

# Liberty Seated Coinage

Michael Campbell

# 1837-1891

- Half Dimes: 1837-1873
- Dimes: 1837-1891
- Twenty-cent Pieces: 1875-1878
- Quarters: 1838-1891
- Half Dollars: 1839-1891
- Dollars: 1840-1873
- Gobrecht Dollars: 1836-1839

# What came immediately before?

- Capped Bust Half Dimes
- Capped Bust Dimes
- (no twenty-cent pieces)
- Capped Bust Quarters
- Capped Bust Half Dollars
- Draped Bust Dollars

# What followed?

- Shield nickels overlapped production of Liberty Seated half dimes 1866-1873
- Barber dimes
- (no twenty-cent pieces)
- Barber quarters
- Barber half dollars
- Trade dollars

# Designer



**Christian Gobrecht (1785-1844)**

# Christian Gobrecht

- Chief Engraver at U.S.Mint, 1840-1844
- Offered and declined job as Assistant Engraver in 1823.
- Applied for job as Chief Engraver in December, but job went to William Kneass
- Became “Second Engraver” (de facto Chief) 1835 when Kneass suffered a debilitating stroke
- Succeeded by James Longacre

# Gobrecht's work for the Mint

- Gobrecht dollar
- Liberty Seated coins
- Liberty Head coins
  - Quarter Eagle (1840-1907)
  - Half Eagle (1839-1908)
  - Eagle (1838-1907)
- Braided Hair half cent (1840-1857)
- Matron Head Modified: The “Young Head” large cent (1835-1839)

# Gobrecht dollar





# Liberty Head Quarter Eagle



# Liberty Head Half Eagle



# Liberty Head Eagle





# Braided Hair Half Cent





# Matron Head Modified: The “Young Head” large cent (1835-1839)



# Composition

90% silver

10% copper

Reeded edges.

# Sizes, weights

- Half dime
  - 1837, 1.34 gm, 15.5 mm
  - 1853, 1.24 gm, 15.5 mm
- Dime
  - 1837, 2.67 gm, 17.9 mm
  - 1853, 2.49 gm, 17.9 mm
  - 1873, 2.50 gm, 17.9 mm
- 20-cent piece
  - 1875, 5.0 gm, 22 mm
- Quarter
  - 1838, 6.68 gm, 24.3 mm
  - 1853, 6.22 gm, 24.3 mm
  - 1873, 6.25 gm, 24.3 mm
- Half dollar
  - 1839, 13.36 gm, 30.6 mm
  - 1853, 12.44 gm, 30.6 mm
  - 1873, 12.50 gm, 30.6 mm
- Dollar
  - 1840, 26.73 gm, 38.1 mm

# Design Evolution

1837: Original Design

- No stars on obverse

- No fold in drapery at elbow

- Legend on reverse

Half dime and dime reverse:

- Wreath and denomination

Quarter, half dollar and dollar

- Heraldic eagle right and

- denomination



# Original Design



# Design Evolution

- 1837—Original design
- 1838—Added stars on obverse

# 1838—Added stars on obverse



# Design Evolution

- 1837—Original design
- 1838—Added stars on obverse
- 1840—Added drapery fold at elbow

1840—Added drapery fold at elbow



# Design Evolution

- 1837—Original design
- 1838—Added stars on obverse
- 1840—Added drapery fold at elbow
- 1853—Added arrows at date (except dollar)

1853—Added arrows at date  
(except dollar)





# Design Evolution

- 1837—Original Design
- 1838—Added stars on obverse
- 1840—Added drapery fold at elbow
- 1853—Added arrows at date (except dollar)
- 1856—Removed arrows at date
- 1859—Transitional pattern pieces
- 1860—Legend moved to obverse, half dime and dime



# Transitional pattern pieces

- In moving the legend from reverse to obverse, some pattern pieces were struck without legends.

1860—Legend moved to obverse, half dime and dime



and reverse...



# Design Evolution

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- 1840—Added drapery fold at elbow
- 1853—Added arrows at date (except dollar)
- 1856—Removed arrows at date
- 1859—Transitional pattern pieces
- 1860—Legend moved to obverse, half dime and dime
- 1873—Added arrows at date (except dollar)

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- 1856—Removed arrows at date
- 1859—Transitional pattern pieces
- 1860—Legend moved to obverse, half dime and dime
- 1873—Added arrows at date (except dollar)
- 1875—Removed arrows at date
- 1853—Reverse: Rays around eagle on quarter and half dollar; one year only



1853—Rays around eagle, quarter and half dollar, one year only



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- 1838—Added stars on obverse
- 1840—Added drapery fold at elbow
- 1853—Added arrows at date (except dollar)
- 1856—Removed arrows at date
- 1859—Transitional pattern pieces
- 1860—Legend moved to obverse, half dime and dime
- 1873—Added arrows at date (except dollar)
- 1875—Removed arrows at date
- 1853—Reverse: Rays around eagle on quarter and half dollar; one year only
- 1866—Reverse: Motto added above eagle on quarter, half dollar and dollar



1866—Motto added above eagle,  
quarter, half dollar and dollar



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- 1838—Added stars on obverse
- 1840—Added drapery fold at elbow
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- 1856—Removed arrows at date
- 1859—Transitional pattern pieces
- 1860—Legend moved to obverse, half dime and dime
- 1873—Added arrows at date (except dollar)
- 1875—Removed arrows at date
- 1853—Reverse: Rays around eagle on quarter and half dollar; one year only
- 1866—Reverse: Motto added above eagle on quarter, half dollar and dollar
- 1875—Introduced twenty cent piece

# Twenty Cent Piece



# Mints

- Half dimes struck at Philadelphia in 1837; Philadelphia and New Orleans 1838-1873
- Dimes, quarters, half dollars and dollars struck at various times in Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco and Carson City
- Twenty-cent pieces struck in Philadelphia, San Francisco and Carson City



# Mint Mark Placement



# Mint Mark Placement



# Mint Mark Placement Larger Coins



# Peak Mintages (single mint)

- Half dime, 1853, 13,210,020
- Dime, 1891, 15,310,000
- Twenty-cent, 1875, 1,155,000
- Quarter, 1876, 17,816,000
- Half dollar, 1876, 8,418,000
- Dollar, 1877, 9,519,000



Illustrations from personal  
collection, Wikipedia, and auction  
sites.

Questions?  
(corrections, etc.)