

A Restored 1876-CC Half Dollar

By Weimar W. White

#CM-0008

At the dawn of the 21st century I received a very attractive 1876-CC half dollar, which had unfortunately been holed many years ago. A previous owner of the coin must have drilled the hole with the intention of using it in a piece of jewelry. The coin was apparently never used for this purpose because I would grade it a solid AU-58 without the hole. I kept wondering what to do with such a nice coin that had been so badly damaged. I finally decided that it should be restored, because I believed it would be a nice collectible coin without the hole. I located a man named Allen L. Stockton through an ad in *Numismatic News*, who said he could repair the coin in about eight weeks for \$65 including postage and insurance.



An 1876-CC half dollar with a hole drilled through it.

I decided to photograph the coin before and after restoration. Both sets of images are presented with this article. The pictures show that it was necessary to re-engrave the star points on the obverse and the leaves on the reverse during the restoration. When I received the coin back in the mail I had to use high powered magnification to detect any evidence of the restoration. I believe that my coin has been very professionally restored and that it is now a very collectable coin.

I decided to look for information on what a restored or a once-damaged coin would be worth. I located an article entitled “Market Values for Damaged Liberty Seated Dollars Established” by Leonard Augsburger, which appeared in Issue #52 of the *Gobrecht Journal*. This article gives the value for many damaged coins in various grades. The data show that damaged coins are valued at from 20 to 50 percent of the *Coin World Trends* prices. The data also show that higher grade damaged coins have a value closer to 50 percent of the *Trends* prices. However, each coin must be valued on its own merits, especially if it has been expertly restored and is in a high grade. My coin has been restored with standard coinage silver so that it is still 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper by weight. While this coin will always be thought of as a restored specimen, it can now be fully appreciated as a beautiful example of a Carson City half



The same 1876-CC half dollar, only with the holes repaired.

dollar from the Old West. Not everyone agrees that coins should be restored, but experts have restored other antiques for centuries by eliminating imperfections that detract from the general appearance of the pieces. So what do you think?

Editor’s Note: This article was reproduced, with revisions, courtesy of *The Gobrecht Journal*, official publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.

(Images courtesy of Weimar White)