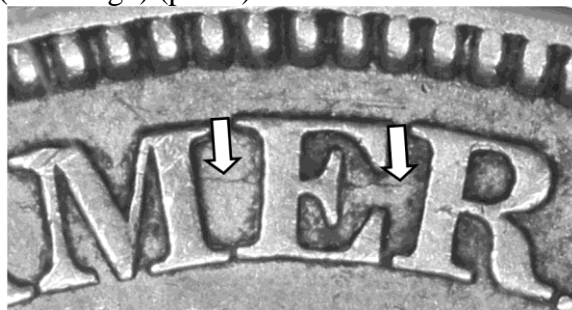


- All die states: drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo). LDS as above: vertical clash lines in drapery

Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting up (2nd C high) (photo)



- LDS: die crack thru middle of (A)MER(ICA) (photo)



- LDS: heavy double clash in reverse shield's lower right (photo)
- This reverse die, with the die crack thru (A)MER(ICA), is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse A) and 1872-CC (reverse A).

This is the first use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1870.

Date grid: M4, .030"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 6
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS XF40		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101 and Wiley 5.		Version 2.33	

1871-CC



In its second year of operation, the Carson City Branch Mint continued a low output of half dollars for 1871. With a mintage of 153,950 coins and 7 known die marriages, simple math suggests an average of 22,000 coins were minted per die marriage. With a likely high attrition rate, it is possible that no more than 100 coins currently exist in all conditions for each die marriage.

All reverse dies used in 1871 have Large CCs in the mintmark; one of these dies was first used in the previous year, 1870, and all were also used in later years. All dies, obverse and reverse, can be differentiated by die characteristics and by the positions of the date and mintmarks. This date also has the so-called One Sided Proof half dollar variety, which has frequented auctions; details are included on the next page.

The seven die marriages are known as depicted in the tables below.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
153,950	Requested	-	4	2*	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	4	2*	
	Known	7	3	5	

* = Does not include reverse dies held over from 1870 for use in 1871.

According to documentation in the correspondence files of the National Archives, 12 collar dies of unknown size were sent from the Philadelphia Mint to the Carson City Branch Mint in 1871. From what I have been able to determine, collar dies were normally procured locally at the other Branch Mints. The Carson City Branch Mint may not have had a local source for collars necessitating procurement from the Philadelphia Mint.

Planchet silver content. Liberty Seated expert and coin dealer Rich Uhrich had in his 2008-2009 offerings a high grade 1871-CC half dollar with slightly rough surfaces. This coin included documentation of laboratory test results that were requested by the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America. The coin's content had very high silver to copper ratio: 97.4% silver, 2.3% copper, and 0.2%

nickel. Per the Coinage Act of 1853 sections 3.4 and 2.5, the normal planchet content was legislated to be 90% silver and 10% copper; the standard's high copper content makes intended planchets hard and durable. It is unknown whether the tested coin's content is typical for early silver CC Branch Mint coins or for 1871 alone but the high silver content helps to explain the roughness often seen on these coins. This situation was likely aggravated by the lack of qualified workers at the Branch Mint, especially the Melter and Refiner, as late as November 1869³.

One-sided 1871-CC proof half dollars. Discussion of these half dollars is contained in *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*, page 173 and worthwhile to summarize here. As a matter of background, Walter Breen⁴ lists only one Carson City Branch Mint proof half dollar, the "one-sided" 1871-CC. He described it as "perfect proof obv., frosty unc. Rev with proof striking quality. (1) Maurice Bauman: 176, "Groves": 442, \$3,750. (2) Reed Hawn, \$4,000." Breen cited these two examples of this die marriage and they can be further amplified with the addition of another as below:

- (1) Stack's Maurice Bauman Sale 12/1966:176 described as "A one-sided Proof...Brilliant Proof obverse, reverse entirely frosty...Probably a presentation specimen."
Stack's Donald Groves Sale 11/1974: 442 "Really a one-sided Proof."
This coin is now PCGS AU58 and in the Randy Wiley Collection as a WB-3.
- (2) Stack's Reed Hawn Sale 8/1973: 252 "Really a one-sided Proof. The obverse is wholly proof-like, the reverse fully frosty without a hint of a mirror surface."
Stack's Fraser Sale 3/1978: 379 "Really a one-sided Proof. The obverse is wholly proof-like, the reverse fully frosty without a hint of a mirror surface."
Bowers & Merena James Bennett Pryor Sale 1/1996: 208 "fully proof-like"
Bowers & Merena Douglas L. Noblet Collection 1/1999:160 PCGS MS63
Later in a PCGS MS64 holder
- (3) Stack's George C. Slawson Sale 4/1970: 1169 "obverse wholly proof-like"
1971 ANA 8/1971: 853
Stack's Halsell Sale 3/1984: 728
Auction '85 7/1985: 1725 "obverse wholly proof-like and needle sharp"
- (Others) Others in lower grades exist.

Periodically, other auction listings described 1871-CC halves with proof-like surfaces. In the listings above, the die characteristics include a repunching on the final two digits in the date and a die crack thru (A)MER(ICA), detailed in the WB-4 die marriage listed herein. These are diagnostics that have been seen on all of the one-sided proofs auctioned over the years. As no definitive documentation of proof coinage or "presentation pieces" exists for 1871-CC half dollars, these may not be one-sided proof coins but merely half dollars struck from highly polished dies.

Proponents of the one-sided proof theory periodically mention two 1870 letters of correspondence between the A. Curry, Superintendent of the Carson City Branch Mint, and James Pollock, the Director of the Mint. Curry stated in a letter dated June 8, 1870: I sent to day by Express a "*Fine Gold Bar*" weight 5.74 ozs, which the assayer of this Branch, desires to exchange as follows, say 4 1/2 oz. proof Gold and an equivalent in proof silver for the balance of the bar..." In another letter dated August 18, 1870, Curry stated "*I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th instant transmitting express receipt for proof Gold and Silver ordered in my letter of June 8th...*" Per numismatist and Archive research expert Roger Burdette, the proof gold and silver in these letters refer to 1.000 fine gold and silver, not planchets with mirror fields to be struck for collectors.

³ Letter dated Nov 8, 1869 from A. Curry to James Pollock

⁴ Breen, Walter. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins*. F.C.I., Press, Inc. and Doubleday, 1988.






1871-CC date grid quick reference table






Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M3.5, .031"	WB-6
M3.5, .031"	WB-7
M4 , .026"	WB-1
M4 , .026"	WB-2
M4 , .027"	WB-5
M4.5, .025"	WB-3
M4.5, .026"	WB-4

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I've included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.

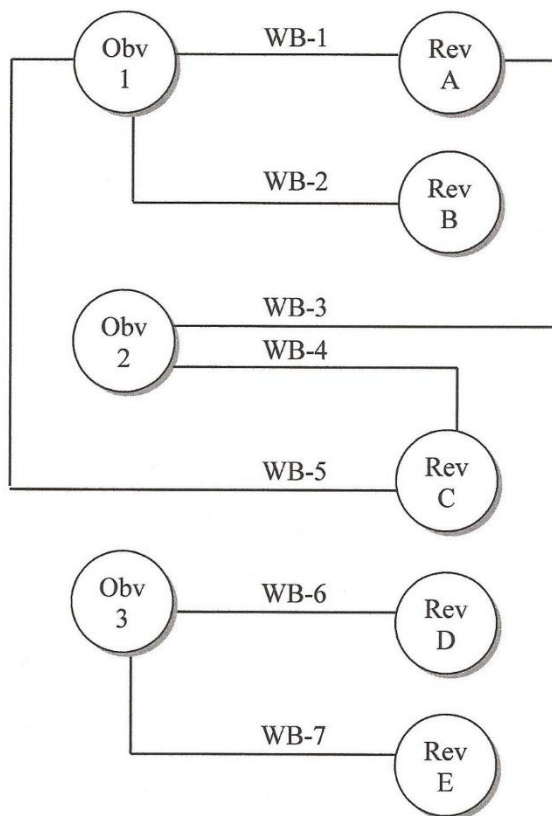
Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Large CC	.062	.065	.011
B		.070	.064	.012
C		.070	.070	.012
D		.068	.070	.020
E		.064	.068	.018

1871-CC Half Dollar Mintmark Positions

		
Reverse A, WB-1, 3	Reverse B, WB-2	Reverse C, WB-4, 5
		
Reverse D, WB-6		Reverse E, WB-7

1871-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		2 nd C high; Die crack thru (A)MER (ICA)	2 nd C low	CCs level	2 nd C high; Dot in field between (UNITE)D and scroll	Lump on the eagle's left leg
		Large CC				
		A	B	C	D	E
						
Centered date	1	WB-1	WB-2	WB-5		
Repunched 71 in date	2	WB-3		WB-4		
Low date	3				WB-6	WB-7

**1871-CC Half Dollar
Die Linkage Diagram**



1871-CC WB-1, Large CC

Obverse 1

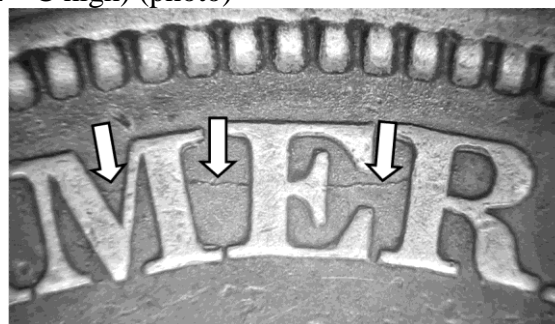


- Centered date (photo)
- No readily identifiable and usable die diagnostics on the plate coin; see WB-2 obverse diagnostics

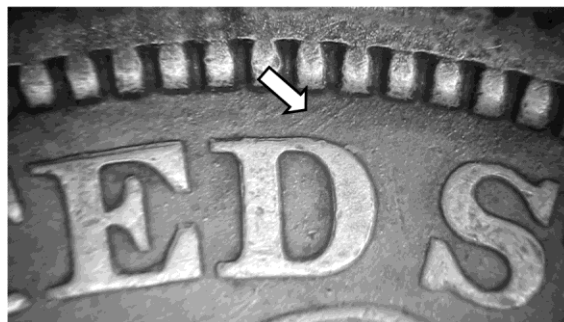
Reverse A



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting up (2nd C high) (photo)



- All die states: die crack thru middle of (A)MER(ICA) (photo). This die crack is also found on 1870-CC halves so all 1871-CCs with this reverse will be cracked.



- Two die lines above (UNITE)D (photo)
- All die states: heavy double clash in reverse shield's lower right
- LDS: weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1870-CC (reverse C) and 1872-CC (reverse A).

This is the first use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1871.

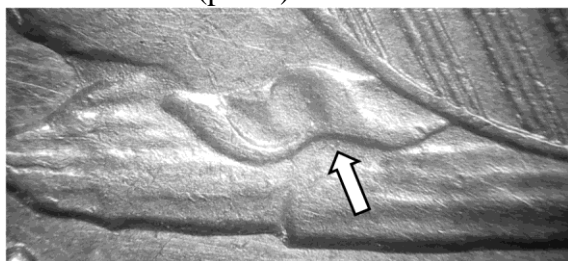
Date grid: M4, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.201"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF45		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1871-CC WB-2, Large CC

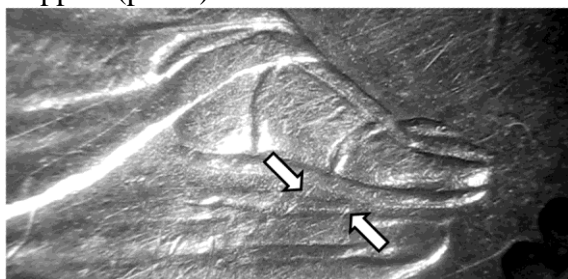
Obverse 1



- Centered date (photo)



- Two small lumps below ribbon edge on rock support (photo)



- Two small diagonal (SW to NE) die lines from sandal (photo)

Reverse B



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting down (2nd C low) (photo)



- Small raised dot to upper right serif of (I)N on motto (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1870-CC (reverse B) and 1872-CC (reverse B).

This is the second use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1871.

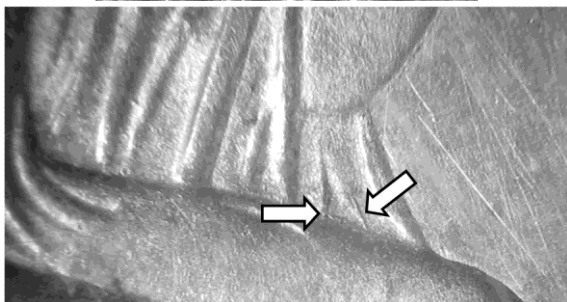
Date grid: M4, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1871-CC WB-3, Large CC, Repunched 71

Obverse 2



- Centered date with the 71 of the date repunched north (photos above and below)

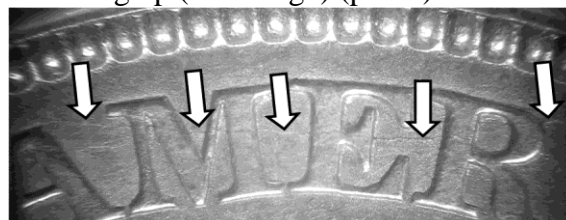


- Scattered die lines in the drapery below Liberty's right elbow (photo)
- High grade coins have a very proof-like obverse with high reflectivity.

Reverse A



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting up (2nd C high) (photo)



- All die states: die crack thru middle of (A)MER(ICA) now extending towards adjacent letters (photo). This die crack is also found on 1870-CC halves so all 1871-CCs with this reverse will be cracked.
- All die states: heavy double clash in reverse shield's lower right
- All die states: die cracks thru two upper arrow heads to (AMERIC)A
- High grade coins: diagonal (SW to NE) die line from dentil below (DO)L to the period after DOL.
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1870-CC (reverse C) and 1872-CC (reverse A).

This die marriage is the so-called "One Sided Proof." See comments in the introduction. This is the first use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1871.

Date grid: M4.5, .025"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 6
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU58		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

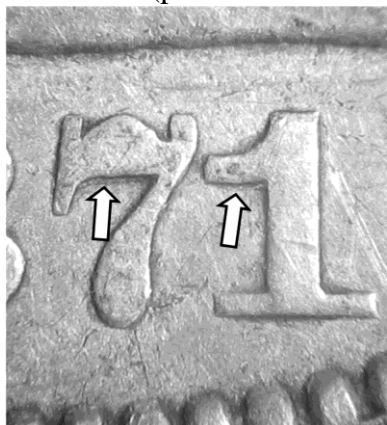
1871-CC

WB-4, Large CC, Repunched 71

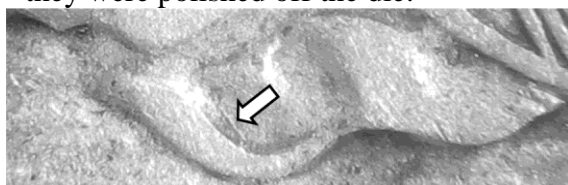
Obverse 2



- Centered date with the 71 of the date repunched north (photos above and below)



- The scattered die lines in the drapery below Liberty's elbow seen on WB-3 are not visible on this die marriage. Most likely they were polished off the die.

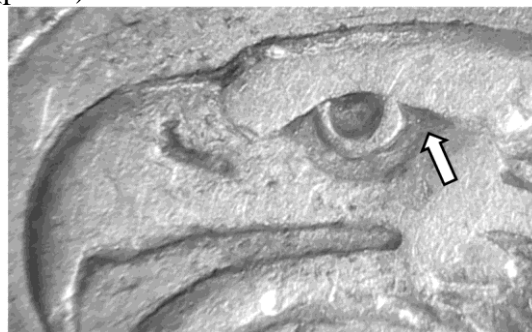


- Small die line now in the recessed area of the ribbon (photo) not seen on WB-3

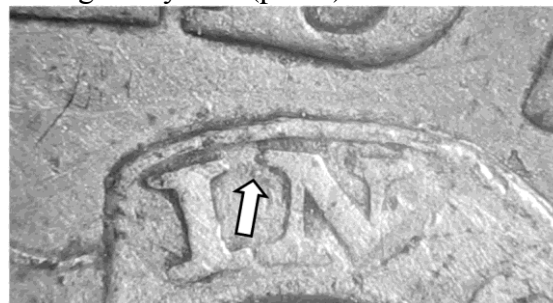
Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll between the letters IN (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1872-CC (reverse E), 1873-CC (reverse C), and 1876-CC (reverse B).

This obverse die, when paired with reverse A, was used on the so-called "One Sided Proof." See comments in the introduction.

This is the second use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1871.

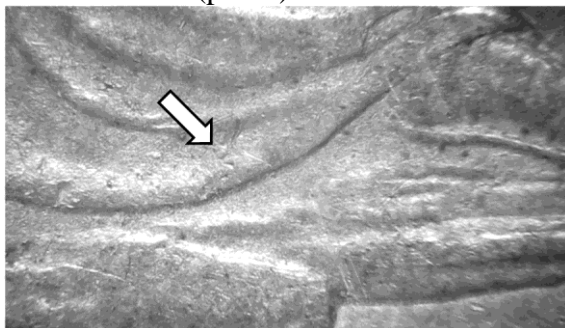
Date grid: M4.5, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.201"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS XF40		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1871-CC WB-5, Large CC

Obverse 1



- Centered date (photo)

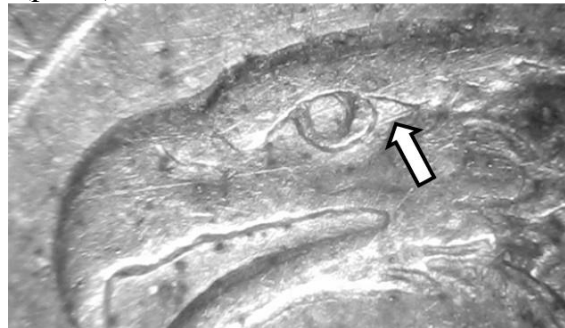


- Small lump in gown behind Liberty's heel (photo)

Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1872-CC (reverse E), 1873-CC (reverse C), and 1876-CC (reverse B).

This is the third use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1871.

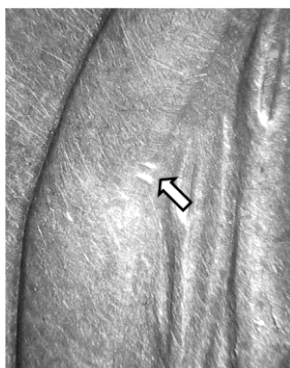
Date grid: M4, .027"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 5
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the John Murison Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1871-CC WB-6, Large CC

Obverse 3



- Date low and the first 1 is slightly repunched north, visible under the serif of the 1 (photo above and below left). Three small lumps in the rock support above the 71 (photo above)

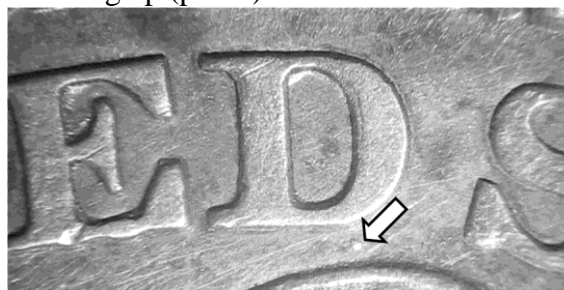


- Two small horizontal lines on the inside of Liberty's left elbow (photo above right)

Reverse D



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump in the field between (UNITE)D and the scroll edge (photo)



- Small lump to upper left of (TRU)S(T) and a small file line to the lower left of (TRUS)T (photo) on scroll visible only on high grade coins
- This reverse die is transitional with 1872-CC (reverse C) and 1876-CC (reverse H).

This is the first use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1871.

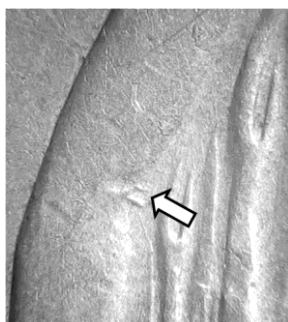
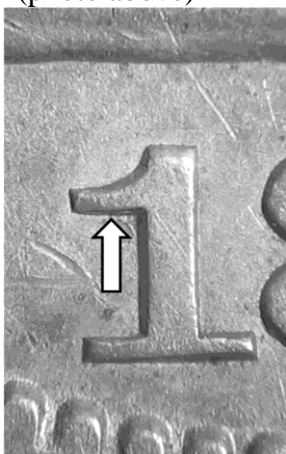
Date grid: M3.5, .031"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU50		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1871-CC WB-7, Large CC

Obverse 3



- Date low and the first 1 is slightly repunched north (photo above and below left). Three small lumps in the rock support above the 71 (photo above)

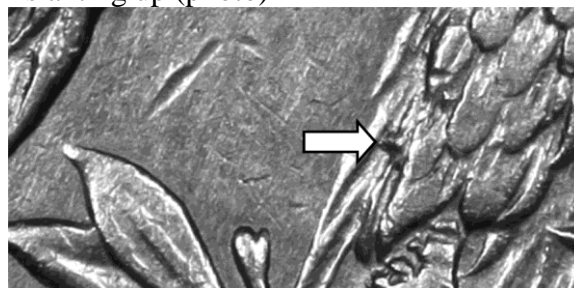


- Two small horizontal lines on the inside of Liberty's left elbow (photo above right)
- LDS: radial die stress lines in the field from the dentils

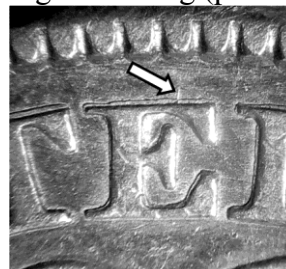
Reverse E



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Lump on eagle's left leg (photo)



- Small tine from upper serif of (UNIT)E(D) towards the dentils (photo)
- Die polish lines in dentils below HALF
- This reverse die is transitional with 1872-CC (reverse D).

This is the second use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1871.

Date grid: M3.5, .031"	154reeds	Typical diameter = 1.202"	Rarity - 4
Draper die state: Full	Foot support: Weak to Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: Wiley - AU50 Bugert - VF35		Coins from the Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert Collections	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1872-CC



1872 is the third year of operation at the Carson City Branch Mint and approximately a quarter million half dollars were minted. All Carson City half dollars minted in 1872 were struck from reverse dies used in previous years and have large CC mintmarks; a few dies were also again used in later years. Nine die marriages are known as depicted in the following tables.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
257,000	Requested	-	4	4	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	6	3	
	Known	9	4	5*	

* = This number includes those reverse dies used in 1872, which were also used in and carried over from previous years. The three new dies received in 1872, as shown in the table above, were evidently not used.

Along with the obverse and reverse dies, collar dies of unspecified sizes were also shipped from Philadelphia and received by Carson City in March 1872. They could possibly include one or more half dollar collars.

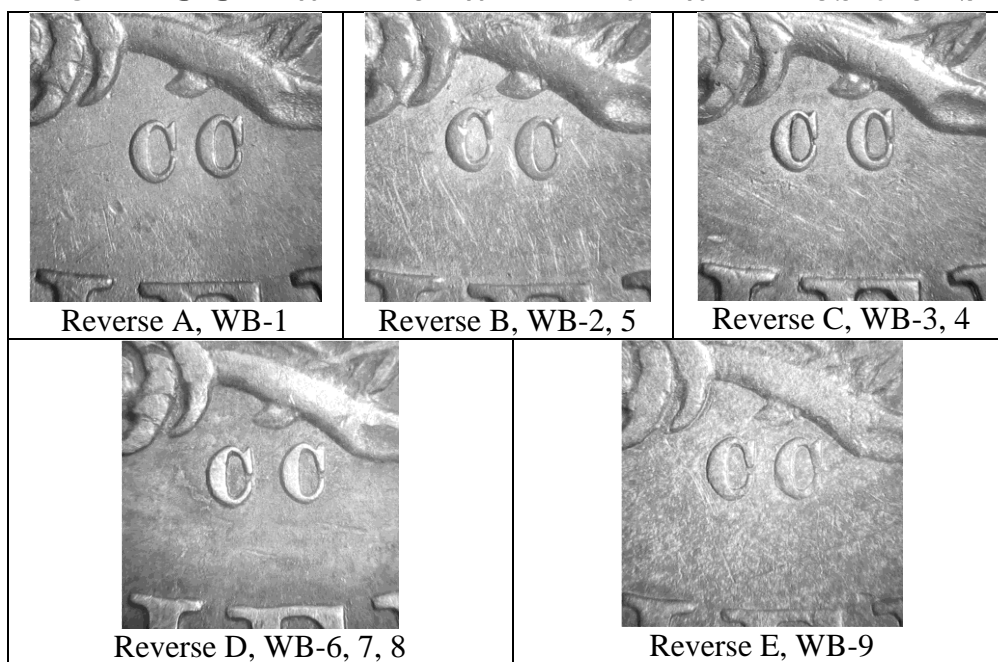
1872-CC date grid quick reference table

Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M4.5, .023"	WB-1
M4.5, .028"	WB-4
M4.5, .028"	WB-5
M4.5, .028"	WB-6
M4.5, .028"	WB-9
M5, .022"	WB-7
R1.5, .023"	WB-2
R1.5, .024"	WB-3
R1.5, .024"	WB-8

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I've included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.






Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Large CC	.062	.065	.011
B		.070	.064	.012
C		.068	.070	.020
D		.064	.068	.018
E		.070	.070	.012

1872-CC Half Dollar Mintmark Positions

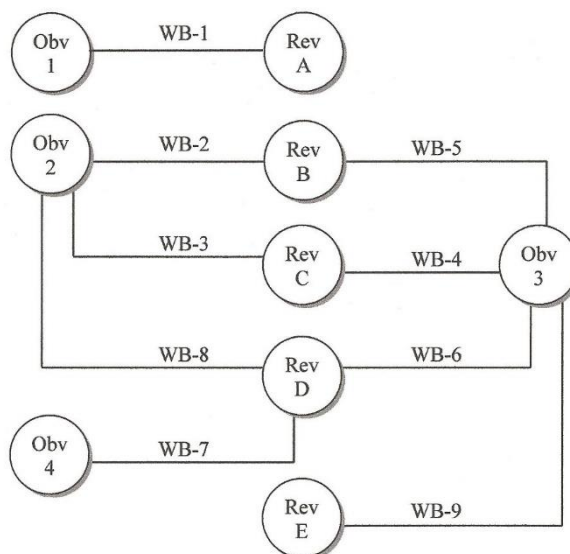


Double Struck 1872-CC half dollar: J.S. Norwood relates the story of the discovery of a double struck 1872-CC half dollar in *Gobrecht Journal* issue #4, dated December 1975. Summarized here, he says a teller in an adjacent cage found it while both worked with the Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco about 1935. That teller's customer sold it to Norwood for "four bits." He still owned it in 1975 stating it was in his safe deposit box. A photograph was also included in the article and the most obvious characteristic was the date: 18722, with the second 2 directly to the right of the date.

The coin's exact die marriage is unknown but, from the image, it appears to have reverse E. Rumors of this coin's authenticity abound, which is why that article was not included in the *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume I*. In any case, this coin has not been seen or adequately studied and recorded since that 1975 article.

1872-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		2nd C high; die crack thru middle of MER	2nd C low	Small lump in the field between (UNITE) D and the scroll edge	Lump on eagle's left leg	Die line behind the eagle's eyeball
		A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
		Large CC				
Die line in rock thru Liberty's left index finger	1	WB-1				
Die damage in the recessed area of the shield above (LIB)ER(TY)	2		WB-2	WB-3	WB-8	
Upper inside loop of the 2 repunched	3		WB-5	WB-4	WB-6	WB-9
Die line from Liberty's chin	4				WB-7	

1872-CC Half Dollar
Die Linkage Diagram



1872-CC WB-1, Large CC

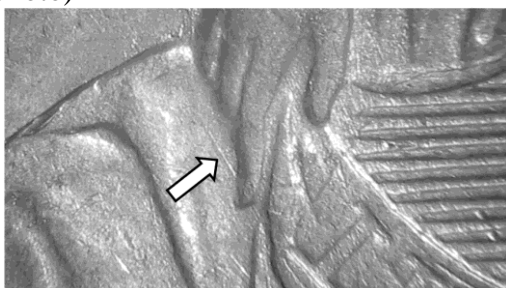
Obverse 1



- Centered date (photo)



- Horizontal die lines below Liberty's ear (photo)

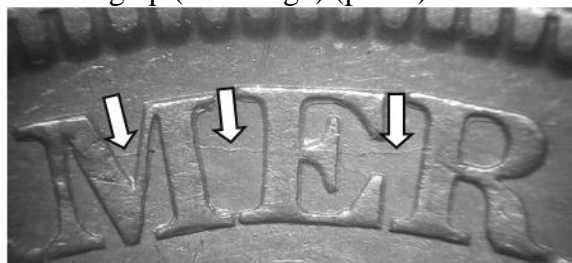


- Die line in rock thru Liberty's left index finger (photo)
- Clash marks by Liberty's right arm

Reverse A



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting up (2nd C high) (photo)



- All die states: die crack thru middle of (A)MER(ICA) (photo). This die crack is also found on some 1870-CC and all 1871-CC halves; all 1872-CCs with this reverse will have this crack.
- Die cracks thru arrowheads to bottom serif of (AMERIC)A, another along base of letters UN(ITED), another arching thru (S)TAT(ES)
- The two die lines seen above (UNITE)D on previous years are not visible in 1872.
- All die states: clash in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1870-CC (reverse C) and 1871-CC (reverse A).

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1872.

Date grid: M4.5, .023"

154 reeds

Typical diameter = 1.204"

Rarity - 4

Drapery die state: Full

Foot support: Full

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: AU55

Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection

Cross reference: WB-101.

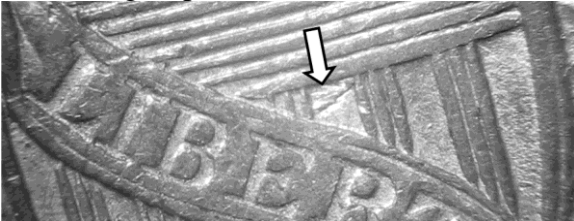
Version 2.33

1872-CC WB-2, Large CC

Obverse 2



- Date right (photo)

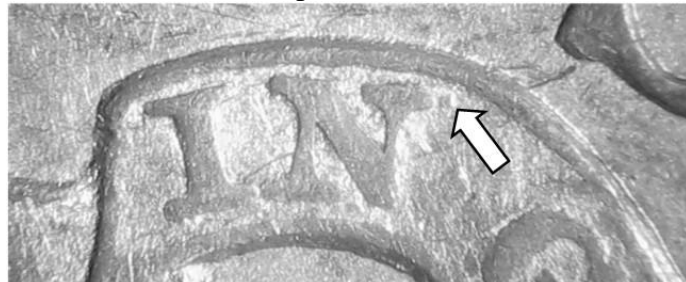


- Die damage in the recessed area of the shield above (LIB)ER(TY) (photo)
- Clash marks by Liberty's right arm

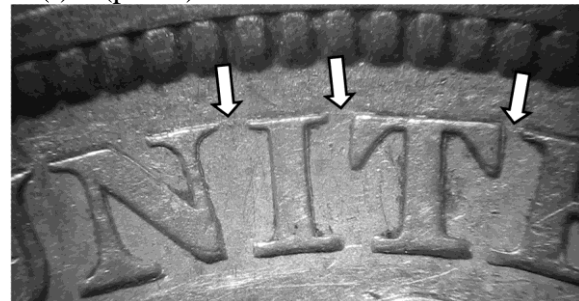
Reverse B



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting down (2nd C low) (photo)



- Small raised dot on the scroll to upper right serif of (I)N (photo)



- Weak die crack along the top of letters (U)NIT(ED) (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1870-CC (reverse B) and 1871-CC (reverse B).

This is the first use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1872.

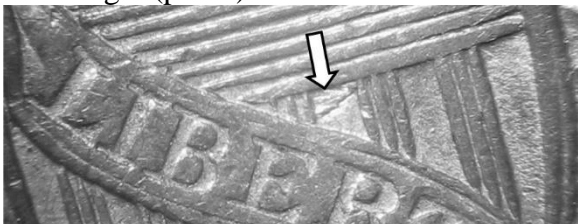
Date grid: R1.5, .023"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1872-CC WB-3, Large CC

Obverse 2



- Date right (photo)



- Die damage in the recessed area of the shield above (LIB)ER(TY) (photo)
- Clash marks by Liberty's right arm

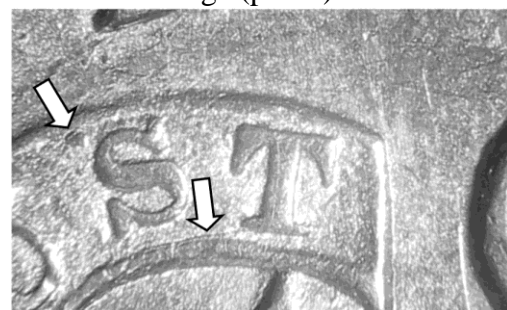
Reverse C



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump in the field between (UNITE)D and the scroll edge (photo)



- Small lump to upper left of (TRU)S(T) and a small file line to the lower left of (TRUS)T (photo) on scroll visible only on high grade coins
- Die starting to crack along top of letters (AME)RIC(A)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse D) and 1876-CC (reverse H).

This is the second use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1872.

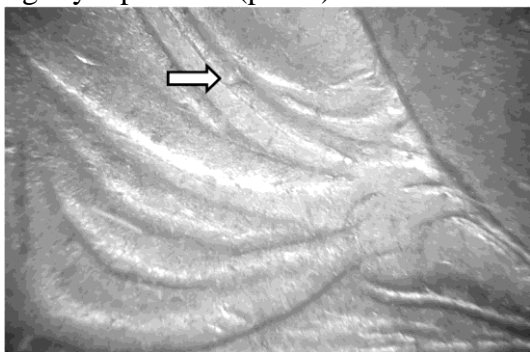
Date grid: R1.5, .024"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.203"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1872-CC WB-4, Large CC

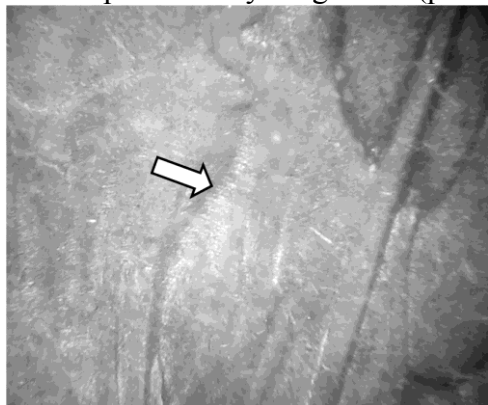
Obverse 3



- Low date with upper inside loop of the 2 slightly repunched (photo)



- Small lump on Liberty's right calf (photo)

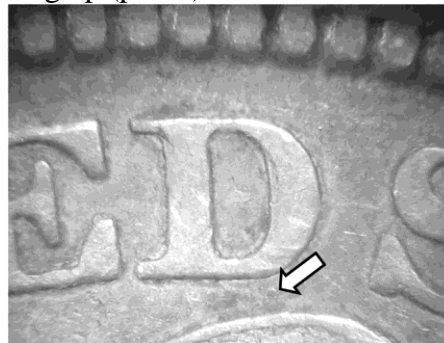


- Parallel arching die polish lines thru Liberty's gown; most obvious near her right breast (photo) and below shield's scroll

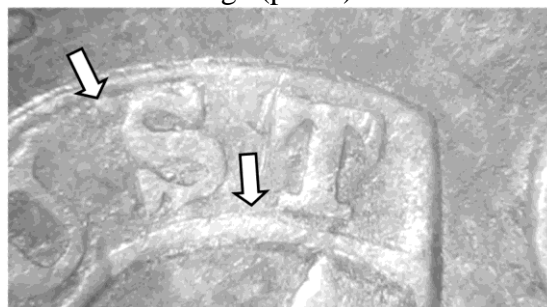
Reverse C



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump in the field between (UNITE)D and the scroll edge (photo)



- Small lump to upper left of (TRU)S(T) and a small file line to the lower left of (TRUS)T (photo) on scroll visible only on high grade coins
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse D) and 1876-CC (reverse H).

This is the first use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1872.

Date grid: M4.5, .028"

Unknown reeds

Typical diameter = Unknown

Rarity - 5

Dravery die state: Full

Foot support: Full

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: NGC AU50

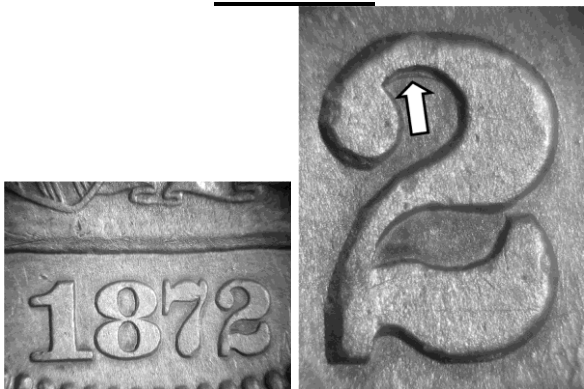
Coin from the Dick Osburn Collection

Cross reference: WB-101.

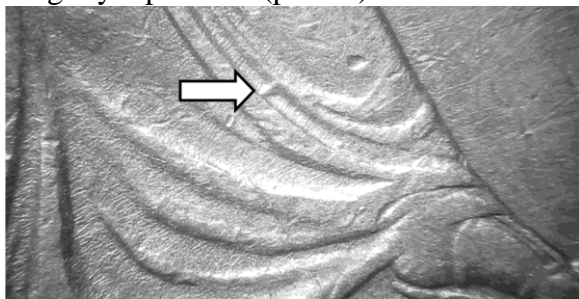
Version 2.33

1872-CC WB-5, Large CC

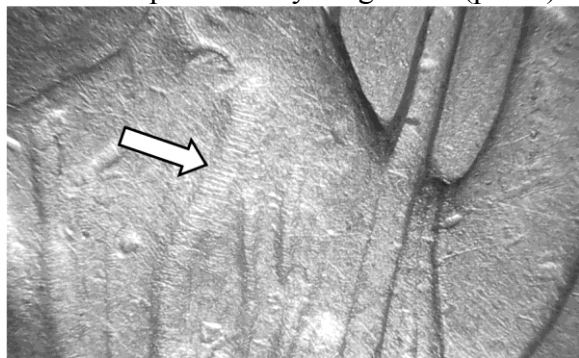
Obverse 3



- Low date with upper inside loop of the 2 slightly repunched (photos)



- Small lump on Liberty's right calf (photo)

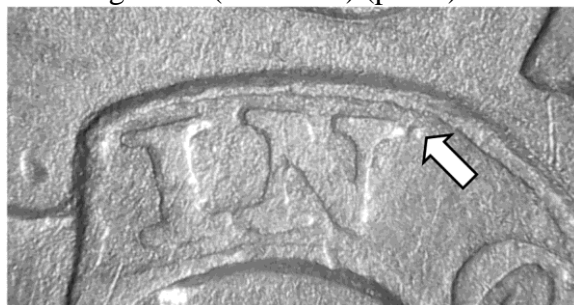


- Parallel arching die polish lines thru Liberty's gown; most obvious near her right breast (photo) and below shield's scroll
- LDS: die crack along the base of the date

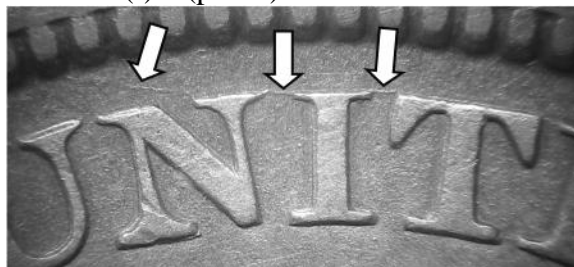
Reverse B



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs slanting down (2nd C low) (photo)



- Small raised dot on the scroll to upper right serif of (I)N (photo)



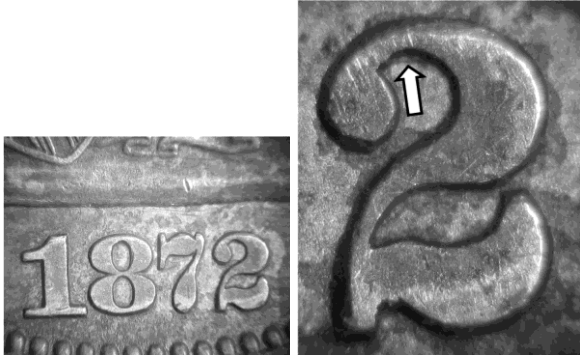
- Die crack along the top of letters (U)NITE(D), now to dentil above N (photo); another along base of letters STA(TES)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1870-CC (reverse B) and 1871-CC (reverse B).

This is the second use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1872.

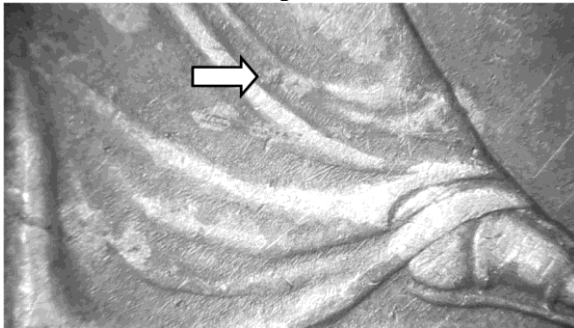
Date grid: M4.5, .028"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1872-CC WB-6, Large CC

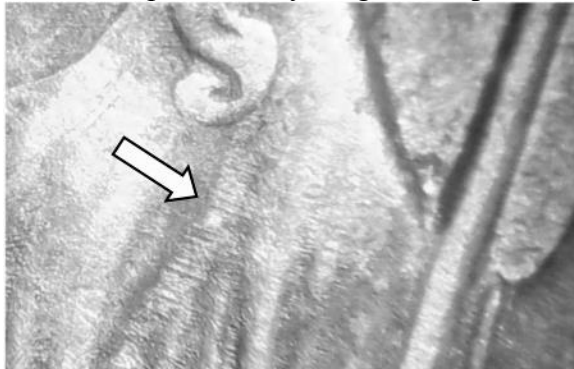
Obverse 3



- Low date with upper inside loop of the 2 slightly repunched and weak die crack along the base of the date (photos)



- Small lump on Liberty's right calf (photo)

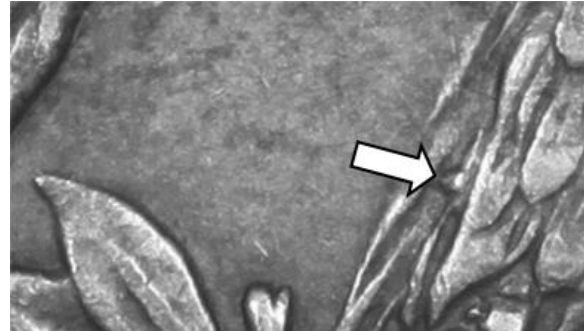


- Parallel arching die polish lines thru Liberty's gown; most obvious near her right breast (photo) and below shield's scroll

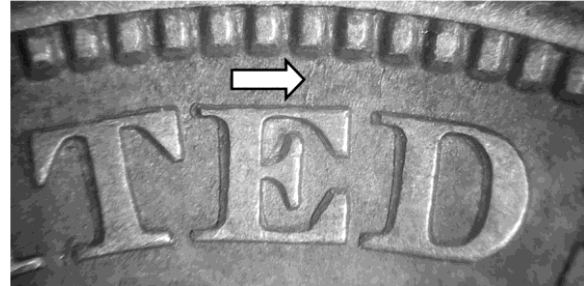
Reverse D



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Lump on eagle's left leg (photo)



- Small tine from upper serif of (UNIT)E(D) to the dentil above (photo)
- Die polishlines along dentils below (H)ALF
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse E).

This is the third use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1872.

Date grid: M4.5, .028"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1872-CC WB-7, Large CC

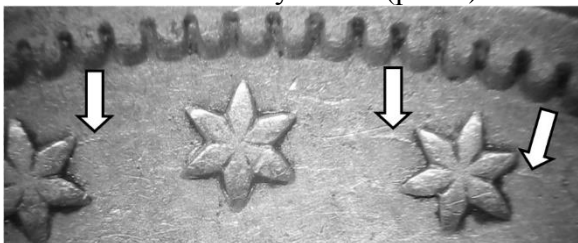
Obverse 4



- Date slightly right with weak die crack along the base of the date (photo)



- Die line from Liberty's chin (photo)

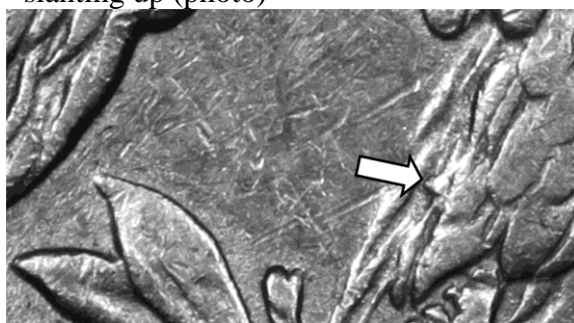


- Die crack along stars 10-13 (11-13 in photo)

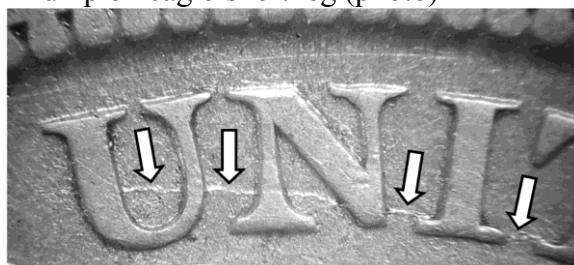
Reverse D



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Lump on eagle's left leg (photo)



- Die heavily cracked almost around the entire circumference, notably thru the letters UNI(TED) (photo)
- Weak dentils and die stress flow lines around the circumference along the dentils
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse E).

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1872.

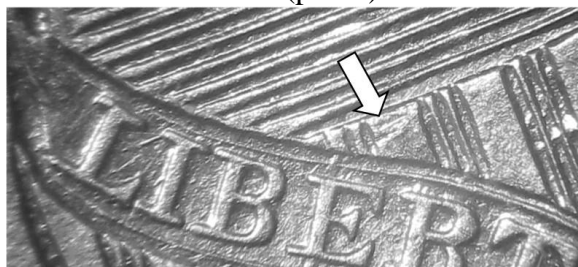
Date grid: M5, .022"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS VF35		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1872-CC WB-8, Large CC

Obverse 2



- Date right now with weak die crack along the base of the date (photo)

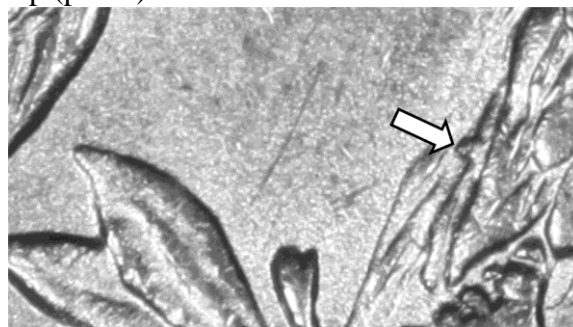


- Die damage in the recessed area of the shield above (LIB)ER(TY) (photo)
- Clash marks by Liberty's right arm
- Die heavily cracked: stars 1-2, stars 3 thru cap to star 8, stars 9-11, and another diagonally from rock support thru foot to dentil

Reverse D



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Lump on eagle's left leg (photo)



- Die heavily cracked almost around the entire circumference, notably along the top of and thru the letters (AME)RICA (photo)
- Very weak dentils; die stress flow lines around the entire circumference near dentils
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse E).

This is the third use of this obverse die and third use of this reverse die in 1872.

Date grid: R1.5, .024"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
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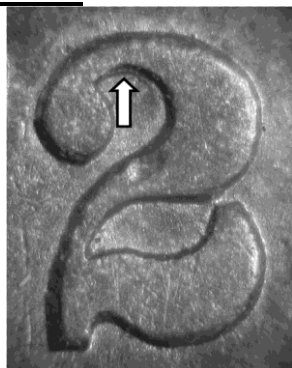
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Weak
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Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU55	Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection
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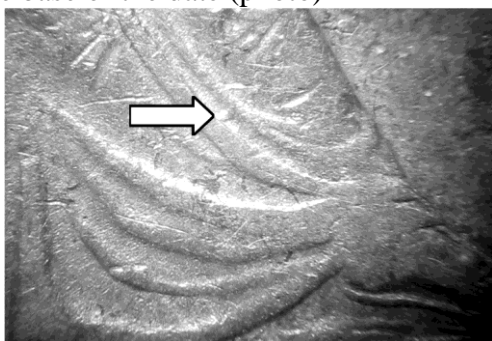
Cross reference: WB-101.	Version 2.33
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1872-CC WB-9, Large CC

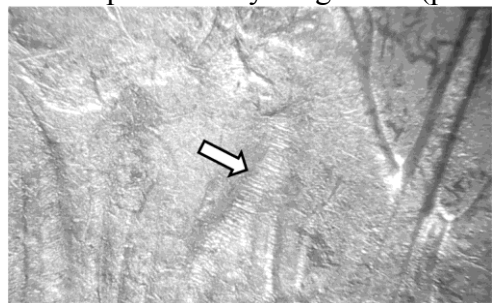
Obverse 3



- Low date with upper inside of loop of the 2 slightly repunched and weak die crack along the base of the date (photo)



- Small lump on Liberty's right calf (photo)

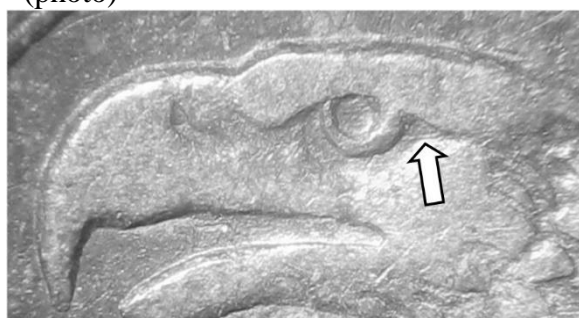


- Parallel arching die polish lines thru Liberty's gown; most obvious near her right breast (photo) and below shield's scroll

Reverse E



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)
- Clash mark in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse C), 1873-CC (reverse C), and 1876-CC (reverse B).






This is the fourth use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1872.

Date grid: M4.5, .028"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: VF35		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1873-CC



1873-CC half dollars include two date styles (Open 3 and Closed 3) and a major design change with the addition of Arrows at the date. Additionally, a new smaller size mintmark, Small CC, was introduced for the first time in 1873; previously all mintmarks are of the Large CC size. The different styles and designs used in 1873 at Carson City are summarized in the following table and detailed in the following paragraphs.

Date Style		Obverse Design at Date		Mintmark Style	
Closed 3	Open 3	No Arrows	With Arrows	Small CC	Large CC
					

Open 3 and Closed 3⁵. Early in 1873, the style of the 3 was changed from a closed 3 to an open 3 (differentiated by the distance between the “balls” of the 3 in the photographs above) to avoid confusing the appearance of the closed 3 with an 8, especially on smaller denomination coinage. All 1873-CC no arrows halves have a closed 3; conversely, all 1873-CC with arrows halves have an open 3. Variations from this are unknown and likely don’t exist for the following reason. Four 1873-dated half dollar obverse dies without arrows (and closed 3) were received at this Branch Mint in November 1872. As far as we are able to now determine, no additional dies were received until late March 1873 when dies with the new with arrows design (and Open 3) were shipped. Consequently, no arrows open 3 or with arrows closed 3 1873-CC half dollars don’t exist simply because Carson City did not have the dies with those designs to strike them. See the “Coinage Dies” paragraph below for further details.

⁵ Harry X Boosel, “Mr. 1873,” conducted extensive research and wrote many excellent articles on the coinage of 1873. His writings are plentiful, are easily found, and definitely worth the time and effort to study and enjoy.

With Arrows. With President Grant’s signature on the Coin Act of 1873⁶ on February 12, 1873, among other provisions, the planchet weight for newly minted half dollars was increased from 192.0 (± 1.5) grains to 192.9 (± 1.5) grains effective April 1, 1873. With the 1853 precedence of adding out-facing arrows at the date to signify a weight change, the Mint placed out-facing arrow heads at opposite ends of the date again in 1873 and 1874. New dies were then prepared with the added arrows and shipped to the Mints. With the new with arrows dies acknowledged a few days earlier, the Carson City Branch Mint acknowledged receipt of a half dollar “coin weight” for the new standard on April 2, 1873; the U.S. Mint obviously took this weight change very seriously. Upon close scrutiny, this planchet weight change is almost meaningless because the tolerances for planchet weights overlap between the old and new standards. Old unstruck planchets within the tolerance of the new standard could therefore be legally minted into with arrows coinage.

Coinage Dies. As with other Carson City dates, from our research of the correspondence files in the National Archives in the late 1980s Randy and I were able to piece together the shipment of 1873 dies to the Carson City Branch Mint. This information is worth a detailed listing because the design changed in 1873. The half dollar die information is extracted and summarized in the following table.

Date	Action	Number of Half Dollar Dies		Comments
		Obverse	Reverse	
October 10, 1872	Dies for 1873 requested by H. Rice	4	0	Henry Rice was the Superintendent of the Carson City Branch Mint
November 9, 1872	Receipt of dies acknowledged by H. Rice	4	0	Specifics not mentioned but these were No arrows Closed 3
March 31, 1873	Receipt of dies acknowledged by H. Rice	6	0	<i>“...dies for the Silver Coinage to be used under the Coinage act of 1873 on and after the first of April 1873 instead of the dies used during the present quarter...”</i> i.e., the addition of arrows at the date (to signify the change in planchet weight) and new open 3 date style
April 2, 1873	Receipt of <u>one</u> new coin weight each for silver dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, and dime acknowledged by H. Rice	-	-	<i>“...coin weights for the new Silver Coin authorized by the Coinage act of 1873...”</i>

- New half dollar dies with the addition of the arrows were received at the Carson City Branch Mint shortly before the new planchet weight standard took effect on April 1, 1873.
- Additional die shipments may have existed for which we have no current records.

⁶ Some contemporary records called this legislation the Coin Act of 1873 but it is also called the Mint Act of 1873.

Eight 1873-CC die marriages are known as depicted in the tables below.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
No Arrows: 122,500	Requested	-	4	0	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	4	0	
	Known	2	2	1	
With Arrows: 214,560	Requested	-	Unknown	Unknown	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	6	0	
	Known	6	5	2*	

* = Includes one die carried over from and used in previous years

Note: additional die shipments may have existed for which we have no current records.

1873-CC With Arrows Berlinghof Hoard. From the mid-1980s until the late 1990s, Pete Blake of Maverick Coin Company, Orlando, FL, accumulated a sizeable personal hoard of 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars. In December 1987, he told me he had 136; 71 with small CCs and 65 with large CCs. In my conversation with Pete in June 1991, he was amassing them and had 230 in varying (mostly low) grades evenly split between small and large CC mintmarks. Of these, Pete had four examples with reverses rotated between 20 – 90 degrees; 3 with small CCs and 1 with large CCs. That was the last I spoke with him; later, I heard he liquidated his hoard.

Collectors of this date may encounter 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars in older, small ANACS slabs with 777XXX serial numbers labeled as “Berlinghof” (see example image at right). These halves labeled as such are from Pete Blake’s hoard. Randy Wiley conducted in-depth research on the late 1990s ANACS population reports. He determined that, in early 1999, ANACS listed two separate lines on their population reports for 1873-CC Arrows Large CC and Small CC Berlinghof half dollars.

A total of 316 Berlinghof coins were listed by grade with over half grading between Poor-1 and Good-6. PCGS and NGC population reports had much smaller but conspicuous increases in coins in higher circulated grades; most likely, the best coins in the Berlinghof hoard were submitted to these grading services. From this, at the time of the hoard’s dispersal, we can estimate the “Berlinghof” (Pete Blake’s) hoard consisted of approximately 350 With Arrows half dollars and they were submitted for grading by the then prominent grading services.

I estimated there are approximately 750 1873-CC With Arrows half dollars in existence. Assuming this is correct, then Pete was successful in hoarding nearly one-half of the total known populations, a difficult feat indeed.



Double Struck 1873-CC Half Dollar. Lot 1264 of Bowers and Merena’s sale of the Marvin P. Matlock, MD, Collection, March 21-22, 1991, was a double struck 1873-CC With Arrows small CC half dollar, pedigreed to the Harry X Boosel Collection. Encapsulated in an ANACS F12 slab, this lot included obverse and reverse plate photographs. This coin was obviously double struck. The second date is above and slightly rotated counterclockwise above the first. Likewise on the reverse, STATES OF is notably shifted down on the second striking. With close scrutiny of the plated images, the die

marriage appears to be a WB-4. This half dollar is most likely unique as so indicated in the lot description.

1873-CC date grid quick reference table

Obverse design	Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
No Arrows	M5 , .025"	WB-1
	R1.5, .022"	WB-2
With Arrows	R1 , .018"	WB-3
	R1 , .020"	WB-4
	R1 , .020"	WB-5
	R1 , .020"	WB-6
	R2.5, .018"	WB-8
	R3 , .019"	WB-7

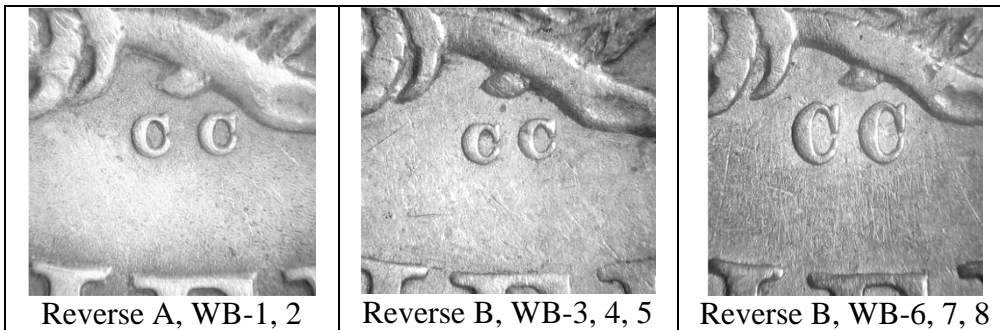
Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I have included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.

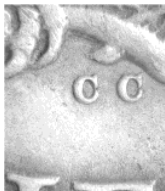


Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Small	.074	.074	.016
B		.074	.076	.012
C	Large	.070	.070	.012

For additional information on 1873-CC die marriages, see Dick Osburn's article in the *Gobrecht Journal*, Issue #83, page 24.

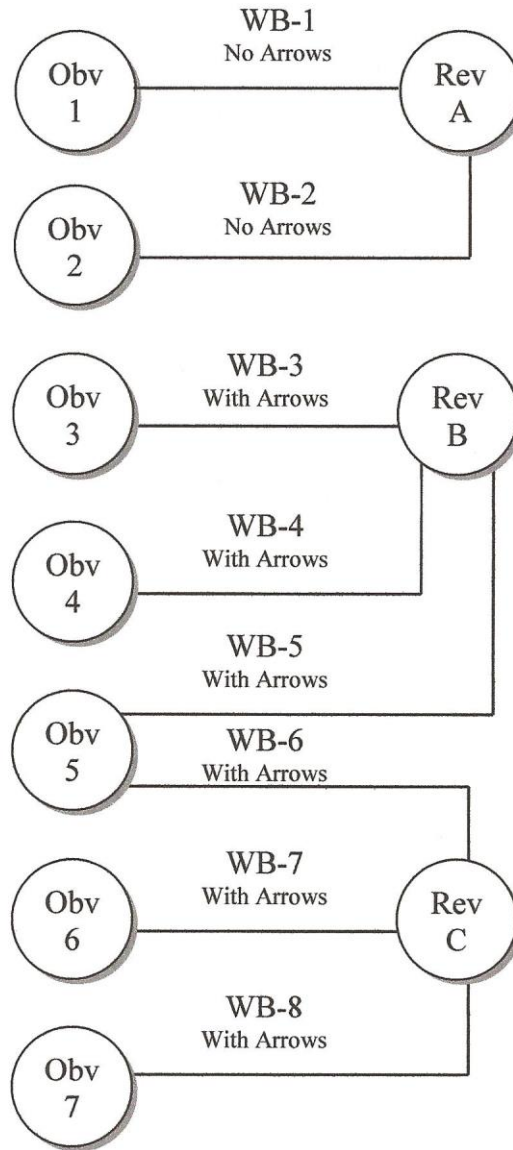
For additional information on Mint State 1873-CC half dollars, see Weimar White's article in *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume IV*, page 471.

1873-CC Half Dollar Mintmark Positions



1873-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		Small twin lumps in the eagle's left wing	Small single raised lump in the eagle's left wing	Small lump on the scroll between the letters IN
		No Arrows Closed 3	With Arrows Open 3	
		A	B	C
				
		Small CC		Large CC
Date right, Scattered die lines	1	WB-1		
Date far right, Repunched 1	2	WB-2		
Lump in skirt to right of scroll, Die line under Liberty's chin	3		WB-3	
Right arrow low	4		WB-4	
Right arrow shaft centered on the 3	5		WB-5	WB-6
Repunched 1	6			WB-7
Digits below date	7			WB-8

1873-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram



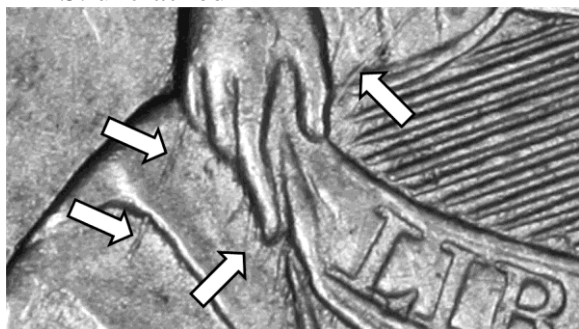
1873-CC

WB-1, No Arrows, Closed 3

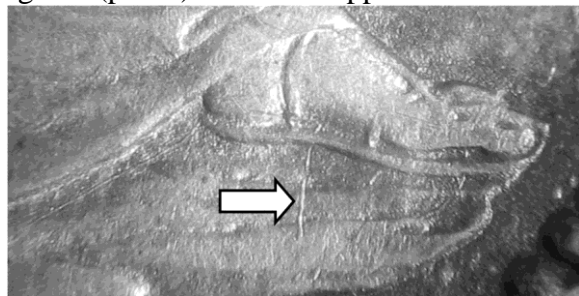
Obverse 1



- Date right with closed 3 (photo)
- LDS: die crack from dentils to left of date along the base of figures 1873 (above photo)
- EDS: uncracked



- Many scattered die lines throughout Liberty's gown (photo) and rock support

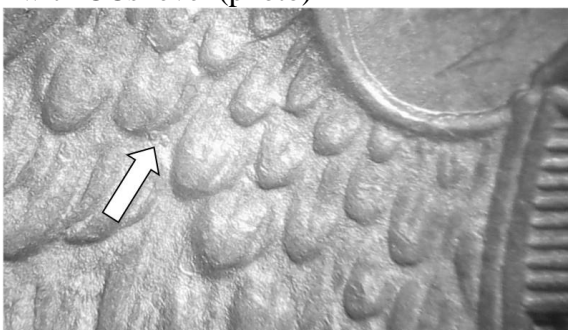


- Vertical "spike" in the rock support below Liberty's sandal different than that found on obverse 2 (photo)

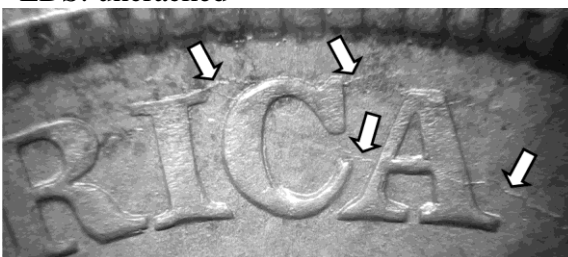
Reverse A



- Small CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Small twin lumps in the eagle's left wing between feathers (photo)
- EDS: uncracked



- LDS: heavily cracked die most prominently thru and above (AME)RICA thru arrow heads, below DOL (photos), and along top of letters (UNI)TED and OF A
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die.

Date grid: M5, .025"

154 reeds

Typical diameter = 1.208"

Rarity - 3

Drapery die state: Full

Foot support: Full

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: MS62 (ex-Reed Hawn)

Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection

Cross reference: WB-101.

Version 2.33

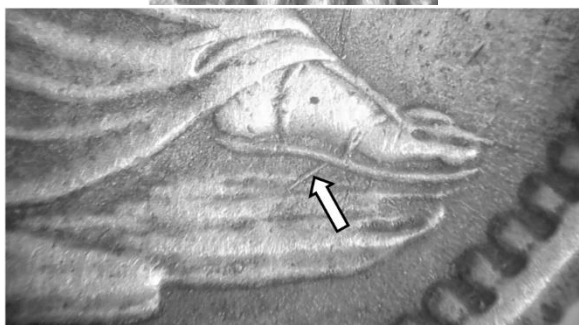
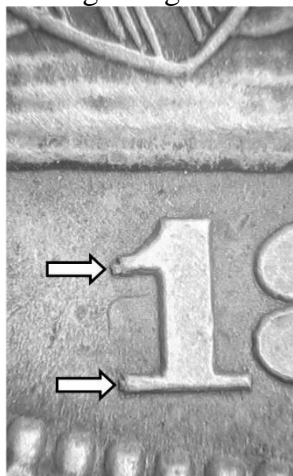
1873-CC

WB-2, No Arrows, Closed 3, Repunched 1

Obverse 2



- Date far right with closed 3 and 1 repunched to NE (photos above and below); repunching visible on coins grading VF and higher

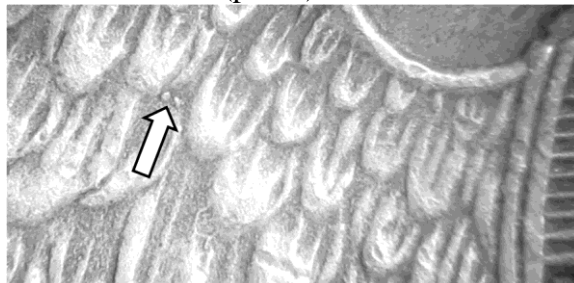


- Diagonal (SW to NE) "spike" in the rock support below Liberty's sandal (photo)

Reverse A



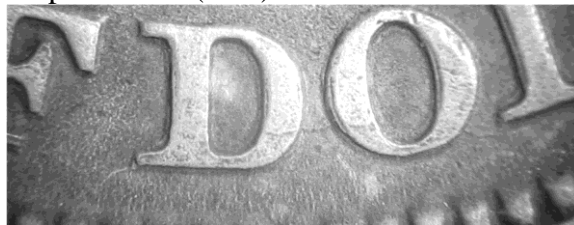
- Small CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Small twin lumps in the eagle's left wing between feathers (photo)



- All die states: heavily cracked die most prominently thru and above (AME)RICA to arrow heads, below DOL (photos), and along top of letters (UNI)TED and OF A



This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die.

Date grid: R1.5, .022"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 5
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full to weak	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

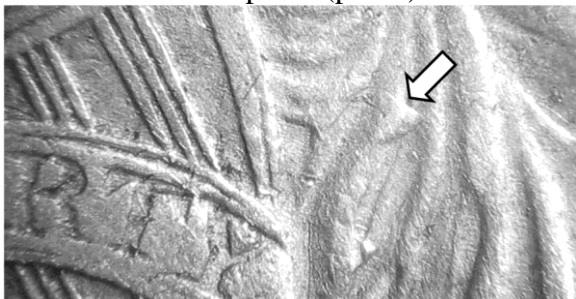
1873-CC

WB-3, With Arrows, Open 3, Small CC

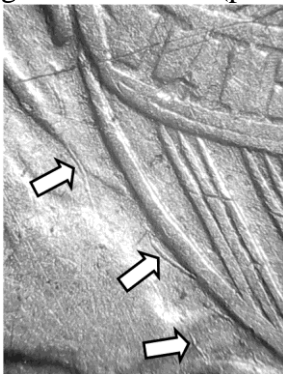
Obverse 3



- Date right with large arrowheads on each side of date and with open 3 (photo)



- Large wedge shaped lump in Liberty's gown to upper right of scroll end (photo)

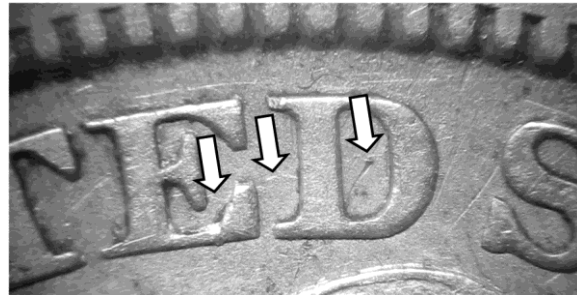


- Wavy raised lines in rock support to lower left of shield (photo); others in rock support below ribbon and below Liberty's sandal
- Faint radial die stress lines near dentils

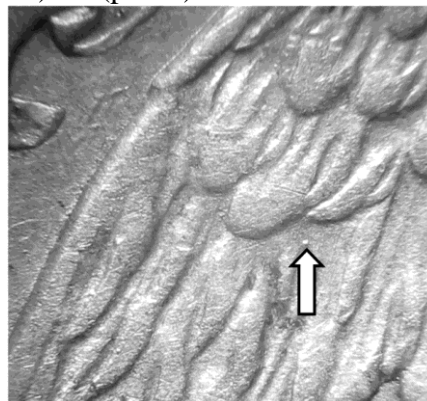
Reverse B



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo)
- EDS: uncracked



- LDS: die crack thru center of letters (UNIT)ED (photo)



- Small single raised lump in the eagle's left wing in the recessed area between feathers (photo); others in feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die.

Date grid: R1, .018"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
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Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: XF40	Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection
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Cross reference: WB-102.	Version 2.33
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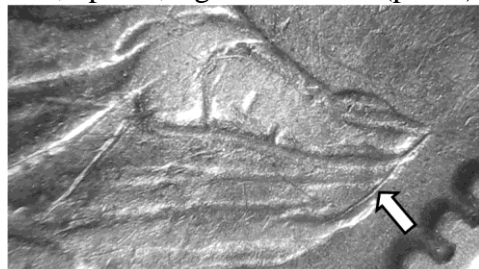
1873-CC

WB-4, With Arrows, Open 3, Small CC

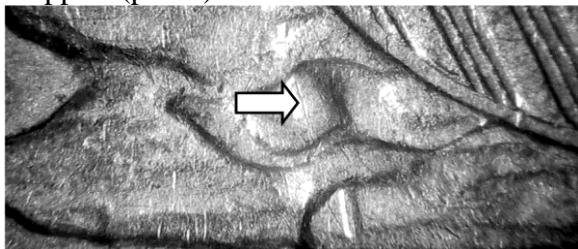
Obverse 4



- Date right with large arrowheads on each side of date, open 3, right arrow low (photo)



- Curved die line at Liberty's toes into rock support (photo)



- Vertical raised line on ribbon (photo)

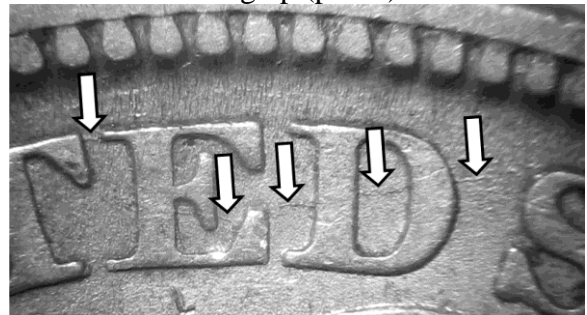


- Horizontal die line under Liberty's chin (photo)

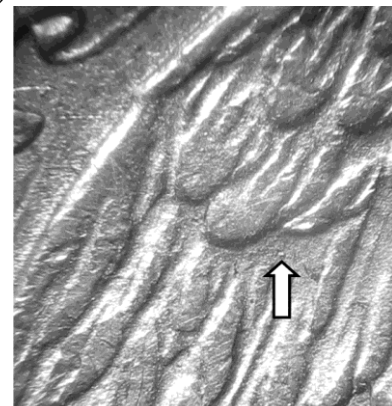
Reverse B



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo)



- All die states: die crack thru center of letters (UNIT)ED (photo); others along top of letters (AM)ERICA



- Small single raised lump in the eagle's left wing in the recessed area between feathers (photo)
- Weak radial die stress lines near dentils

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die.

Date grid: R1, .020"

154 reeds

Typical diameter = 1.208"

Rarity - 4

Drapery die state: Full

Foot support: Full

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: XF45

Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection

Cross reference: WB-102.

Version 2.33

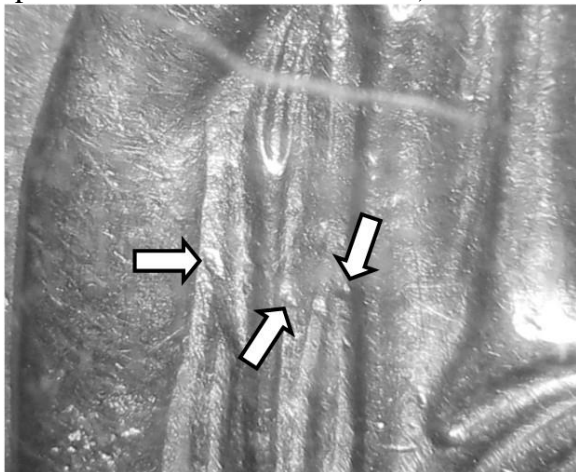
1873-CC

WB-5, With Arrows, Open 3, Small CC

Obverse 5



- Date right with large arrowheads on each side of date, open 3, right arrow high (photo). The shaft of the right arrowhead points to the center of the 3 (compare to obverse 4 where it points below the center of the 3).

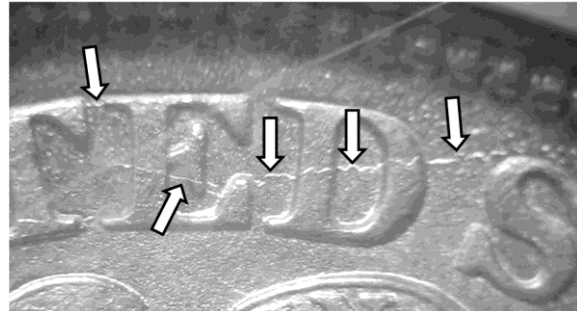


- Many small lumps in Liberty's gown on the inside of her left forearm (photo)

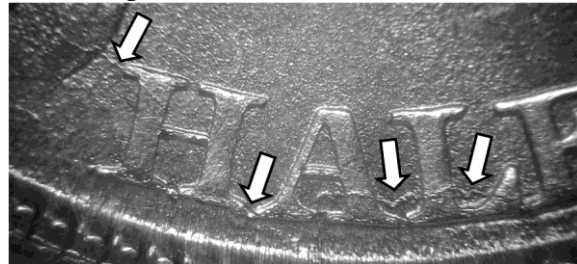
Reverse B



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo)



- All die states: die crack thru center of letters (UNI)TED (photo above); others along top of letters (AM)ERICA and thru the letters HALF (photo below)



- Heavy radial die stress lines near almost non-existent dentils (see photos above)
- Small single raised lump in the eagle's left wing in the recessed area between feathers

This is the first use of this obverse die and third and last use of this reverse die.

Date grid: R1, .020"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 6
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Weak; Reverse - Weak	
Grade of coin depicted: NGC MS63		Coin from the Dick Osburn Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

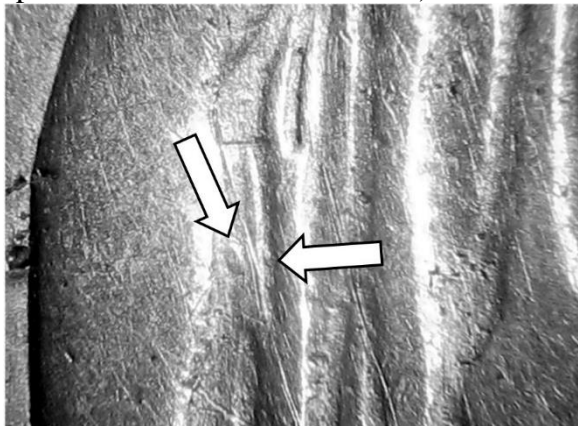
1873-CC

WB-6, With Arrows, Open 3, Large CC

Obverse 5



- Date right with large arrowheads on each side of date, open 3, right arrow high (photo). The shaft of the right arrowhead points to the center of the 3 (compare to obverse 4 where it points below the center of the 3).



- Small lumps in the gown on the inside of Liberty's left forearm (photo)
- AU and higher graded coins only: rim cud above star 8 to cap to star 9

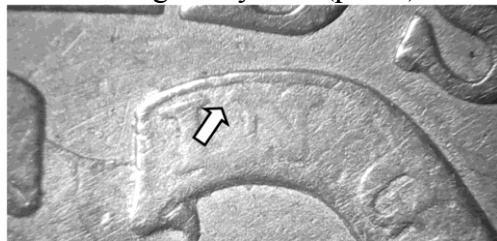
Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll between the letters IN (photo)
- Clash mark in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Die starting to crack thru olive leaves
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse C), 1872-CC (reverse E), and 1876-CC (reverse B).

This is the second use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die.

Date grid: R1, .020"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: VF25		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

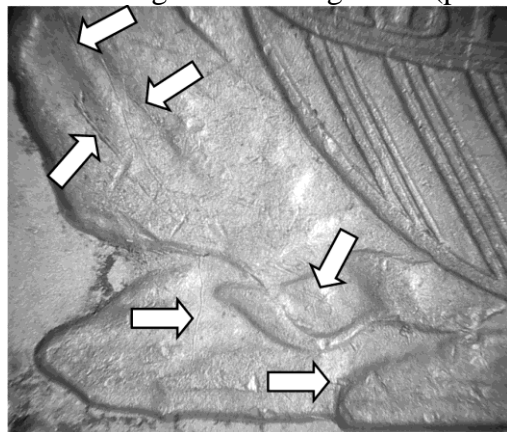
1873-CC

WB-7, With Arrows, Open 3, Large CC, Repunched 1

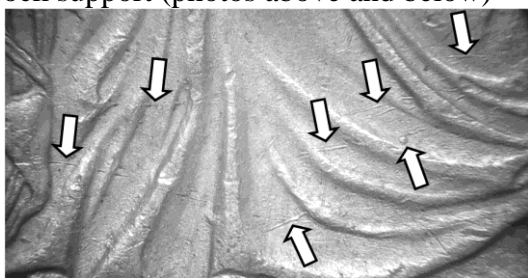
Obverse 6



- Date far right with large arrowheads on each side of date, open 3, 1 repunched slightly south showing above the right base(photo)



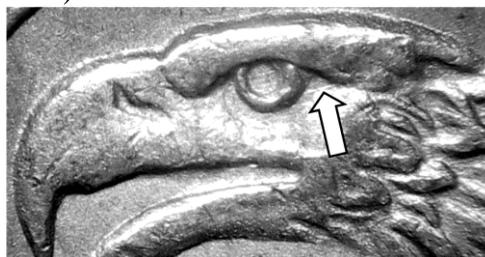
- Many scattered die lines, "haywire die scratches," throughout Liberty's gown and rock support (photos above and below)



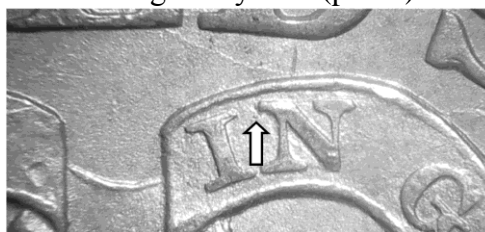
Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll between the letters IN (photo)
- Clash mark in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Die now heavily cracked thru olive leaves, above scroll, and below letters UNITED
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse C), 1872-CC (reverse E), and 1876-CC (reverse B).

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die.

At least on example of this die marriage exists with a slight (10°) counter-clockwise reverse rotation.

Date grid: R3, .019"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS61		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB- Unlisted; not known then.		Version 2.33	

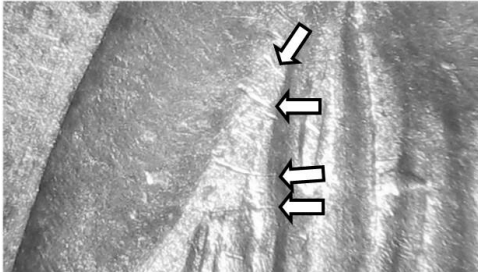
1873-CC

WB-8, With Arrows, Open 3, Large CC, Digits Below Date

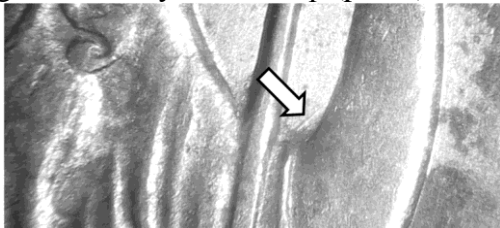
Obverse 7



- Date right with large arrowheads on each side of date, open 3 and at least eight errant digits punched in the dentils and on the rim below the date (photo). The errant digits on the rim will only be visible on coins grading AU or higher. Faint die crack along base of the digits of the date.



- Many scattered raised lines in the gown to right of Liberty's left bicep (photo)

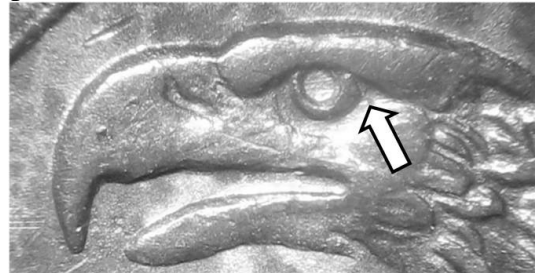


- Diagonal die line in the crotch formed by the staff and Liberty's right forearm (photo)

Reverse C



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll between the letters IN (photo)
- All die states: die crack thru the olive leaves
- Clash mark in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Die heavily cracked thru olive leaves, above scroll, and below letters UNITED
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse C), 1872-CC (reverse E), and 1876-CC (reverse B).

This is the only use of this obverse die and third and last use of this reverse die.

Date grid: R2.5, .018"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 6
Draper die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-Unlisted; not known then.		Version 2.33	

1874-CC Arrows



1874-CC half dollars are very scarce and one of the key dates in the Liberty Seated half dollar date/mint set. All 1874-CC halves were struck from a single reverse die with a small “CC” mintmark. A major die state (damaged reverse die – “railroad tracks” reverse) is included because it has a very dramatic appearance and is very popular with collectors. No other CC date has a separate die state listing in this Register. Additionally, all 1874-CC half dollars have arrowheads at each side of the date as described below.

Arrows at Date. With President Grant’s signature on the Coin Act of 1873⁷ on February 12, 1873, among other provisions, the planchet weight for newly minted half dollars was increased from 192.0 (± 1.5) grains to 192.9 (± 1.5) grains effective April 1, 1873. With the 1853 precedence of adding outfacing arrows at the date to signify a weight change, the Mint placed outfacing arrowheads at opposite ends of the date again in 1873 and 1874. New dies were then prepared with the added arrows and shipped to the Mints.

Three die marriages and one major die state are known as depicted in the following tables.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
59,000	Requested	-	6	0	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	4	2	
	Known	3	3	1	


1874-CC date grid quick reference table

Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M3 ,.022”	WB-1
M4.2, .026”	WB-3
M4.2, .026”	WB-3a
M4.5, .024”	WB-2

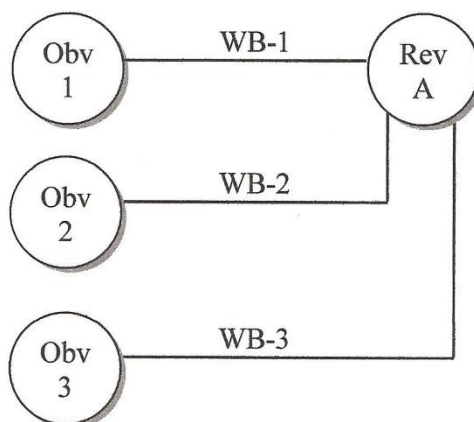
⁷ Some contemporary records called this legislation the Coin Act of 1873 but it is also called the Mint Act of 1873.

Mintmark Measurements.

Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Small	.074	.076	.014

1874-CC Arrows Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		Diagonal die line thru (STAT)ES	Die line thru (STAT)ES Die Damage thru (STA)TES
		A 	
		Small CC	
Date left Heavy line in left shield edge - (Errant 1?)	1	WB-1 No cowlick	
Date far right	2	WB-2 No cowlick	
Date right Lumps on Liberty's right forearm below the lower curls and in Liberty's lap	3	WB-3 With cowlick	WB-3a With cowlick

1874-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram

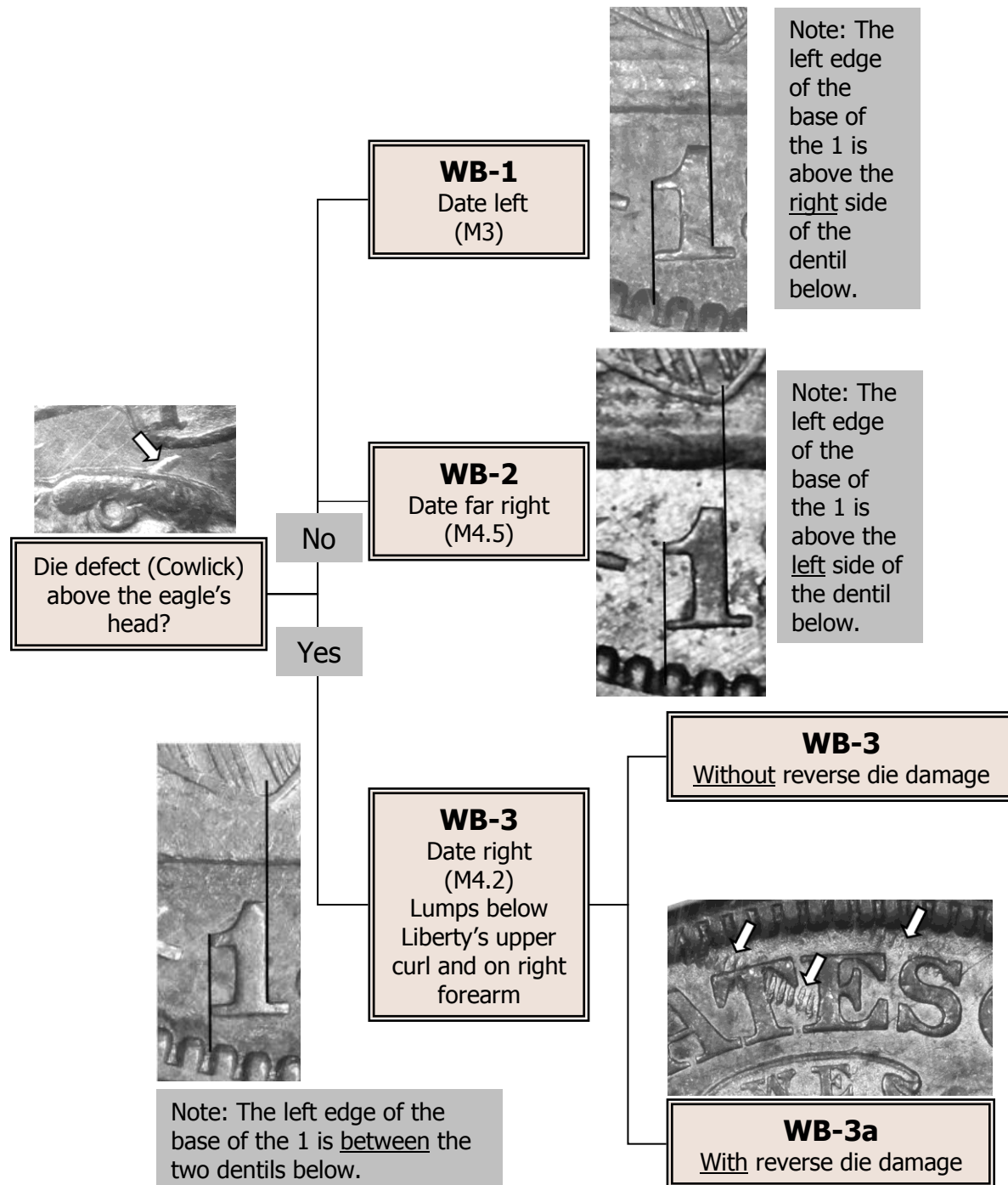


Variety Rarity. 1874-CC is one of my favorite dates of the Carson City half dollars. While conducting research of 1874-CC half dollars over the years and especially during the preparation of this book, I scrutinized online images, studied coins first hand from many collections, and reviewed my notes of at least 90 different coins from many sources. All of these coins were the WB-3 variety with the exception of five WB-3a, four WB-2, and six WB-1s. I believe a total of 300-350 1874-CCs of all die marriages in all grades are known. I made conservative estimates of the rarity of each die marriage and these are included below.

Die Marriage	Rarity
WB-1	R-6
WB-2	R-5
WB-3	R-4
WB-3a (not included in above)	R-5

Die Marriage Decision Tree. Over the years while studying examples of 1874-CC half dollars, I, and others, have expressed difficulties with quickly attributing each of the die marriages, especially from images. I soon realized that the die defect above the eagle's head (the "cowlick") and the date position are the keys to a quick and reliable attribution method.

To aid readers in attributing their 1874-CC half dollars, I've simplified the decision process in the diagram below. Start at the far left with the decision on whether a "cowlick" is visible above the eagle's head. I hope you will find this useful.

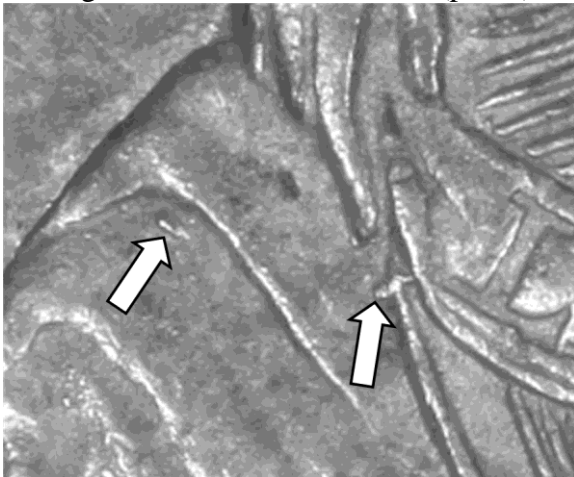


1874-CC WB-1, With Arrows

Obverse 1



- Date left, left edge of the base of the 1 above the right side of the dentil below (photo)



- Small lump on the rock to the left of Liberty's left hand. Heavy die line in the edge of the shield at the junction of the scroll (errant 1 in edge of shield?) (photo)

• Reverse A



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Diagonal die line thru (STAT)ES (photo)
- No die defect, "cowlick," above the eagle's head as with WB-3

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die.

Date grid: M3, .022"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 6
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1874-CC WB-2, With Arrows

Obverse 2



- Date far right, left edge of the base of the 1 above the left side of the dentil below (photo)

Reverse A



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Diagonal die line thru (STAT)ES (photo)
- No die defect, “cowlick,” above the eagle’s head as with WB-3

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die.

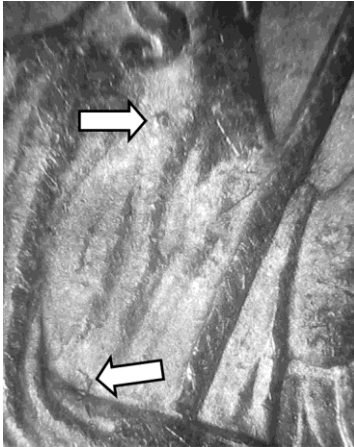
Date grid: M4.5, .024”	154 reeds	Typical diameter = unknown”	Rarity - 5
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS MS64		Photos courtesy of Heritage Auctions.com	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1874-CC WB-3, With Arrows

Obverse 3



- Date right, left edge of the base of the 1 between the two dentils below (photo)



- Small lumps on Liberty's chest below the lower hair curl and another in Liberty's lap (photo)

Reverse A



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo)



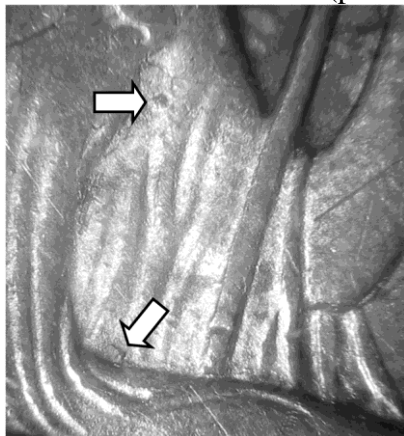



- Diagonal die line thru (STAT)ES
- Small raised defect (nicknamed "cowlick" for its appearance) on the back of the eagle's head (photo)

This is the first use of this obverse die and the third use of this reverse die.

Most 1874-CC half dollars seen are this die marriage in this die state.

Date grid: M4.2, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU58		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1874-CC			
WB-3a, With Arrows, Railroad Track Reverse			
<u>Obverse 3</u>		<u>Reverse Aa</u>	
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Date right, left edge of the base of the 1 between the two dentils below (photo) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Small CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up (photo) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Small lumps on Liberty's chest below the lower hair curl and another in Liberty's lap (photo)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diagonal die line thru (STAT)ES (photo)Small raised defect (nicknamed "cowlick" for its appearance) on the back of the eagle's head (photo)Die damage from dentils thru (STA)TES (nicknamed "railroad tracks") (photo)	
<p>Technically, this listing is a die state of WB-3 and is popular among collectors. It merits a separate listing (WB-3a) for the extensive die damage found on the reverse, nicknamed as "railroad tracks" after its appearance. The cause of this damage is not known and has been the subject of various theories. This die damage is visible on coins grading as low as AG. The majority of known examples of this die state grade below Fine condition.</p>			
Date grid: M4.2, .026"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 5
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: NGC AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	
See also <i>Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume III</i> , p. 385			

1875-CC



When compared with previous years, the 1875 mintage of half dollars at the Carson City Branch Mint had at least a three-fold increase with over a million coins. The Specie Redemption Act of 1875 is without a doubt responsible for this large mintage (see this book's introductory section for information on this Act).

All 1875-CC half dollars have a medium CC mintmark. It is entirely possible that a coin may be found with either a small CC or large CC mintmark; both were used in previous years and the dies may have been carried over and used again in 1875. Be on the lookout for this; if one exists, it is undoubtedly extremely rare.

Twelve die marriages are known as depicted in the tables below.

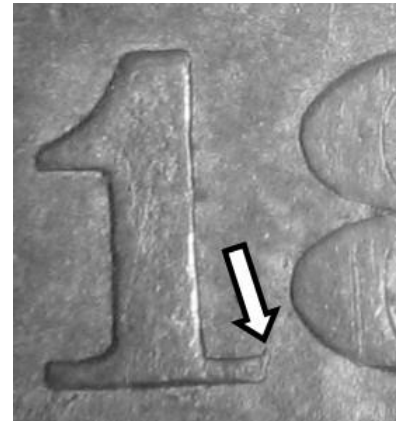
Mintage	Number of dies	Number Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
1,008,000	Requested	-	12	7	1 (154)
	Shipped	-	12	7	
	Known	12	9	5	

Note: In a letter dated June 4, 1875 from Carson City Branch Mint Superintendent James Crawford to Mint Director Linderman states in short:

"...As we cannot temper the dies here, and many of them which are received from Philadelphia are either too hard or soft, our breakage of dies is great."

Mint Engraver William Barber replied in a letter on June 19th to an inquiry on this subject from Mint Superintendent James Pollock stating *"...the Carson City dies were made at the same time, as ours of the same steel and treated in every respect the same as ours, and that with our three presses, we have not so much breakage as they have had with one press and we are working some of the same dies now. The cause of the breakage therefore must be looked for in some other process and I would respectfully request that if they would pay a close attention to the exact adjustments of the dies in the press, so that the two faces are perfectly even, and also in throwing up the milled edge on the planchet, not thrown in too far towards the center, they should find a smaller per centage of broken dies."* In any case, Crawford was correct; the dies did crack and continued so as often seen on the 1875-CC coins today.

Defective Date Gangpunch. All 1875-CC half dollars appear to have a tiny defect on the 1 in the date. The right base of the 1 has an upturn as shown in the image at the right. This defect also appears on 1875 half dollars of the San Francisco Branch Mint and the Philadelphia Mint. The logotype used to punch the 1875 date into the half dollar working dies likely had this defect and it is plainly visible on coins of all but the lowest grade coins.



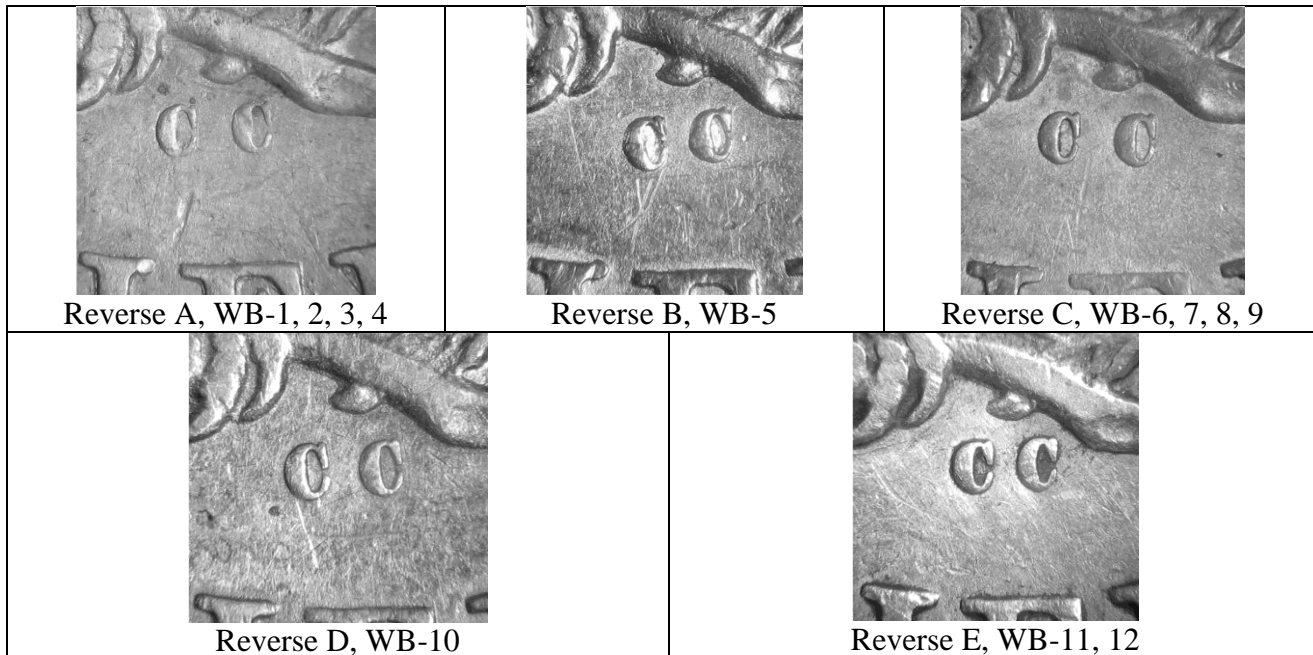
1875-CC date grid quick reference table

Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M2.5, .020"	WB-11
M3 , .022"	WB-9
M3 , .022"	WB-10
M4 , .016"	WB-1
M4 , .020"	WB-3
M4 , .020"	WB-8
M4 , .022"	WB-12
M4.5, .024"	WB-7
M5 , .019"	WB-2
M5 , .024"	WB-4
M5 , .024"	WB-5
M5 , .024"	WB-6

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I've included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.

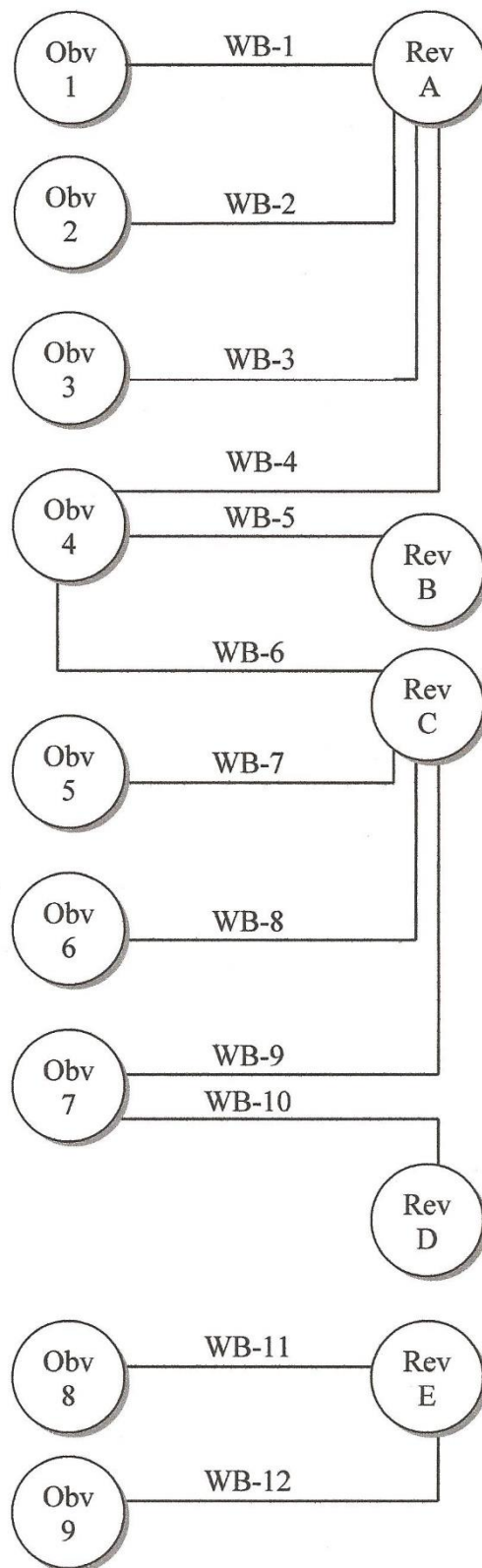
Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Medium CC	.070	.070	.024
B		.062	.067	.014
C		.070	.066	.022
D		.062	.063	.018
E		.065	.070	.015



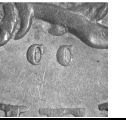


1875-CC Half Dollar Mintmark Positions



Close scrutiny of the mintmark images of the reverse dies indicate a slight variation in the style of the Cs such as open Cs, closed Cs, and slight size differences. These differences are most likely the result of the amount of force used to impress the mintmarks into the working dies. Heavily impressed dies will appear to be slightly larger and have closed Cs with a shallow line connecting the right side of the mintmarks; reversely, lightly impressed dies, such as Reverse A, will appear to be smaller and have an open C. In actuality, there are only microscopic differences in the medium mintmark size and style.

1875-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram



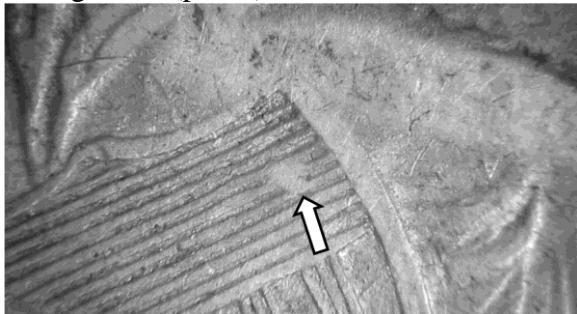
1875-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs level	Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up; repunched CC	Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield	Small lump on olive leaf #3	Heavy die lines prominently in the dentils around the entire circumference
		A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
		Medium CC only				
Large lump in the shield's upper right	1	WB-1				
Vertical die line in the rock support below Liberty's toes	2	WB-2				
Large lump at "V" in Liberty's neckline	3	WB-3				
Chin "whiskers"	4	WB-4	WB-5	WB-6		
Die lines thru LIB(ERTY)	5			WB-7		
Small oblong shaped lump in the shield's upper right	6			WB-8		
Heavy die line from the ball of Liberty's foot	7			WB-9	WB-10	
Centered date slants down to right	8					WB-11
Centered date	9					WB-12

1875-CC WB-1, Medium CC

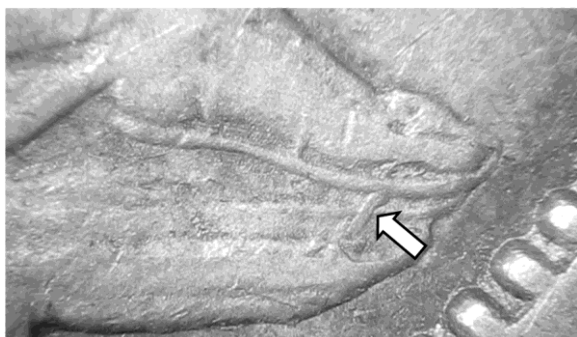
Obverse 1



- High date (photo)

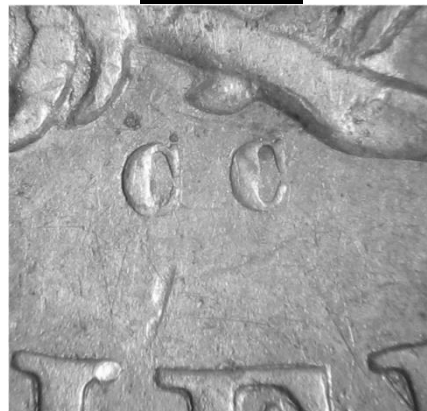


- Large lump in shield's upper right (photo) which will not be visible on low grade coins

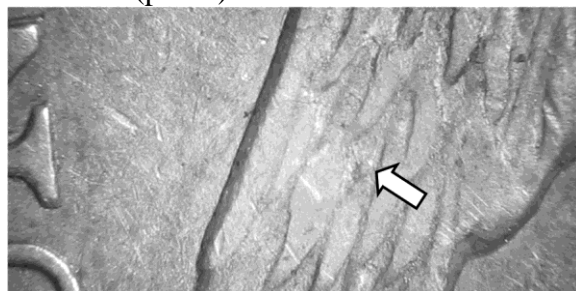


- Thick diagonal line from Liberty's foot into rock support (photo)

Reverse A



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Small lump in the eagle's left wing to the right of (U)N(ITED) (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1875.

At least three Uncirculated coins exist for this rare die marriage.

Date grid: M4, .016"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 6
Draper die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF45		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC WB-2, Medium CC

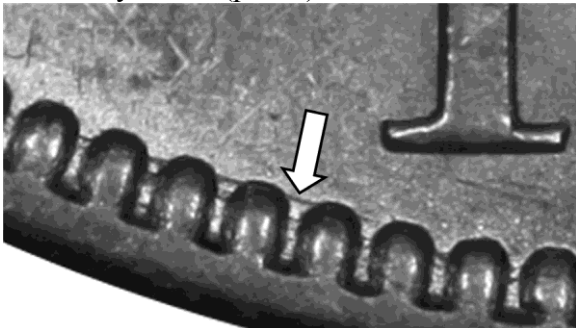
Obverse 2



- Centered date (photo)



- Vertical die line in the rock support below Liberty's toes (photo)

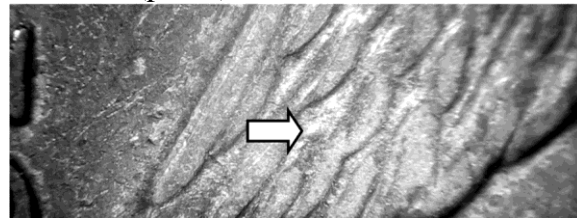


- Die line along the inner edge of the dentils to the left of the date (photo)
- Weak center dot seen on some examples

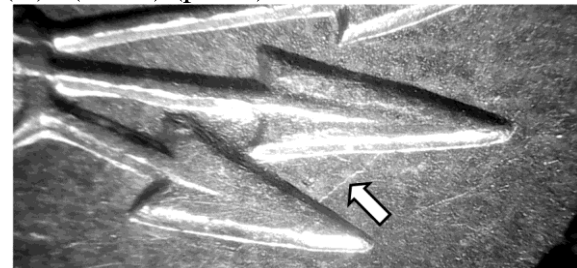
Reverse A



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Small lump in the eagle's left wing to the right of (U)N(ITED) (photo)



- LDS: die crack starting along the lower two arrowheads (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1875.

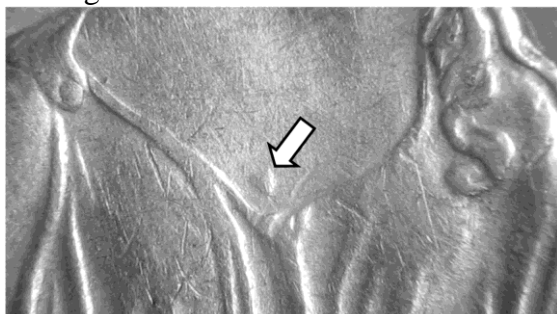
Date grid: M5, .019"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS60 (Wiley - LDS) and XF40 (Bugert)		Coins from the Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert Collections	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC WB-3, Medium CC

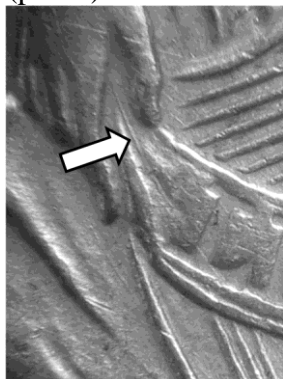
Obverse 3



- Centered date (photo). LDS: die crack along the base of the date



- Large lump above "V" of Liberty's neckline (photo)

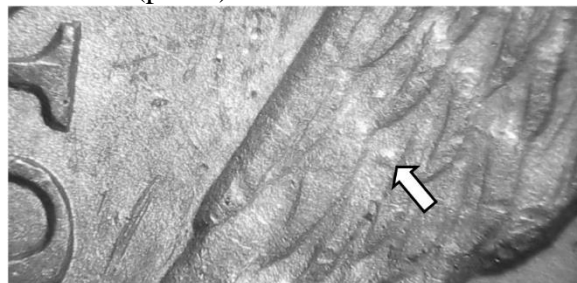


- Die line from Liberty's left hand into scroll (photo) and continues thru vertical stripes below the scroll

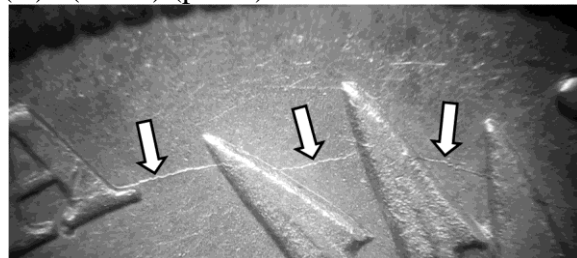
Reverse A



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Small lump in the eagle's left wing to the right of (U)N(ITED) (photo)



- Die crack more advanced than on WB-2; now along top of letters DOL thru arrowheads to (AMERIC)A (photo); another along the top of letters (AME)RICA
- Die now with clash in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and third use of this reverse die in 1875.

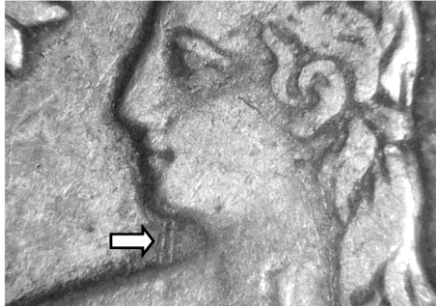
Date grid: M4, .020"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC WB-4, Medium CC

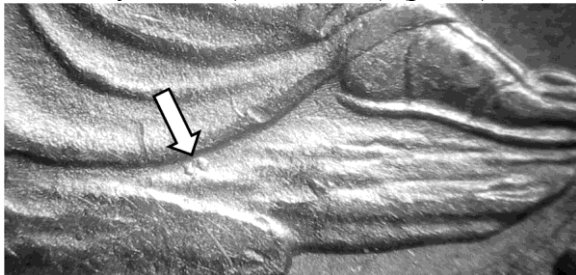
Obverse 4



- Low date (photo)



- Two heavy vertical die lines below Liberty's chin ("whiskers") (photo)

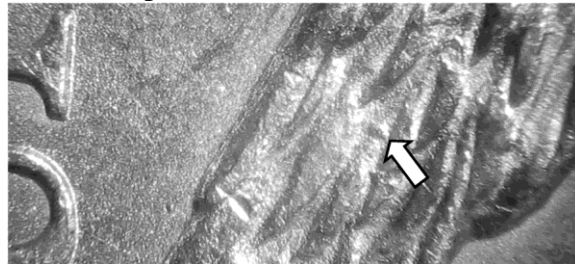


- Two small lumps in the rock support along Liberty's lower hemline (photo)

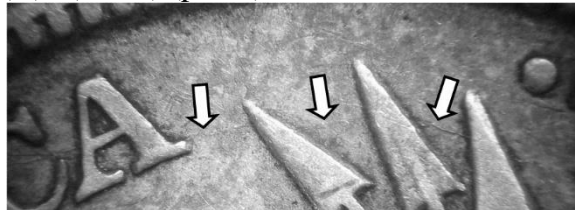
Reverse A



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Small lump in the eagle's left wing to the right of (U)N(ITED) (photo)



- LDS: die crack more advanced than on WB-3; now along top of letters (HA)LF DOL thru arrowheads to (AMERI)CA (photo); another along the top of letters UNI(TED), N to dentils and HA(LF) to dentils below
- Clash in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the first use of this obverse die and fourth use of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M5, .024"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS61 (Wiley) and XF40 (Bugert)		Coins from the Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert Collections	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC

WB-5, Medium CC, Repunched CC

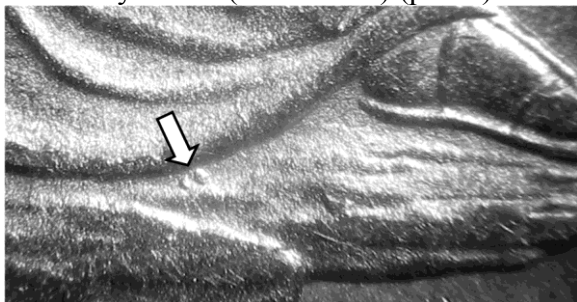
Obverse 4



- Low date (photo)



- Two heavy vertical die lines below Liberty's chin ("whiskers") (photo)

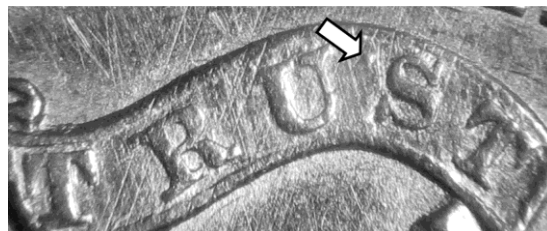


- Two small lumps in the rock support along Liberty's lower hemline (photo)
- LDS: die crack along stars 2-7 to dentil

Reverse B



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up; repunched CC rotated slightly during the punches (photo below)



- Small lump on scroll between (TR)US(T) (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Horizontal file lines in tail feathers below shield
- LDS: die crack along top of letters (AME)RICA to dentil
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse K).

This is the second use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M5, .024"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 3
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62 (Wiley) and AU50 (Bugert)		Coins from the Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert Collections	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC

WB-6, Medium CC, Repunched 1st C

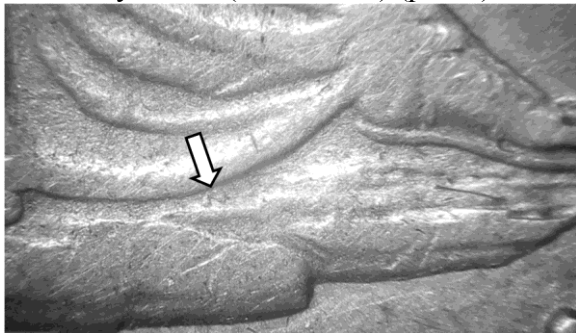
Obverse 4



- Low date (photo)

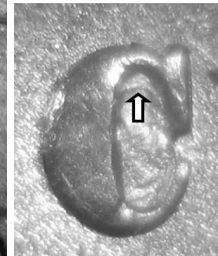


- Two heavy vertical die lines below Liberty's chin ("whiskers") (photo)

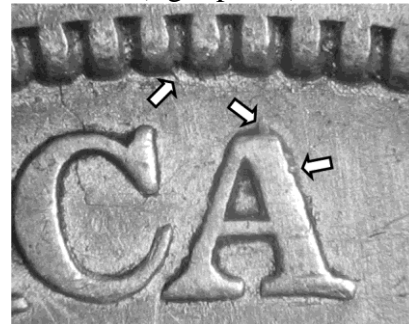


- Two small lumps in the rock support along Liberty's lower hemline (photo)
- Die crack along stars 2-7 to dentil
- LDS: additional die crack from star 10-12 to dentil above star 13 and weak clash under Liberty's right elbow

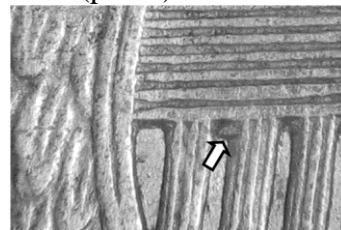
Reverse C



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (left photo); first C repunched north (right photo)



- Lumps on outside of (AMERIC)A and from the dentil above C (photo)



- Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield (photo)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse A).

This is the third use of this obverse die and the first of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M5, .024"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 5
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

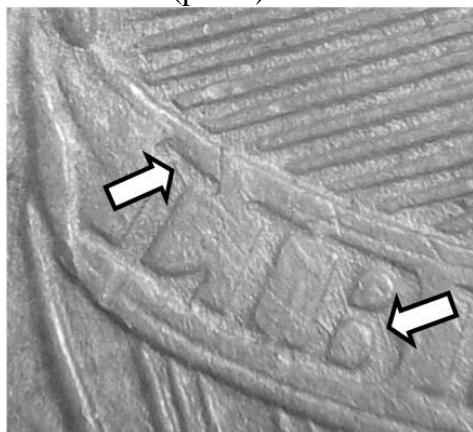
1875-CC

WB-7, Medium CC, Repunched 1st C

Obverse 5

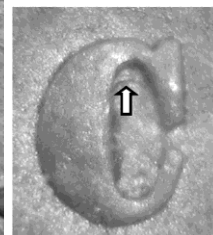


- Centered date (photo)

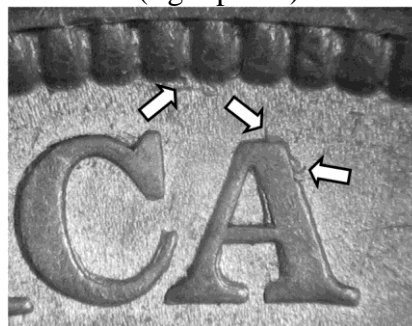


- Die lines thru LIB(ERTY) (photo)
- Weak clash below Liberty's right elbow
- LDS: die crack from star 8 along cap to star 9; another from star 9 – 11

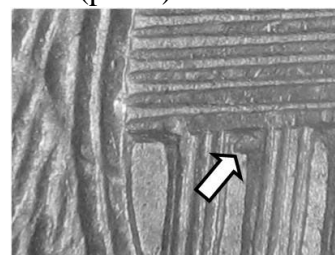
Reverse C



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (left photo); first C repunched north (right photo)



- Lumps on outside of (AMERIC)A and from the dentil above C (photo)



- Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield (photo)
- Die cracks thru olive leaves and another thru the arrowheads; clash in lower right shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse A).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M4.5, .024"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

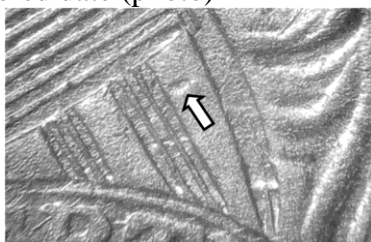
1875-CC

WB-8, Medium CC, Repunched 1st C

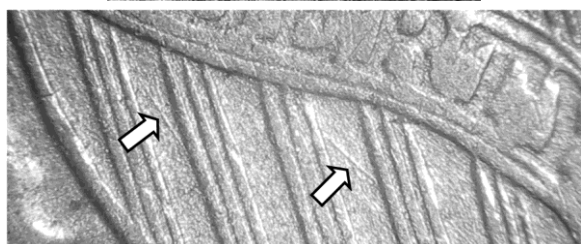
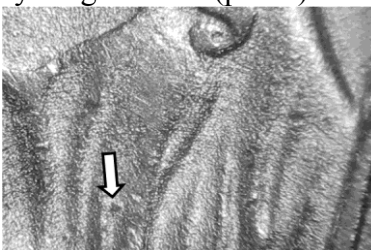
Obverse 6



- Centered date (photo)

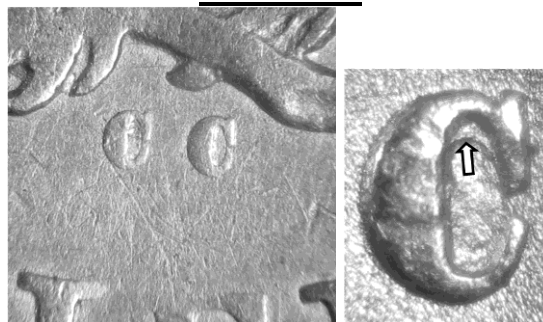


- Small oblong shaped lump in the shield's upper right; another smaller lump below Liberty's right breast (photo)

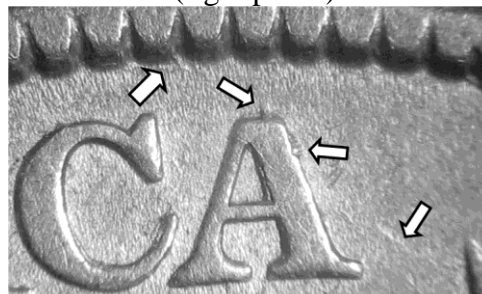


- Arching die lines thru lower shield (photo)

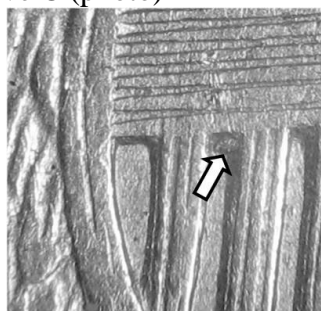
Reverse C



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (left photo); first C repunched north (right photo)



- Lumps on outside of (AMERIC)A and from the dentil above C (photo)



- Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield (photo)
- Die cracks thru olive leaves and another thru the arrowheads; clash in lower right shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse A).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the third of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M4, .020"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS60 (Wiley) and XF45 (Bugert)		Coins from the Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert Collections	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

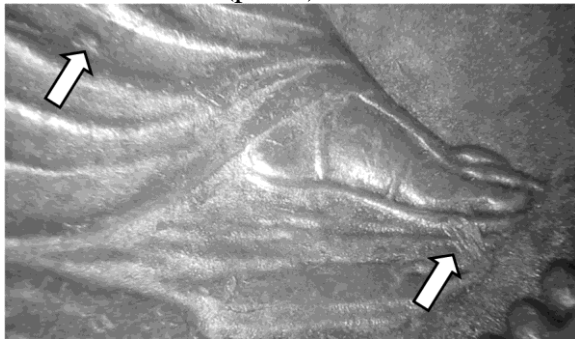
1875-CC

WB-9, Medium CC, Repunched 1st C

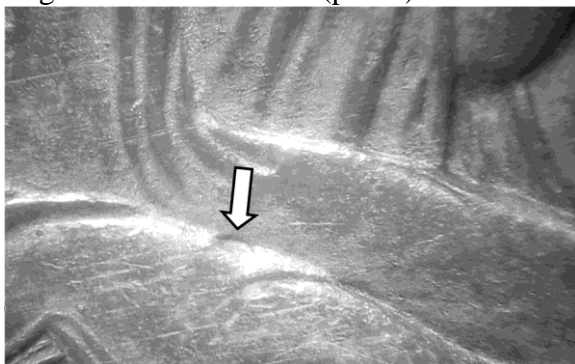
Obverse 7



- Centered date (photo)



- Heavy die lines from Liberty's foot into the rock support and lump in Liberty's gown behind the heel (photo)

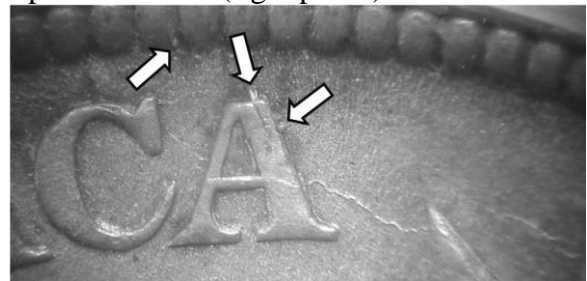


- Weak center dot in Liberty's lap (photo)

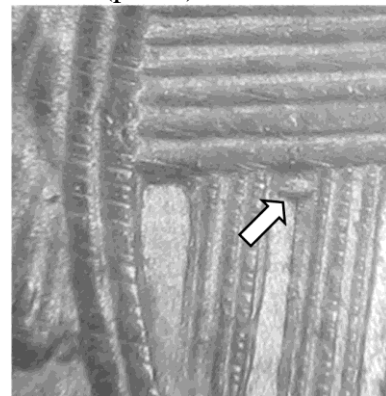
Reverse C



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (left photo); first C repunched north (right photo)



- Lumps on outside of (AMERIC)A and from the dentil above C (photo)



- Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield (photo)
- Die cracks thru olive leaves, another thru the arrowheads (photo). LDS: die crack along on top of letters UNITED
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse A).

This is the first use of this obverse die and the fourth of this reverse die in 1875.

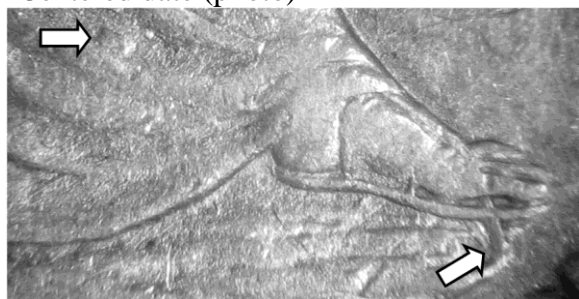
Date grid: M3, .022"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU58		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC WB-10, Medium CC

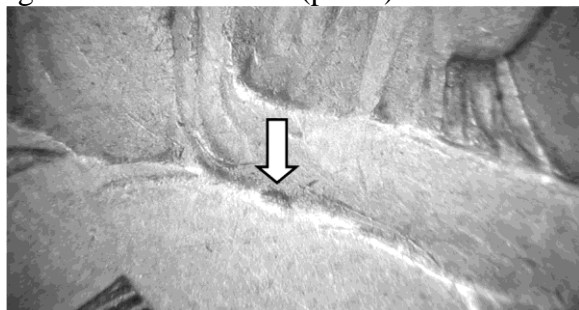
Obverse 7



- Centered date (photo)



- Heavy die lines from the ball of Liberty's foot into the rock support and lump in Liberty's gown behind the heel (photo)

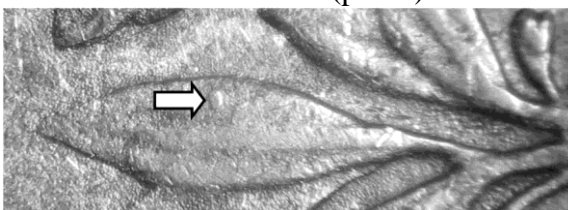


- Weak center dot in Liberty's lap (photo)
- LDS: die stress flow lines around circumference near the dentils

Reverse D



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed medium with CCs level (photo)



- Small lump near the upper edge of olive leaf #3 (photo)
- Die crack along top of letters UNITE(D)
- Clash in shield's lower right
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- LDS: die crack thru arrowheads then thru (AMERI)CA

This is the second use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1875.

This die marriage is by far the most common of the 1875-CC halves.

VLDS: heavily clashed dies - see *Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume IV*, page 478

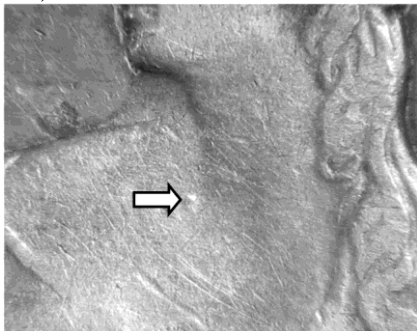
Date grid: M3, .022"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Weak; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU50, center dot F12		Coins from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC WB-11, Medium CC

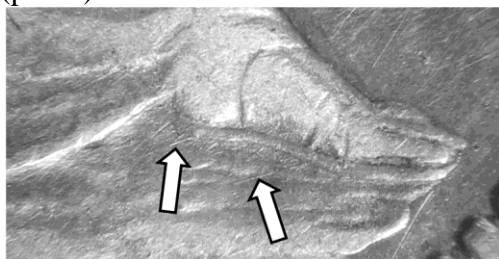
Obverse 8



- Date left and slanting down to right (photo)



- Small lump at base of Liberty's throat (photo)



- Diagonal die lines in the rock support below Liberty's foot (photo)

Reverse E



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Heavy die lines prominently thru and in the dentils above (UNITE)D ST(ATES) (photo) and around the entire circumference



- Curved line on the scroll on W(E) (photo)
- Tiny lump centered on the left side of the upright of the (AMER)I(CA)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse J).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M2.5, .020"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 6
Draperies die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1875-CC WB-12, Medium CC

Obverse 9



- Centered date (photo)
- Weak foot support below the toes

Reverse E



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Heavy die lines prominently in and thru the dentils above (UNITE)D ST(ATES) (photo) and around the entire circumference



- Curved line on the scroll on W(E) (photo)
- Tiny lump centered on the left side of the upright of the (AMER)I(CA)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Die crack thru middle of (AME)RIC(A)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1876-CC (reverse J).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1875.

Date grid: M4, .022"

154 reeds

Typical diameter = 1.208"

Rarity - 5

Dravery die state: Full

Foot support: Weak

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: XF40

Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection

Cross reference: WB-101.

Version 2.33

1876-CC



As the second highest mintage Carson City half dollar date, there are plenty of 1876-CC die marriages to challenge the collector wishing to find them all. This date and 1877-CC are the two most commonly available Carson City half dollars, demand the least purchase expense, and are most likely to be found in most collectors' type sets.

1876-CC half dollars have plenty of varieties for the collector: four reed counts, repunched dates, a digit in the dentils, repunched mintmarks, three mintmark sizes (small, medium, and large), and many obvious variations in mintmark positions. This date also has a well-known "Proof" half dollar; I've included a lengthy discussion of this variety in this section.

Forty die marriages are known as depicted in the tables below.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
1,420,000	Requested	-	54	30	5 (143,144,152,153,154)
	Shipped	-	54?	30?	
	Known	40	28	27	

Note: Archive records are unfortunately incomplete so the exact number of dies shipped to the Carson City Branch Mint is unknown.

Coinage Dies. As with other Carson City dates, from our research of the correspondence files in the National Archives in the late 1980s Randy and I were able to piece together fragmentary (most likely incomplete) shipment information of 1876 dies to the Carson City Branch Mint. The half dollar die information is extracted and summarized in the following table.

Date	Action	Number of Half Dollar Dies		Comments
		Obverse	Reverse	
November 8, 1875	U.S. Mint Superintendent Pollock requested 1876 dies for Carson City.	12	6	
June 12, 1876	CC Superintendent Crawford requested more 1876 dies.	18	12	
June 19, 1876	U.S. Mint Director Linderman, requested the dies above for CC.	See above		
September 6, 1876	Telegram from CC requesting more dies	24	12	CC says “We will harden them here.”
	Total dies	54	30	

Coincidence or Intentional Die Defects? Shown below are close up images of Liberty’s head on four different 1876-CC obverse dies. Take special note of the thick diagonal line behind Liberty’s eye on each die. This line or defect has a similar appearance on each and only appears on these four obverse dies in 1876. These defects are not master hub or working hub characteristics because they do not appear on the remaining working dies neither in 1876 nor on any other half dollar dies I studied. It is possible these were added to the working dies for some unknown reason. Perhaps this is a “signature” of a U.S. Mint or Branch Mint employee? In any case, we may never know the true cause of these defects.



obverse 1



obverse 2



obverse 7



obverse 8

1876-CC date grid quick reference table

Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M2 , .026"	WB-14
M2 , .026"	WB-40
M2.5, .018"	WB-16
M2.5, .018"	WB-39
M2.5, .026"	WB-8
M2.5, .026"	WB-35
M2.5, .028"	WB-36
M2.5, .030"	WB-21
M2.5, .033"	WB-19
M2.5, .033"	WB-38
M3 , .018"	WB-37
M3 , .020"	WB-20
M3 , .025"	WB-22
M3 , .025"	WB-29
M3 , .025"	WB-31
M3 , .026"	WB-33
M3.5, .022"	WB-34
M3.5, .028"	WB-10
M3.5, .028"	WB-12
M3.5, .028"	WB-13
M3.5, .029"	WB-23
M3.5, .030"	WB-32
M4 , .025"	WB-11
M4 , .026"	WB-3
M4 , .026"	WB-28
M4 , .028"	WB-2
M4 , .028"	WB-4
M4 , .028"	WB-5
M4 , .028"	WB-6
M4 , .028"	WB-9
M4 , .029"	WB-7
M4 , .029"	WB-17
M4 , .034"	WB-24
M4.5, .028"	WB-1
M4.5, .030"	WB-15
M4.5, .030"	WB-25
M4.5, .030"	WB-26
M4.5, .031"	WB-27
M4.5, .034"	WB-18
M5 , .018"	WB-30

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I've included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.

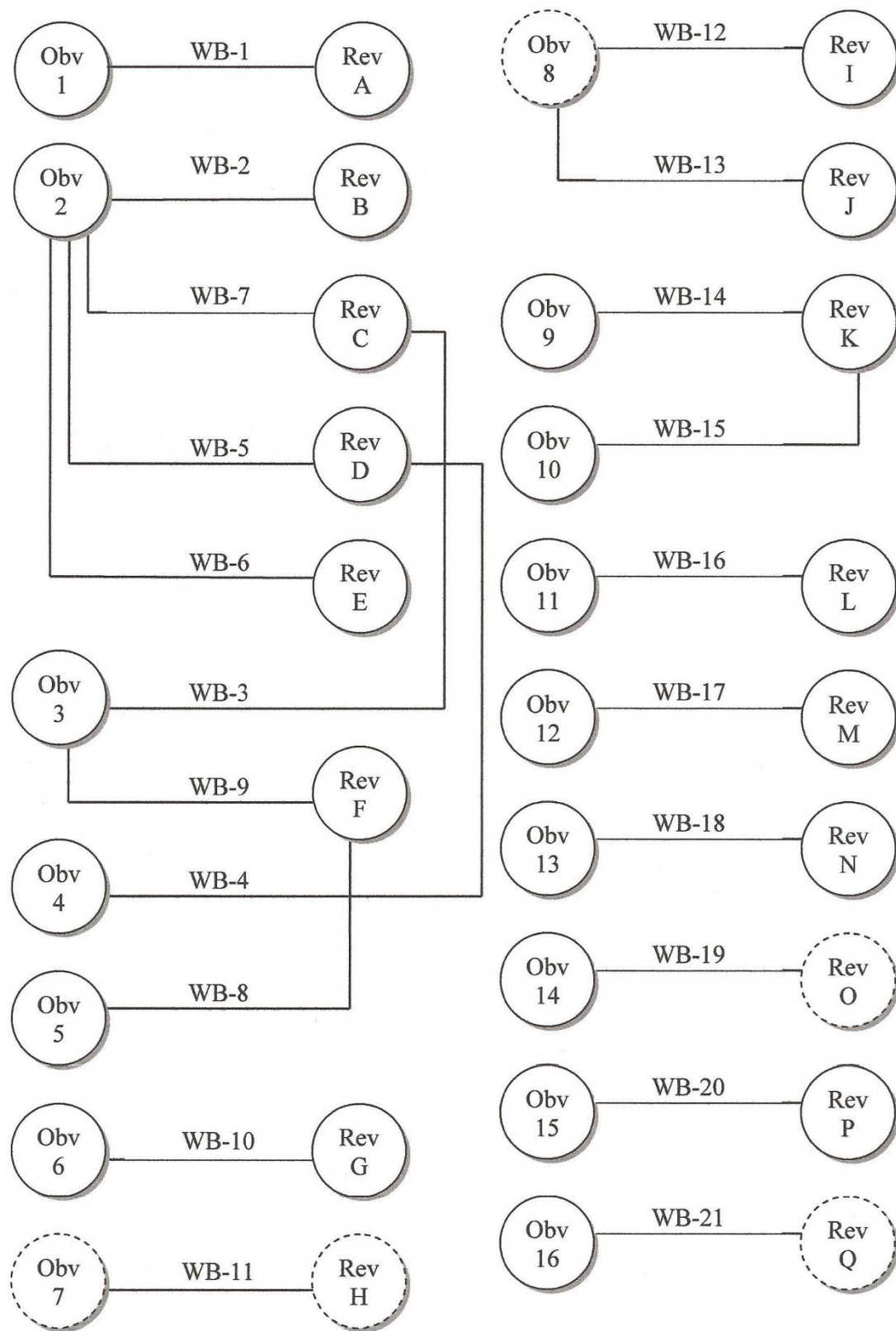
Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Medium	.069	.065	.021
B	Large	.070	.070	.012
C	Medium	.072	.071	.018
D	Small	.066	.070	.012
E	Small	.075	.076	.018
F	Medium	.070	.070	.016
G	Medium	.065	.066	.020
H	Large	.068	.070	.020
I	Medium	.064	.064	.021
J	Medium	.065	.070	.015
K	Medium	.062	.067	.014
L	Small	.068	.071	.010
M	Small	.070	.072	.012
N	Small	.076	.077	.016
O	Medium	.073	.074	.013
P	Medium	.048	.050	.028
Q	Medium	.053	.052	.020
R	Medium	.068	.070	.020
S	Medium	.065	.066	.020
T	Medium	.060	.062	.012
U	Medium	.066	.068	.014
V	Small	.069	.069	.010
W	Small	.063	.066	.008
X	Medium	.044	.046	.010
Y	Medium	.046	.046	.013
Z	Medium	.070	.070	.016
AA	Small	.072	.075	.014

As shown in the table below, the medium CC is the most common 1876-CC mintmark size.

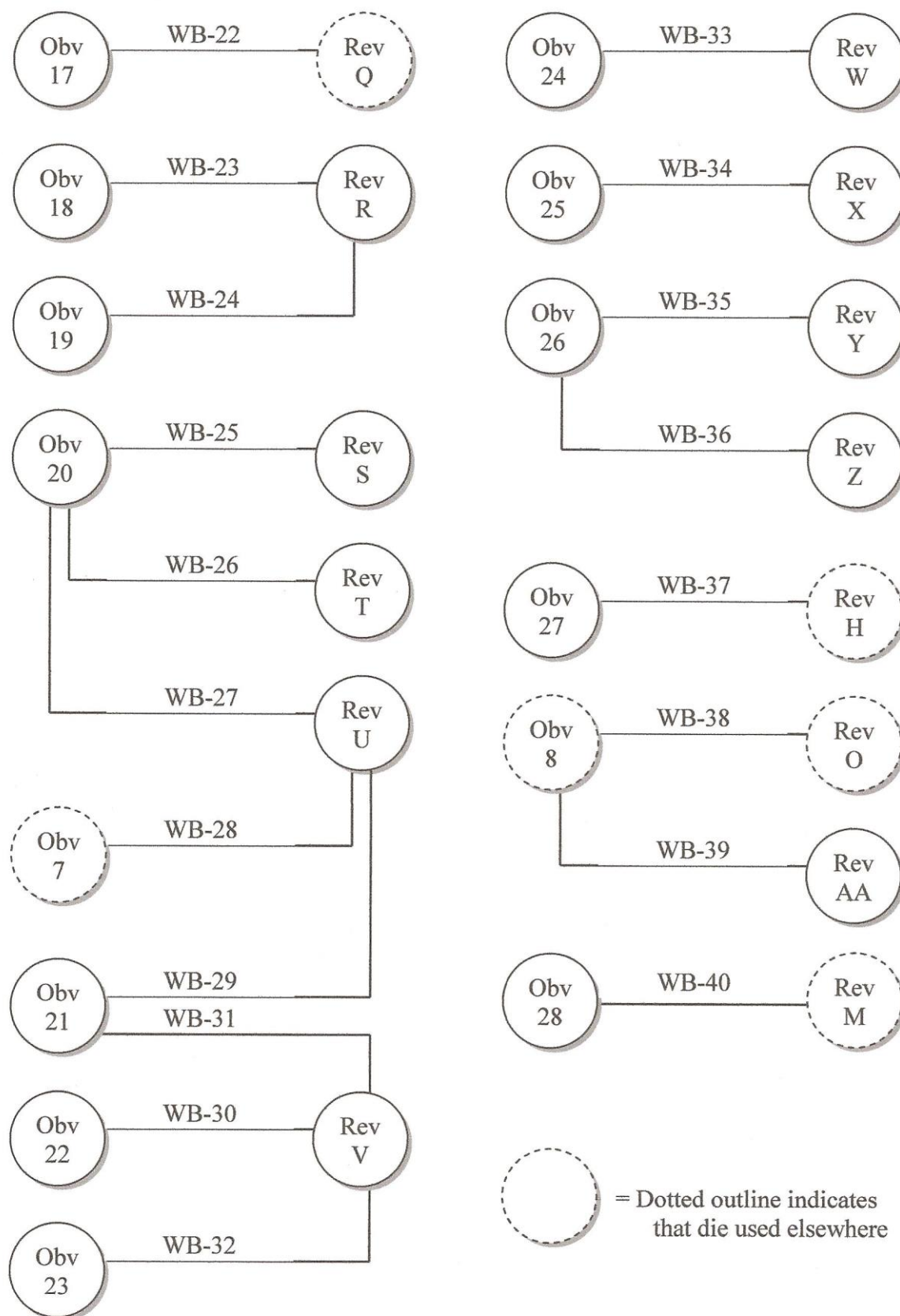
Number of known reverse dies (1876-CC)	Mintmark Size		
	Small	Medium	Large
	8	17	2

The following two pages include close up photographs of the 1876-CC mintmarks to aid in die marriage identification. These photos are sorted by mintmark size and then by spacing of the Cs to facilitate quick comparison of the mintmark and identification of the reverse die.














1876-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram

















1876-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram (Cont'd)



1876-CC Half Dollar Mintmark Positions

Small CC			
	Reverse W, WB-33	Reverse L, WB-16	Reverse V, WB-30, 31, 32
			
	Reverse D, WB-4, 5	Reverse M, WB-17, 40	Reverse N, WB-18
			
Medium CC			
	Reverse X, WB-34		Reverse T, WB-26
			
	Reverse Y, WB-35	Reverse O, WB-19, 38	Reverse K, WB-14, 15

1876-CC Half Dollar Mintmarks (Continued)

			Medium CC
Reverse U, WB-27, 28, 29	Reverse J, WB-13	Reverse F, WB-8, 9	
			
Reverse Z, WB-36	Reverse C, WB-3, 7	Reverse Q, WB-21, 22	
			
Reverse G, WB-10	Reverse S, WB-25	Reverse R, WB-23, 24	
			Large CC
Reverse I, WB-12	Reverse A, WB-1	Reverse P, WB-20	
			
Reverse B, WB-2	Reverse H, WB-11, 37		

1876-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield	Large CC with close spacing,	Small die line from the dentil below the (H)A(LF)	Small lump on olive leaf #4	Lump under upper right serif of the (A)M(ERICA)	Die line from dentil to upper right serif of the (UNT)T(ED)	Large lump in the upper horizontal shield lines
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		Medium CC	Large CC	Medium CC	Small CC		Medium CC	
Scattered die lines in the rock support from Liberty's foot	1	WB-1						
Many lumps and die polish lines throughout Liberty	2		WB-2	WB-7	WB-5	WB-6		
Many lint marks, die polish lines, and lumps throughout Liberty	3			WB-3			WB-9	
Small lump near clasp on Liberty's neckline	4				WB-4			
Diagonal die line on the rock to the left of Liberty's left fingers	5						WB-8	
Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's skirt	6							WB-10

1876-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys (Continued)		Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting slightly up	Horizontal “alpha” lint mark in the feathers below the shield	Heavy die lines prominently thru and in the dentils	Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up; repunched CC	Die crack crosses below (HA)LF D(OL) to dentils	Diagonal die line thru (UNIT)E(D)	Heavy die lines inside the shield’s lower right edge
		H	I	J	K	L	M	N
		Large CC	Medium CC			Small CC		
Many small lumps in Liberty’s skirt, neck, and stomach	7	WB-11						
Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty’s gown	8		WB-12	WB-13				
Small lump at the left of the base of the pole	9				WB-14			
Date right with die crack along the base of the date to dentils at left	10				WB-15			
Centered date with die crack along the base of the date thru the lower loop of the 6	11					WB-16		
Double die crack thru stars 11-13	12						WB-17	
Vertical die line from Liberty’s gown into the upper horizontal shield lines	13							WB-18
Lumps in gown	27	WB-37						
Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty’s gown	28						WB-40	

1876-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys (Continued)		Horizontal and parallel die lines to the left of the upper arrow feathers below shield	Die crack in and along the dentils above STAT(ES)	Heavy die line from dentil into field to lower left of D(OL)	Arching die line in the eagle's upper right wing	Medium CC mintmark below the feather tip	Small tines from the inside left wing and inside right wing	Small lump on the scroll to the right of the (W)E
		O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
		Medium CC						
Die lines in rock support to and in the lower left of shield	14	WB-19						
Heavy horizontal die gouge in Liberty's gown to the right of the left forearm	15		WB-20					
Die lines in the dentils below the 7	16			WB-21				
Oblong lump in the shield's lower right	17			WB-22				
186 repunched slightly north and an errant digit midway between 76	18				WB-23			
Vertical die line in the shield's upper left horizontal lines	19				WB-24			
Die lines in the dentils below 876	20					WB-25	WB-26	WB-27
Many small lumps in Liberty's skirt, neck, and stomach	7							WB-28
Two die lines from dentils to star 13	21							WB-29

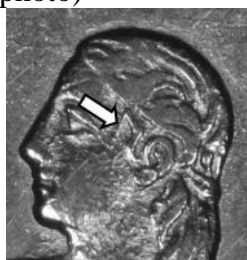
1876-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys (Continued)		Die line from dentils thru (UNIT)E(D)	Die line from (UNIT)E(D) to dentils above T	Scattered lumps in the lower shield and in the eagle's feathers below the shield	Line from the top of (UNIT)E(D) over the T	Heavy line from dentil to (D)O(L)	Feather tip over the left edge of the left C
		V	W	X	Y	Z	AA
		Small CC		Medium CC			Small CC
Diagonal lines from rock support to date; repunched 6	22	WB-30					
Two die lines from dentils to star 13	21	WB-31					
Digit in dentils below 7, repunched 87, digit between 87	23	WB-32					
Lump to the right of Liberty's left elbow	24		WB-33				
Small lump at tip of Liberty's toes	25			WB-34			
Top of an 8 in the dentils below 87	26				WB-35	WB-36	
Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's gown	8					WB-38	WB-39

1876-CC WB-1, Medium CC

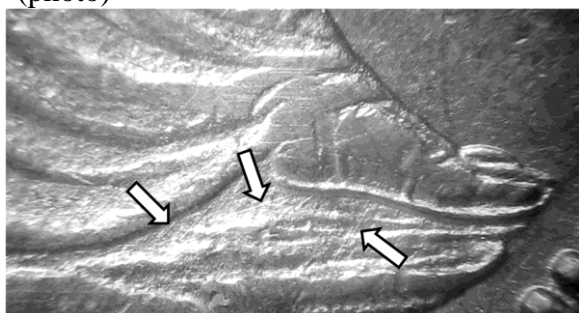
Obverse 1



- Date right (photo)

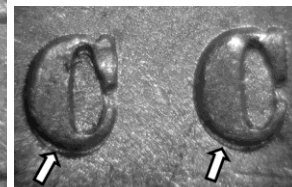


- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)

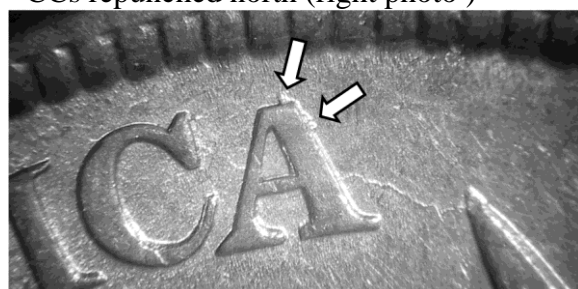


- Scattered die lines in the rock support from Liberty's foot (photo)
- Weak center dot on Liberty's lap
- Raised oblong lint mark on the rock to the left of shield
- Very rusty die; heavy rust lumps on Liberty
- Die crack thru stars 5-6 to head to cap to star 8

Reverse A



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting slightly down (left photo); CCs repunched north (right photo)



- Lumps on outside of (AMERICA)A (photo); the lump from the dentil above C seen in 1875 is very weak now.



- Lump in second upper left recessed area of the shield (photo)
- Die cracks thru olive leaves, another thru the arrowheads (photo far above), along the bottom of the denomination, and along on top of letters UNITED
- This reverse die is transitional with 1875-CC (reverse C).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M4.5, .028"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.204"	Rarity - 3
Draper die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-2, Large CC

Obverse 2



- Centered date with a small lump on the rock above the 1 (photo) visible on high grade coins only.

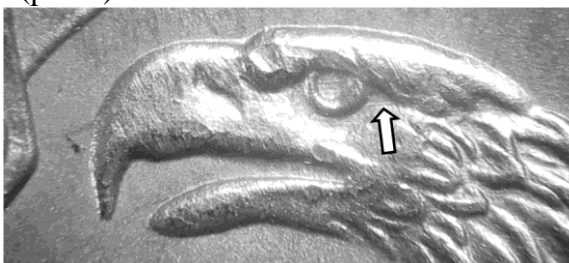


- Many lumps and die polish lines throughout Liberty (photo)
- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)
- Die crack thru stars 3-7

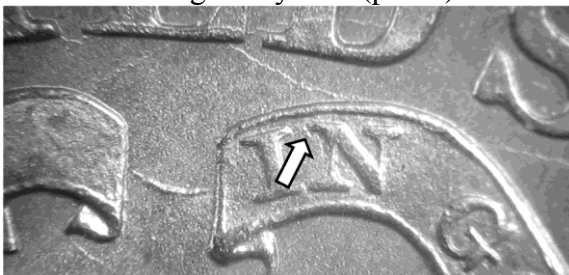
Reverse B



- Large CC with close spacing and CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal die line in the recessed area behind the eagle's eyeball (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll between the letters IN (photo)
- Clash mark in shield's lower right
- Very weak tail feathers below shield
- Die heavily cracked thru legend, olive leaves, along top of letters (AME)RICA
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse C), 1872-CC (reverse E), and 1873-CC (reverse C).

This is the first use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M4, .028"	154 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.209"	Rarity - 3
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Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Weak	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: MS64	Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection
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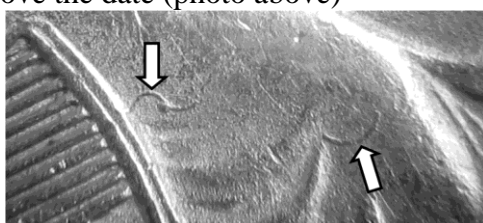
Cross reference: WB-103.	Version 2.33
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1876-CC WB-3, Medium CC

Obverse 3



- Centered date (photo)
- Many lint marks, die polish lines, and lumps throughout Liberty especially on Liberty's left knee (photo below) and in the rock support above the date (photo above)

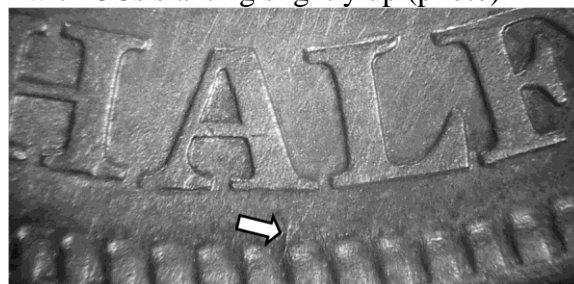


- Small lump below Liberty's chin (photo)
- Most stars repunched

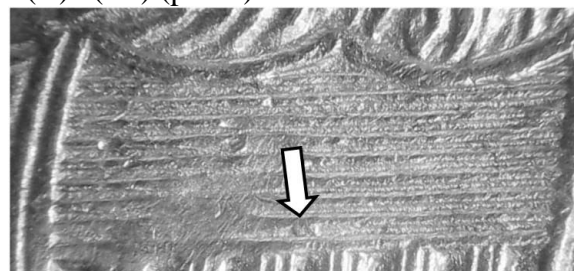
Reverse C



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Small die line from the dentil below the (H)A(LF) (photo)



- Small lump centered between the lower two horizontal shield lines (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the first use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.
High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

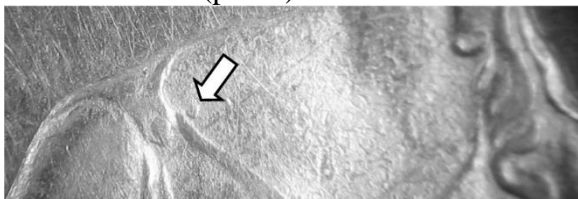
Date grid: M4, .026"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-4, Small CC

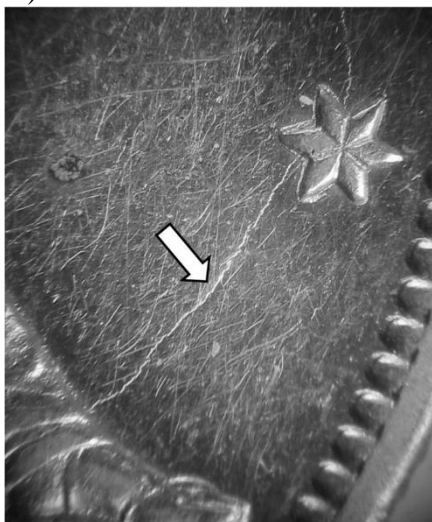
Obverse 4



- Centered date (photo)



- Small lump near clasp on Liberty's neckline (photo)

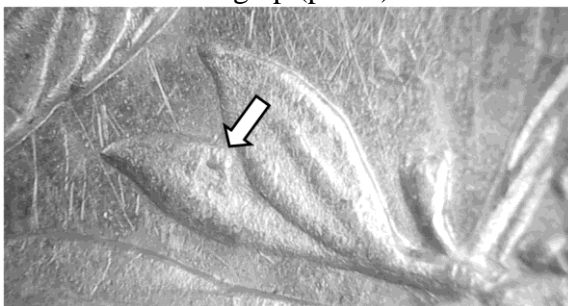


- Arching die crack nearly around the entire circumference thru stars, head, and cap (photo: from Liberty's instep to star 13)

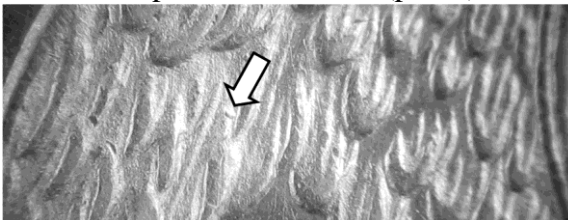
Reverse D



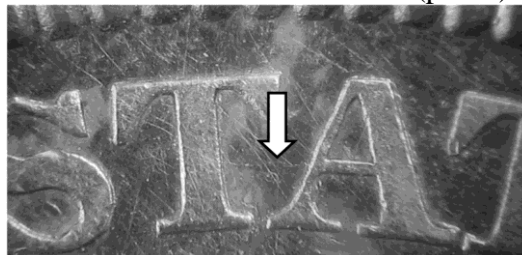
- Small CC with close spacing, placed low with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump on olive leaf #4 (photo)



- Tiny lump in the left wing far to the left of the lowest horizontal shield line (photo)



- Die starting to crack thru STA(TES) (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

Date grid: M4, .028"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-5, Small CC

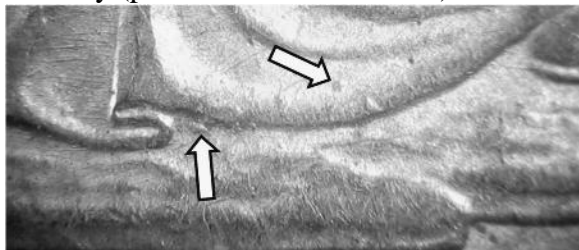
Obverse 2



- Centered date (photo); die crack along the base of the date



- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)
- Many lumps and die polish lines throughout Liberty (photos above and below)

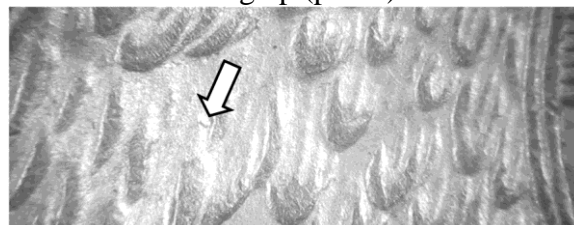


- Die crack thru stars 3-7 and 8-12

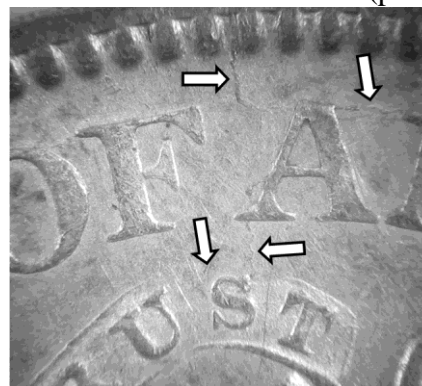
Reverse D



- Small CC with close spacing, placed low with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Tiny lump in the left wing far to the left of the lowest horizontal shield line (photo)



- Weak scroll edge above and below (TR)US(T) (photo); die heavily cracked most prominently thru HALF DOL (photo far above), along the top of letters OF AMER(ICA) (photo), and thru olive leaves
- Small lump on olive leaf #4 still visible
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the second use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

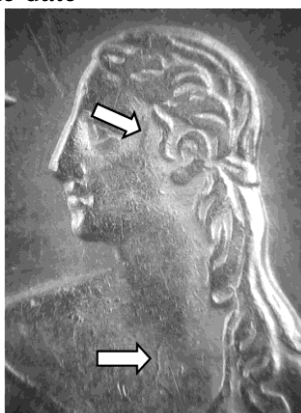
Date grid: M4, .028"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Weak	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-6, Small CC

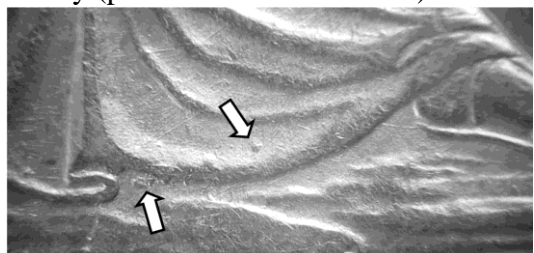
Obverse 2



- Centered date (photo); die crack along the base of the date



- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)
- Many lumps and die polish lines throughout Liberty (photos above and below)



- Die crack thru stars 3-7, 8-12, and diagonally thru rock support and ribbon to star 1

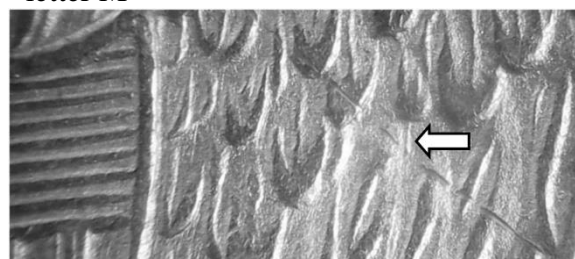
Reverse E



- Small CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Lump under upper right serif of the (A)M(ERICA) (photo) possibly a reengraved letter M



- Small vertical line in right wing (photo) visible on coins grading as low as VG. Note: The diagonal line visible is a scratch on the coin.
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Clash mark in shield's lower right

This is the third use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

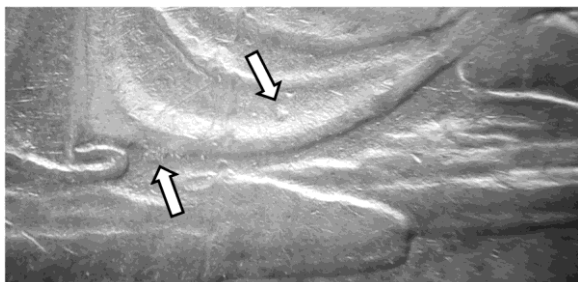
Date grid: M4, .028"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 3
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Weak	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-7, Medium CC

Obverse 2



- Centered date (photo); die crack along the base of the date



- Many lumps and die polish lines throughout Liberty (photo) but fewer than earlier die marriages
- Die crack thru stars 3-7, 8-12, and diagonally thru rock support and ribbon to star 1

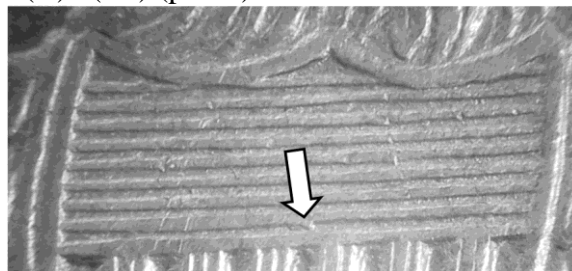
Reverse C



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Small die line from the dentil below the (H)A(LF) (photo)



- Small lump centered between the lower two horizontal shield lines (photo)
- Very weak tail feathers below shield
- Die cracked thru upper two arrowheads into field below (AMERICA)A and along top of letters (AME)RICA

This is the fourth use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

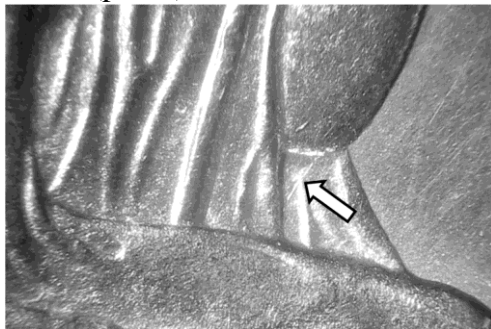
Date grid: M4, .029"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 3
Draper die state: Full	Foot support: Weak	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-8, Medium CC

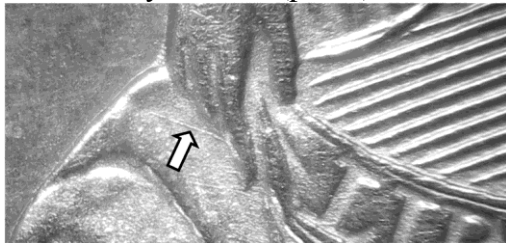
Obverse 5



- Date left (photo)



- Diagonal (SW to NE) die line in the drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)



- Diagonal (NW to SE) die line on the rock to the left of Liberty's left fingers (photo)
- Small lump in rock support above the 6 visible on high grade coins only
- Few small lumps on Liberty's throat

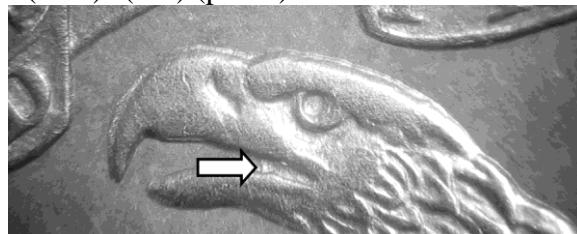
Reverse F



- Medium CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Die line from dentil to upper right serif of the (UNI)T(ED) (photo)



- Small lump in eagle's mouth (photo)
- LDS with 153 reeds: very weak die crack along top of letters (S)TA(TES) and (AME)RIC(A)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.
High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

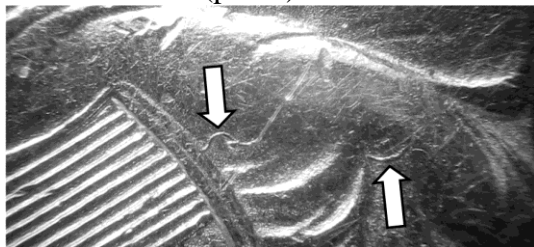
Date grid: M2.5, .026"	EDS: 154 reeds LDS: 153 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	EDS: Rarity - 3 LDS: Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: EDS - MS63 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-9, Medium CC

Obverse 3



- Centered date now with die crack along the base of the date (photo)



- Many lint marks, die polish lines, and lumps throughout Liberty especially on Liberty's left knee (photo below) and in the rock support above the date (photo far above)



- Small lump below Liberty's chin (photo)

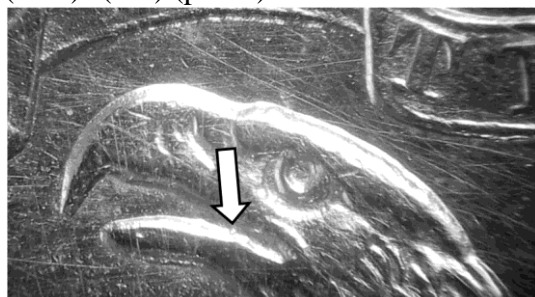
Reverse F



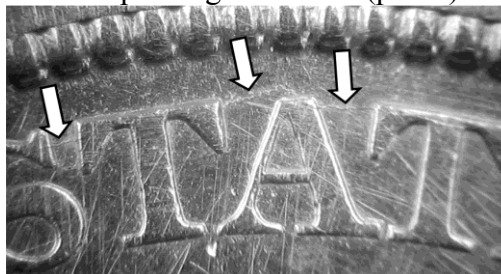
- Medium CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Die line from dentil to upper right serif of the (UNI)T(ED) (photo)



- Small lump in eagle's mouth (photo)



- Die crack along top of letters (S)TA(TES) (photo) and (AME)RIC(A)

This is the second use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

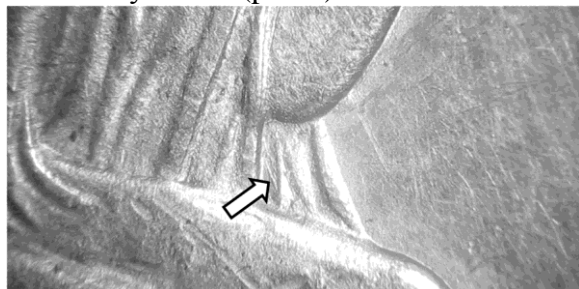
Date grid: M4, .028"	153 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-10, Medium CC

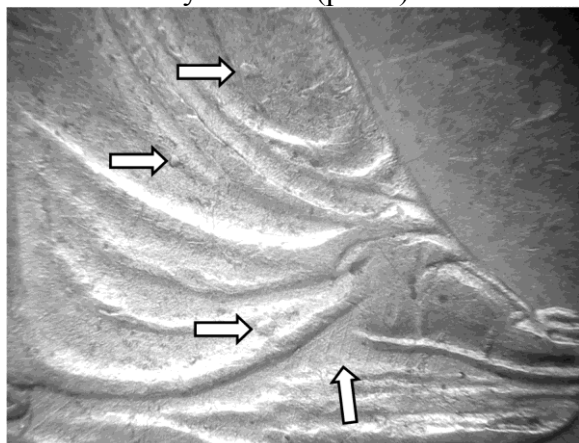
Obverse 6



- Centered date with scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's skirt (photo)

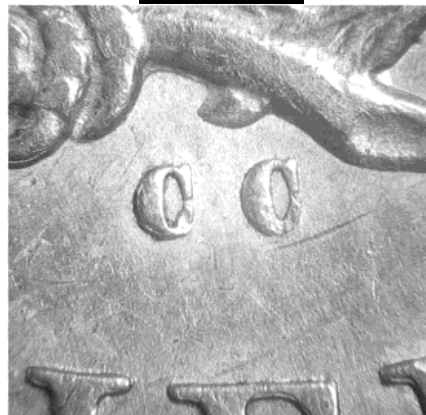


- Diagonal (NW to SE) die line in the drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)

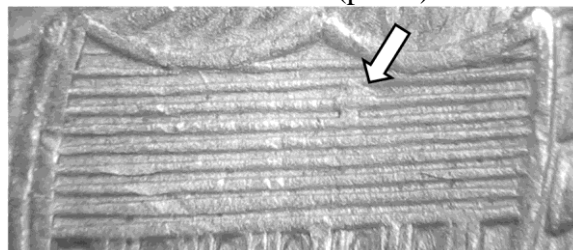


- Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's skirt and in the rock support below her foot(photo)

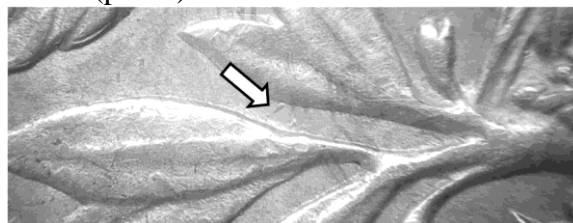
Reverse G



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed medium with CCs level (photo)



- Large lump in the upper horizontal shield lines (photo)



- Small lumps in the recessed area between olive leaves #3 and #4 (photo)
- Weak die crack along top of letters (AME)RI(CA)
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M3.5, .028"	153 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 3
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Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: AU53	Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection
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Cross reference: WB-102.	Version 2.33
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1876-CC WB-11, Large CC

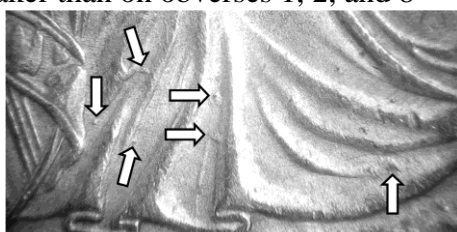
Obverse 7



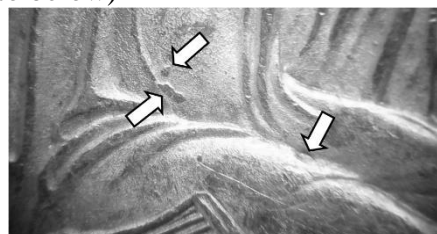
- Centered date (photo)



- Diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo) weaker than on obverses 1, 2, and 8



- Many small lumps in Liberty's skirt (photo above), on neck, and on her stomach (at left in photo below)

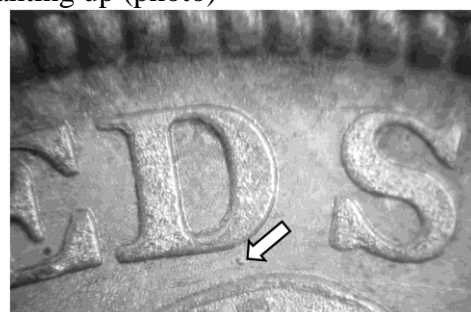


- Weak center dot in Liberty's lap (photo)
- Die cracked thru stars 4-7 and head to star 8-to cap to stars 9-13

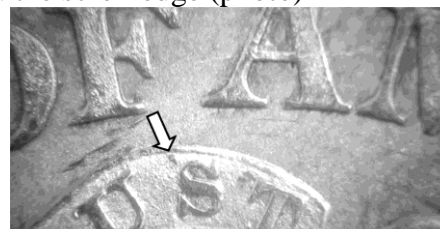
Reverse H



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump in the field between (UNITE)D and the scroll edge (photo)



- Small lump to upper left of (TRU)S(T) and a small file line to the lower left of (TRUS)T (photo) on scroll
- Die cracks with small cuds along top of letters (AME)RIC(A) and A to arrowheads and another thru letters OF A(MERICA)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse D) and 1872-CC (reverse C).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M4, .025"	153 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 3
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Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: MS63	Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection
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Cross reference: WB-103.	Version 2.33
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1876-CC WB-12, Medium CC

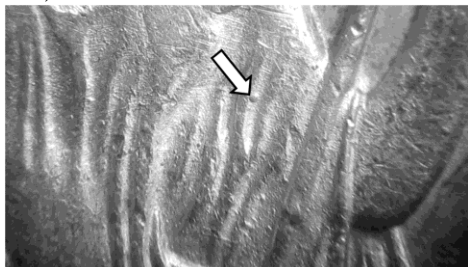
Obverse 8



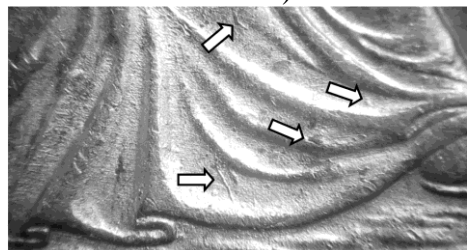
- Centered date with die crack thru bottom of date (photo)



- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)



- Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's gown (photos above and below)

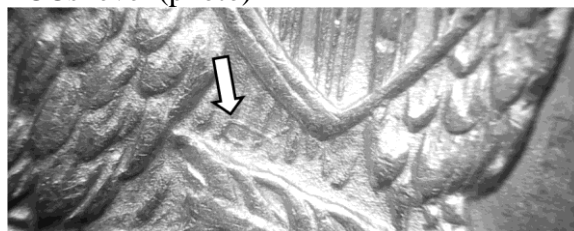


- Die crack thru stars 1-7 and 10-13 and from serif of 1 thru rock support to star 1

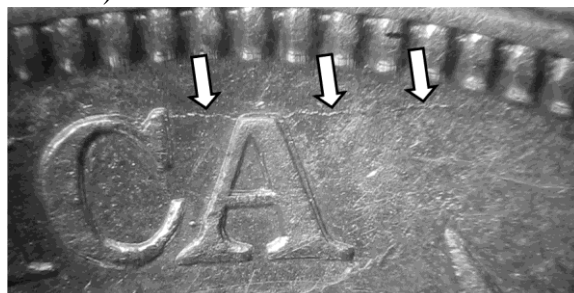
Reverse I



- Medium CC with wide spacing medium with CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal "alpha" lint mark in the feathers below the shield (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Die cracked along base of letters STATES OF A(MERICA) and along top of letters (AME)RICA to the 5th dentil from A (photo below)



This is the first use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M3.5, .028"	153 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.209"	Rarity - 3
Draperies die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-13, Medium CC

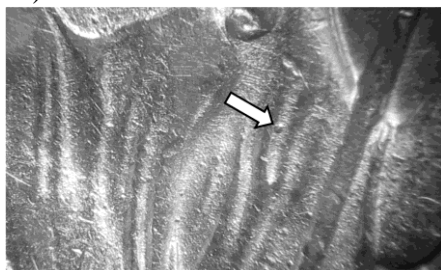
Obverse 8



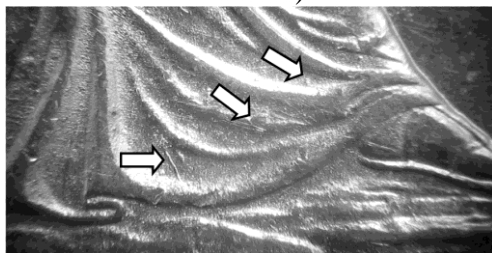
- Centered date with die crack thru bottom of date (photo)



- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)



- Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's gown (photos above and below)



- Die crack thru stars 1-7 and 10-13 and from serif of 1 thru rock support to star 1

Reverse J



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Heavy die lines prominently thru and in the dentils above (UNITE)D ST(ATES) (photo) and around the entire circumference



- Curved line on the scroll on W(E) (photo)
- Small lump midway on the left side of the upright of the (AMER)I(CA)
- Die cracks along the top of the letters in the legend, thru the arrowheads, and thru DOL
- This reverse die is transitional with 1875-CC (reverse E).

This is the second use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.
High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

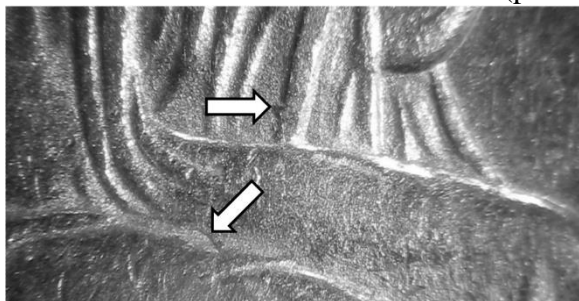
Date grid: M3.5, .028"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-14, Medium CC

Obverse 9



- Date furthest left of all the 1876-CCs (photo)



- Small lump at the left of the base of the pole; weak center dot (photo)
- Die crack along the tip of the cap

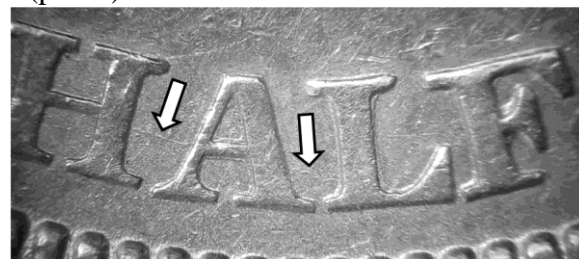
Reverse K



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up; repunched CC rotated slightly between the punches, unfinished inside Cs (photos)



- Small lump on scroll between (TR)US(T) (photo)



- Die crack thru letters HAL(F) and along top of letters (AME)RICA to dentil
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1875-CC (reverse B).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M2, .026"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.210"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU50		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-15, Medium CC

Obverse 10

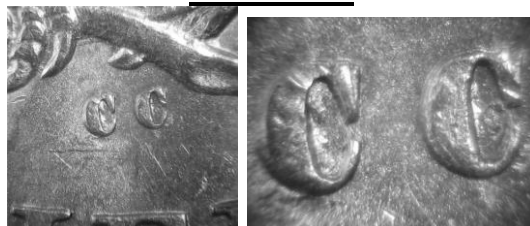


- Date right with die crack along the base of the date (photo) to dentils at left

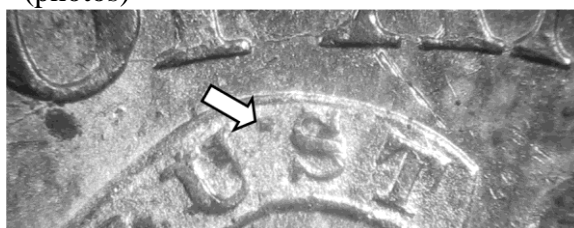


- Die crack nearly around the entire circumference thru stars, cap, and rock support (photo)

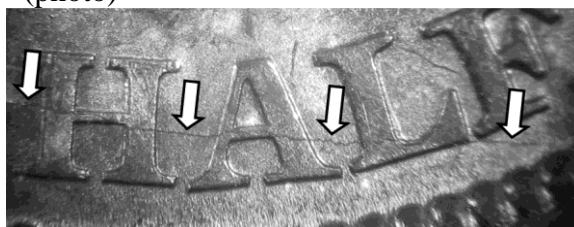
Reverse K



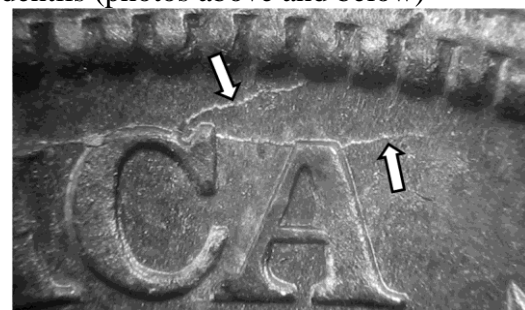
- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up; repunched CC rotated slightly between the punches, unfinished inside Cs (photos)



- Small lump on scroll between (TR)US(T) (photo)



- Die crack thru letters HAL(F) and along top of letters (AME)RICA to dentil and C to dentils (photos above and below)



- Weak tail feathers below shield
- This reverse die is transitional with 1875-CC (reverse B).

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

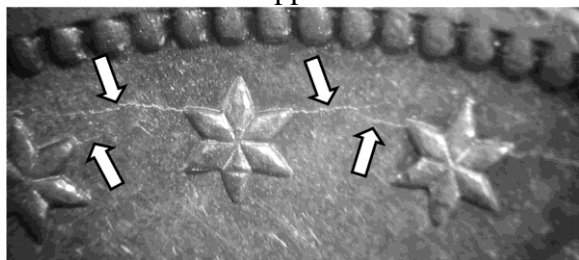
Date grid: M4.5, .030"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.209"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-16, Small CC

Obverse 11



- Date left with die crack along the base of the date thru the lower loop of the 6 (photo). Weak lower rock support above date



- Die cracked around all stars and thru Liberty's head and cap. Notable thru stars 5-7 (photo above)

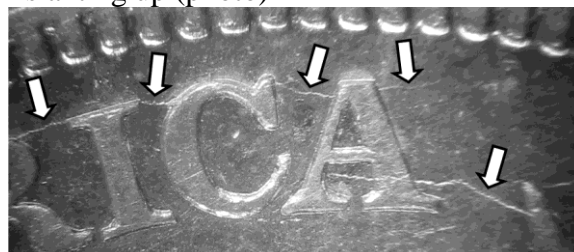


- Lump to right of lower hair curl (photo)

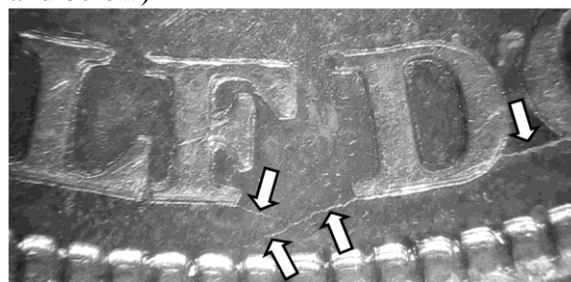
Reverse L



- Small CC with close spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Reverse extensively crack around the entire circumference thru the legend, denomination, arrowheads, and olive leaf tips (photos above and below)



- Die crack crosses below (HA)LF D(OL) to dentils (photo above)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- No readily identifiable die diagnostics except the mintmark position and die cracks

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M2.5, .018"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.210"	Rarity - 3
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Drapery die state: Weak	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: MS61	Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection
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Cross reference: WB-101.	Version 2.33
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1876-CC WB-17, Small CC

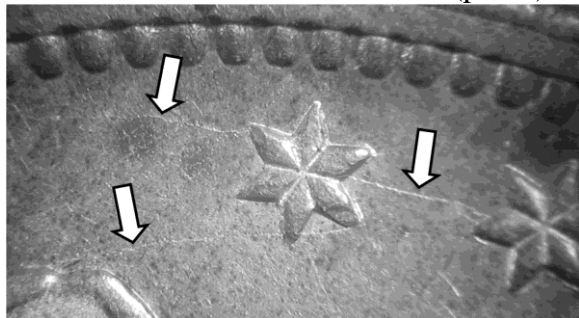
Obverse 12



- Centered date with a die crack along the base of the date and from the upper loop of the 8 thru the top of the 1 thru the rock support (photo)
- Die cracked almost around the entire circumference thru all stars, head, and cap with notable cracks shown below



- Double die crack thru stars 11-13 (photo)

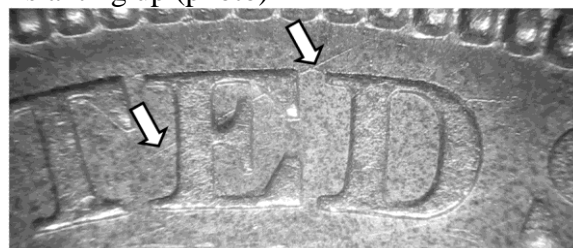


- Die crack from star 1 to rock support, to field left of the 1, and to star 2 (photo)

Reverse M



- Small CC with close spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Diagonal (SW to NE) die line thru (UNIT)E(D) (photo)
- Reverse extensively crack around the entire circumference thru the legend, denomination, arrowheads, and olive leaf tips

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

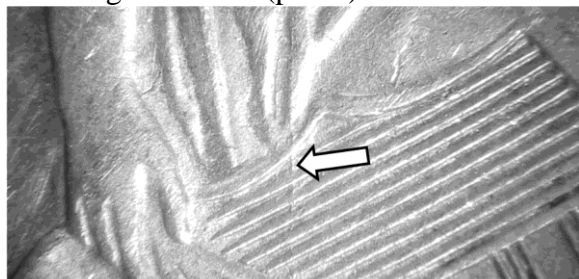
Date grid: M4, .029"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.212"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS60		Coin from the Dick Osburn Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-18, Small CC

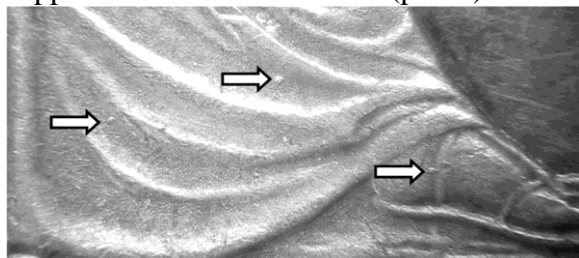
Obverse 13



- Date right and low (photo)



- Vertical die line from Liberty's gown into the upper horizontal shield lines (photo)

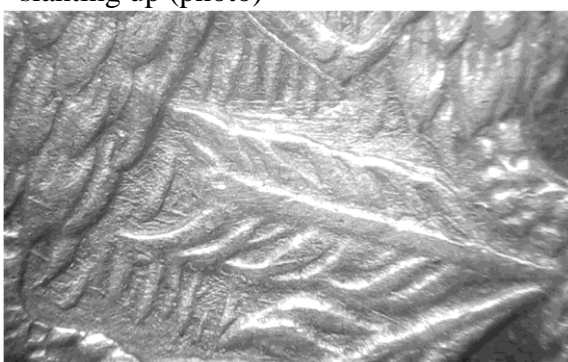


- Multiple lumps in Liberty's gown and foot area (photo) and another to left of pole in area of Liberty's right bicep
- Weakest drapery of all 1876-CC half dollars

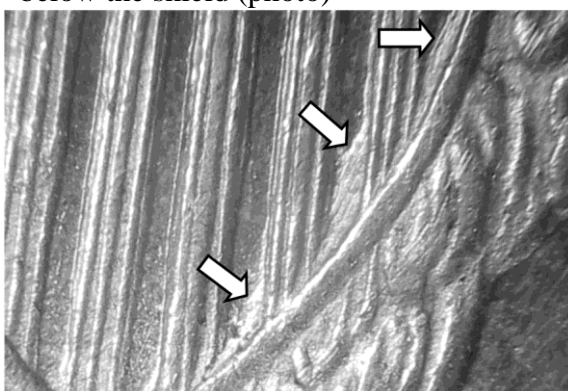
Reverse N



- Small CC with close spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Scattered die lines in and around the feathers below the shield (photo)



- Heavy die lines inside the shield's lower right edge (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are very proof-like. The imaged coin could easily pass for a proof.

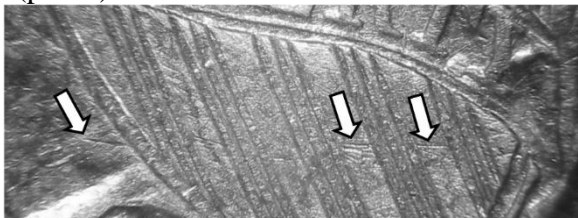
Date grid: M4.5, .034"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Almost none	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-19, Medium CC

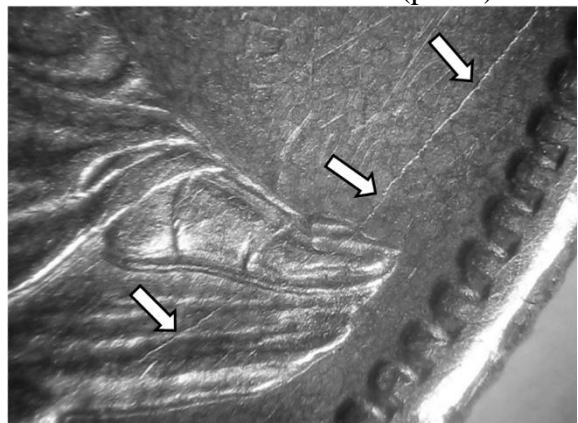
Obverse 14



- Date left and low with a die crack along the base of the date swooping just below the 7 (photo)



- Many die lines in the rock to lower left of shield and in the lower shield (photo)

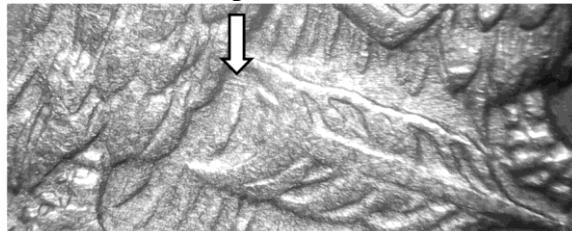


- Die cracked almost around the entire circumference thru all stars, head, and cap with a notable crack arching thru Liberty's foot (photo)

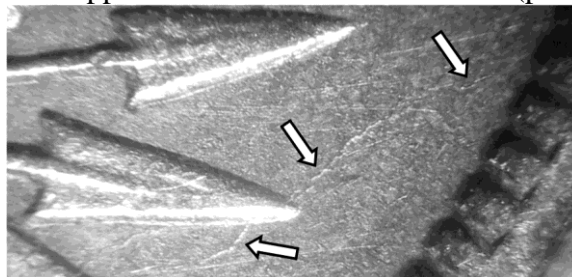
Reverse O



- Medium CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Horizontal and parallel die lines to the left of the upper arrow feathers below shield (photo)



- Die cracked thru lower two arrow heads (photo), along the top of letters RICA, along the base of letters DOL

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

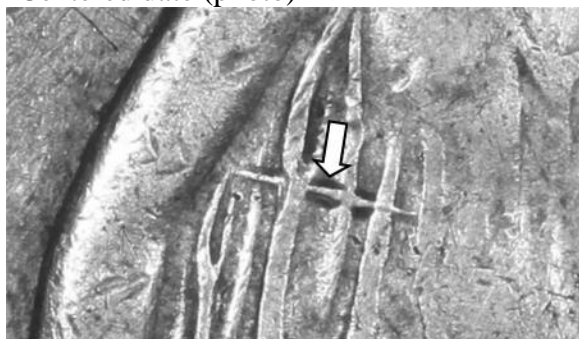
Date grid: M2.5, .033"	144 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 3
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-20, Medium CC

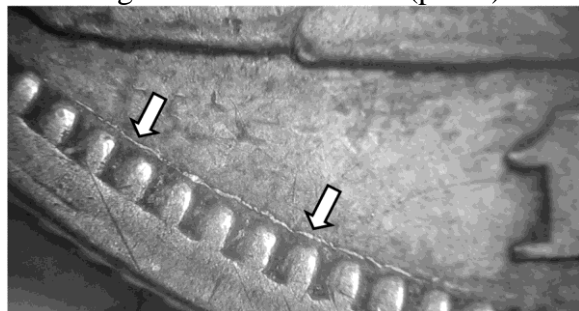
Obverse 15



- Centered date (photo)

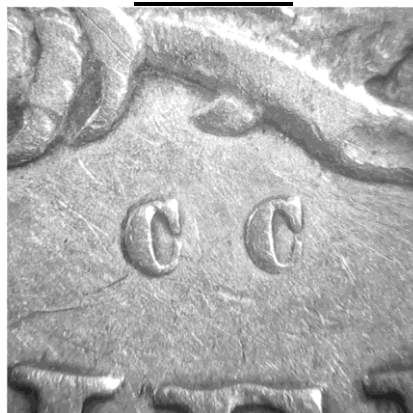


- Heavy horizontal die gouge in Liberty's gown to the right of the left forearm (photo)

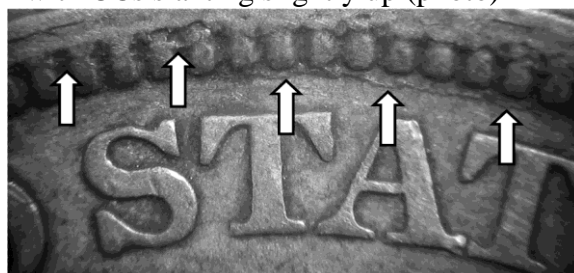


- Die crack along the dentils from K-6 to K-7 (photo)

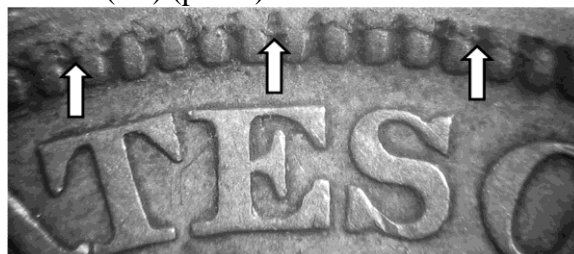
Reverse P



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed low with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Die crack in and along the dentils above STAT(ES) (photo)



- Die crack in the dentils above (STA)TES O(F) (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M3, .020"

152 reeds

Typical diameter = 1.205"

Rarity - 5

Dravery die state: Full

Foot support: Full

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: XF45

Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection

Cross reference: WB-102.

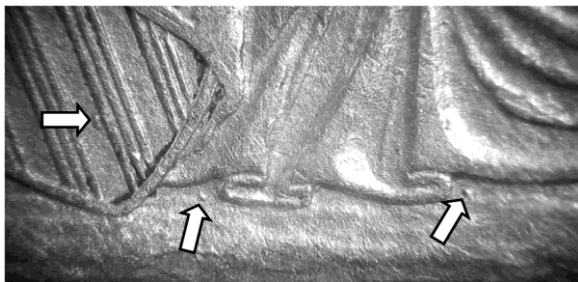
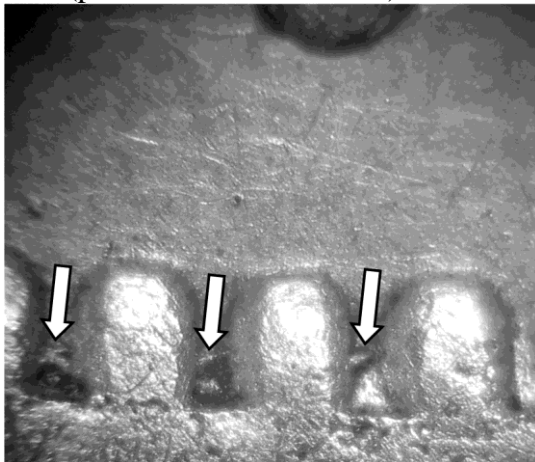
Version 2.33

1876-CC WB-21, Medium CC

Obverse 16



- Date left and low with die lines (possibly an errant digit of the date) in the dentils below the 7 (photos above and below)

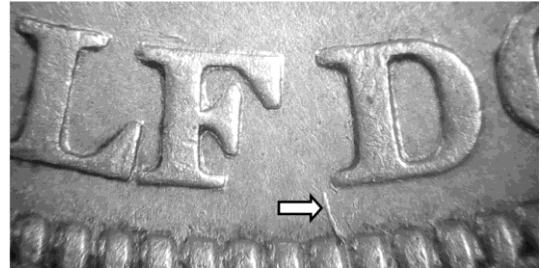


- Few small lumps in the lower shield and rock support below the skirt (photo)

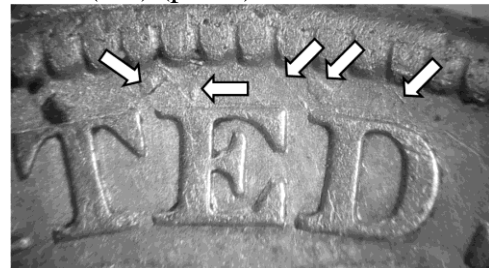
Reverse Q



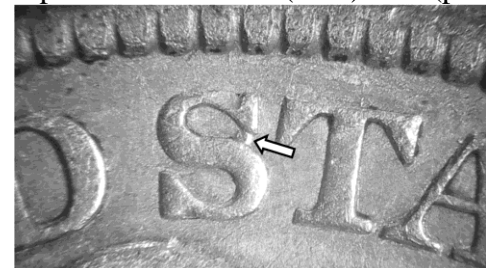
- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed low with CCs level (photo)



- Heavy die line from dentil into field to lower left of D(OL) (photo)



- Lumps and lines above (UNI)TED (photo)



- Small lump below the upper serif of the S(TATES) (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.

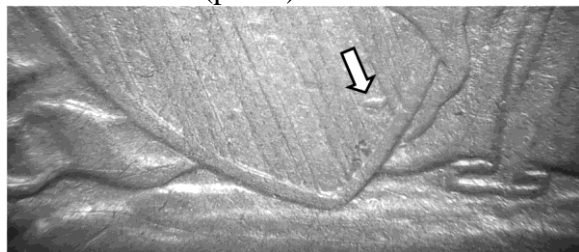
Date grid: M2.5, .030"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.202"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Dick Osburn Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-22, Medium CC

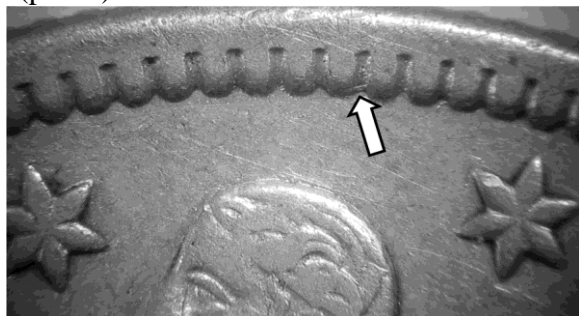
Obverse 17



- Centered date (photo)



- Small oblong lump in the shield's lower right (photo)

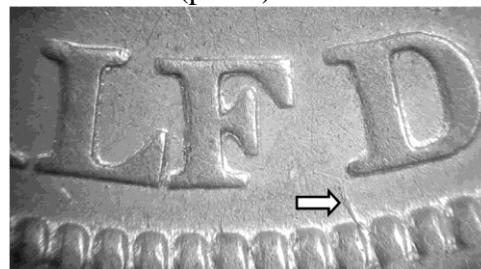


- Die line in dentils above Liberty's head (photo)
- Die rust and rough surfaces on Liberty

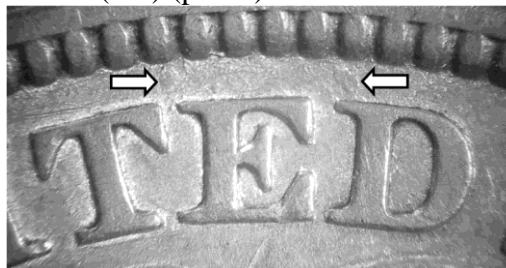
Reverse Q



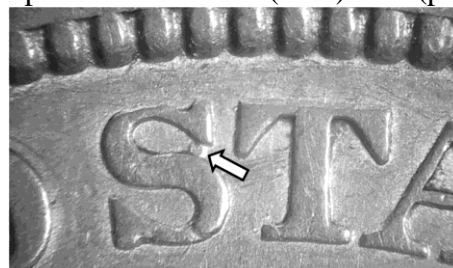
- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed low with CCs level (photo)



- Heavy die line from dentil into field to lower left of D(OL) (photo)



- Lumps and lines above (UNI)TED (photo)



- Small lump below the upper serif of the S(TATES) (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

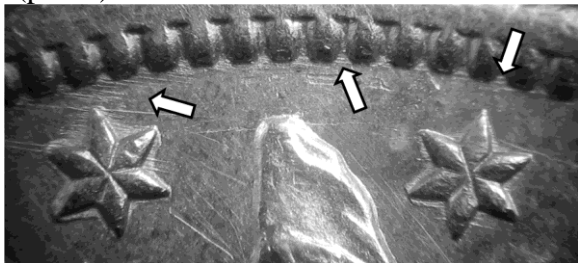
Date grid: M3, .025"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-23, Medium CC, Repunched Date

Obverse 18



- Repunched date: 186 repunched slightly north and an errant digit midway between 76 (photo)



- Die polish or file lines in the dentils and stars near the cap (photo)

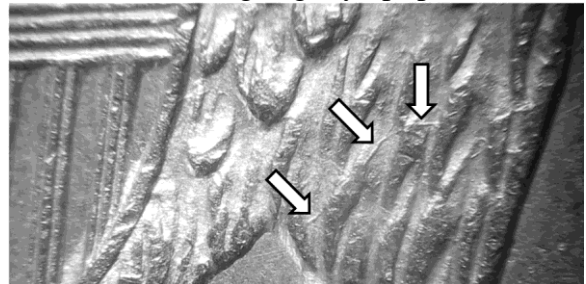


- Die unfinished between Liberty's toes and the dentils (photo)
- Die cracked almost around the entire circumference thru all stars, head, cap, date, and rock support

Reverse R



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Arching die line in the eagle's upper right wing (photo)



- Die crack from the lower right serif of H(ALF) to the dentil below the lower left serif; small lump in dentil below L (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Very weak die polish lines along dentils from K-12 to K-3

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are very proof-like.

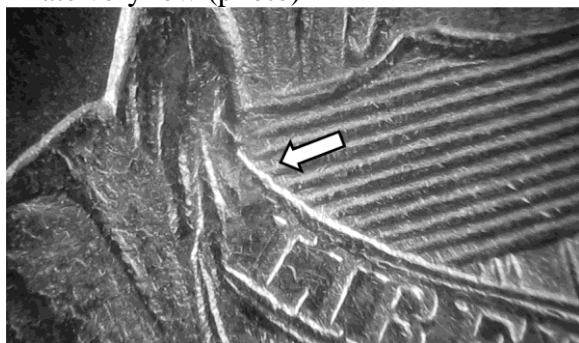
Date grid: M3.5, .029"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU58 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-24, Medium CC

Obverse 19



- Date very low (photo)

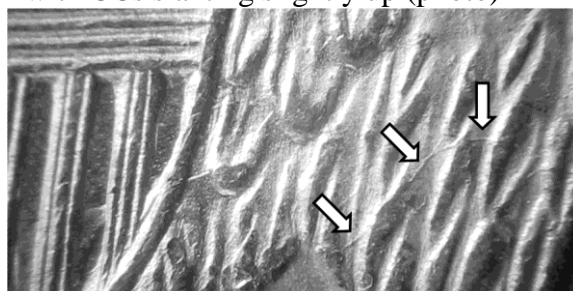


- Vertical die line in the shield's upper left horizontal lines (photo)
- Rusty die with rough surfaces on Liberty

Reverse R



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Arching die line in the eagle's upper right wing (photo)



- Die crack from the lower right serif of H(ALF) to the dentil below the lower left serif; small lump in dentil below L (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield
- Clash in the shield's lower right
- Very weak die polish lines along dentils from K-12 to K-3

This is the only use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

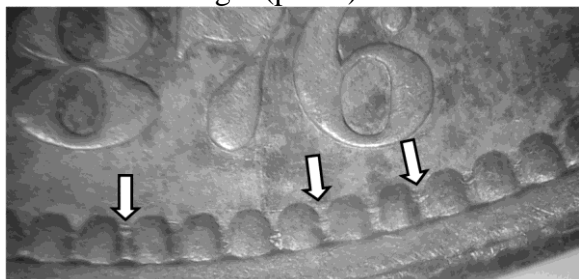
Date grid: M4, .034"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-25, Medium CC

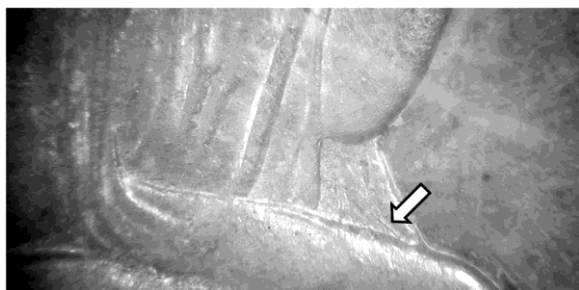
Obverse 20



- Date low and right (photo)

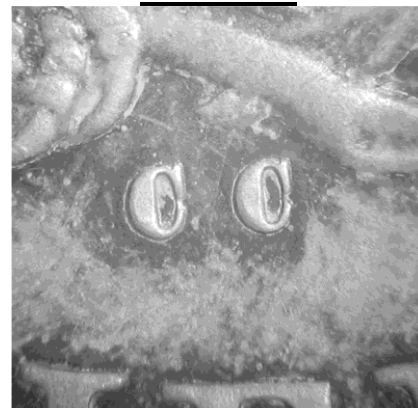


- Die lines in the dentils below 876 (photo) and near star 13



- Diagonal (NW to SE) die line in the drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)
- Rusty die with rough surfaces on Liberty

Reverse S



- Medium CC with wide spacing with CCs level (photo)
- No readily identifiable die diagnostics except the mintmark position

This is the first use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

Date grid: M4.5, .030"	Unknown reeds	Typical diameter = Unknown"	Rarity - 4
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Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full
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Grade of coin depicted: NGC MS65	Coin from the Dick Osburn Collection
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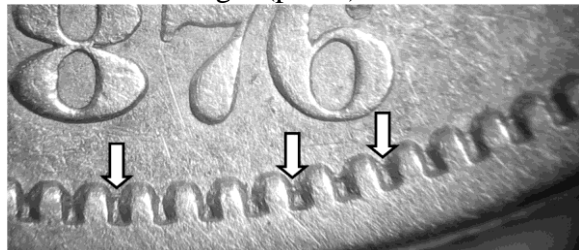
Cross reference: WB-102.	Version 2.33
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1876-CC WB-26, Medium CC

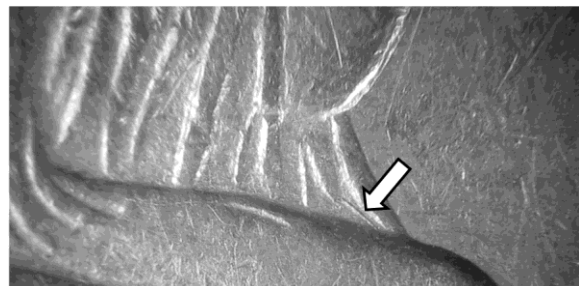
Obverse 20



- Date low and right (photo)

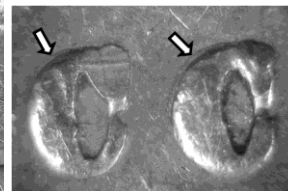


- Die lines in the dentils below 876 (photo) and near star 13

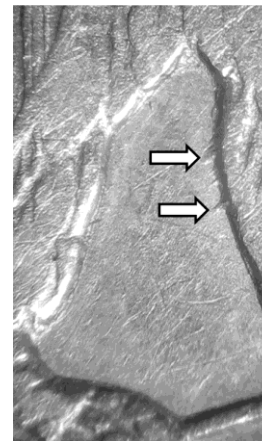
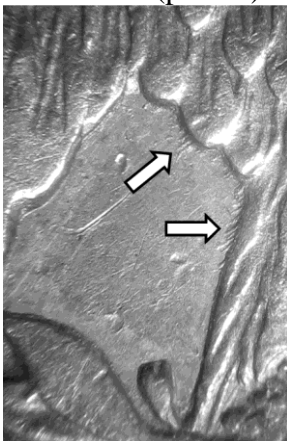


- Diagonal (NW to SE) die line in the drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)
- Rusty die with rough surfaces on Liberty

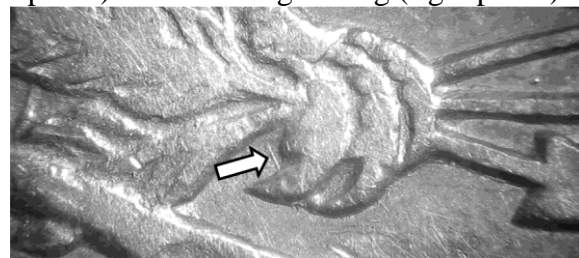
Reverse T



- Medium CC with close spacing with CCs slanting up ; both Cs repunched to the southeast (photos)



- Small tines from the inside left wing (left photo) and inside right wing (right photo)



- Die line inside the eagle's right claw (photo)
- Die line in the dentils above OF A(MERICA) and below (HAL)F

This is the second use of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die in 1876.

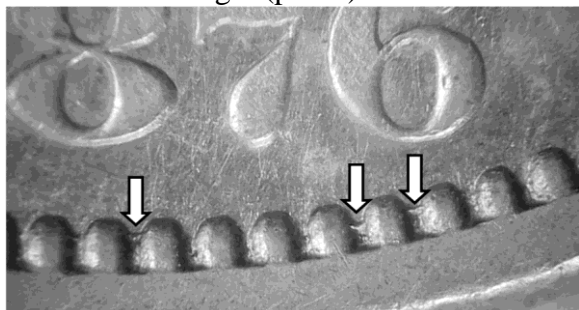
Date grid: M4.5, .030"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.204"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: VF30		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-27, Medium CC

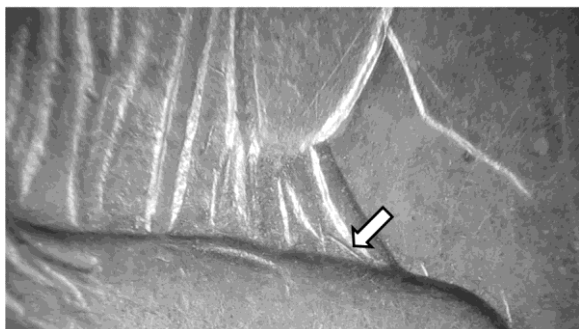
Obverse 20



- Date low and right (photo)



- Die lines in the dentils below 876 (photo) and near star 13



- Diagonal (NW to SE) die line in the drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)
- Clash in field above and to the right of Liberty's right elbow (photo above)
- Rusty die with rough surfaces on Liberty

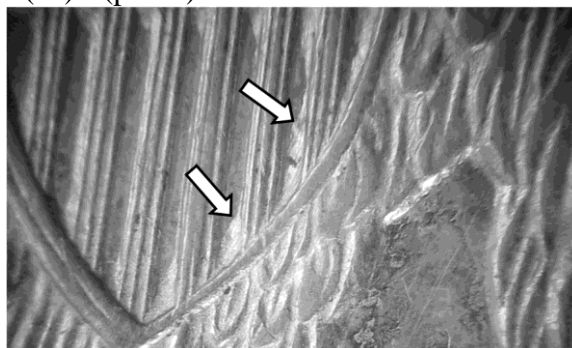
Reverse U



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll to the right of the (W)E (photo)



- Heavy die lines inside the shield's lower right edge (photo)

This is the third use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

Date grid: M4.5, .031"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-28, Medium CC

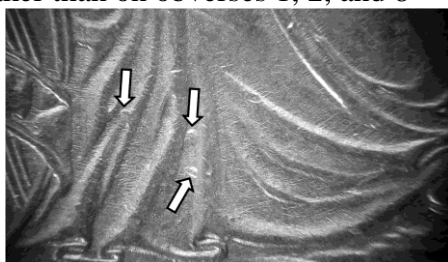
Obverse 7



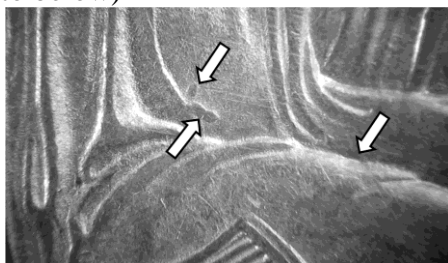
- Centered date with die crack thru bottom of date (photo)



- Diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo) weaker than on obverses 1, 2, and 8



- Many small lumps in Liberty's skirt (photo above), on neck, and on her stomach (at left in photo below)



- Die crack thru stars 1-7 and 10-13 and from serif of 1 thru rock support to star 1

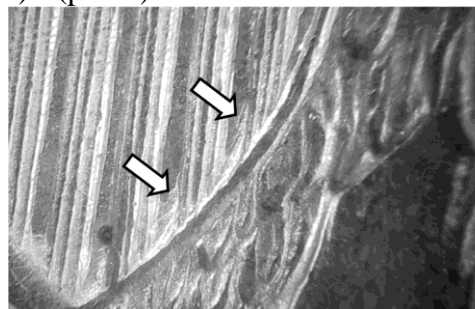
Reverse U



- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll to the right of the (W)E (photo)



- Heavy die lines inside the shield's lower right edge (photo)
- Clash in the shield's lower right

This is the second use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

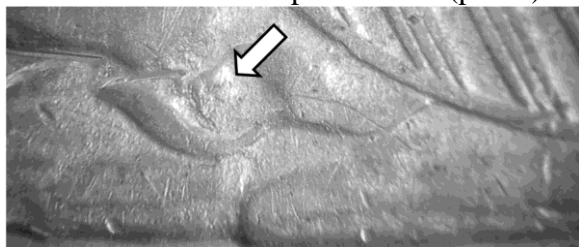
Date grid: M4, .026"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU58 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-29, Medium CC

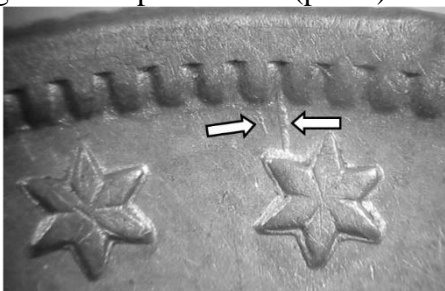
Obverse 21



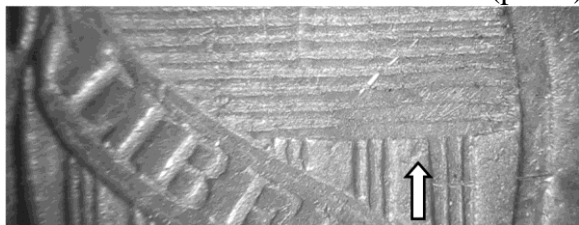
- Centered date with repunched 87 (photo)



- Large rust lump on ribbon (photo)



- Two die lines from dentils to star 13 (photo)



- Small lump in shield's upper right (photo)
- Clash marks below Liberty's right elbow

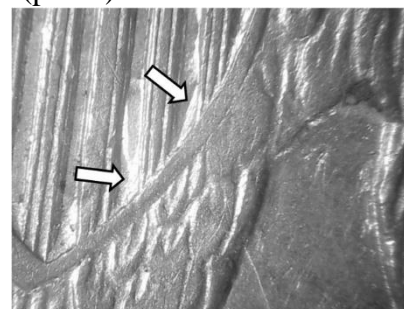
Reverse U



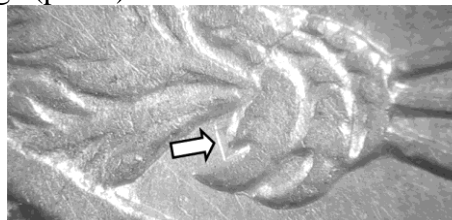
- Medium CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small lump on the scroll to the right of the (W)E (photo)



- Heavy die lines inside the shield's lower right edge (photo)



- LDS: die line inside the eagle's right claw (photo)
- Clash in the shield's lower right

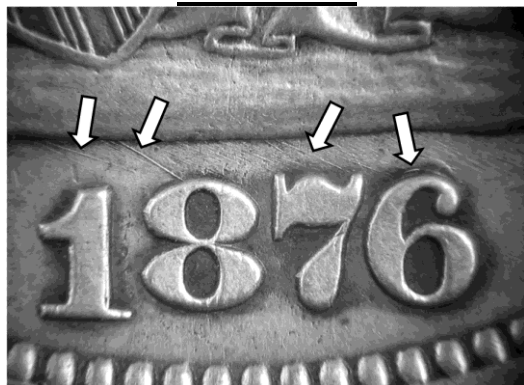
This is the only use of this obverse die and the third use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

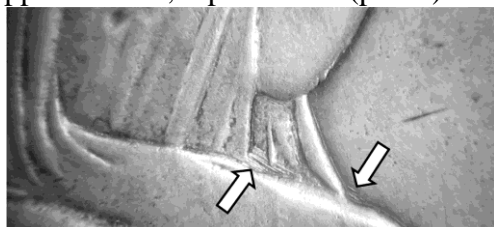
Date grid: M3, .025"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU53 proof-like		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-30, Small CC

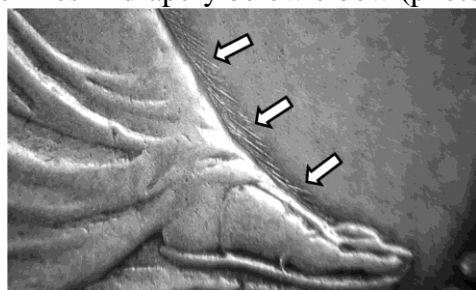
Obverse 22



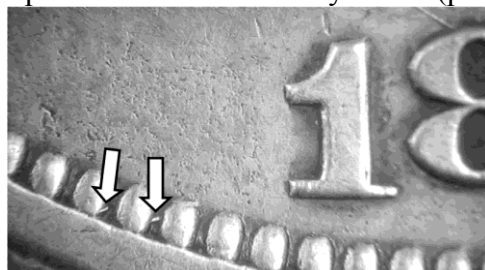
- Date far right; diagonal lines from rock support to date; repunched 6 (photo)



- Die lines in drapery below elbow (photo)

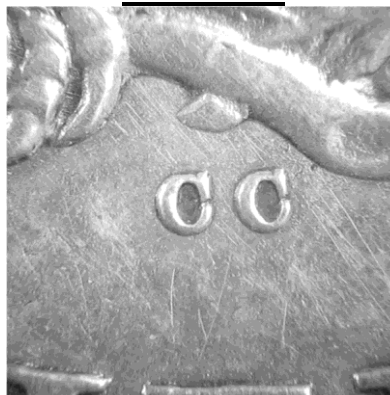


- Die polish lines from Liberty's shin (photo)



- Die lines in dentils left of date (photo)

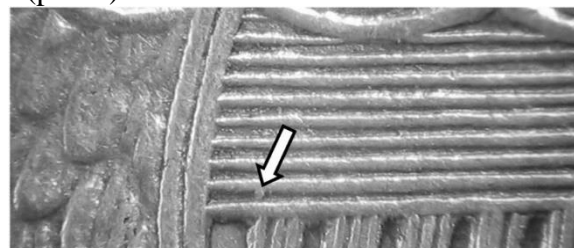
Reverse V



- Small CC with close spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Die line from dentils thru (UNIT)E(D) (photo)



- Tiny lump above A1 and the lowest horizontal line (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the first use of this reverse die in 1876. High grade examples of this die marriage are very proof-like. The imaged coin has proof characteristics (mirror surfaces, bold detail, wire rims) and could easily pass for a proof.

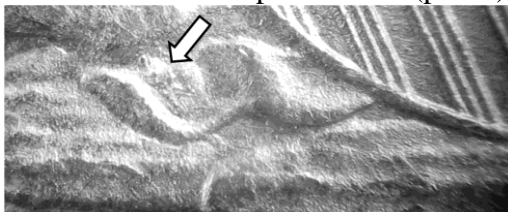
Date grid: M5, .018"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-31, Small CC

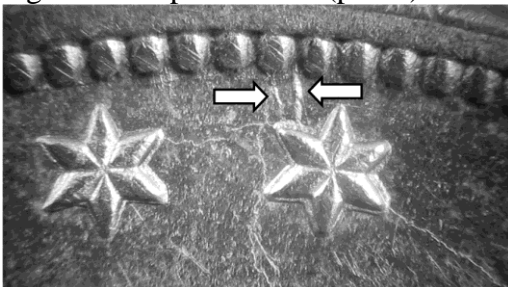
Obverse 21



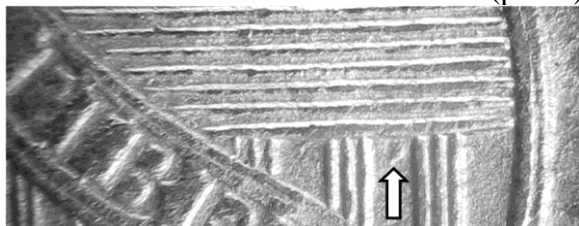
- Centered date with repunched 87 (photo)



- Large rust lump on ribbon (photo)



- Two die lines from dentils to star 13 (photo)

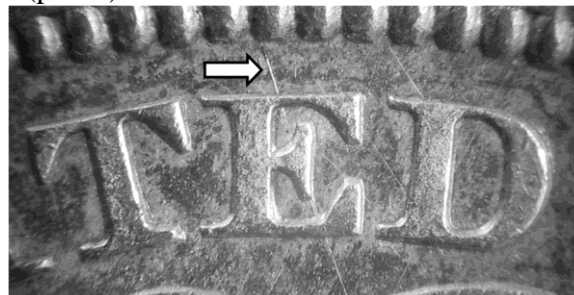


- Small lump in shield's upper right (photo)
- Clash marks below Liberty's right elbow
- Die now cracking from rock support to star 1 thru head, cap, to star 13 to foot

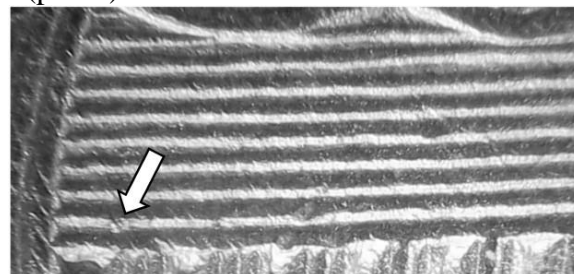
Reverse V



- Small CC with close spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Die line from dentils thru (UNIT)E(D) (photo)



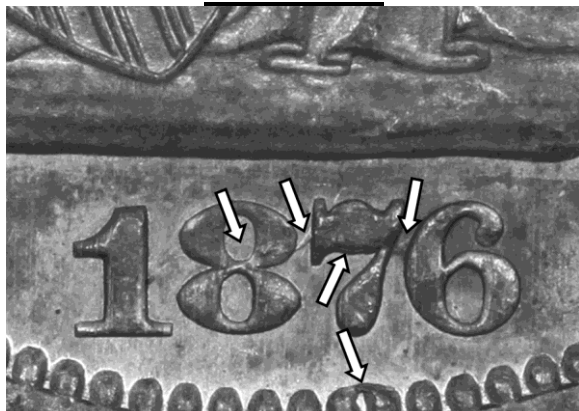
- Tiny lump above A1 and the lowest horizontal line (photo)
- Die now starting to crack from the dentil to the second arrowhead tip

This is the second use of this obverse die and the second use of this reverse die in 1876.
High grade examples of this die marriage are very proof-like.

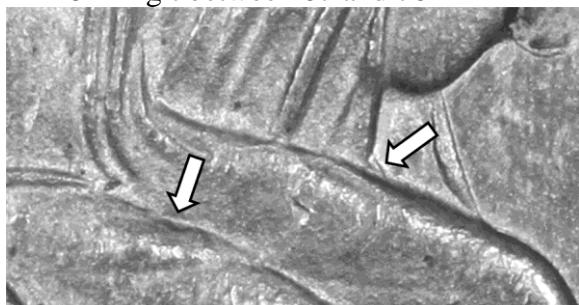
Date grid: M3, .025"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62 proof-like		Coin from the Dick Osburn Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-32, Small CC

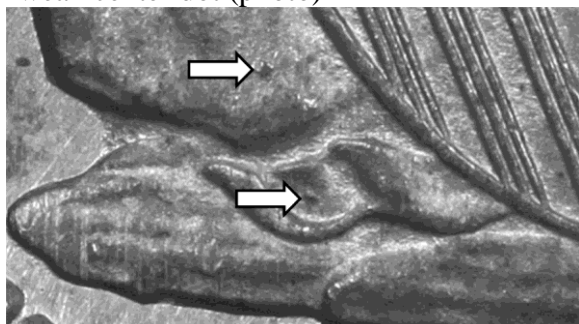
Obverse 23



- Low date with lots of interest (photo)
 - Digit in dentils below 7
 - Repunched 87
 - Digit between 87 and 76



- Small lump in drapery below the elbow and weak center dot (photo)

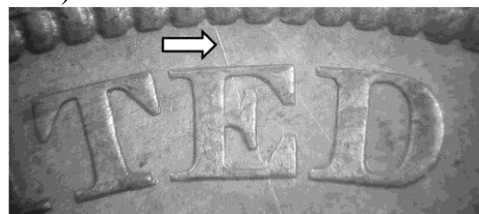


- Small lump in rock to left of shield and on ribbon (photo)

Reverse V



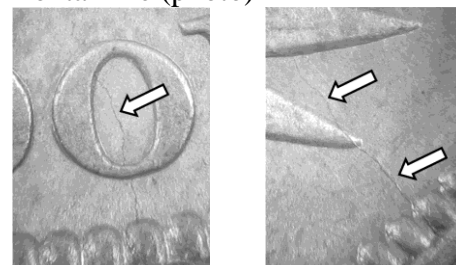
- Small CC with close spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Die line from dentils thru (UNIT)E(D) (photo)



- Tiny lump above A1 and the lowest horizontal line (photo)



- Die cracks now from dentil thru (D)O(L) (left photo) and from the dentil to the upper two arrowheads (right photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and the third use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are very proof-like. The imaged coin has proof characteristics (mirror surfaces, bold detail, and wire rims) and could easily pass for a proof.

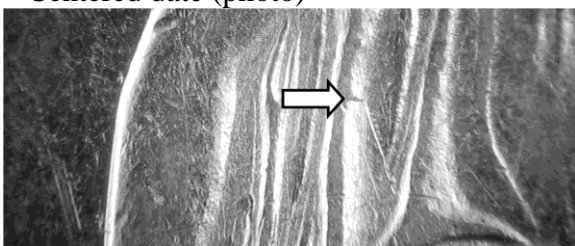
Date grid: M3.5, .030"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS63 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-33, Small CC

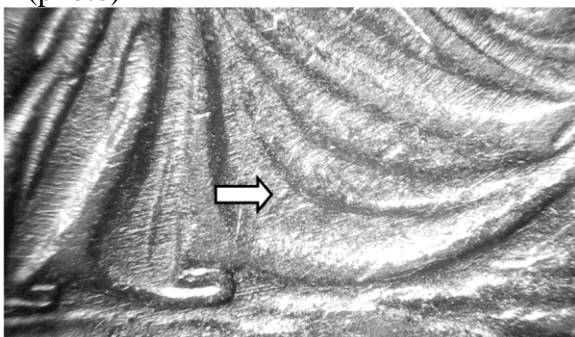
Obverse 24



- Centered date (photo)



- Lump to the right of Liberty's left elbow (photo)



- Scattered lumps on Liberty's lower gown (photo)
- Die cracked from stars 5-7 to head to star 8 to cap thru stars 9-13
- Vertical clash lines across Liberty's lap

Reverse W



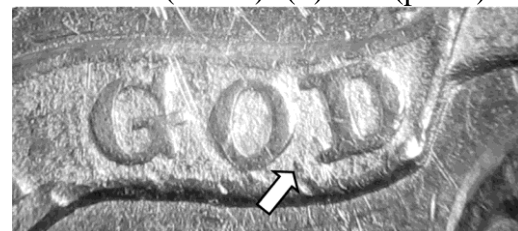
- Small CC with close spacing, placed low with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Die line from (UNIT)E(D) to dentils (photo)



- Die line from (STAT)E(S) to T (photo)



- Lump on the scroll between (G)OD (photo)
- Die crack around entire circumference; thru legend, denomination, arrowheads, and leaves

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1876.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like. The 1876-CC So-called Proof was struck from this die pair. See next two pages for additional information.

Date grid: M3, .026"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.			Version 2.33

1876-CC

So-called Proof (Byers-Starr), WB-33, Small CC

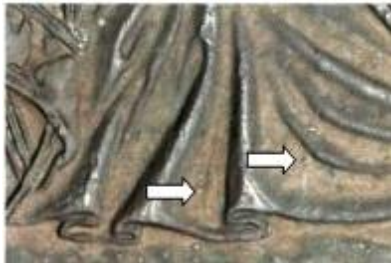
The So-called Proof 1876-CC half dollar was struck in an earlier die state from the same dies as the previous die marriage, WB-33, and is included here with additional information.

This coin was lot 1261 of Stack's October 17, 2006 auction of the George "Buddy" Byers collection of U.S. half dollars at \$14,000. Previously, this same coin was lot 575 of Stack's January 13-14, 1993 auction of the Estate of Floyd T. Starr at \$6,500.

Obverse 24



- Lump to the right of Liberty's left elbow



- Scattered lumps on Liberty's lower gown

Reverse W



- Die line from (UNIT)E(D) to dentils above the right serif of the (UNI)T(ED)



- Die line between (STA)TE(S)



- Lump on the scroll between (G)OD

All images above are courtesy of Stack's Rare Coins, New York City.

Continued on next page.

1876-CC So-called Proof, WB-33

The 1876-CC half dollar included in the Stack's October 2006 auction of the George "Buddy" Byers collection of U.S. half dollars, as imaged on the previous page, was described as:
"1876'CC' WB.101. Brilliant Proof. Unique as Proof." This lot included a letter from Walter Breen stating this coin "...is a good match for the Philadelphia proof half dollars of the period (polished blank, polished dies, extra sharpness of details on both sides)...". Hence, this coin's characterization as a Branch Mint Proof.

I examined this coin at the Byers auction lot preview and agree it does have proof-like qualities. Although no formal documentation exists to substantiate proof half dollars were struck at Carson City, this coin may have been prepared specially for the centennial celebrations of the founding of the United States of America.

Alternatively, many high grade 1876-CC half dollars struck from at least eleven different die marriages also have proof qualities (see the 1876-CC die marriages listed in this reference). If Breen's same criteria were applied to these, they might also qualify as proofs.

For the following reasons, the So-called Proof coin may not be so special.

- In later die states, almost all 1876-CC obverse and reverse dies cracked; struck coins have numerous die cracks especially around the circumference, thru the stars, legend, and denomination. With the die cracks causing a high die failure rate and with a very high number of 1876 dies available (at least 54 obverse and 26 reverse dies), new dies were often introduced into the mint's production cycle. Consequently, these new dies would have most likely produced very high quality coins, i.e., proof-like appearance coins.
- In late 1875, J. F. Evans, Special Agent of the Treasury Department, complained of the quality of Trade Dollars produced by the Carson City Branch Mint. An interesting very long letter of reply from the Coiner at the Philadelphia Mint, described solutions to improve the coinage. Extracted herein, solution number twelve discussed unpolished dies: *"...The want of brightness said to characterize the Carson Dollars, may, to a great extent arise from the rise of unpolished dies. Polished dies have only been used, in our ordinary coinage, within the past few years. I found that the labor in keeping the dies polished was trifling, whilst the beauty of the coinage was much enhanced. This work I specially commit to the foreman of the coining room. Mr. Eckfeldt, late an officer in the Mint at San Francisco noticed in one of his visits here, that our coins were brighter than those coins at San Francisco, and on learning the cause, said the plan should be adopted on his return, which I know was done. It is a very simple operation, and should not be omitted.*

In fine [sic] to have a perfect coinage, the best appliances should be had, and then the exercise of constant and unremitting watchfulness.

Ingots should be rolled on parallel rolls, and fillets drawn between perfectly adjusted pinch dies."

As with the San Francisco Branch Mint, at this point the Carson City Branch Mint most likely incorporated die polishing into its minting procedures. Many 1876-1877 Carson City half dollars grading as low as XF can be found today with proof-like appearances, a change from previous years' production.

The characteristics of the dies (see previous page's images) used to mint the Byers-Starr So-called Proof exactly match half dollar business strikes, which by itself is not unusual for Liberty Seated, half dollars. At least two other coins of a later die state with heavily clashed and cracked dies exist.

In any case, for its derived status, this coin is worthy of separate mention herein.

1876-CC WB-34, Medium CC

Obverse 25



- Centered date (photo)

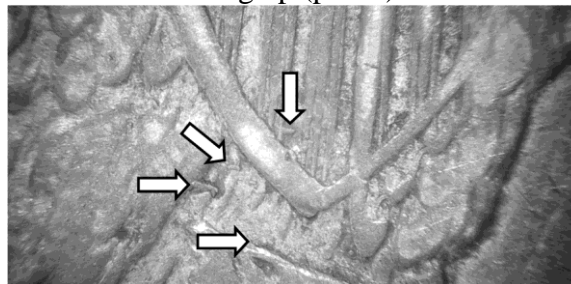


- Small lump at tip of Liberty's toes (photo)

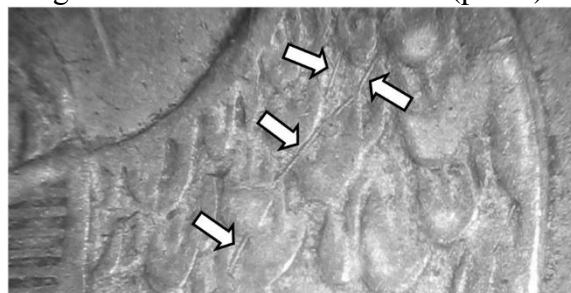
Reverse X



- Medium CC with close spacing, placed low with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Scattered lumps in the lower shield and in the eagle's feathers below the shield (photo)



- "Y" shaped wavy raised line in the eagle's upper right wing (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1876.

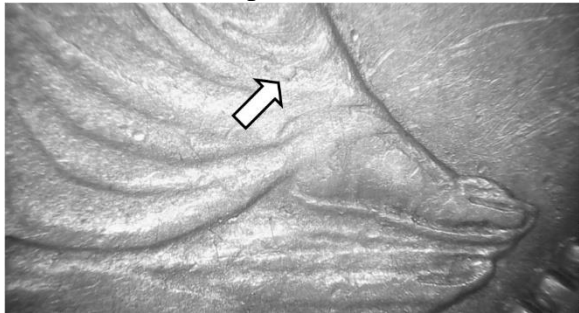
Date grid: M3.5, .022"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.203"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: VF35		Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-35, Medium CC, 8 in Dentils

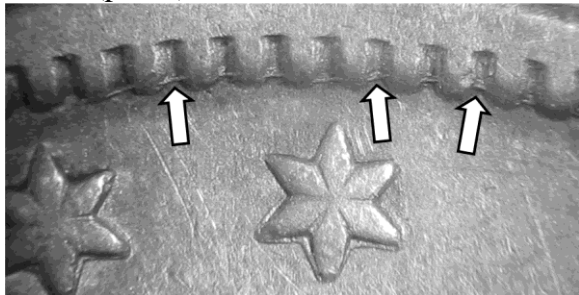
Obverse 26



- Date slightly left with the top of an 8 in the dentils below 87 (photo)

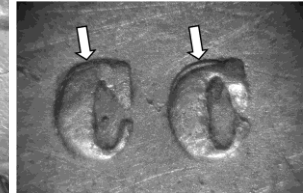


- Small lump in Liberty's gown behind her ankle (photo)

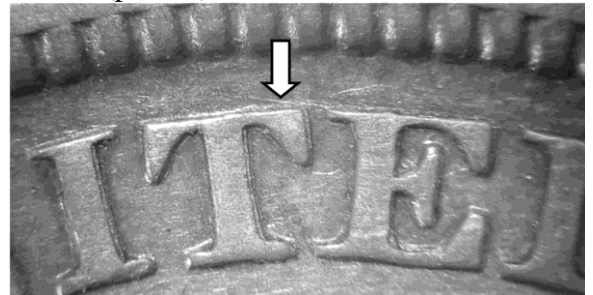


- Line in dentils above stars 12-13 (photo)

Reverse Y



- Medium CC with close spacing, placed low with CCs level; mintmark repunched slightly south (photos)



- Line from the top of (UNIT)E(D) over the T (photo)
- Diagonal (SW to NE) die polish lines inside the shield below the vertical shield lines
- Scattered lines in the dentils

This is the first use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1876.

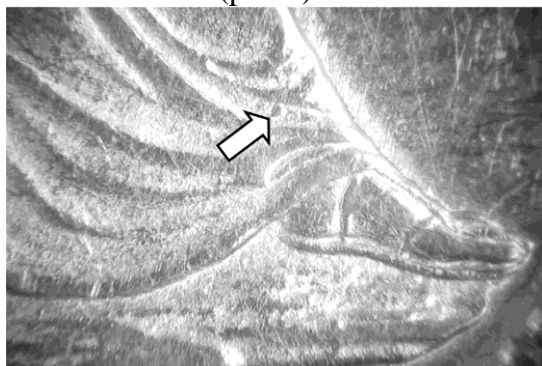
Date grid: M2.5, .026"	152 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-Unlisted.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC WB-36, Medium CC, 8 in Dentils

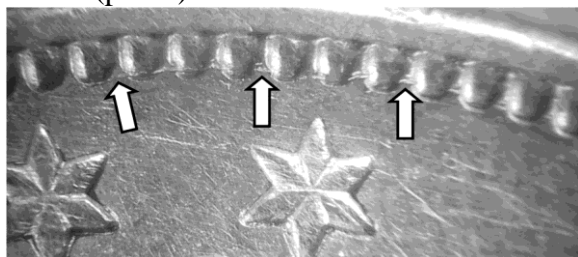
Obverse 26



- Date slightly left with the top of an 8 in the dentils below 87 (photo)



- Small lump in Liberty's gown behind her ankle (photo)

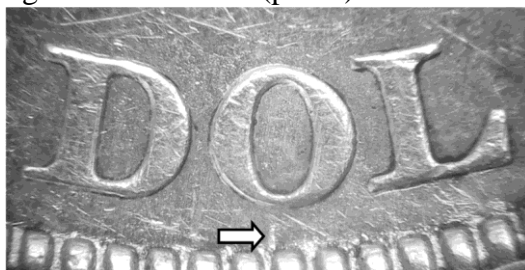


- Line in dentils above stars 12-13 (photo)
- Die now cracked along stars 4-7 to head to cap thru stars 8-13

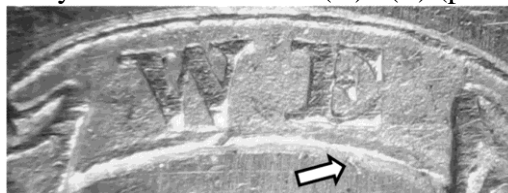
Reverse Z



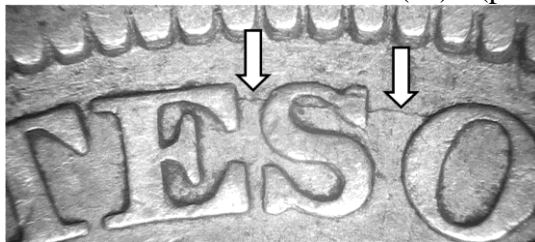
- Medium CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs level (photo)



- Heavy line from dentil to (D)O(L) (photo)



- Small line from scroll beneath (W)E (photo)



- LDS: die cracks thru (STA)TES O(F) and weaker along top of letters UNIT(ED); struck with a different collar with 143 reeds

This is the first use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1876. High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like. *(Below): This is the only 1876-CC half dollar with 143 reeds.

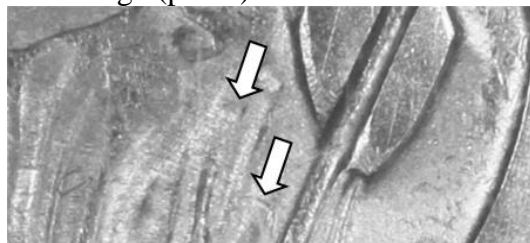
Date grid: M2.5, .028"	EDS: 152 reeds LDS: 143 reeds*	Typical diameter = 1.207"	EDS: Rarity - 3 LDS: Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: EDS: AU55 proof-like LDS: VF25		EDS: Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection LDS: Coin from the Bill Bugert Collection	
Cross reference: WB- Unlisted.		Version 2.33	

New Die Marriage 1876-CC WB-37, Large CC

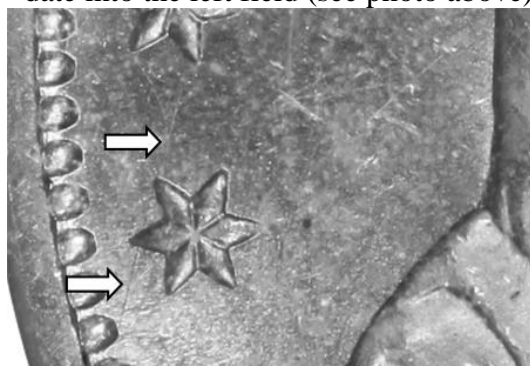
Obverse 27



- Date high (photo)



- Small lump on Liberty's upper right torso below the lower hair curl and curved lint mark on Liberty's upper right forearm to left of pole (photo)
- Die crack thru the base of digits 18 of the date into the left field (see photo above)



- Diagonal file line from the dentil below star 1, thru star 1 to star 2 (photo)

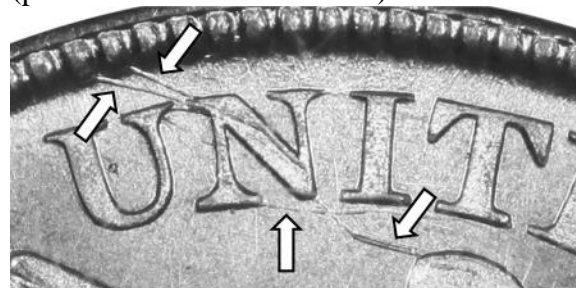
Reverse H



- Large CC with wide spacing and CCs slanting up (upper left photo)
- Small lump in the field between (UNITE)D and the scroll edge (upper right photo)



- Small lump to upper left of (TRU)S(T) on scroll (photo – also note die cracks)



- VLDS: die damage above, thru, and below UNIT(ED) not seen on previous use of this die
- VLDS: heavily cracked die (see photos above and on the next page)
- This reverse die is transitional with 1871-CC (reverse D) and 1872-CC (reverse C).

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1876.

Jack Marston discovered this die marriage. Like many other 1876-CC high grade halves, this die marriage is very proof-like. Once published, LSCC member and half dollar collector Dennis Fortier quickly found a second example. I have not seen another

Date grid: M3, .018"	Unknown reeds	Typical diameter = Unknown"	Rarity - 7
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS MS64 proof-like		Coin from the Jack Marston collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC
WB-37, Large CC (Discovery Coin)



Obverse 27



Reverse H

New Die Marriage 1876-CC WB-38, Medium CC

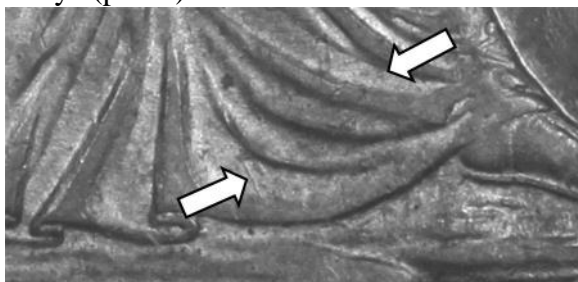
Obverse 8



- Centered date with die crack thru bottom of the digits of the date (photo)



- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)

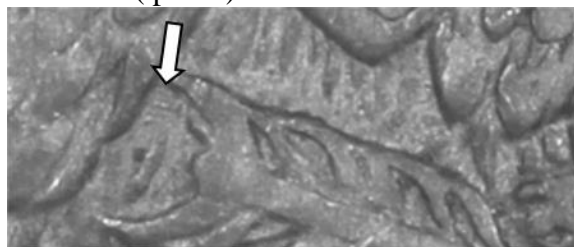


- Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's gown (photo); other on Liberty's chest and neck area
- Die crack around the complete circumference; thru all stars, rock support, and date

Reverse O



- Medium CC with close spacing, placed high with level CCs (photo)



- Horizontal and parallel die lines to the left of the upper arrow feathers below shield (photo)
- Die uncracked

This is the third use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die. A revised emission sequence for dies used in this die combination is WB-12 (8I), WB-39 (8AA), WB-13 (8J), WB-38 (8O), and then WB-19 (14O).

Barry Stallard discovered this die marriage at the 2011 Chicago ANA bourse.

Date grid: M2.5, .033"	Unknown reeds	Typical diameter = Unknown"	Rarity - 7
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU55		Coin from the Barry Stallard collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC
WB-38, Medium CC (Discovery Coin)



Obverse 8



Reverse O

New Die Marriage

1876-CC

WB-39, Small CC

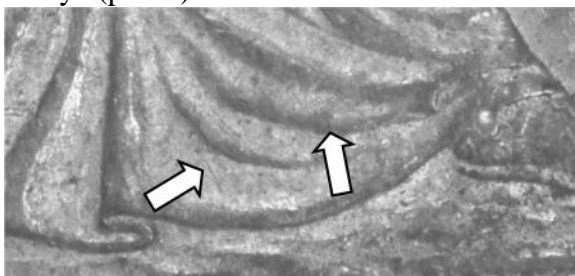
Obverse 8



- Centered date with die crack along the bottom of the digits of the date (photo)



- Thick diagonal die line behind Liberty's eye (photo)

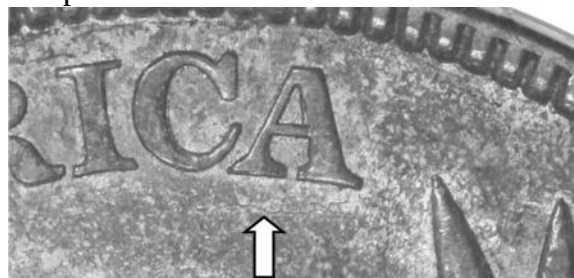


- Scattered lumps and lines in Liberty's gown (photo); other on Liberty's chest and neck area
- Die crack around the complete circumference; thru all stars, rock support, and date

Reverse AA



- Small CC with close spacing, placed high with level CCs (photo). When compared to the other small CCs in 1876, this mintmark position is unique. The feather tip is over the left edge of the upper serif of the left C; none others have this position.



- Only example seen: weak die crack in the field below (AMERICA) (photo)
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the second use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die. A revised emission sequence for dies used in this die combination is WB-12 (8I), WB-39 (8AA), WB-13 (8J), WB-38 (8O), and then WB-19 (14O).

Bill Bugert discovered this die marriage in a dealer's stock.

Date grid: M2.5, .033"	Unknown reeds	Typical diameter = Unknown"	Rarity - 7
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Denticles: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS AU53		Coin from the Bill Bugert collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1876-CC
WB-39, Small CC (Discovery Coin)



Obverse 8



Reverse AA

New Die Marriage 1876-CC WB-40, Small CC

Obverse 28



- Date left (photo)



- Scattered lumps in the shield below (LIBE)R(TY) and in Liberty's skirt to the right of the scroll. Note also, the arching die lines in Liberty's skirt (photo)



- Lines on the field side of Liberty's instep (photo)

Reverse M



- Small CCs with close spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Small rust lump in the eagle's upper left wing (photo)
- The diagonal (SW to NE) die line thru (UNIT)E(D) seen in the first use of this die is not now visible.



- Weak die from the tip of the middle arrowhead to the dentils (photo)

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die.
Mike Clark discovered this die marriage in early 2013.

Date grid: M2, .026"	Unknown reeds	Typical diameter = Unknown"	Rarity - 7
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Strong	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS MS62		Coin from the Bozarth Numismatics, Inc. stock	
Cross reference: WB-103.			Version 2.33

1876-CC

WB-40, Small CC (Discovery Coin)



Obverse 28



Reverse M

1877-CC



With a very high mintage of almost 2 million 1877-CC half dollars, the Carson City Branch Mint busied itself with producing silver coinage to comply with the provisions of the Species Redemption Act of 1875. This date and 1876 are the two most commonly available Carson City half dollars and likely to be found in a collector's type set.

A second reverse hub type, the Type 2, was introduced at Carson City in 1877. The working dies produced by this hub are readily identifiable by the closed lower olive bud. See the introduction section for more details.

Two mintmark sizes were used at Carson City in 1877, the small and medium CC mintmark. Coins of dies with both sizes are available with both reverse hub types. The type 1, medium CC, is the least available of the possible combinations. Two obverse dies also have repunched 77s in the date. As shown in the table below, the Type 2, medium CC is the most common 1877-CC.

Number of known 1877-CC <u>die marriages</u>	Mintmark Size	
	Small CC	Medium CC
	Type 1 Reverse	Type 2 Reverse
	3	10

With a large amount of dies available for use in 1877, fifteen die marriages with a single reed count (143) are known as depicted in the tables below.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
1,956,000	Requested	-	Unknown	Unknown	1 (143)
	Shipped	-	Unknown	Unknown	
	Known	15	12	13	

Heavily clashed dies (photograph below). Many dies of 1877-CC half dollars were clashed, some many times over. Technically, clashed dies are dies damaged when the obverse and reverse dies were struck directly against each other without a planchet. The evidence of this die clashing is dies with a relief image of some of the features of the opposite die. Struck coins will have these images in reverse. Collectors enjoy these clash marks and, although they are helpful to identify some dies, these clash marks should not be confused with die diagnostics. Shown below is a reverse of an 1877-CC WB-11 with the very heavy clash marks annotated; this die was clashed with an obverse die at least 5 separate times. Hopefully, this depiction will aid you in identifying these marks on your coin.



Heavily cracked dies. Most 1877-CC obverse and reverse dies are cracked in later die states. See the Introductory Section for details.

1877-CC date grid quick reference table














Obverse date grid	Die Marriage
M2.5, .026"	WB-10
M3.5, .031"	WB-15
M4 , .024"	WB-14
M4 , .026"	WB-1
M4 , .029"	WB-5
M4.5, .023"	WB-12
M4.5, .025"	WB-13
M4.5, .026"	WB-3
M4.5, .030"	WB-4
M4.5, .030"	WB-6
M4.5, .030"	WB-8
M5 , .025"	WB-9
M5 , .028"	WB-11
M5 , .029"	WB-2
M5 , .030"	WB-7

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I've included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photographs of the mintmarks, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin's die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader's coin.

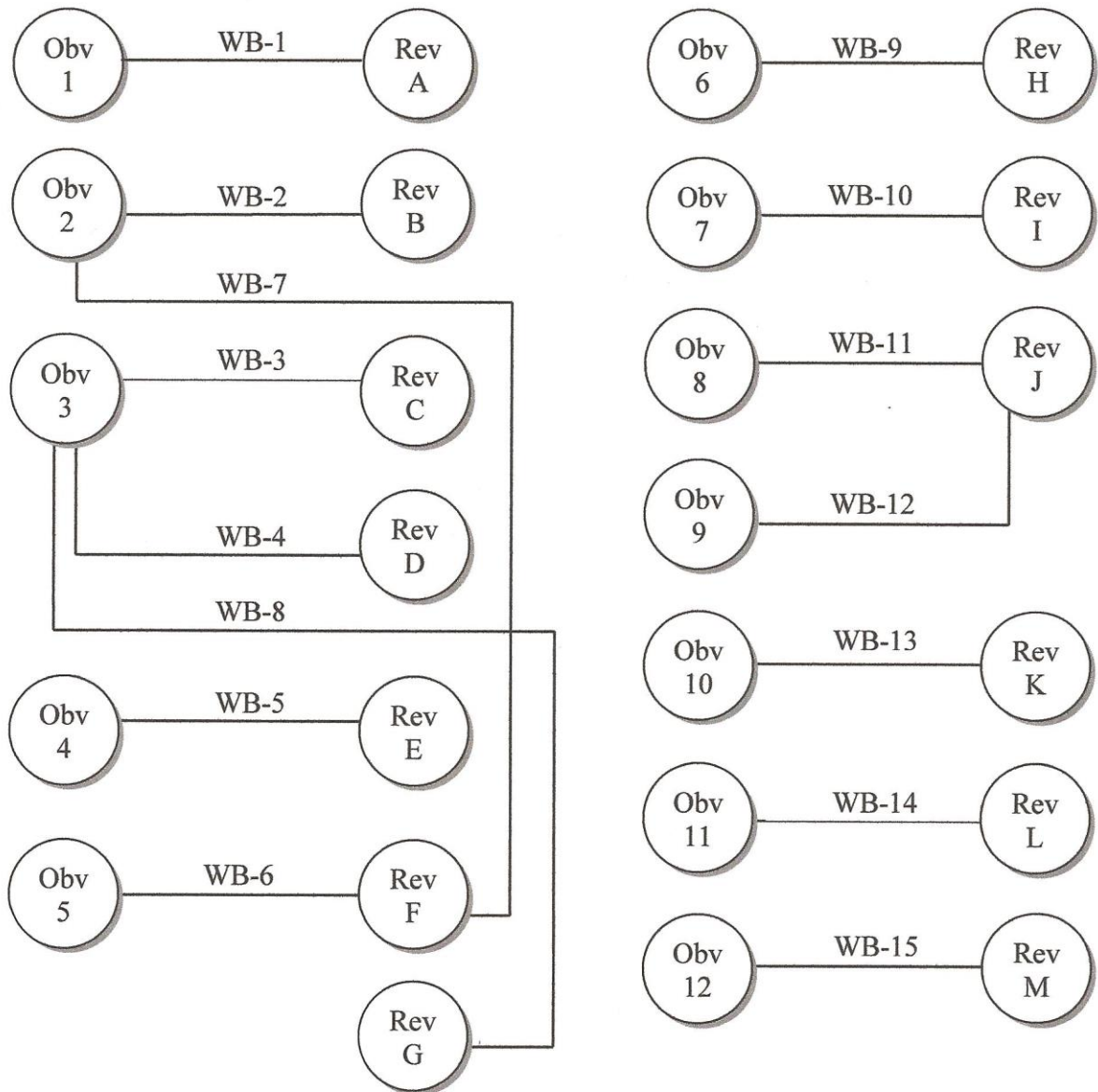
Reverse Die	Size Mintmark	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
		Left C	Right C	
A	Small	.070	.071	.010
B		.068	.072	.013
C		.064	.072	.018
D	Medium	.043	.042	.019
E		.042	.044	.014
F		.068	.062	.016
G		.074	.078	.006
H		.058	.060	.010
I		.059	.058	.018
J		.056	.056	.020
K		.068	.061	.022
L		.070	.066	.010
M		.060	.059	.012

The following page includes close up photographs of the 1877-CC mintmarks to aid in die marriage identification. These photos are sorted by mintmark size and then by spacing of the Cs to facilitate quick comparison of the mintmark and identification of the reverse die.

1877-CC Half Dollar Mintmark Positions

Small CC			Type 1 Reverse Hub	Medium CC
				
Reverse A, WB-1	Reverse B, WB-2	Reverse C, WB-3		
				
Reverse E, WB-5	Reverse D, WB-4			
				
Reverse G, WB-8	Reverse L, WB-14	Reverse H, WB-9		
				
Reverse M, WB-15	Reverse F, WB-6, 7	Reverse I, WB-10		
				
Reverse J, WB-11, 12	Reverse K, WB-13			

1877-CC Half Dollar Die Linkage Diagram



1877-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		Small line on the scroll from the lower left of the W(E)	Small CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up	Small CC with wide spacing, placed low with CCs slanting up	Rust lumps in the field below DOL	Scattered lines in dentils and along the top of the letters (AM)ERI(CA)	Large die line in the eagle's upper left wing	CCs high and close with CCs repunched to NE
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		Small CC			Medium CC			
		Type 1 Reverse					Type 2 Reverse	
Small lump below the scroll in the shield's upper left	1	WB-1						
Three lumps across Liberty's upper torso	2		WB-2				WB-7	
Horizontal line in the recessed area below Liberty's right knee	3			WB-3	WB-4			WB-8
Small lump from dentil below ribbon end	4					WB-5		
Horizontal line on Liberty's left shoulder	5						WB-6	

1877-CC Obverse and Reverse die identification keys		Rust lumps including below and right of HALF, and above AMERICA	Two small lumps along the upright of the (UNT)(ED)	Heavily cracked die	Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down, and CCs slanting up	Rust lumps around (AMERI)CA	Double cracks along top of letters (AME)RICA
		H	I	J	K	L	M
		Medium CC					
		Type 2 Reverse					
Arching clash mark above 187 in the date	6	WB-9					
Scattered lumps across Liberty's upper gown	7		WB-10				
Small lump under Liberty's chin	8			WB-11			
Date right with the 77 repunched to the NE	9			WB-12			
Diagonal die lines in the shield's upper right	10				WB-13		
Diagonal die line in the ribbon's recessed area	11					WB-14	
Arching die lines in dentils	12						WB-15

1877-CC

WB-1, Type 1, Small CC

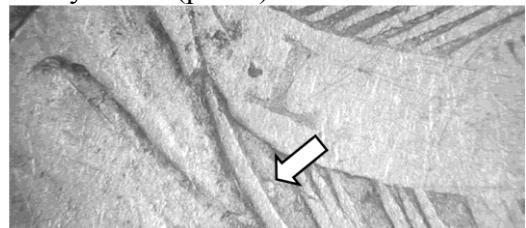
Obverse 1



- Centered date (photo). Note arching clash mark above 187 in the date from the reverse's scroll



- Vertical die line into rock support from Liberty's foot (photo)



- Small lump below the scroll in the shield's upper left (photo) seen here on a VG coin
- Heavy clash marks above date (see date photo), along Liberty's right shin, adjacent to Liberty's left and right arms
- Die cracked around the entire circumference: thru all stars, head, cap, Liberty's foot, date, and left rock support
- Heavy roughness from rust on Liberty

Reverse A

Type 1 Reverse Hub



- Small CC with close spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Small line on the scroll from the lower left of the W(E) (photo)



- Heavily cracked die along the top of the letters in the legend and along the arrow head tips (photo)
- Clash marks in the shield's lower right, below the right wing, and thru the olive leaves

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

High grade examples of this die marriage are proof-like.

Date grid: M4, .026"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 5
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS63 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-2, Type 1, Medium CC

Obverse 2



- Date right (photo)



- Three lumps across Liberty's upper torso (photo) and smaller lumps between the knees and below Liberty's ear (photo below). Other scattered lumps in lower gown



Reverse B

Type 1 Reverse Hub



- Small CC with normal spacing with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Cracked die prominently along the top and thru (STATE)S OF A(MERICA) (photo above) and from middle arrowhead to (AMERIC)A (photo below)



- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the first use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

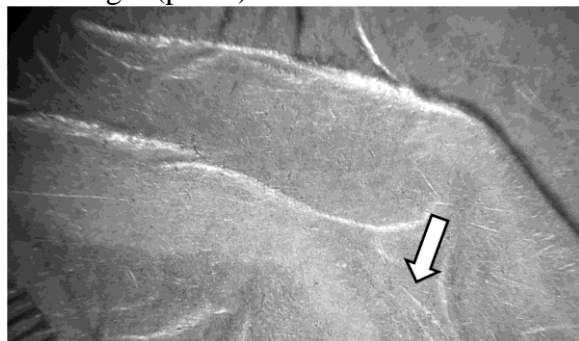
Date grid: M5, .029"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 5
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF45		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-3, Type 1, Small CC

Obverse 3



- Date right (photo)



- Horizontal line in the recessed area below Liberty's right knee (photo)
- Weak lump on Liberty's throat visible only on very high grade coins
- Weak die crack along stars 1-7, head, star 8, cap and stars 9-13 and along the base of the date
- Unclashed

Reverse C

Type 1 Reverse Hub



- Small CC with wide spacing, placed low with CCs slanting up (photo), the only 1877 reverse die as such



- Die cracks along the top of letters in the legend, prominently along the top of AMERICA to arrowheads (photo above), along the base of letters (HA)LF D(OL), and from upper left serif of the U(NITED) to dentils (photo below)



- Unclashed

This is the first use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M4.5, .026"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.210"	Rarity - 4
Draper die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF40		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-4, Type 1, Medium CC

Obverse 3



- Date right (photo)



- Weak lump on Liberty's throat visible only on very high grade coins (photo)
- Weak die crack along stars 1-7, head, star 8, cap and stars 9-13 and along the base of the date
- Die now clashed with marks in the drapery below Liberty's elbow

Reverse D

Type 1 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed low with CCs level (photo)



- Small rust lumps in the field below DOL and a die crack from the dentils thru the (DOL). to the lowest arrowhead (photo)



- Die crack from the dentils to olive leaf #2 thru the wing tip to the (UNITE)D; unfinished and clashed under the olive leaves (photo)
- LDS: die cracks along the top of letters UNITE(D) to dentil above E
- LDS: triple clashed die marks along top of scroll and under right wing

This is the second use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M4.5, .030"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.211"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS61		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-5, Type 1, Medium CC

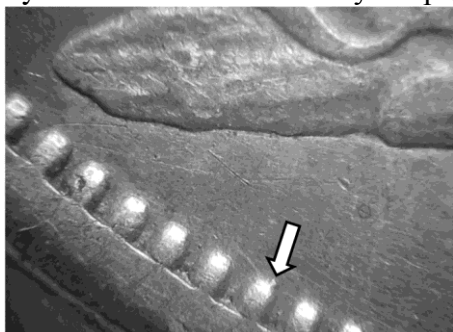
Obverse 4



- Centered date (photo)



- Heavy clash lines across Liberty's lap (photo)



- Small lump from dentil to left of date below the ribbon end (photo)

Reverse E

Type 1 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with normal spacing, placed low with CCs slanting up (photo)



- Arching line in dentils from K-4 to K-12; seen above at K-6 (photo)



- Scattered lines in dentils and along the top of the letters (AM)ERI(CA) (photo)
- Unfinished under olive leaves

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

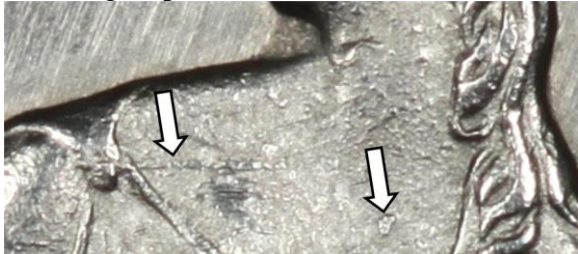
Date grid: M4, .029"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 6
Draperies die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: XF45		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-102.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-6, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 5



- Date right (photo)



- Horizontal line on Liberty's left shoulder and a lump on Liberty's throat (photo)
- Heavily rusted die with roughness on Liberty

Reverse F

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (photo)



- Large die line in the eagle's upper left wing (photo)



- Die crack thru DOL. (photo) and along the top of all letters in the legend

This is the only use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M4.5, .030"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.206"	Rarity - 6
Draper die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS63		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-7, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 2



- Date right (photo)



- Three lumps across Liberty's upper torso (photo) and smaller lumps between the knees and below Liberty's ear (photo below). Other scattered lumps in lower gown



Reverse F

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with normal spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (photo)



- Large die line in the eagle's upper left wing (photo)



- Die crack thru STA(TES) (photo), along the top of all letters in the legend, and thru DOL.
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the second use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M5, .030"

143 reeds

Typical diameter = 1.206"

Rarity - 4

Draperies die state: Full

Foot support: Full

Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full

Grade of coin depicted: MS63

Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection

Cross reference: WB-103.

Version 2.33

1877-CC WB-8, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 3



- Date right (photo)



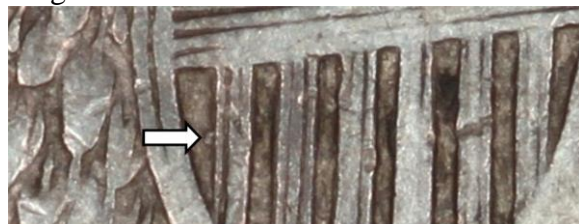
- Heavy clash lines across Liberty's lap and below Liberty's elbow (photo)

Reverse G

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting up, and repunched to NE (photos). No other 1877-CC mintmark is this high and this close.



- Small lump along left side of leftmost vertical stripe (photo)



- Die crack along top of letters in legend, prominently above (STAT)ES OF (photo)
- Weak tail feather below shield

This is the third use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M4.5, .030"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.210"	Rarity - 6
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Weak	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: VF30		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-9, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 6



- Date right (photo). LDS: arching clash mark above 187 in the date from the reverse's scroll. Faint die crack along the bottom of the digits of the date



- Die crack thru stars 2-5 (photo)
- LDS: double clash marks above date (see date photo), along Liberty's right shin, adjacent to Liberty's left and right arms

Reverse H

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with close spacing with CCs slanting up, and 2nd C close to stem (photo)



- Many rust lumps including below and right of HALF (photo), and above AMERICA
- Clashed die; the outline of the entire figure of Liberty is plainly visible.



- Interesting LDS not often seen: top of clashed 8 from obverse die (photo); also weaker top of first 7 but not visible in photo

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

High grade examples of this die marriage can be proof-like.

Date grid: M5, .025"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.210"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU58 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-10, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 7



- Date left (photo)



- Scattered lumps across Liberty's upper gown (photo) legs, and in field to right of right shin (photos above and below) and in center of horizontal shield lines above (LIB)E(RTY)



- Scattered lumps across Liberty's legs and in field to right of right shin (photos)
- Weak die crack between stars 2-3, 6-7, 8 thru cap thru stars 9-12

Reverse I

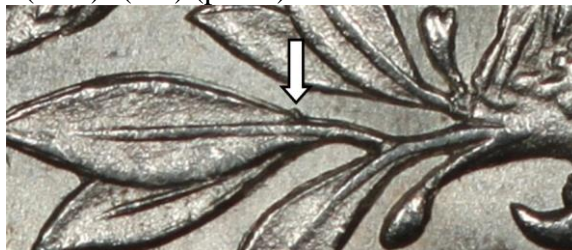
Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with wide spacing with CCs slanting slightly up (photo)



- Two small lumps along the upright of the (UNI)T(ED) (photo)



- Small lump along the upper edge of olive leaf #3 (photo)
- Weak die crack thru (AME)RICA
- Weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M2.5, .026"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC

WB-11, Type 2, Medium CC, Repunched 77

Obverse 8



- Date right with the 77 repunched to the NE (photo). This repunched date looks similar to that of WB-12 but note the date position is slightly more to the right. All die states seen have a die crack along the base of the date.
- EDS unclashed
- LDS: arching clash marks above 187 in the date from the reverse's scroll. Close scrutiny of this clash reveals the dies clashed at least five times. Other major clashes visible around Liberty's right arm.



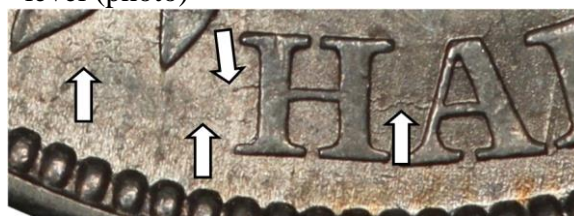
- Small lump under Liberty's chin (photo)
- LDS: die cracks around the entire circumference thru stars, rock support, foot, head, and cap

Reverse J

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with wide spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Die cracks thru STATES and prominently thru and left of HA(LF) (photo)
- EDS unclashed
- LDS: this die clashed at least five times



- Interesting LDS not often seen: top of clashed 87 from obverse die (photo). Also note the die cracks thru letters of legend
- Weak tail feather below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and first use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M5, .028"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.207"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU55		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-104.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-12, Type 2, Medium CC, Repunched 77

Obverse 9



- Date right with the 77 repunched to the NE (photo)
- This repunched date looks the same as that of WB-11 but note the die differences for WB-12:
 - Date position is slightly higher and more to the left
 - There is no lump below Liberty's chin
 - The die has no rough surfaces from rust on Liberty.

Reverse J

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with wide spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Die cracks prominently thru and left of HA(LF) (photo), thru the legend, olive leaves, and thru the arrowheads (photo below)



- This die clashed at least five times but some marks, see on WB-11, polished off the die.
- Interesting LDS not often seen: top of clashed 87 from obverse die
- Weak tail feather below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and second use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M4.5, .023"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.209"	Rarity - 3
Drapery die state: Partial	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: AU58		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-104.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC

WB-13, Type 2, Medium CC

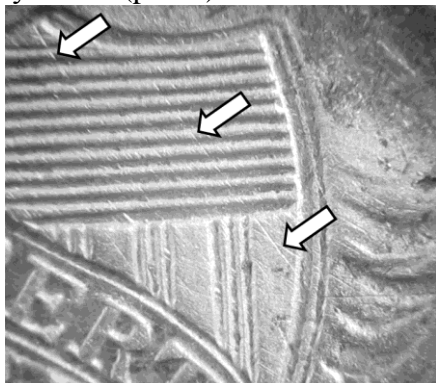
Obverse 10



- Date right (photo). LDS: arching clash mark above 187 in the date from the reverse's scroll.



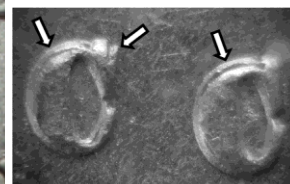
- Diagonal die lines in rock support from Liberty's arch (photo)



- Diagonal die lines in the shield's upper right (photo) and in the gown to the right of the shield
- LDS: die crack thru stars 3-7, head, star 8, cap and stars 9-12 and die clashes around right arm

Reverse K

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with wide spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down, and CC repunched south (photo). The spacing of CC is wider than any other 1877-CC.
- EDS: uncracked and unclashed



- LDS: die cracked from U(NITED) thru olive leaves, thru HALF DOL (photo) to arrowheads and along the top of letters AMERICA
- LDS: clash marks under eagle's right wing and along the olive leaves
- LDS: weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

High grade examples of this die marriage can be proof-like.

This die marriage and WB-15 are the most common of all 1877-CCs.

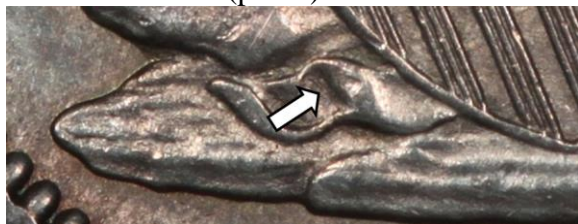
Date grid: M4.5, .025"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.210"	Rarity - 2
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62 proof-like		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1877-CC WB-14, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 11



- Centered date (photo)



- Diagonal die line in the ribbon's recessed area (photo)
- Clash marks in the field to the right of Liberty's right elbow
- Uncracked

Reverse L

Type 2 Reverse Hub



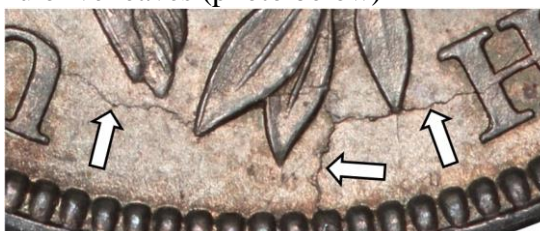
- Medium CC with close spacing, placed high with CCs slanting down (photo); unfinished inside the Cs



- Rust lumps around (AMERI)CA (photo)



- Heavily cracked die in easily identifiable patterns above and thru DOL and arrowheads (photo) and thru olive leaves (photo below)



This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

Date grid: M4, .024"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.211"	Rarity - 4
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS62 (ex-Norweb)		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.			Version 2.33

1877-CC WB-15, Type 2, Medium CC

Obverse 12



- Centered date (photo). Die crack from dentils left of date along base of date into the field to the right of the date
- Arching die lines in dentils from K-5 to K-7 below date (photo above) and from K-2 to K-4



- Diagonal (SW to NE) lines in the drapery below Liberty's elbow (photo)
- Weak die crack between most stars
- Rough die from rust on Liberty

Reverse M

Type 2 Reverse Hub



- Medium CC with close spacing with CCs level (photo)



- Die cracked around the entire circumference of the die; double cracks along top of letters (AME)RICA (photo)
- Rough die from rust on the eagle
- LDS: weak tail feathers below shield

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1877.

Lot 387 of the Stack's Fraser Sale, March 1978, was listed as "From original roll." The plate for that lot indicates it is this, a WB-15, die marriage.

This die marriage and WB-13 are the most common of all 1877-CCs.

Date grid: M3.5, .031"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.208"	Rarity - 2
Drapery die state: Full	Foot support: Full	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: MS63		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-103.		Version 2.33	

1878-CC



The 1878-CC is one of the key coins in the Liberty Seated Half Dollar date/mint set. With a low mintage of 62,000 coins, perhaps 250 coins are now known, many of which are low grade, cleaned, and/or damaged.

The Bland-Allison Act of 1878 is most likely directly responsible for the low mintage because it required the government to purchase between two and four million ounces of newly mined silver each month and the Mints to produce, to the detriment of minting lower denominations, massive quantities of Morgan Silver Dollars. Additionally, circulating coinage was heavily used and consumed by the booming western economy of the late 1870's. Consequently, as with the rare 1878-S half dollar, the few 1878-CC half dollars that entered circulation were probably quickly worn and eventually discarded.

There is only one die marriage for 1878-CC; this reverse die with a medium CC mintmark was not used in any other year. Both obverse and reverse dies are readily identifiable and only one reed count (143 which is different from the 1878-P [152, 153, 156] and 1878-S [147] reed counts) makes authentication of this scarce date simple and reliable. A second reverse die for 1878-CC is rumored but is unverified.

One die marriage is known as depicted in the tables below.

Mintage	Number of Dies	Number of Marriages	Obverse Dies	Reverse Dies	Reed Counts Known
62,000	Requested	-	Unknown	Unknown	1 (143)
	Shipped	-	Unknown	Unknown	
	Known	1	1	1	

Mintmark Measurements. For the collectors with adequate equipment to precisely record measurements in thousands of an inch, I’ve included in the table below the location of the CC mintmark in relation to the F in HALF and the distance between the Cs. Along with the close up photograph of the mintmark, this information, which will vary slightly with the coin’s die state and condition, should simplify identification of the correct reverse die on the reader’s coin.

Reverse Die	Distance (") above (HAL)F		Distance (") between the CCs
	Left C	Right C	
A	.068	.063	.016

Non-Genuine 1878-CC half dollars. At least one 1878-P with an added CC mintmark has been verified. Shown below (in the right two photographs) is an 1878-P half dollar with added mintmark and die crack thru (AME)RICA; note the incorrect mintmark size and position and the undocumented reverse die crack. The photograph at the left is an 1878-P struck from the same dies but without the added mintmark; note the same die crack. This coin, with an added mintmark, could be the product of an unnamed coin doctoring factory, which was in business in the mid-1970s in the Pennsylvania/New Jersey area. Other altered coins likely exist. The best authentication is to check the reed count of your 1878-CC (all have 143 reeds) and compare obverse and reverse die diagnostics detailed in this reference.




1878-P



1878-P Added CC



1878-P (CC) added mintmark

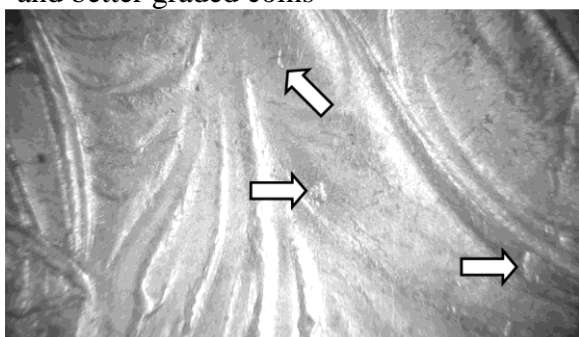
<div>1878-CC</div> <div>Obverse and Reverse die</div> <div>identification keys</div>		2 nd C low
		<div>A</div> 
		Medium CC
Date far left, Multiple lumps on Liberty’s skirt to the right of the scroll	1	WB-1

1878-CC WB-1, Medium CC

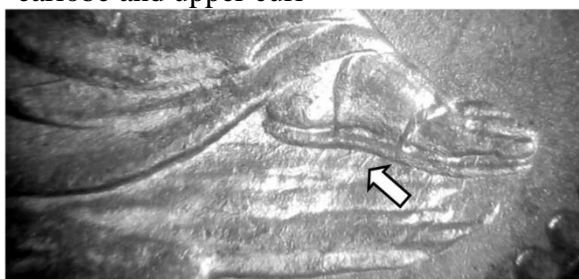
Obverse 1



- Date far left with a small lump on the rock support above the 1st 8 (photo) visible on VF and better graded coins



- Multiple lumps on Liberty's skirt to the right of the scroll (photo); others under Liberty's earlobe and upper curl



- Scattered die lines in the rock support under Liberty's sandal (photo)
- LDS: die cracked from rim thru stars 1-4 and also star 8 to Liberty's cap to stars 9-13

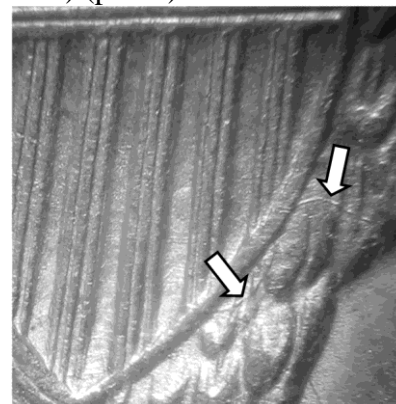
Reverse A



- Medium CC with the 2nd C low (photo)



- Diagonal die line in lower inside of (G)O(D) and die cracked at base of (UNITE)D ST(ATES) (photo)



- Raised wavy die lines on the eagle to lower right of shield (photo) visible on VF and better graded coins
- Horizontal die line thru eagle's eyeball

This is the only use of this obverse die and only use of this reverse die in 1878.

Date grid: L5.5, .025"	143 reeds	Typical diameter = 1.205"	Rarity - 4
Dravery die state: Full	Foot support: weak under toe	Dentils: Obverse - Full; Reverse - Full	
Grade of coin depicted: PCGS MS63		Coin from the Randy Wiley Collection	
Cross reference: WB-101.		Version 2.33	

Appendix A: Full Coin Photographs

After I published the first volume of this series in May 2009, *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Die Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint*, I received many supportive comments (the most common was “This is nice but when is the next volume coming out!”) and some constructive criticisms. One of the later was the lack of full coin photographs, what some called “eye candy,” for collectors to refer to while searching for a specific die marriage. The reasons for not including them in Volume I were simple.

First, I was not confident in my abilities to take adequate eye appealing full coin images. Close up photography thru a microscope, for which almost all images in my first two books are, are relatively simple using my Canon A630 digital “point and shoot” camera. Full coin imaging is a different challenge. Armed with Mark Goodman’s excellent *Numismatic Photography* book and with much practice and additional photographic equipment (i.e., Canon Rebel EOS T1i DSLR camera, Sigma 105 mm F2.8 DG macro lens, large copy stand, and dual reveal lighting), I believe that I am on the way to overcoming this shortfall. There is always room for improvement and with additional practice, I am hopeful future photographs will even be better.

The second reason for not including full coin photographs in Volume I was a self-imposed page limitation. I wanted a book that was easy to use and of a manageable size to permit frequent use. Full coin obverse and reverse photographs of the 233 die marriages of the San Francisco half dollars would have added at least 75 pages to the already large (and heavy!) 313 pages. To me, that was unacceptable.

This Volume with the Carson City Branch Mint half dollars includes 99 die marriages, less than half of those in the San Francisco volume. Therefore, considering my limited criteria above, I felt there was adequate page count available to include full coin photographs. They are included here in this appendix.

Additionally and probably more importantly, since I am dedicating this Volume II to my good friend and numismatic colleague, Randy Wiley, I thought it appropriate to include full coin images of his Carson City half dollar reference collection. Its quality and completeness is unequalled and unlikely to be duplicated in many current collectors’ lifetime. Including it would benefit not only him but also other collectors who could use it as a “reference within a reference.”

Turn the page and enjoy this “eye candy.”



1870-CC WB-1 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1870-CC WB-2 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1870-CC WB-3 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1870-CC WB-4 (Randy Wiley Collection)

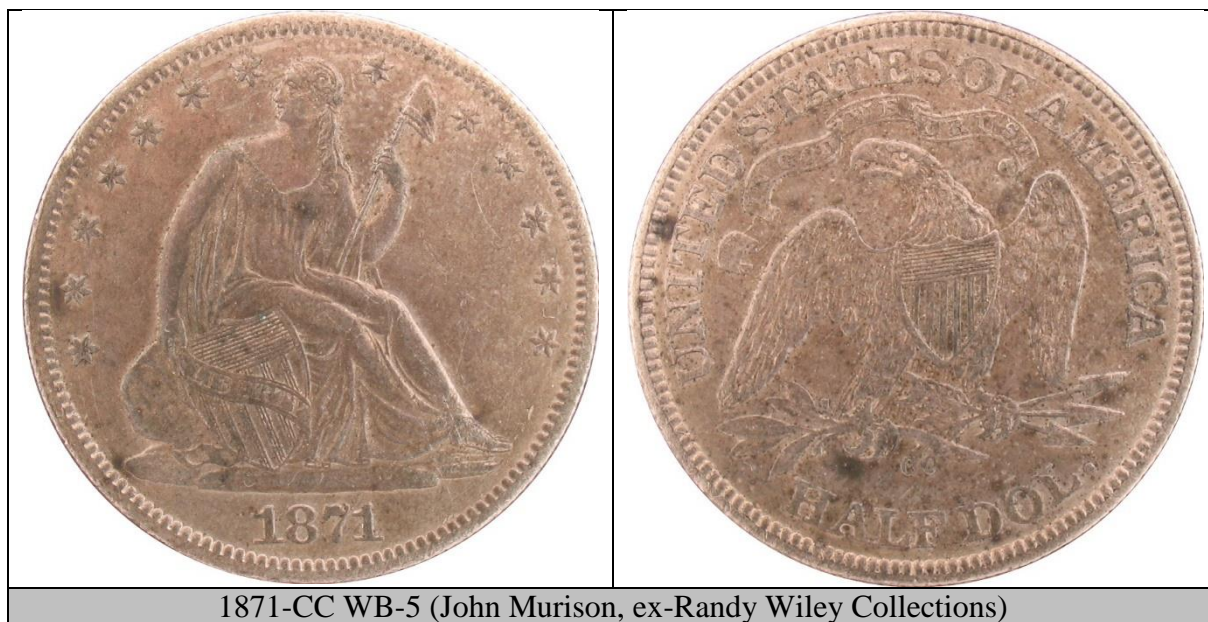




1871-CC WB-2 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1871-CC WB-3 (Randy Wiley Collection)











1872-CC WB-5 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1872-CC WB-6 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1872-CC WB-9 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1873-CC No Arrows WB-1 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1873-CC No Arrows WB-2 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1873-CC With Arrows WB-3 (Randy Wiley Collection)









1874-CC With Arrows WB-2 (Photos courtesy Heritage.com)



1874-CC With Arrows WB-3 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1874-CC With Arrows WB-3a (Randy Wiley Collection)



1875-CC WB-1 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1875-CC WB-4 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1875-CC WB-5 (Randy Wiley Collection)











1876-CC WB-2 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-3 (Randy Wiley Collection)



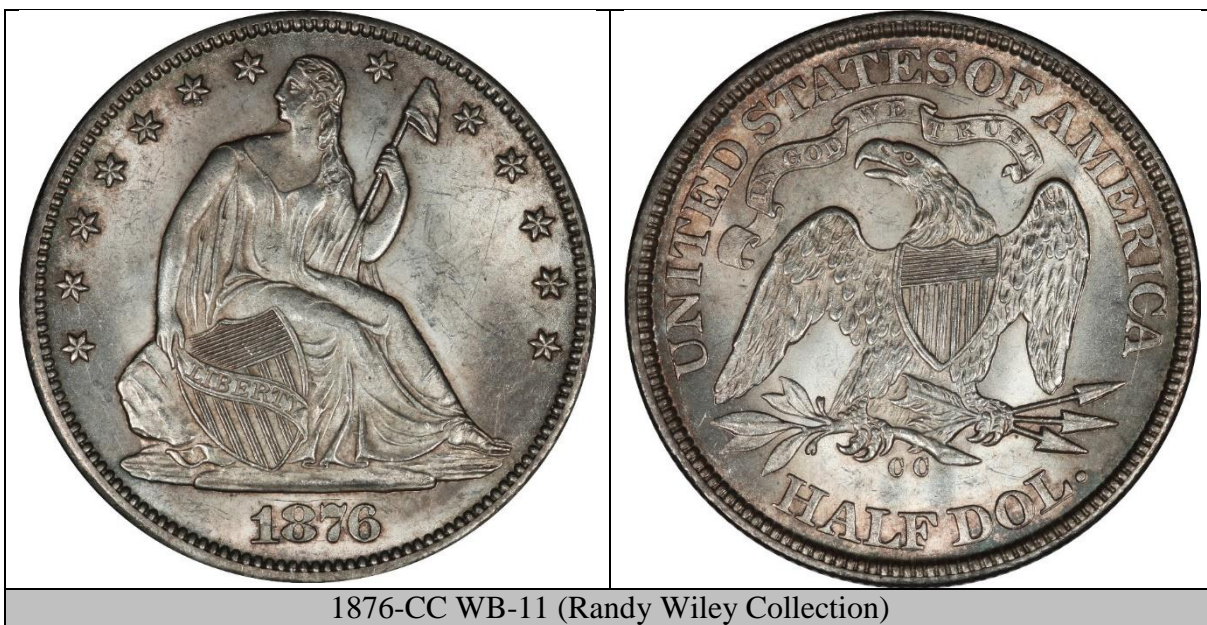


1876-CC WB-6 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-7 (Randy Wiley Collection)







1876-CC WB-12 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-13 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-14 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-15 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-16 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-17 (Dick Osburn Collection)



1876-CC WB-18 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-19 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1876-CC WB-22 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-23 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1876-CC WB-26 (Bill Bugert Collection)



1876-CC WB-27 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1876-CC WB-30 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1876-CC WB-31 (Dick Osburn Collection)





1876-CC WB-34 (Bill Bugert Collection)



1876-CC WB-35 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1876-CC WB-38 (Barry Stallard Collection)



1876-CC WB-39 (Bill Bugert Collection)

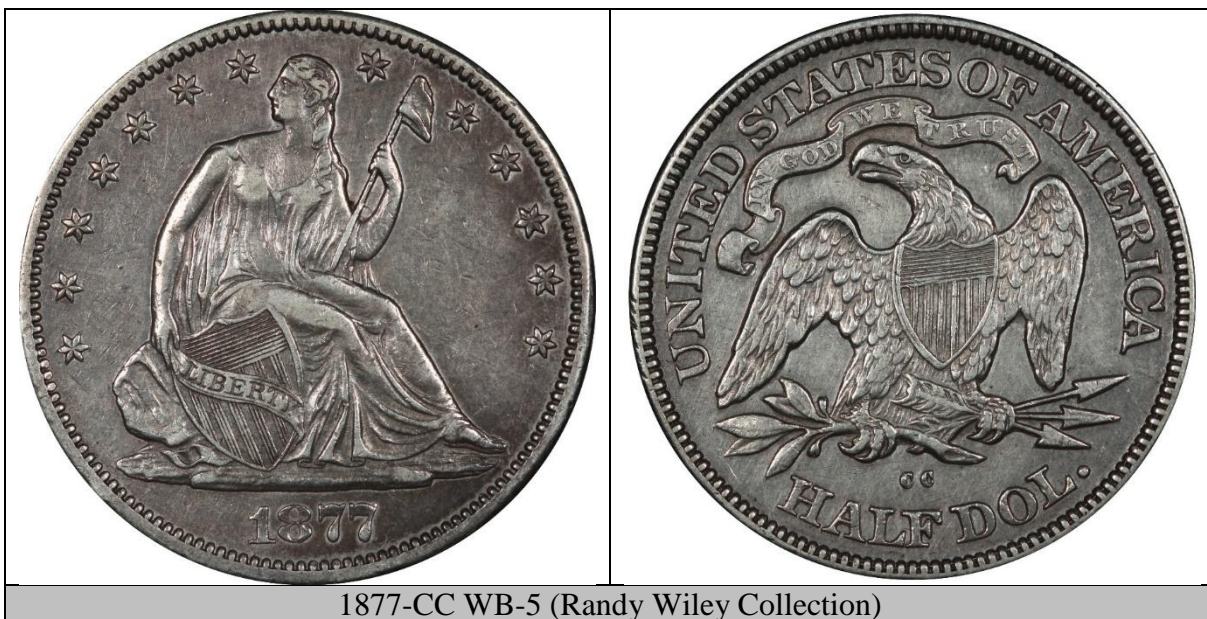


1876-CC WB-40 (Bozarth Numismatics, Inc. stock)

1877-CC continued on next page.







1877-CC WB-5 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-6 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-7 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-8 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-9 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-10 (Randy Wiley Collection)





1877-CC WB-13 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-14 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1877-CC WB-15 (Randy Wiley Collection)



1878-CC WB-1 (Randy Wiley Collection)

Appendix B: Resources

This appendix is not all inclusive of references used for this Register. Rather, it is meant to provide the Liberty Seated Half Dollar collector with a list of useful references to be used while collecting this series.

Beistle, Martin Luther. A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub-Varieties. Shippensburg, PA: The Beistle Company, 1929.

Breen, Walter. Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins. F.C.I Press, Inc. and Doubleday, 1988.

Breen Walter. Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins. New York: F.C.I. Press, Inc., 1977.

Bugert, Bill. A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint. Gettysburg, PA: Self-published, 2009.

Bugert, Bill. A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume II, Carson City Branch Mint. Gettysburg, PA: Self-published, 2010.

Bugert, Bill. A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume III, New Orleans Branch Mint, 1840-O to 1853-O NA. Gettysburg, PA: Self-published, 2011.

Carothers, Neil. Fractional Money. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1930.

Cooper, Dennis R. The Art and Craft of Coinmaking – A History of Minting Technology. London: Spink & Son, 1988.

The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume I, First Edition, LSCC, 1980.

The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume II, First Edition, LSCC, 1985.

The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume III, First Edition, LSCC, 1990.

The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume IV, First Edition, LSCC, 1996.

The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume V, First Edition, LSCC, 2009.

The Gobrecht Journal individual unbound issues from 2000 to the present.

National Archives notes researched and compiled by Bill Bugert and Randy Wiley.

Wiley, Randy and Bill Bugert. The Complete Guide To Liberty Seated Half Dollars. Virginia Beach, VA: DLRC Press, 1993.

Appendix C: List of Contributors

Randy Wiley
Scott Mickelson
Dick Osburn
John McCloskey
John Murison
Len Augsburg
Roger Burdette
Rich Uhrich
Jane Waldron
Jack Marston
Barry Stallard
Mike Clark

Appendix D: Checklist of CC Branch Mint Die Marriages

<u>✓</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>WB-#</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u>Variety</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1870-CC	1	6	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1870-CC	2	5	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1870-CC	3	6	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1870-CC	4	6	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1870-CC	5	6	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	1	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	2	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	3	6	Large CC, Repunched 71
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	4	4	Large CC, Repunched 71
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	5	5	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	6	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1871-CC	7	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	1	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	2	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	3	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	4	5	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	5	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	6	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	7	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	8	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1872-CC	9	4	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	1	3	No Arrows, Closed 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	2	5	No Arrows, Closed 3, Repunched 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	3	4	With Arrows, Open 3, Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	4	4	With Arrows, Open 3, Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	5	6	With Arrows, Open 3, Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	6	4	With Arrows, Open 3, Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	7	4	With Arrows, Open 3, Large CC, Repunched 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	1873-CC	8	7	With Arrows, Open 3, Large CC, Digits below Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	1874-CC	1	6	With Arrows
<input type="checkbox"/>	1874-CC	2	5	With Arrows
<input type="checkbox"/>	1874-CC	3	4	With Arrows
<input type="checkbox"/>	1874-CC	3a	6	With Arrows, Railroad Track Reverse

<u>✓</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>WB-#</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u>Variety</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	1	6	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	2	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	3	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	4	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	5	3	Medium CC, Repunched CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	6	5	Medium CC, Repunched 1 st C
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	7	4	Medium CC, Repunched 1 st C
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	8	4	Medium CC, Repunched 1 st C
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	9	4	Medium CC, Repunched 1 st C
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	10	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	11	6	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1875-CC	12	5	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	1	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	2	3	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	3	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	4	4	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	5	3	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	6	3	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	7	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	8	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	9	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	10	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	11	3	Large CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	12	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	13	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	14	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	15	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	16	3	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	17	4	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	18	4	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	19	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	20	5	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	21	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	22	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	23	3	Medium CC, Repunched Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	24	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	25	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	26	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	27	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	28	4	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	29	3	Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	30	4	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	31	4	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	32	4	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1876-CC	33	4	Small CC

<u>✓</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>WB-#</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u>Variety</u>
	1876-CC	34	4	Medium CC
	1876-CC	35	4	Medium CC, 8 in Dentils
	1876-CC	36	3	Medium CC, 8 in Dentils
	1876-CC	37	7	Large CC
	1876-CC	38	7	Medium CC
	1876-CC	39	7	Small CC
	1876-CC	40	7	Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	1	5	Type 1, Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	2	5	Type 1, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	3	4	Type 1, Small CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	4	4	Type 1, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	5	6	Type 1, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	6	6	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	7	5	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	8	6	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	9	4	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	10	4	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	11	4	Type 2, Medium CC, Repunched 77
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	12	3	Type 2, Medium CC, Repunched 77
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	13	2	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	14	4	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1877-CC	15	2	Type 2, Medium CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	1878-CC	1	4	Medium CC

