

**My Search for a New Variety in the  
“CC” Half Dollar Series Exposes Me to the WB-1A**

**By John Crane**

**#CM-0003**

Just as a young man’s dreams of being able to accomplish anything tend to dim a bit as middle-age flies past, so have my dreams of owning an example of every U.S. coin. Owning an example of every Carson City coin is seeming a little optimistic, too.

On an automotive parts man’s salary, I had to pass on the *No Arrows* 1873-CC dime back in 2004 when my friend Rusty Goe had it up for sale. So now I’ve settled on a nice set of “CC” halves in VF to low XF condition. I can still dream though!

I want a nice example from every year *and* variety. With that goal in mind, I started looking more closely at the “CC” halves in my collection. With my trusty Wiley-Bugert half dollar manual at my side, I soon discovered an 1876-CC half dollar that wasn’t in THE BOOK. My blood started to run hot! Perhaps I had discovered a new variety—that still happens you know.

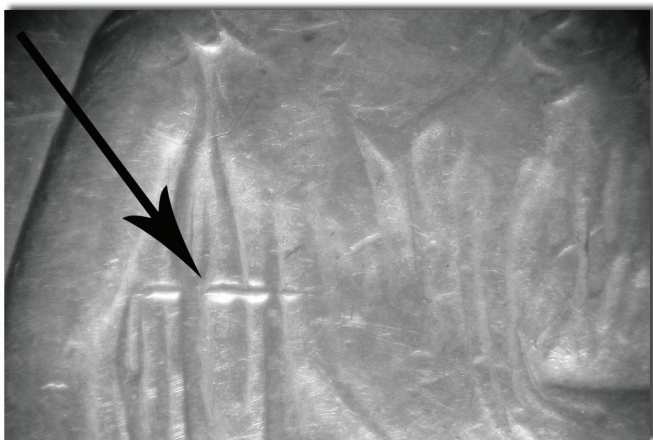
This half dollar has a widely spaced “CC” mintmark, and a good-sized raised die line running through the drapery near Ms. Liberty’s right shoulder. These diagnostics can be seen with the naked eye, or in my case, with my reading glasses on. Thanks to Rusty at Southgate Coins, pictures of the mintmark spacing and the raised die line are featured in this article.

How could Wiley and Bugert have missed this one? It must be excessively rare, right? I mean it isn’t even in THE BOOK.

Rusty took an interest in the coin. He prepared digital images and emailed them to Bill Bugert. I held my breath. While I waited for the verdict, I wondered if my coin was nothing more than one of the fake Chinese productions I’ve heard so much about. Word arrived



(Above) Reverse of 1876-CC WB 1-A half dollar.  
(Below) Closeup of wide-spaced "CC" mintmark, and doubling on "A".



(Above) *Obverse of 1876-CC half dollar, WB 1-A variety.*  
(Below) *Closeup of raised die line through folds in Liberty's gown.*

via e-mail. Bill Bugert knew about the variety and calls it the WB-1A. Now, I'm familiar with what the WB means, but come on now, a 1A and not a 13P or something like that? With a number and letter combo like 1A it must have been the first one discovered.

I may not have to wait long to find out, though, how this variety got its designation. I have it on good authority, that a new Carson City half dollar reference book is due out soon by Mr. Bugert, which covers all the varieties and die marriages known to date. I for one, can't wait.

*(Images courtesy of Southgate Coins)*